Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery

PROJECT FACTS – SOMALIA

Area-Based Early Recovery for Affected Communities in South-Central Somalia

Background
The poverty and livelihood situation in Somalia and particularly in South-Central Somalia is influenced by a number of mutually reinforcing factors: frequent natural hazards often result in disasters, diseases, resource and clan-based conflicts, and dependency on humanitarian assistance. Around 80 percent of Somali households rely on natural resource-dependent activities for their livelihood. Given the vulnerability of these livelihoods to external shocks, food security can fluctuate widely.

It is hoped that facilitated reconciliation at the local level can provide a sufficient level of stabilization to ease the expansion of longer-terms interventions, in support of broader recovery and development. Therefore, development partners have agreed to develop an integrated multi-sectoral approach in line with the United Nations Transition Plan to strengthen local capacities for: a) improved livelihood outcomes; b) delivery of basic social services; and c) disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response. Geographic priority areas have been identified.

Project Summary
The pilot project is based on an area-based early recovery approach that is both community and household driven. Building on communities’ coping mechanisms, The project provides targeted support simultaneously to three elements that determine the livelihood situation of the population in the selected areas: a) the vulnerability context of the communities and households with regard to disasters; b) the livelihood assets and opportunities of households; and c) the policies, institutions and structures related to livelihood development and disaster management.

The project focuses on two selected regions, Middle-Shabelle and Bay, which are heavily affected by seasonal flooding, droughts and the impact of large numbers of internally displaced persons. The simultaneous presence of the UNDP-supported local governance and the Shabelle flood control projects generates valuable synergy opportunities that the pilot project aims to utilize. Experiences and lessons learned during the first year of implementation justify the extension of support to further regions and to review the implementation strategy and methodology, if required.

Key Objectives
◆ To generate tangible income increases for vulnerable communities from equitable and sustainable employment opportunities.
◆ To improve community capacities to manage natural resources as well as disaster risks.

Expected Results
◆ Development of community-driven intervention packages and finalization of strategies for sustainable livelihoods.
◆ Livelihoods outcomes of target communities improved.
◆ Required structures and institutional capacities for sustainable livelihoods and disaster risk management established and strengthened.

Total Budget: USD 5,669,880.00
UNDP Contribution: USD 3,650,000.00 (UNDP/BCPR)
Project ID: 00062402
Period: July 2008 – July 2010
Partners: Community-based organizations, and UN agencies.
Activities

- Sensitize and conduct a general needs assessment of target communities covering a stratified sample in South-Central Somalia, with focus on Bay and Middle-Shabelle regions;
- Map hazard and disaster risks in selected geographic area and apply this mapping to the existing livelihood maps for Somalia;
- Assess existing institutional capacities and institutional needs for sustainable livelihood support and disaster risk management;
- Design tools for targeting and assessing individual household needs and potential livelihoods;
- Design participatory and engendered intervention strategies for the various components supporting livelihoods assets and institutional support;
- Design labour-intensive interventions for improvement or construction of infrastructure for increased production or reduction of losses;
- Develop short-term employment opportunities with special attention to youth and women in relation to productive infrastructure or protection of natural resources;
- Improve access to microfinance and income generating opportunities for women in the formal and informal sectors;
- Support introduction of value chains for agricultural products and small ruminants;
- Introduce technical and vocational skills for increased productivity and improved land use;
- Introduce disaster prevention and control systems;
- Develop community-based financial and social protection schemes;
- Strengthen human resources at the local level with regard to participatory planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, disaster risk management and sustainable livelihoods; and
- Establish coordination mechanisms for early recovery.

Achievements to date

- Construction, rehabilitation and improvement of key infrastructure (roads, irrigation systems, hospitals).
- Short-term employment for 16,600 beneficiaries (35 percent women, 25 percent internally displaced persons).
- Provision of locally procured assorted tools to enhance local economy.
- Approval and implementation of 11 selected projects.
- Prequalification of 40 NGOs for potential partnerships.

Contact information:

UNDP Country Office Somalia
Website: http://www.so.undp.org/

For further information:

Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) Progress Monitor
Website: http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/progress/reports/?pid:222&pil:1

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