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“Cash plus Agricultural Inputs Distribution” BeletWeyne district, Hiraan Region # 94/2021

Final Narrative Report



23rd March 2022

Service Provider	Gender Education Empowerment & Leadership Organization (GEELO)	Reporting Period	From:	To:
			15Sept 2021	28 February 2022
Area of intervention	Region/s	District/s		
	Hiran	Beledweyne		

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1.Executive Summary

This final report outlines the progress made in the implementation of the Cash plus agricultural inputs distribution LOA# 94/2021 in Beletweyne-Hiran region.

The main objective of the project was to restore crop production capacity and improve HH food and nutrition security by increasing access to quality agricultural inputs while allowing vulnerable HHs to meet their immediate food needs through cash transfers in Somalia.

The target beneficiaries of the project are vulnerable drought affected 1,850 households — 825 male and 1025 female headed households in 9 villages (HHs/village annexed) in Beledweyne district Hiran region. The target households comprised 1,450 agro-pastoral households and 400 households from the riverine communities. A total of , were distributed to the target housheolds.

The 1450 agro pastoral households were provided with 17.4 MT sorghum whilst the 400 river riverine households were provided with eight MT maize. Additionally the combination of total target 1850 HHs(1450 agro pastoral and 400 riverine HHs) were provided with 18.5 MT cow peas,22.2 MT mung beans, and 1,850 of assorted vegetable kits cash transfers of USD 60/HHs for 3 months in Beledweyne district, Hiran region.

GEELO,which was the SP implementing the project in partnership with FAO maintained close coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Hirshabelle state of Somalia and carried out planning and implementation of the Deyr 2021 Cash plus Agricultural inputs in Beletweyne District - Hiran Region during Deyr Season of 2021 according to plan.

For successful project implementation with sustainable outcome, GEELLO conducted mobilization, sensitization and consultation meetings with the district authority, community leaders and other key stakeholders to explain the project purpose,objective,number of target beneficiaries and target locations, duration length, allocation of resources i.e., agri inputs and cash,transfer modality, implementation approach inter alia.

2.Objectives and Outcomes achieved

1.1 Objective

The overall objective of the project was to improve food and nutrition security and restore livelihoods of affected farmers' population in Beletweyne District, Somalia.

Specific Objective of the project was to restore crop production capacity and improve HH Food and Nutrition security by increasing access to quality agricultural inputs while allowing vulnerable HHs to meet their immediate food needs in Somalia.

1.2 Outcome

The project outcome is reduced vulnerability through enhanced shock responsive, cash based interventions of vulnerable farmer households in 9 villages under Beledweyne districts in Hiran region.

3. Beneficiaries

In close coordination with the relevant actors like representative from the district commissioner community leaders, GEELO established and beneficiaries selection distribution committees and validated selection criteria. Working with the village distribution committees, GEELO conducted beneficiaries targeting using validated project criteria, selected and registered using ODK.

The criteria for beneficiary registration/selection such as the gender, age, HH size, and location was used effectively. Among the criteria followed for the selection of the beneficiaries included:

- ✓ The beneficiary (s) should be a resident of the designated local village and district and should have access to land.
- ✓ The beneficiary (s) shall be among the most vulnerable groups comprising of poor farmers in the community.
- ✓ Every Household registered shall have one principle and one alternate
- ✓ Women headed households should be considered if they have land to practice farming.
- ✓ At least 30% of the total direct beneficiaries should be women headed households.

GEELO identified and selected 1,850 vulnerable households among them 1,025 women — 55% of the total households in 9 target villages in Beledweyne district, Hiran region. After identification and selection, the beneficiaries were registered using ODK devices.

Table 1 . Registration Table of GEELO Project Beneficiaries

S/N	District	Village Name	Total HHs	Male	Female
1	Beledweyne	Jerey west	190	65	125
2	Beledweyne	Tuulo-raho	210	93	117
3	Beledweyne	Garsaalo	250	109	141
4	Beledweyne	Dheynejifo	225	95	130
5	Beledweyne	Barkulow	110	61	49
6	Beledweyne	Dusmo	280	103	177
7	Beledweyne	Guricade	205	87	118
8	Beledweyne	Doonkudle	120	70	50
9	Beledweyne	Sariirale	260	142	118
		Total	1850	825	1,025

4. Project Implementation

4.1 Activities implemented

Several activities were conducted coherently to achieve the project objectives. GEELO, which is the implementing organization, started the activities with community mobilization and sensitization meetings as entry point to reach out the target communities and stakeholders and explain to them about the project design, objectives, target beneficiaries, selection criteria, duration and inputs.

Other activities included identification, selection and registration of beneficiaries, verification of beneficiaries by MMOs, cash transfers/disbursement, agri input distribution, distribution of irrigation hours lead farmers and nutrition training, locust impact, data collection, crop yield assesment .Detailed and sequence of activities carried out are as below:

4.1.2. Mobilization and sensitization meeting

GEELO held preliminary meeting with the local authorities in run up with community mobilization and sensitization meetings. GEELO explained the local authorities the project design, objective, targeting and selectin criteria, target beneficiaries, duration inter alia.

After the local authorities endorsement of the project, GEELO proceeded with community mobilization and sensitization meetings ensuring community participation and inclusion is achieved in the target 9 villages.

In addition meeting with the local authorities and community mobilization, GEELO held coordination meeting I/NGOs with food security and livelihood programs to coordinate and complement in Baletweyne district.

4.1.3 Beneficiary identification and registration using ODK

GEELO established village/community committee in each of the 9 villages registered. Inclusive representation was emphasized ensuring 30% percent of each target committees are female and including minority clans/sub-clans and other people living with disabilities.

The Village cash and agro-input Distribution Committees established worked with GEELO project team in the validation of selection criteria that guided beneficiaries' selection and registration processes using participatory approach.

Below is validated selection criteria:

- Being a resident of the village / Internally Displaced People (IDPS) of the designated local village/district and have access to at least one hectare of land.
- Being at least 18 year old or above age bracket
- Female headed farm households, should account about 30% in our target project participants or beneficiaries
- Households with disabled person/s were also given priority and it was a target in our criteria for identification and selection.
- Being most vulnerable, comprising of households that have lost their herd and crops with no food reserves, expectant mothers and those with small children below 5 years were given priority.
- Only One beneficiary registered from the same household
- No household shall be allowed to register more than once
- Every household should register one principle/or choice one alternative member only

4.1.4. Beneficiary verification by MMO

Acting on communication from FAO Somalia, GEELO completed mobilization and sensitization beneficiaries to present themselves for verification exercise by Hormuud Company in the respective target villages.

4.1.5. Cash disbursement to the beneficiaries

Just after the completion of Hormuud verification of the beneficiaries, a total of US\$ 332.460 cash was disbursed to target vulnerable 1,847 households. Each household received US\$ 180\$ for three cycles (equivalent \$60/3 months/HH),only 3 households could not be reached with transfers because of two present themselves to the Hormuud verification exercise following their migration to remote rural area while the third was deceased.

4.1.6. Inputs receipt by NGO and physical quality checks

High quality certified seeds are critical component for crop productivity and quality harvest of small farmers to overcome low yield and raise their production to improved their food security, nutrition and livelihoods and recover impact of their past droughts and floods that severely destroyed crops and livestock assets of farmers in Beledweyne in two consecutive seasons. To ensure that inputs provided to the target vulnerable farmers are of good quality, GEELO along with community/village committees and members of the beneficiaries checked the quality of collected samples from input traders before the distribution of the inputs.

4.1.7. Inputs Distribution to beneficiaries

After assessing the quality of seed and confirmed its status, GEELO has developed and shared distribution plan with FAO in consultation with community elders, village representatives and beneficiaries on how and where to collect the seeds considering protection concerns as well.

GEELO conducted monitoring on Agro dealers distributing inputs to the beneficiaries at all designated villages and sites. The beneficiaries received 12kgs of Sorghum, 10kg of cowpeas, 20 kg of Maize, 12 kg of Mung bean and 1 vegetable kit given to each beneficiary.

GEELO monitors confirmed that the beneficiaries have received their right allocation of seeds. The distribution of agri inputs was done from Nov 26, 2021 up to Dec 04, 2021.

Input distribution breakdown/village

S/N	Village Name	Total THHs	Male	Female	Sorghum (kg)	Mung bean(Kg)	Maize (Kg)	Cowpeas (kg)	Vegetable (Grams)	Hoe	Forked Hoe
1	Jerey west	190	65	125	00 kg	2280Kg	3800kg	1900 kg	190 kits	190	190
2	Tuulo-raho	210	93	117	00 kg	2520 kg	4200 kg	2100 kg	210 kits	210	210
3	Garsaalo	250	109	141	3000 kg	3000 kg	00 kg	2500 kg	250 kits	250	250
4	Dheyinjifo	225	95	130	2700 kg	2700 kg	00 kg	2250 kg	225 kits	225	225
5	Barkulow	110	61	49	1320 kg	1320 kg	00 kg	1100 kg	110 kits	110	110
6	Dusmo	280	103	177	3360 kg	3360 kg	00 kg	2800 kg	280 kits	280	280
7	Guricade	205	87	118	2460 kg	2460 kg	00 kg	2050 kg	205 kits	205	205
8	Doonkudle	120	70	50	1440 kg	1440 kg	00 kg	1200 kg	120kits	120	120
9	Sariirale	260	142	118	3120 kg	3120 kg	00 kg	2600 kg	260kits	260	260
Total		1850 HH	825	1,025	17,400 kg	22,200 kg	800 kg	18,500 kg	1850 kits	1850	1850

4.1.8. Desert Locust surveillance and data collection through ODK.

GEELO team has visited the field and collected key information on the desert locust impact in the Beledweyne district. The data was collected using the ODK App and compiled data was submitted to FAO.

4.1.9. Lead farmers Training

Distribution of quality certified Seeds alone will bring such a sustainable outcome without improving the knowledge and crop management skills. With this regard, GEELO conducted lead farmers training on good agriculture practices. The lead farmers training lasted for six-days for a total of 184 farmer beneficiaries that are equivalent to 10% of the 850 beneficiaries from 9 villages.

The training included a 2-day theory and 4-day demonstration on various agronomical practices, harvest and postharvest handling, marketing and quality control. The training was undertaken for three groups as highlighted below.

1. The first training was conducted from 19th to 24th November, 2021 for 52 Farmers from Jerey west, Doonkudle, and Tulo-raho Villages of Beledweyne District.
2. The second training with the same coverage was conducted from 25th- to 30th of November 2021 for 59 farmers from Garsalo, Dheynjifa, Baarkuulow and,
3. The third training took place from 1st to 6th of December 2021 as for 73 farmers from Guricade, Dusmo and Sariirale villages.

The topics covered in the training included the following;

- Understanding Good agricultural practices
- Land Preparation
- Nursery Establishment and management
- Transplanting
- Irrigation
- Basic integrated pest and disease management
- Postharvest handling and marketing with quality control

3.1.10. Nutrition Training

GEELO conducted three-day nutrition Champions training in Beledweyne on 18-20 December, 2021. A total of 18 participants including (9 male and 9 female) from Barkulow, Sariiraale, Guricade, Garsaalo, Dheynjifo, Dusmo, Tulo-raho, Jerey west, Doonkudle Villages participated the training.

In training first day, Dr. Ahmed Adow Roble, GEELO nutrition focal point facilitated the training, which included theory and demonstration of nutrition and food safety.

Nutrition baseline and endline surveys was conducted using ODL. 90 women (10/ 9 villages) in each village with children 6-23 months old participated the survey.

4.110. Conducting crop yield Assessment and Post distribution monitoring

GEELO agronomist assisted Savana company third party monitor contracted by FAO to conduct crop yield assessment. The agronomist met with the field monitor on 18-February-2022. The agronomist shared lead farmers contacts and village leaders' information to the Savana Company third party monitor. Savana Company has conducted the assessment on 19 and 23 February 2022.

4.110.1. Post distribution monitoring

GEELO conducted post distribution monitoring, which included key informant interviews from sampled beneficiaries (5% participant from each target village) using ODK. Most informants/survey participants confirmed the agri inputs received and other services provided.

4.110.2. Supervision of irrigation activities

GEELO coordinated and supervised 3 cycles 6 irrigation hours for 400 HHs for riverine beneficiaries in Beledweyne district. The activity was done through pump owners and they took pictures of beneficiaries using a FAO BIMO application loaded device to verify irrigation hours' beneficiaries.

The irrigation activity was done for the target beneficiaries once in every three weeks.

5. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

GEELO is strongly committed to Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuses (PSEA) and its staff are conversant with PSEA principals through various training and GEELO policies and procedures.

GEELO strongly communicated its zero tolerance to PSEA in all its engagement with the communities. Any incident or concern of PSEA. As an integral part of this project, GEELO established a Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) complaint mechanism/hotline, allowing both beneficiaries and staff to file SEA complaints and seek redress in a secure environment GEELO .

FAO hotline was also shared with beneficiaries in case any concern including PSEA related concerns.

GEELO complaint mechanism is designed to be effective, user-friendly, and secure. Any such cases are reported to the program's immediate line managers, and if the managers are the offenders, the case is reported to the senior coordinator in Nairobi Office. GEELO will have a similar all-inclusive redress system in place with any sub-partners.

Sexual exploitation and abuse by GEELO employees or contractual workers constitute gross misconduct and, as such, are grounds for dismissal in the event of the following misconduct occurs:

- 1) Sexual activity with children (those under the age of 18) is prohibited, regardless of the age of majority or consent in the local jurisdiction. A mistaken belief about a child's age is not a defense.
- 2) It is prohibited to exchange money, employment, goods, or services for sex, including sexual favors or other forms of humiliating, degrading, or exploitative behavior. This includes the exchange of assistance owed to beneficiaries.
- 3) Sexual relationships between GEELO workers and beneficiaries are strongly discouraged due to the inherent unequal power dynamics. Such relationships jeopardize the credibility and integrity of our humanitarian assistance efforts.

6. Accountability to the Affected Population

GEELO in collaboration with various stakeholders (community, local authority, project implementation committee, other implementing partners) have ensured a thorough process to involving the beneficiaries. Through this commitment, an inception meeting was held in which a proper community mobilization, and sensitization of the stakeholders on the project objectives and expectations.

GEELO also used this opportunity to share and speak to the stakeholders on the implementation strategies, beneficiary selection criteria, beneficiary entitlement and roles and duties of each beneficiary/ies. In addition, an emphasis was given for the conduct of joint participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) that roles of GEELO and beneficiaries were a very vital component project, which was aimed ensure accountability and transparency to both project stakeholders. To affect these accountability and transparency, GEELO team have established in each of the village targeted an implementation committee that fully involved project beneficiaries who participated in the various decision-making process.

GEELO project team has also encouraged the involvement and participation of women in the implementation of the project activities from the start to end. This is reflected by their representation, roles and responsibilities given to members of the committee in various activities and components of the project. A hotline number was set up by GEELO project team and provided by FAO to ensure that beneficiaries communicate their feedback, share complaints and other very important information about the project.

7. Raising Awareness of COVID 19 Pandemic Prevent Measures to GEELO project Beneficiaries

Considering that COVID19 is serious pandemic and Somalia is among the countries reeling from its effects,GEELO incorporated mitigation and prevention protocols of the disease in its all activities. This included sensitization, ensuring maintain ace of social distancing, wearing facemasks and making use handwashing essential for beneficiaries.

Despite communities taking the threat of COVID19 threat for granted and common conspiracy theory,GEELO ensure that its staff maintain good practices to set example for the community. This included staff maintaining social distance and wearing face masks in all activities.

8.Human interest stories of Project Beneficiaries

Zeynab Ali Abdi, aged 38 years old from Guricade village, who is one of the female headed household farmer beneficiaries of this GEELO project with family of four (3 children and herself). She is an agro-pastoralist and cultivates crops on a 1.5-hectare farm land. while at the same time raising livestock consisting of few heads of cattle, goats and sheep as her main and sole source of her family's food security, livelihoods and income.

Zeynab has faced many challenges including consecutive droughts for the last two year that resulted loss of her cattle's, goats and sheep's due to scarcity of water and food.

The new GEELO and FAO intervention was a relief to her family hence changed their planned decision to either migrate to the Beledweyne district to seek manual jobs and enabled us to staying in our village in order to continue farming and other livestock rearing activities to improve our lives and livelihoods.



Human interest Story Mr. Omar



Omar is a 67 years old project beneficiary from Dusmo Village, who has been impacted immensely by the GEELO's FAO Somalia funder Cash plus Agro-Input distribution, which was implemented in Beledweyne district.

Omar has a family of seven (7) people and they are all farmers. Omar has a land for farming and is with herd of few heads of livestock but his good life had been severely affected during the prolonged drought that killed most of his livestock.

Omar and his family have started now to cultivate their lands with assistance from FAO Somalia funded cash + agric inputs project implemented by GEELO .He will be able to continue his farm-based

livelihood and produce food for his family and for local market if he gets surplus. Thus, he hopes the assistance to enable him restore their livelihoods and manage their life. He said that we are planning to save and store some of crops when we will harvest from his farm since aside paying his debt from local store. He added that he learned that due to climate change they might face another drought in the coming year. Thus, he concluded his story by saying *“Thanks for the support from GEELO and FAO’s cash input activities to us that made it possible for us to cultivate our farm and produce our basic needs plus more”*. He added that can I make request from FAO to provide us small hand-held motorized plows, planters and thresher of maize and sorghum. See below fig.7 of Omar sharing his story with GEELO Project staff.

Analyses of the Human Stories related to the Impact of GEELO Project on Beneficiaries

Analyses of the above human stories and testimonies from two drought affected farmer beneficiaries of the GEELO project in target villages in Beledweyne district, the following inferences, it is apparent that that Cash + input have positive impact and left a footprint for many of the affected riverine farmers and Agro-pastoral communities in Beledweyne district of Hiran region.

The beneficiaries has attested to be continuing to save the surplus from their crops and will be able to manage their farming livelihoods& produce their basic needs/foods and hopefully he will pay the debts they incurred during last drought. On the other hand, Zeynab family was saved to join those IDPs in Beledweyne and the project saved from uncertain future and restored her family farming-based livelihood. She confirms her plans to save for the education of her children and

indeed thankful to the humanitarian organization as led by GEELO in partnership with FAO for helping them out at the most needed time

9. Lessons Learned

The project design, which combined cash + Agri inputs is good. Also the specific objective was good. The project has contributed to the team project learning starting from training up to the implementation process. GEELO expects to apply lessons learned in future projects or areas of intervention.

GEELO advise integrated pest management and water harvesting technologies in future projects.

10. Impact and sustainability

The project has replicable impact of humanitarian and development nexus seeing that target beneficiaries supported right from emergency in need of humanitarian assistance to more resilient and self-sustainable stage.

Initial sensitization and agriculture and nutrition trainings enhance the target communities acceptance, knowledge and capacities to maintain sustainable food production and consumption.

The cash assistance support to the beneficiaries saw the beneficiaries become resilient as they grew crops and once the crops harvested, the beneficiaries would be able to save some, sell the surplus and consume the rest for sustainable livelihood.

The main impact of this project is 1850 HHs have improved livelihoods and access to food security in 9 villages in Beledweyne district, Hiran region.

11. Conclusions and Recommendations

The scale of the need on the ground is far more and response needed is more provided that the project coincided slow onset of droughts in Hiran region. Considering the existing needs on the ground, GEELO recommends :

1. Extension of the project with increased numbers of households to target
2. Distribution of hand-held motorized plows, harrowers, weeder and harvest to with irrigation pumps to enable them to cultivate more land to produce more high value crops for food security and markets to earn better income to educate their children and
3. Introduction of climate smart farming with distribution of drought resistant crops to drought prone areas in Hiran region.
4. Introduction of fodder production and preservation techniques to farmers and agro-pastoralists to feed their livestock in the event of prolong droughts or famine to safe breeding stocks for farmers, agro-pastoralists and pastoralists;
5. Rehabilitate productive agriculture assets primarily secondary and tertiary irrigation canals and water catchments.

12. Photographs of Project implementation

Photos of GEELO project Team Mobilization and consultation meetings





2. Photos of Training and Agro-Input distribution

2.1. Training of lead farmers



2.2 Nutrition training



Irrigation Photos

