



084/2023

“Cash plus Agricultural Inputs Distribution” BeletWeyne district, Hiraan Region # 084/2023

Final Narrative Report



23rd March 2022

Service Provider	Gender Education Empowerment & Leadership Organization (GEELO)	Reporting Period	From:	To:
			1 June 2024	31 October 2024
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# 084/2023 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 Floods affected 1,200 households — 637 male and 563 female headed households in 6 villages (HHs/village annexed) in Beledweyne district Hiran region. The target households are 1,200riverine communities.

The 1200 river riverine households were provided with 12 MT maize, 7.2 MT cow peas, 7.2 MT Mung beans, 2400 pieces of tools, 12,000 Storage bags and 360 kg of vegetable Distributed in Beledweyne District through FAO Voucher scheme, and cash transfers of USD \$70/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 Gu' 2024 Cash plus Agricultural inputs in Beletweyne District - Hiran Region during Gu; Season of 2024 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 6 villages under Beledweyne districts in Hiran region.

3. Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries Listing

In close coordination with the relevant actors like representative from the Commissioner and committee members from the target beneficiaries. On the other hand, the beneficiary registration/targeting were done in close collaboration with the relevant District Authorities, village Distribution Committees and the entire community. The criteria for beneficiary registration/selection such as the gender, age, HH size, and location were used effectively. Among the criteria followed for the selection of the beneficiaries as follows:

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Ever Household registered 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.

The project benefited 563 women farmers directly which is approximately 45 % with agricultural inputs in order to ensure restored crop production capacity by increasing access to quality agricultural inputs in their respective project locations

Table 1 . Registration Table of GEELO Project Beneficiaries

S/N	District	Village Name	Total HHs	Male	Female
1	Beledweyne	Buulo-Malab	258	145	113
2	Beledweyne	Tawakal	236	116	120
3	Beledweyne	QuracleYXaskule	229	155	74
4	Beledweyne	Jiijo	134	44	90
5	Beledweyne	Macruuf	220	115	105
6	Beledweyne	Burjo-dheer	123	62	61
		Total	1200	637	563

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 verification of beneficiaries, agri input distribution,

4.1.2. Mobilization and sensitization meeting

As part of the process to engage various stakeholders, GEELO conducted community mobilization and consultations. The activity covered all the villages that were shared by FAO in the Cash plus Agri inputs activities. The objective was meant to create awareness of the Cash plus Agricultural inputs project.

The exercise on community mobilization and consultation was essentially meant to help facilitate an effective and smooth implementation process. Additionally, the consultation was to help avoid duplication of services and roles but facilitate room for synergies and proper coordination and accountability to the affected populations.

4.1.3 Beneficiary identification and registration using ODK

During the consultative meetings, GEELO also used the opportunity to share information about the objectives, activities, beneficiaries and target locations of the project. The consultation facilitated a process for a joint coordination and support and commitment among identified service providers to offer backing in the mobilization and beneficiaries' referrals. Similarly, the service providers were provided with complete information that covered all the project information as follows:

- Number of HHs to be targeted in the district
- The beneficiary package (10 Kg Maize, 6 Kg Mung bean, 6 Kg Cowpea, 300 grams assorted vegetables, 10 storage bags 1 hoe and 1 forked hoe)
- Rate of the payment for each beneficiary to receive each month
- Duration of the payment
- The stakeholders of the project
- Project implementer (GEELO)
- Project donor (FAO) and lastly the role of each partner in the project.

4.1.5. Cash disbursement to the beneficiaries

The beneficiaries, was received total of one month's cash was disbursed to target vulnerable 1200 households. Eachhousehold received US\$ 70\$ for one cycles.

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 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 6kg of cowpeas, 10 kg of Maize, 6 kg of Mung bean, 10 Storage bags, 2 tools, and 1300 assorted 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 August 16, 2024.

Input distribution breakdown/village

S/N	Village Name	Total HHs	Male	Female	Bags	Mung bean(Kg)	Maize (Kg)	Cowpeas (kg)	Vegetable (Grams)	Hoe	Forked Hoe
1	Buulo-Malab	258	145	113	2580 bags	1548 Kg	2580 kg	1548 kg	258 kits	258	258
2	Tawakal	236	116	120	2360 bags	1416 kg	2360 kg	1416 kg	236 kits	236	236
3	Quracley Xaskule	229	155	74	2290	1374 kg	2290 kg	1374 kg	229 kits	229	229
4	Jiijo	134	44	90	1340 bags	804 kg	1340 kg	804 kg	134 kits	134	134
5	Macruuf	220	115	105	2200 bags	1320 kg	2200 kg	1320 kg	229 kits	229	229
6	Burjo-dheer	123	62	61	1230 bags	738 kg	1230 kg	738 kg	123 kits	123	123
Total		1200 HH	637	563	12,000	7200 kg	12,000 kg	7,200 kg	1200 kits	1200	1200

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 120 farmer beneficiaries that are equivalent to 10% of the 1200 beneficiaries from 6 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 26th to 31th August, 2024 for 60 Farmers from Burjo-dheer, Tawakal, and Bulo-Malab Villages of Beledweyne District.
2. The second training with the same coverage was conducted from 1st- to 9th of September 2024 for 60 farmers from Jijjo, Macruuf, and Quracleey.

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

2.1.10. Nutrition Training

GEELO conducted three-day nutrition Champions training in Beledweyne on 2-4 September, 2024. A total of 12 participants including (6 male and 6 female) from Jijjo, Macruf, Quracleey, Tawakal, Bulo-malab, and Burjo-dheer Villages participated the training. In training first day, Dr. Ahmed ElmiNor, GEELO nutrition focal point facilitated the training, which included theory and demonstration of nutrition and food safety.

5. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) is a critical aspect in GEELO projects and programs, where GEELO has an established clear policies and guidelines on PSEA that is aligned with international standards and regulations by ensuring all personnel, including staff, consultants, and volunteers, are aware of and adhere to the PSEA policies. In addition, GEELO also conducts periodical mandatory PSEA training for all staff, including raising awareness about PSEA through workshops, seminars, and informational materials.

More so, GEELO has in place confidential and accessible reporting mechanisms for beneficiaries and staff to report incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse, involving local communities in the development and implementation of PSEA measures and regularly monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of PSEA measures.

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

On Accountability to Affected Population (AAP), there were monthly review, analysis and response of all complaints and feedback done by the field committees and response communicated through the preferred mechanism. For all assessments and reviews conducted, M&E incorporated AAPs indicators to track the implementation of the minimum standard. GEELO regularly underwent assessments and auditing by the donors and the reports are available, As a member of the FSC sub-cluster, GEELO actively participate in cluster led safety audits and any other vulnerability assessments in the areas of operation.

On transparent communication, GEELO ensured that partners and beneficiaries understood GEELO activities and shared information in a timely manner, including any information on planned mass distributions and Top-Ups. In addition, GEELO communicated relevant information to the beneficiaries and partners on GEELO mission, vision and mandate, accountability framework, code of conduct, details on project overall goals and objectives, timeframe and criteria for inclusion, progress reports, feedback and response mechanisms, the role of beneficiaries, staff and partners in the project, project sustainability plan.

On complaint mechanisms, there was a toll free phone number, help desk and Email address to be used beneficiaries to raise their concern whenever there was a need. GEELO has well-designed and well managed mechanism for handling complaints from beneficiaries and other stakeholders, this proved essential in improving the quality of work, enhance the trust and confidence of stakeholders. GEELO staffs were also trained on code of conduct; in order to uphold and promote the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct.

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.

8. Human interest stories of Project Beneficiaries

Zeynab Ali Abdi, aged 38 years old from Quraclely village who is one of the women led household farmer beneficiaries of this GEELO project with family of four (3 children and herself). She is an agro-pastoralist that cultivate 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. According to Zeynab, she has faced many challenges including consecutivedroughts 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 town to seek manual jobs and enabled us to staying inour village in order to continue farming and other livestock rearing activities to improve our lives and livelihoods. Please see below photo of Zaynab in Fig. 6 and her family relying her success story of the GEEL/FAO project intervention and saving her family from migrating and restoring her family’s farming-based livelihood.

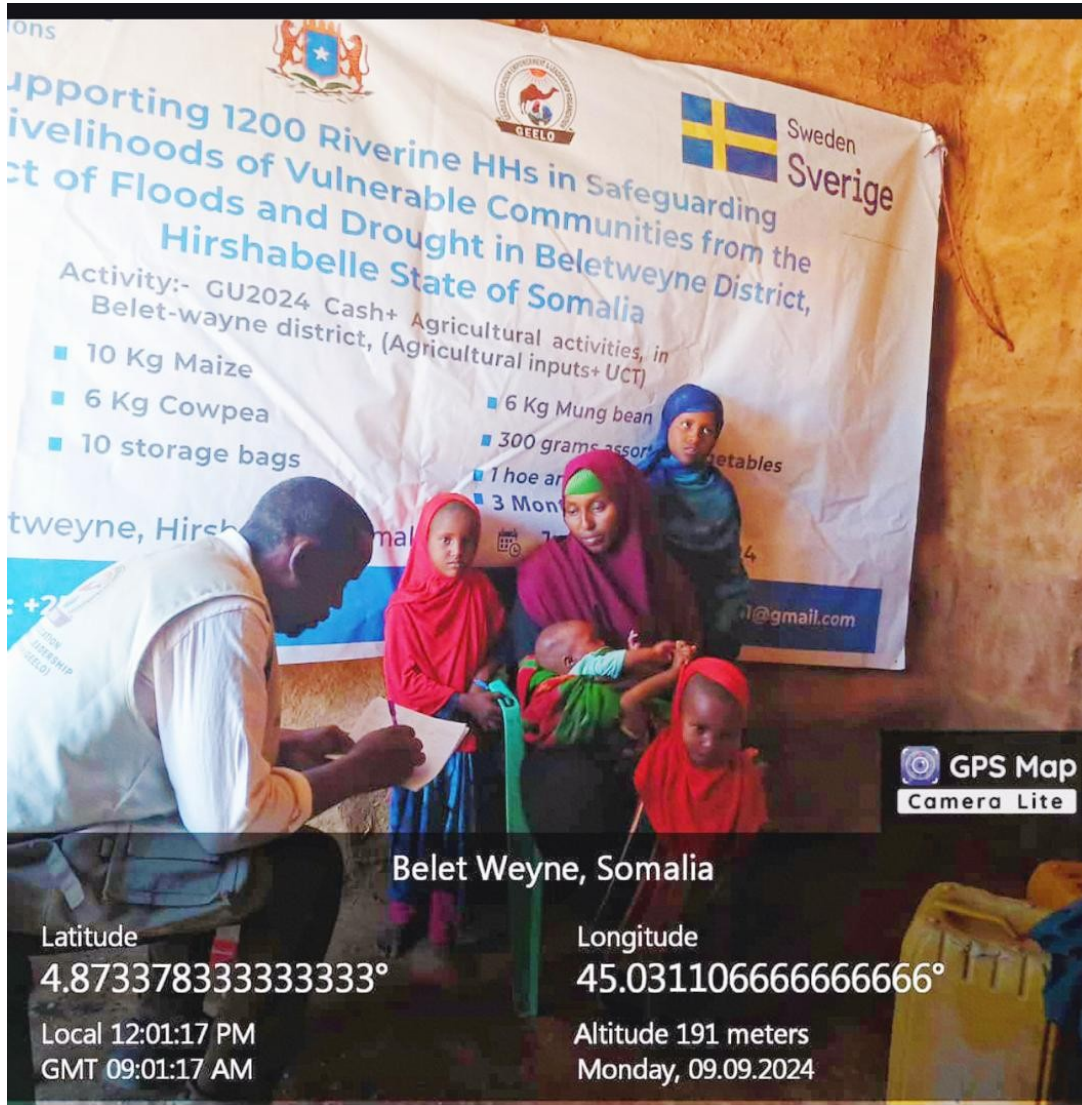


Fig. 6. Photo showing photos of one of the women-farmer beneficiaries of the GEELO project sharing her story with project staff.

2nd Success of Human Story of One of the GEELO Project Beneficiaries Mr. Omar

Unlike Saynab, Maryan is a 29 years old project beneficiary from Quracley Village who has been impacted immensely by the GEELO's Cash plus Agro-Input distribution project funded FAO and implemented in Beledweyne district. Omar has a family of seven (4) people and they are all farmers. Maryan has a land for farming and was herding 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 are now coming back to cultivated their lands with the assistance of GEELO project who provided cash plus inputs and he believes that with this assistance 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, hoping to enable to restore their livelihoods and manage their life. She 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"*. She 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.



Fig. 7. Photo showing one of the GEELO project beneficiaries sharing his story with the 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 farmer beneficiaries of the GELO 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 savethe surplus from their crops and will be able to manage their farming livelihoods&produce their basic needs/foods and hopefully he will paythe 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 GELO in partnership with FAO for helping them out at the most needed time.

9. 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 1200 HHs have improved livelihoods and access to food security in 6 villages in Beledweyne district,Hiran region.

10. Recommendations:

Based on the above stated summary and conclusions, the following recommendations are put forward that FAO should consider in her near future programming to improve the food security, livelihoods and full recovery of drought and floods affected communities in Beledweyne district, Hiran region:

- I.** FAO in partnership with GELO organization should continue providing same cash and agro-inputs support and upscale to more farmer beneficiaries with additional agro-inputs like handheld motorized for land preparation (plowing, harrowing, furrowing and planting, weeding, harvesting and threshing machineries as well as irrigation pumps to enable them increased their cultivation areas and harvest; Provide more on-farm training and demonstration on GAPS for farmers and agro-pastoralists and
- II.** It is more imperative to construct more rain water harvesting catchments like large water-holding ponds with damp liners as part of building resilience and coping mechanism to the local communities.

- III. There is need to introduce fodder production and preservation 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;
- IV. GEELO in partnership with FAO should promote climate smart technologies for both farmers and agro-pastoral communities in Beledweyne district, Hiran region
- V. FAO should provide financial support for the construction of pipe irrigation systems which are more effective and efficient compared to earth canals, there is also need to rehabilitate market roads from Bacaad to Beledwyne district.
- VI. Support in Anticipatory action approach to mitigate impact of the drought while strengthening community-based disaster preparedness and improving the traditional community-based early warning system by marrying her to the modern early weather forecasting and information dissemination systems.
- VII. Due to the ongoing drought across the region , FAO should increase it's coverage to bring onboard more deserving cases.

12. Lessons Learnt

- I. Cash transfers offer immediate relief to households experiencing food insecurity and for long term impact, the provision of agricultural inputs, such as seeds and tools, enhances agricultural productivity and foster resilience against future adversities.
- II. A thorough understanding of the local context, encompassing market dynamics, agro-ecological conditions, and community requirements, plays a vital role in ensuring the success of Cash + Ag programs in Somalia.
- III. Through the implementation of Cash + Ag programs, households can receive support with agricultural inputs, fostering sustainable livelihoods and reducing the reliance on external aid in the long run.
- IV. The provision of training and extension services alongside agricultural inputs strengthens the effectiveness of the project, equipping beneficiaries with the necessary knowledge and skills to maximize the project impact.
- V. Monitoring and evaluation of Cash + Ag programs are crucial for determining the success and impact, pinpointing obstacles, and implementing adjustments to enhance outcomes.
- VI. Overall, the integration of agricultural inputs into cash transfer initiatives can effectively tackle immediate food needs, boost agricultural productivity, and boost the resilience of vulnerable populations and households.

13. Photographs of Project implementation

Photos of GEELO project Team Mobilization and consultation meetings





Hiran, Somalia

Latitude 4.866920° Longitude 45.077337°
Local 10:08:19 AM Altitude 191.0 meters
GMT 07:08:19 AM Wednesday, 06/12/2024



Hiran, Somalia

Latitude 4.886820° Longitude 45.069136°
Local 03:00:49 PM Altitude 193.7 meters
GMT 12:00:49 PM Wednesday, 06/12/2024



