

Terminal Report on Recovery Strategy Project in Somali Regional State

Background

Project ETH/02/002 – Recovery Strategy for Ethiopia was initiated during pre-ATLAS era (2002) with financial support from DFID which was later on migrated to ATLAS and named as project code: 12470 as child project of project 12469. UNDP Recovery Strategy for Ethiopia, which has been initially funded by DFID was implemented in Somali Regional State (SRS) since end of 2002 as a Direct-Execution (DEX) project

The recovery programme aimed at interventions beyond life saving and food supply for the emergency affected population in order to build self-reliance in meeting their basic needs and reduce their vulnerability to future emergencies through rebuilding household and public assets and building capacities. The project also aimed at undertaking activities towards the return and reintegration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from camps in Fafen and Hartishek to Degahabour and Fik Zones. IOM was charged with the responsibility for facilitating the return of the planned 6000 IDPs to their home areas while the UNCT, particularly UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, IOM in collaboration with the government of the SRS to undertake appropriate and required intervention to ensure their sustainable reintegration.

The project has made a remarkable progress and attempted to promote the use of a holistic approach in linking relief intervention with long-term development.

The initial funding of DFID during the 1st phase of programme implementation was complemented with UNDP/BCPR funding to strengthen the recovery interventions in drought and conflict prone Somali Region. The project aimed to achieve the following major outputs

- Strengthening inter agency coordination and collaboration
- Capacity development to the regional government and NGOs
- Promoting livelihood diversification
- Improving information management and exchange

Summary Achievements

- The recovery project has been catalytic and of strategic importance to bring together the Somali Regional Government, CSOs, UN and donors around the recovery concept and coordination needs and served as an instrument to help make the shift towards longer-term development.
- Organization of the Recovery Workshop at the inception of the programme, which brought more than 100 participants from various stakeholders discussed relief, recovery and long term development issues of the region;
- Initiated voluntary reintegration of Internally displaced people (IDPs) from Hartesheikh and Fafan into areas of original habitation
- Established Regional Information Hub in the former Jijiga Management Institute to make the information hub as means of information collection, storage and dissemination for humanitarian and development actors in the region

- Provided capacity Development support for women groups through Women Development Initiative project
- Strengthened Cooperatives as means of income diversification. Salt cooperatives are supported to increase their production capacity and minimize occupational hazards
- Capacity building training to GOs and NGOs on gender, leadership, skin and hide, HIV/AIDS etc were among the major activities implemented.
- As per project agreements concluded with regional bureaus, senior consultants were commissioned to undertake organizational development and leadership training for senior regional officials with a view to help partners to cope with on going changes and improve leadership to discharge effective service delivery.
- Organization of skin and hide workshop that aimed to address income diversification objectives of the recovery project provided a series of training to relevant actors and communities.
- Additionally, attempt was also made to establish fodder bank in partnership with Regional Livestock, Crop and Natural Resource and Environment Development Bureau to demonstrate livestock feed production and enhance replication at community level.

The Programme Implementation

From the onset of the Recovery Program implementation a series of measures were planned and went into implementation. These among others include the following:

1. Strengthened Regional Coordination

With the view to improving dialogue, coordination, and planning, UNDP joined the Somali Regional Coordination Forum where GOs and NGOs meet on monthly basis to discuss emergency and recovery issues. UNDP also volunteered to broaden the scope of the existing TOR for the Regional Coordination Forum to enhance information and knowledge sharing through exchange of experiences and best practices among different stakeholders. UNDP's proposal to broaden the objectives of the NGOs coordination Forum to address a wide range of development issues and expanding the membership to involve relevant development actors in the region was accepted by DPPB. Accordingly, UNDP played a major role to expand the terms of references of the humanitarian Coordination forum to also include development partners to establish linkage between humanitarian actors and development stakeholders. UNDP played a leading role in establishing interagency coordination committee and served as co-chair and established technical working groups drawn from sectoral bureau, NGO and UN agencies to facilitate capacity development and institutional strengthening

2. Capacity Development

UNDP commissioned two qualified gender consultants to conduct institutional analysis to advise the regional government on proper gender analysis and mainstreaming issues, and provide gender training for senior staff. Similarly, UNDP also hired Organizational Development Consultants to provide leadership training to senior officials and programme managers in Somali Region which was successfully implemented

Curriculum Development at the Somali Regional Management Institute, the key partner of the Recovery Program in the SRS undertook curriculum development in collaboration with Addis Ababa Commercial College to start middle level management training to help bridge manpower shortage at decentralized level. This was successfully completed

Under the supervision of the regional Cooperatives Promotion Bureau capacity building and technical assistance project with the Walalaha Salt Producers' Cooperative in Afdheer Zone of SRS was implemented with a budget of ETB 530.420,00. The training improved the managerial capacity of the cooperative leaders and minimized the occupational hazards through provision of protective devices, generators to help carry out the processing at night where the temperature is cooler.

In cooperation with the Women Affairs Bureau of the SRS Gender Training workshop was planned and conducted;

likewise with the Women Affairs Bureau of SRS a Leadership and Organization Development Training workshop was undertaken;

Regional and zonal training workshops on Gender issues were conducted by the regional Women Affairs Bureau for regional and zonal gender specialists of governmental bureaus and offices, NGOs and UN-Agencies. Regional leadership and Organizational Development Training Workshop was carried out by the Women Affairs Bureau at the Regional Management Institute. Participants were invited from regional line bureaus, local and international NGOs and UN-Agencies

The training workshop on improved treatment of skins and hides took place for experts from governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The feed back of all participants indicate that a second round on skins and hides training would be of benefit for the community dealing with the subject. Particular interest had been shown by members of the private sector and the regional chamber of commerce to continue with such kind of capacity building measures.

The Regional Management Institute's curriculum development was finalized in time for the start of the new academic year and led to the first round enrollment of students. Courses started immediately after the end of Ramadan.

3. Strengthening the livestock sub Sector in the Region

With Livestock Coordination and Natural Resource Development Bureau (LCNRDB) a project component for the establishment of fodder banks was implemented. The approved budget amounts to ETB 338.982,00. This has produced multiple fodder species and organized a field day to demonstrate the practice to development agencies in the region and communities in the surrounding areas;

4. Established Regional Information Hub

In response to the serious shortage both in number, capacity and diversity for Information sharing, and networking systems in the Somali Regional State, and in view of addressing these problems and creating opportunity to utilize the information more effectively, UNDP Recovery Programme in collaboration with the Regional Management Institute (RMI) and Regional Information Bureau established the Regional Information Hub (RIH).

The RIH is dedicated to advancing the appropriate application of information technology through ICT training, establishment of socio-economic database and provision of Email/Internet services.

Vision of the RIH included establishing, maintaining and operating a regional information and documentation center, encouragement of information sharing between development actors, and building capacity of local/national implementers through ICT training

To this effect, UNDP Recovery Programme assigned a National United Nations Volunteer (NUNV) Information Communication Technology Specialist based in Jijiga to support RIH until end of 2004. UNDP through its UNV programme extended the contract of the NUNV ICT specialist for 2005 with a view to strengthening the capacity of RMI.

The RIH planned to provide Membership for institutions, individuals, and students as per the established membership criteria (see attached brochure).

The information centre contained Internet Café with 10 computers, printing, binding and photocopying facilities and one video library (see attached Brochure). The hub also provided:-

- ICT training
- E-mail connection and Internet literacy training

After the RIH is established and ready to provide full-fledged service and taking into account that UNDP is moving its office to UNCHR premises in Jijiga, handing over of the equipment Computers, furniture's and other important materials of the center (transfer of title) to the RMI with in the Somali Regional State was realized while the assigned IT specialist will consolidate the capacity building support to the staff assigned by RMI. UNDP has also transferred the remaining balance of the budget of the RIH earmarked for 2005 budget period

The equipment and materials transfer and handing over the overall responsibility to the Regional Management Institute (RMI) is believed to strengthen ownership

4. IDPs Reintegration

The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement describe internally displaced persons as:

"persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border"¹.

The project entitled "Recovery Strategy for Ethiopia", aimed at building resilience for the emergency affected population and reducing their vulnerability to future emergencies through restoring household livelihoods and assets. Under this project, UNDP in collaboration with the regional government and other UN agencies such as WFP, UNICEF and IOM supported the re-integration of IDPs who were fully dependent on relief assistance and were living in two IDP camps. The drought induced IDPs were willing to return to their areas of origin and requested the regional government to reintegrate them with their home communities. To materialize this, UNDP conducted quick survey to identify volunteer groups (case loads), their place of re-integration (destination) and the available social services in the areas of return to serve as prerequisite for the physical movement in order to ensure further

¹ Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, Introduction, para. 2.

engagement of the IDPs in productive livelihoods upon return. This was done by subcontracting the return and reintegration intervention to IOM. The reintegration process entailed

- Establishing origin, ethnic belonging and reason for displacement.
- Identifying whether the IDPs want to return and to check if the return is feasible.
- Provide logistic assistance for the returnees to areas of origin.
- Support in conflict resolution and negotiation before, during and after the return.

In so doing, out of the 6000 IDPs planned to be returned, UNDP with its partners managed reintegrating 5518 IDPs who were displaced by drought. The displaced persons were drawn from two IDP camps and moved to their areas of origin in Degehabour and Fik zones.

During this reintegration process WFP provided food aid for a period of 6 months, UNICEF contributed to non food requirements of the IDPs such as medicines, blankets, kitchen utensils and temporary shelter materials while UNDP covered all cash requirement to effectively implement the reintegration process.

Prior to implementation of the project, interim reintegration strategic note was developed to guide the process and define the subsequent reintegration needs of camp dwellers returning to their areas of origin. It was found imperative that quick joint assessment should be carried out on existing situations of area of return in order to identify the short term and medium term interventions and establish linkage with long-term support of the returning population. Attempt was also made to link recovery process to development within the receiving communities to ensure that the returning population is successfully reintegrated with their communities in order to prevent further displacement. This included among others

- Finalising logistic arrangements as per the agreed action plan and budget to realize the movement.
- Define precisely the specific needs of schedule areas for returns and develop concrete interventions.
- Define the roles/functions/inputs of all partners (Government/UN system / NGOs/ Community).
- Sensitise the Regional Governments, district authorities and receiving communities to discuss IDPs issues and establish regional and district IDP reintegration committees and develop protocols on the return and post return support.
- To Identify the impact that the returning IDPs will have on the areas as well as the existing capacity of these areas to incorporate additional population with reference to the above sectors.
- Develop an effective monitoring system that can be accepted by all partners and undertake consistent monitoring to track progress.

The assessment mission used the following check list as questionnaire to guide the discussion with key informant, focus groups and government officials.

1. The type of special support that has to be provided to most vulnerable groups (if any) during the movement
2. Shelter/Accommodation requirement upon arrival of the detination:
3. Post Movement Livelihoods support

4. *Main Needs of IDPs: (based on these categories and priorities).*

5. *Main Concerns of the IDPs in return location: (in their priority order, if there is concern)*

6. *Surveying Agency Data:*

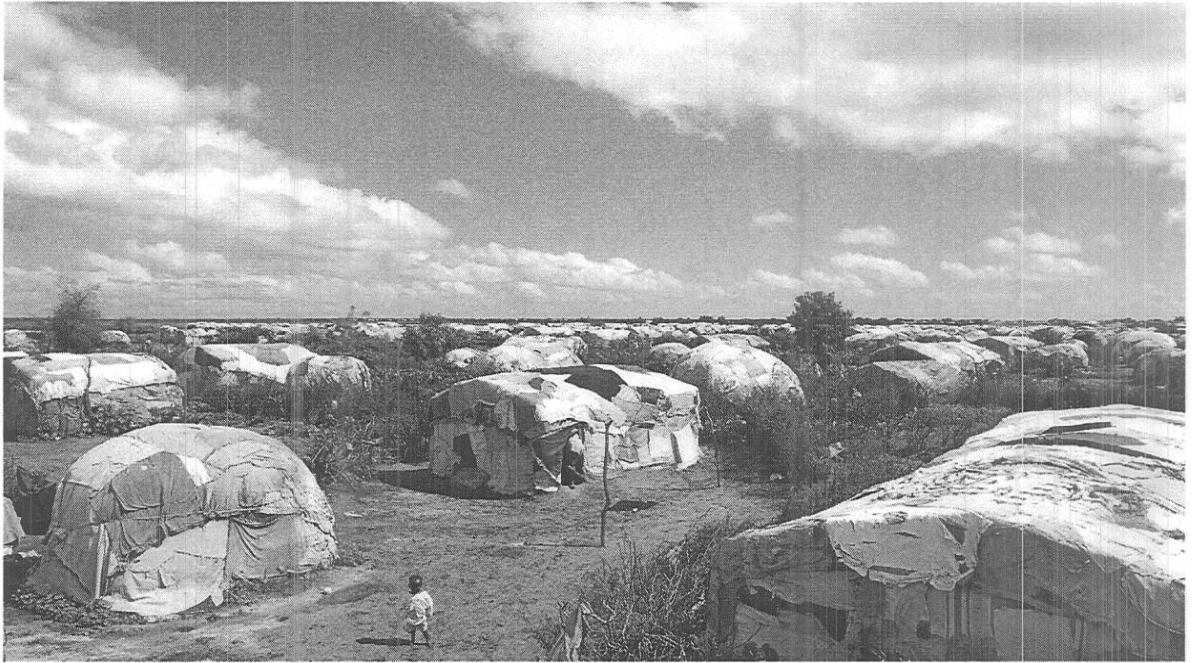
6.1. *IDP Location:*

7. *Population Data:*

- *Local Population/ Families:*
- *IDP Population*
- *Origin of the majority of IDPs/ Ethnic origin*

During the assessment and subsequent reintegration the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement were applied as far as possible. The post movement reintegration was monitored by IOM and established local regional Reintegration Committees

The post movement livelihood support was provided by the human security project which was implemented jointly by UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR and IOM



IDP Reintegration Support In Somali Region



5. Support to Salt Cooperatives

Upon the request of the Somali Regional Cooperative Bureau, in view of exploring possibilities of initiating Saving and Credit Cooperatives to promote income diversification, that could eventually grow into Micro Finance Institutions, an assessment mission was sent to the site of salt Mining and checked feasibility of the requested support. Accordingly, the Salt Cooperative was supported with a budget of over 500,000 Birr to improve production capacity by purchasing generators, equipment, hand tools and protective devices and provision of various training to enhance capacity of the Cooperative leaders and their membership.

The training and technical assistance to the Walalaha Salt Producers' Cooperative was started in March 2003 with a first round of training in management and cooperative law for the cooperative's management group. Identified material and equipment were purchased. All materials and equipment were delivered to site in Afdheer.

This has improved the safety of the producers and increased daily production due to the protective devices and generators provided respectively



Major Lessons learned

- Senisitization of host communities and home communities in the areas of return on the planned reintegration maximized support from both ends
- The kind contribution namely Food from WFP, none food items from UNICEF, Cash input from UNDP and engagement of IOM and OWDA as key facilitators of the movement and post return monitoring was found to be best practice
- It was found necessary to establish a committee in fafen prior to the movement to assist in the identification, verification and pre departure briefing; as a practice learnt from Hartishek instead of relaying only on the IDP camp elders.
- the movement of IDPs from Hartishek and Fafan camps has moved successfully and post return livelihoods and social service delivery was initiated through human security project which was approved at a later stage.

With regard to Result 1: “UNDP supported strategic linkages between Emergency, Recovery and Development are established and facilitated by the Recovery Program Support Unit”

The further development of the Program’s strategy, to incorporate coordinated approaches to area-based development has been undertaken and the draft strategy outlined. This led to the development of Early Recovery Strategic Framework and formulation of Disaster Risk Reduction and Livelihood Recovery Programme

As to Result 2: “Close liaison between UNDP Recovery Program Support Unit and stakeholders is established and supporting development efforts”, close liaison with all relevant stakeholders in development, inclusive of the private sector, government bureaus and NGOs has been initiated.

Regarding Result 3: “Development relevant information is made available to the public through a Regional Information Hub” the establishing the information hub is completed. Initial information gathering and making it available finalized and the launching of the Regional Information Hub realized.

Training courses for user groups on the handling of the information hub are developed together with the Regional Management Institute and provided.