

Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31st October 2021)

Project reference	25-025
Project title	Improved seed, food and livelihood security for agro-pastoralists in Somalia
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Somalia
Lead organisation	The Development Fund
Partner(s)	HAVOYOCO, ADO, KAALO
Project leader	Elin Cecilie Ranum
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	October 31, 2021 (HY4)
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.facebook.com/DevelopmentFundNorway/

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

Main results achieved during the reporting period are outlined below:

Output 1. Seed security assessments (SSA) conducted with local communities and other local agencies. Targets and activities under this output were fully achieved during the reporting period. Seed Security Action Plans for the Community Seed Banks (CSBs) are implemented and progress has been monitored by DF and partners. Here, the project CSBs continued prioritizing the multiplication of tested seed varieties that are drought and pest tolerant. In addition, and through follow up of the Seed Security Action Plans, CSBs reported cases of crop harvest failure/loss as a result of prolonged drought. **(Activity 1.4)**

Output 2. Initiatives supported to improve access to diverse quality seeds for women and men agropastoralists. In this reporting period, the three project CSBs conducted domestic adaptation and participatory varietal selection trials on five new seed varieties consisting of 1 maize, 2 cowpeas, and 2 sesame. Results showed that these tested varieties are tolerant to drought as well as the other harsh weather conditions **(Activity 2.2)**. The three CSBs planned to gather PGRs from one of the regional gene banks in Ethiopia, however due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions, the CSBs were not able to travel. Instead, the CSBs connected with the Somalia Ministry of Agriculture based in Mogadishu and were able to travel to some farms outside the Somalia capital to conduct an assessment of available PGRs. **(Activity 2.1)**.

During the reporting period, the project CSBs consulted with DF technical experts in the operationalization and maintenance of Seed cleaning machines to ensure that the seeds to be distributed by the CSBs are of good quality and standard. **(Activity 2.6)**.

Although Beer CSB faced severe water scarcity which resulted in decline in targeted seed production, the project CSBs continued to implement their individual business plans to ensure effective and sustainable operations.

The final project report will contain the details of achievements made thus far as it was not possible to quantify the accomplishments during the reporting period. (**Activity 2.5**).

Output 4. Support provided to raise awareness among government agencies and other local actors on farmers' rights, seed security and related policy instruments (ITPGRFA).

During the reporting period, KAALO supported the recruitment process for a consultant to the Puntland Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Climate Change to facilitate the final review of the Seed Policy which was initiated in 2019. (**Activity 4.4**).

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for Covid-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

During the reporting period, project communities have experienced varying degrees of crop failure/losses due to insufficient rainfall and infestation of pests in some locations (especially in Cuun and Beer villages). The designated entities such as Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit Somalia (**FSNAU**) and Ministries of Agriculture and Environment have reported that this season failed to bring sufficient rainfall which has resulted in elongated drought.

2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of Covid-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

As noted under Output 2 - Activity 2.2, a CSB learning visit to Ethiopia was cancelled as a result of COVID-19 travel restrictions. Instead, relevant CSB stakeholders were able to visit MoA and farms in Mogadishu, Somalia to undertake an assessment of PGRs suitable for the Somaliland and Puntland context.

2c. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS:	No
Formal change request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Not applicable

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary. Please **DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.**

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

N/A

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**