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Agricultural Rehabilitation and Diversification of High Potential Irrigation Schemes in Southern Somalia (ARDOPIS III) – OSRO/SOM/810/EC

Follow-up report to the management response

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Follow-up report of the Management response to - ARDOPIS III			Date
Evaluation Recommendation	Action Agreed	Comments on actions taken, including reasons for actions not taken	Impact (changes) of actions taken in terms of programme, policies and/or procedures
<p>Recommendation 1</p> <p>ARDOPIS III implementation strategy was noted to be innovative and should be documented including the merits and the pre-conditions for ensuring its success of working with partner organizations. This would provide a package for emergency and development intervention for replication in similar conditions elsewhere.</p>	<p>Establishment of a database of all the potential local partner NGOs</p>	<p>A data base on the NGOs has been created being managed by the FAO Somalia LoA unit. The data base is being used when sourcing for partners to work with in Somalia.</p>	<p>It is faster to identify partners to be used for different project activities.</p> <p>A data base showing the areas of operation for the partners make it easier to know whom to invite for tenders.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>Need assessment is an important component in the design of a project. Although similar activities have been implemented in the area through previous projects and included detailed baselines before implementation of ARDOPIS III a new needs assessment could have been of value as critical step in standard project cycle management which require to be monitored repeatedly. Needs can indeed change fast especially in emergency contexts such as in the project area where insecurity thrives. The lack of needs assessment prior to the project start is considered to be a critical omission and should be avoided at all cost. In any case need assessment can be carried out fairly fast.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Recommendation 3</p> <p>Although it was important to identify the needs and interests of women so that they are integrated in the project at the earliest stages of the project design, the strategies and extent of the integration should have been guided by the realities on the ground. The proposal to have 30% of beneficiaries being women was far-fetched and it should have been obvious at the</p>	<p>Incorporate the recommendation into the planning of future projects</p>	<p>FAO project in Somalia are being formulated and the planned activities implemented taking into account women participation.</p>	<p>Women participation in project activities is increasing especially in the areas where there are less restrictions due to security considerations. Increased women participation is clearly</p>

<p>planning level and adjust it accordingly. All the same, by having women in community structures where decisions on the management of the irrigation canals and FFS are made, was a great achievement going by the Somali traditions. This survey has revealed that about 10% to 12% of women inclusion had been attained. The next planning should build from this milestone achieved.</p>		<p>FAO Has also introduced a clause within the LoAs requiring the partner organizations to have one-third of every village distribution committee as women especially in the emergency programmes.</p> <p>Although 30% women participation is targeted, the local conditions are taken into considerations where it is not possible to reach this target. E.g. The Al-Shabab controlled areas have low women participation in the activities.</p>	<p>evident within the emergency programmes which are mainly inputs distribution programmes.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4</p> <p>The project partnership with Swiss Agency for Development and Corporation (SDC) enabled realization of additional outputs that have enhanced positive impact to the targeted beneficiary communities. It also contributed towards successful completion of the projects activities in that it mitigated possible conflicts that were likely to occur between the pastoral and farming communities. Rarely would projects work hand in hand as it was the case of ARDOPIS III. The identity and contribution of the parties in partnership was harmoniously maintained and made visible. Such partnership is worth replication and promotion in future undertakings.</p>	<p>FAO Somalia will continue to seek donor partnerships when formulating and negotiating future projects.</p>	<p>Donor partnerships were and continue to be very important in our portfolio. Most projects are either multidonor, or with a counterpart contribution, or even under a full programme approach. Examples of the latter are the 2011/2012 emergency response programme, or the 2013-2015 resilience programme, were all contributions go unearmarked into one single programme.</p>	<p>There has been enormous support to FAO funding requests by different donors under the programme approach. This has been notable especially after June 2011 when major funds have been injected into FAO Somalia activities to mitigate the emergency situation.</p> <p>Based on the FAO result based management approach, different projects funded by different donors are currently effectively complementing each other under the resilience programme.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5</p> <p>One of the project strategies to promote crop production was through diversification of crops and enhancing crop mix. However, farmers appear to have maintained the cultivation of crops that they were used to, but took on intensification</p>	<p>Project team to keep adaptable approach throughout future programming stages, to</p>	<p>The Farmer Field School approach has become common standard in FAO Somalia field activities, thus allowing for</p>	<p>Farmers have been able to engage into commercial production of sesame and maize seeds in Somalia.</p>

<p>through adopting improved farming methods and higher quality varieties of seeds. It is important that the project allowed farmers' space to do what they felt was good for them and they had skills and knowledge on. This flexibility was found to have worked quite well for the project and should be taken as part of project learning.</p>	<p>ensure situation evolution can be compensated for by sensible adapted actions</p>	<p>maximum flexibility and farmer adaptability.</p> <p>Crops and cropping patterns best suited to different locations are given priority when supporting communities.</p> <p>Operational Trials on on better crops and cropping patterns are being introduced to promote better incomes</p> <p>Trials on other crops such as sorghum and cowpeas are being undertaken.</p> <p>Introduction of improved seedlings of tissue culture banana and date palms and grafted mangoes have been done.</p>	<p>There is improved crop diversification within FAO Somalia operation areas.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6</p> <p>The FFS methodology gives assurance of continued skills and innovation development. The shift to sectoral approach adopted by FAO other than the project based approach should carefully be planned and implemented to avoid neglect or insufficient allocation of resources and attention. The Agriculture sector is too broad compared to a project approach which addresses a specific component within the entire agricultural productive sector. The initial phase of the FAO sector approach which runs up to 2015 has as its one of key objectives "Improved infrastructure for Flood control developed". The rehabilitation of the primary canal which the farming community admitted not having capacity to undertake should form part of the activities to be supported under this objective. Capacity building in canal committee including, introduction of and operationalization of user fee for maintenance of the irrigation system, which was yet to be</p>	<p>The learning will continue to be documented</p>	<p>FFS trainings are being documented especially under OSRO/SOM/108/EC and OSRO/SOM/043/SPA projects.</p> <p>Three season long FFS training have been conducted and over 79 ToTs have been graduated. The graduated ToT are being supported by FAO to initiate FFS in their respective areas.</p> <p>More FFS activities have been planned.</p>	<p>FFS training has been adopted as the main process of providing extension services to the farmers.</p> <p>The FFS groups are growing into sub- cooperatives/Farmer Organizations.</p>

<p>implemented by the end of the project, is another key activity that can be implemented under this objective.</p>			
<p>Recommendation 7</p> <p>The project involved major de-vegetation and movement of soils during rehabilitation of the canals and construction of the water pans. Activity or development of this magnitude which are out of character with its surroundings should have been subjected to initial environmental impact assessment to inform the proponents on its likely adverse impact on the biophysical and social environments. ARDOPIS should integrate environmental considerations into its development planning and management.</p>	<p>Incorporate the lesson learnt into other projects in future</p>	<p>Whenever significant adverse impacts are foreseen, environmental impacts assessments will be undertaken. A staff dedicated to environmental issues has been recruited into FAO Somalia.</p>	<p>Environmental assessments will be undertaken whenever adverse impacts are expected.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8</p> <p>The FFS should be mainstreamed in the FAO agricultural sector approach as the main participatory technology development methodology. In this project, it has demonstrated its ability to facilitate technology innovation and cost-effectiveness in dissemination of information to the consumers (farmers). The multiplier effect is high as the “researchers” are the farmers themselves who interact directly as they run their day to day endeavours. Nevertheless, the process needs to be monitored from time to time to ensure that innovations and adopted technologies are in line with the intended objectives of the FFS. During this monitoring period, putting up of additional FFS should be considered to curb the problem of long distance members have to walk. In addition, strategies to carefully hasten the process of solution development through FFS observations approach would help farmers to manage farming challenges more effectively.</p>	<p>FFS Training curriculum is being developed.</p>	<p>FFS curriculum has been developed and is in place.</p> <p>More training through FFS have been introduced.</p> <p>Long term partnerships with FFS experts/ trainers has been put in place.</p> <p>Also in house FFS trainers who are FAO Somalia staff have been identified to support to future training within Somalia.</p>	<p>FFS training has been adopted as the main process of providing extension services to the farmers.</p> <p>Due to the multiplier effect and the increased number of ToTs, more FFS groups have been established and supported.</p>