

Evaluation

Final Report

Drought Recovery for Vulnerable ASAL Populations in Tana River and Marsabit County *Kenya*

PROJECT NUMBER

KEN-1102 (Tana River)

KEN-1103 (Marsabit)

GIZ: 2010.2037.9-010.00

Project duration

01.10.2012-30.04.13

Project Holder



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On behalf of
Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

**Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale
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I. SUMMARY

1 Brief description of the project and framework conditions

The BMZ/GIZ-funded project "*Drought Recovery for Vulnerable ASAL Populations in Tana River (KEN-1102) and in Marsabit (KEN-1103)*" implemented by *Welthungerhilfe* in the Kenyan Counties of Tana River and Marsabit focused on mitigating drought impacts and increasing resilience in responding to the drought emergency that affected the Horn of Africa in 2011.

It is designed to consolidate the successes of the drought emergency response undertaken by *Welthungerhilfe* between September 2011 and April 2012. It also aims to obtain long-term commitments to addressing those structural problems that impact vulnerable populations of poor pastoral, agro-pastoral and marginal farmers in drought affected areas in the Tana River (KEN-1102) and Marsabit (KEN-1103) districts in Kenya. While those emergency interventions enabled the target groups in the affected areas to survive, this project is designed to address the inherent structural problems by building up the resilience of the affected populations to counter drought.

The project design and the activities are partially guided by baseline surveys conducted in Phase One GIZ/BMZ 2011/12¹ implementation; the community needs assessments and proposals submitted by the communities to *Welthungerhilfe*.

The project is subdivided into four Result *Sectors*: "Water, Agriculture, Land Conservation, and Livestock". These *Results* are not specified and there are no clearly defined objectives for outcomes or impacts associated with specific *SMART-indicators*², which would enable tracking, monitoring and verification of impacts at a higher level toward the objectives of project and program.

Project activities concerning livestock management were conducted by the local project partner organisation VetAid.

The total amount of beneficiaries are about 18,840 households (HH) and 12 schools. The implementation in the period from October 01, 2012 to April 30, 2013 (seven months) had direct costs of EUR 1,500,000.

¹ KEN-1087+88+89

² *SMART-Indicators: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound*

2 **Relevance**

In light of the frequency and intensity of drought coupled with increased frequency of other extreme weather events due to climate change, such as rising temperatures, the project has high priority with respect to the mostly livestock-dependent people in the ASAL³ districts.

The project is relevant to the *Welthungerhilfe* objectives of improving living conditions, as set out in its statutes, by reducing hunger and poverty and helping people help themselves.

The objective of this project is relevant to the needs of the vulnerable groups and in line with the general policies of the Kenyan National Climate Change Response Strategy of strengthening nationwide actions related to climate change adaptation. It is in line with the BMZ/GIZ strategy in Kenya. The priority areas of Kenyan-German cooperation have been aligned with the goals of Kenya's Vision 2030⁴ development strategy

3 **Effectiveness**

The project planning was based on experiences and lessons learned through previous projects⁵.

The purpose of this program is defined with the *Overall Goal*: "Contribute to increased community resilience to drought" and the *Project Goal*: "Development of coping mechanisms at community level to withstand drought".

The execution of some of the project activities was hampered by external constraints (national election season; unexpected heavy rains & floods with consequences for the project implementation (construction works, agricultural and vaccination programs, etc.). However, the overall effectiveness of the project is good; in some aspects very good. The performance of the project is good in aspects of the accomplishment of programme activities and achievements, particularly due to the excellent cooperation with all stakeholders of this project.

The outcomes of this project were influenced by the following main factors: i) The project management of all field offices (Tana River and Marsabit) ensures professional and very good project steering; ii) Project process monitoring is functional and operational; iii) The project organisational setup was modified and more efficient; iv) An impact assessment based on the initial baseline survey for both project regions is in preparation; v) The monitoring of greenhouse (GH) construction needs much more attention from those responsible (MoA, GH-provider, project) for warranty and quality control; vi) The resources required from a partner organisation were insufficient to efficiently execute project component Result 4; vii) The integration of the partner organisation into the Welthungerhilfe administration management was insufficient and caused delays in procurements; viii) Trained beneficiaries (in communities and schools) of the various project sectors need additional support to improve

³ Arid and Semi-Arid Lands

⁴ Office of Public Communications (10 June 2008). "Kenya Vision 2030 officially launched". Office of Public Communications. Retrieved 18 August 2012.

⁵ Welthungerhilfe PN: KEN-1078; KEN-1082; KEN-1087; KEN-1088; KEN-1089

their skills in maintenance and management of project facilities. Follow-up trainings are crucial.

4 Efficiency

As mentioned before, project *Inputs* have not been completely realized and certain assets have not been implemented (greenhouses, water ponds, etc.), therefore outcomes and impacts (including economic) are not yet calculable.

According to the documents, the project is aiming to assist 18,840 households (HHs), which will mean more than 113,040 direct beneficiaries (calculated under the assumption of six individuals per HH). The cost/benefit ratio of the overall project is evaluated on the basis of the percentage relationships, total running costs, equipment, personnel, etc. The initially planned entire project budget was EUR 1.5m for the seven month project

More than 60% of funds were allocated for the four *Result Sectors*: "*Water, Agriculture, Land Conservation, and Livestock*". In these cost categories, inputs for the water supply (R1: 31.3%; EUR 470,000) and livestock management (R 4: 12.7%; EUR 191,600), were the two highest cost factors.

5 Outcomes and impacts

It is much too early to assess the outcomes and impacts of this seven month project, which also started about six weeks late. Most of the activities are still on-going, not completed or very new and the functionality of the implemented systems has yet to be proved (e.g. greenhouses, kitchen gardens, tree nurseries, seed distribution, irrigation activities, terracing, water collection facilities, goat breeding, fodder production in conjunction with vegetable garden).

Most of the trainings are facilitated through the respective line ministries who already have experience from training in previous projects in the target region. Some of the trainings have not yet started; others are currently on-going. According to statements from stakeholders, trainings not conducted under this project will be completed, and other trainings conducted and supported, by the respective line ministries and under the Welthungerhilfe project KEN-1097 (RAIN-Project).

The inclusion of exposure visits in the training methodology was very much appreciated by the communities. The visits were broadly focused and allowed participants to gain exposure to other communities and exchange ideas with them. The use of drama groups was quite appropriate in conveying the training messages because of the high illiteracy in the project region.

There are disputes between organisations on their different approaches in the implementation of activities since Welthungerhilfe does not pay fees for training community resource persons. Some other organisations pay what is termed a "*sitting allowance*" for attendance at training sessions, which always triggers constant debates and explanations on this topic.

Rain water catchment systems at schools and communities provide the benefit of improved water harvesting system (roof guttering, water tanks) that reduce water scarcity during dry periods and provide irrigation for the proposed kitchen gardens (some with implemented greenhouses), and contributes towards food security. These systems are still in the phase of

implementation. There are no monitoring tools or impact analyses from previous projects that implemented similar water facility systems to assess the efficiency in correlation to the annual rainfall.

All water collecting systems inspected during the field visits (water tanks, rain water roof catchments, masonry tanks) were in good condition. The water pan rehabilitations were implemented via hired contractors, unlike in previous projects which utilised unskilled community labour under a "Cash for Work⁶" scheme. This approach was adopted due to the time constraints on project implementation and because of the experiences in previous and similar projects' activities, where more time was needed to achieve the desired work norm. An investigation of the two approaches (Contractor *vs.* CFW) in terms of "*sense of ownership due to participation through community labour*" towards future program strategy planning is a notable issue.

Vegetable cultivation under greenhouses (GH) conditions and the operation of the facility (including drip irrigation) is an innovative technology especially in regions of pastoral or semi-pastoral communities, and consequently requires special attention. Some of the GHs are not yet operable and most of them are still under construction. The climatic environment of Tana River County⁷ requires a design for cooler temperatures⁸. Since the Marsabit GH provider could not fulfil this requirement, the project was forced to use another GH provider.

Some of these GHs (at both project sites) already showed some of the shortcomings (e.g. torn plastic sheeting walls, bad connections of components, etc.) and GH components have already had to be replaced. Warranty claims against the seller or supplier after installation were assured only verbally, and not agreed to in writing (*REC#*). Ex-post monitoring is essential before additional GH are introduced (*REC#*).

Drip-irrigation can be appropriate for efficient water use, especially in regions with a scarcity of water, and can increase the production of crops. Unfortunately none of the irrigation techniques were seen in practical operation during this evaluation, since the systems had not yet been installed by the project, as furrow irrigation in the pasture is not in action or not operable because of the current environmental conditions (rain and floods). However, according to the responses from numerous different stakeholders in this project, drip irrigation in pasture cultivation is difficult to enforce practically in the project targeted project communities.

The question of legal permits for authorising water extraction for irrigation is an important issue for sustainability of project activities and farmers investments. However, this issue could not be resolved during this evaluation (*REC#*).

Drip irrigation in greenhouses is more suitable in this region, but here again the techniques require good maintenance to keep the system running and to prevent crop damage due to

⁶ CFW

⁷ higher temperature compared to Marsabit

⁸ greater GH heights and air-permeable side walls

improper handling⁹. Furthermore, water catchment systems (guttering and PVC tanks) should ensure adequate water availability and provide irrigation for greenhouses and kitchen gardens. However, this irrigation concept is questionable if tank capacities from roof catchments are the only supply.

In the framework of the Community Paid Labour Program, the community HH are involved in the implementation of range land management, fixing of gulleys and terraces (*Fanya juu*)¹⁰. Beneficiaries continue this work on their own initiative and farmers have recognised the benefits of terracing. The diffusion of these cultivation methods into other neighboring regions can already be observed.

Numerous energy saving cooking stoves were distributed by the project to Marsabit project region to private HH and institutions (schools). Trainings and open air meetings of the communities' own resource persons on fuel efficient cooking, and community sensitization to *maendeleo liners*, are still on-going.

In the livestock sector Welthungerhilfe and VetAid support the local veterinary departments in carrying out strategically targeted vaccinations and de-worming activities. In this context it was questionable if the right strategy would be found under the given circumstances since the project framework did not consider the nomadic lifestyle in the region (e.g. course of pastoral & animal migration and timeframe of project) *REC#*

Several fodder plots were visited. The plots are protected by fences and entirely sown with pasture/fodder seeds. However, heavy rain followed the seeding, fields and seedbeds were heavily damaged and partly destroyed and in many cases re-seedings are necessary.

With the support of this project, goat breeding groups have been registered and have opened a bank account to support the goat breeding under *zero-grazing* conditions (goat houses). Livestock producers and the veterinary departments worked together to identify the breeds (German Alpine, Somali Gala) most suitable for this project region. These breeds have been procured but not yet delivered into the project region. Required health certificates for livestock imports into the project region could not yet be presented to the DVO¹¹ (*REC#*). One beneficiary group mentioned that the livestock breeding program did not consider essential animal requirements (water) especially during drought seasons (*REC#*).

⁹ e.g. clogging of the nozzle, nutrient over fertilization, salination, etc.

¹⁰ These terrace banks were made across fields, on the contour, so that over time the land between the ditches levels off. It prevents soil erosion and keeps the rain water in the field.

¹¹ Marsabit

6 **Sustainability**

For the communities, the project facilities implemented (shallow wells, earth dams, guttering systems, greenhouses, etc.) and the capacity-building programs provided on different topics have to be maintained or refreshed continuously. Further professional support, especially in terms of capacity-building by the beneficiaries and technical support, is crucial to ensure sustainability. Whether the line ministries can take over these responsibilities has yet to be seen.

The networking was very successfully implemented by the project and has created links between and among communities and other district-level institutions, as well to technical service providers, and integrated all development activities in the district

Improved stoves have an impact on the environment and its conservation. Improved stoves require less firewood, which will have an impact on the conservation of trees and forests in the country and will contribute to the reduction of CO₂ emissions.

The *fanya-juu* terracing, an appropriate land & water conservation technique, reduces the destruction of arable land in the country. The growing conditions for the crops are enhanced, thus it will contribute to food and nutrition security.

Intensive community sensitization, mobilization, as well as consistent involvement and capacity building with regard to the environmental interconnections (*trainings in soil & water conservation*) are keys to ownership and sustainability.

7 **Most important recommendations**

- ⇒ An enhanced needs assessment of programme component requirements in terms of technical staff and other personnel resources is crucial for future program planning, especially in cooperation with partner organisations, to ensure the effectiveness of project implementations.
- ⇒ Ex-post monitoring is required before additional greenhouses are introduced, to compare the two types of greenhouse designs in the different environments of the project regions (Marsabit, Tana River).
- ⇒ Questions of legal permits authorising water extraction for irrigation must be clarified to ensure sustainability of project implementations and farmers investments.
- ⇒ Programmes should be aware of adverse external factors (such as climatic conditions) and take into account unfavourable periods for starting and financing activities, especially in agricultural and construction sectors (nurseries, raising of plants, construction work) which comprise components that depend entirely on the cropping and climatic season.
- ⇒ Livestock and veterinary programs should consider the nomadic lifestyle in the region as well as other external factors, like water & pasture availability.
- ⇒ All surveys should be reviewed and all relevant aspects of project and program activities evaluated for socio-economical applicability and utility. In this regard, it is even advisable to assess the results before additional greenhouses are introduced in this area.

8 General conclusions and "Lessons Learnt"

- ⇒ If a part-time consultant assists the project management in the project monitoring and reporting requirements, the effectiveness of project implementations can increase.
- ⇒ Setting working norms and standards enables smooth implementation of interventions among the community
- ⇒ Interventions initiated by the community are easily implemented
- ⇒ Exposure learning tours is a good way for participants to learn through observation of and interaction with other stakeholders
- ⇒ Government involvement is critical to sustainability of the activities
