



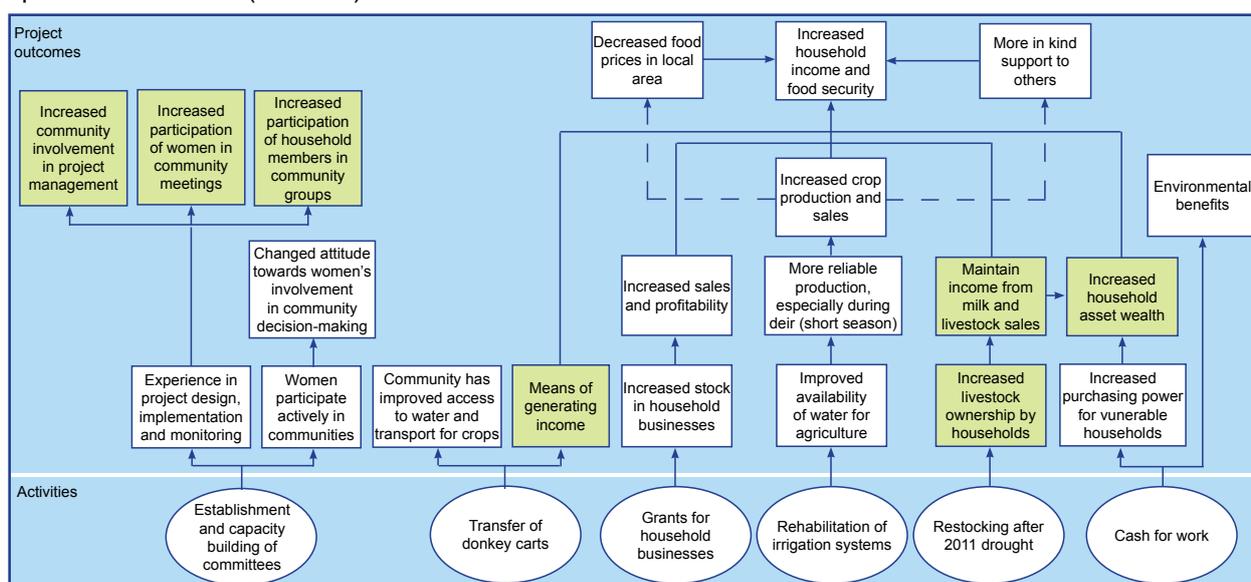
Somalia

Livelihoods

2014/15

Community driven livelihood and food security initiatives in Lower and Middle Juba Regions

The project's overall objective was to contribute to improved income generation and food security of families in eleven regions in South Somalia. Project activities included a cash grant for household businesses; provision of donkey carts for transport services; restocking of livestock herds; donation of agricultural equipment; donation of other agricultural inputs such as seeds; support in rehabilitation of irrigation systems including the donation of water pumps; and provision of cash for work. It should be noted that agricultural activities, including support in rehabilitation of irrigation systems, were not given attention as planned and consequently few of these activities were actually carried out. The project activities were implemented by Oxfam in conjunction with a local partner organisation – Wajir South Development Association (WASDA).



This diagram presents how the project was expected to achieve change, through project activities and outcomes that were expected to contribute to the overall goal of the project. Outcomes that found evidence of positive impact are highlighted in green.

Project date: May 2010 - April 2013

Evaluation: October 2014

Publication: November 2015

Evaluation Method

The review sought to evaluate the project's impact among the population of villages where the project was implemented. A 'quasi-experimental' evaluation design was used whereby data from interviews with households from villages where the project had been implemented and with households of neighbouring non-project villages were analysed using propensity –score matching and multivariate regression. See the 'How are effectiveness reviews carried out?' document for more information on evaluation design. Details about specific evaluation design used in this case are contained in the full report of the Effectiveness Review.

Results

Project outcome	Evidence of positive impact	Commentary
Increased livestock ownership by households	YES	On average, the numbers of goats increased by 2 in intervention households while the number of sheep increased by about 50% in households that participated in the project compared with households that did not.
Participation in community groups	YES	Participation of women and their household members increased by about 20 percentage points while participation of women alone in group meetings increased by about 12 percentage points in intervention areas compared with comparison areas.
Use of donkey carts for income generation	YES	On average there was a 5.9 percentage point increase in the number of participant households reporting the use donkey carts for transport services thereby increasing their income compared with households in comparison communities.
Increased income from milk sales	YES	On average, there was a 15.9 percentage point increase in the number of participant households reporting increased income from milk sales compared with non-participants.
Community involvement in project management	YES	On average, there was a 14 percentage point significant difference between participant households and non-participants with regard to asking questions on how new projects benefit them. This is important because by asking about project benefits they can influence the kind of activities based on immediate needs of the community.
Household asset wealth (Wealth index)	YES	There is evidence to show that the wealth index of households in intervention areas has steadily increased since 2009 whereas that of the comparison households has remained almost constant.
Increased income from household businesses	NO	Revenues obtained from household businesses were not significantly different between the participant and non-participant households.
Increase in overall household income (New Global Indicator)	NO	Household income among project participants (as measured by consumption and expenditure) was not significantly different between intervention and comparison households.

Going forward

Learning from the review is being incorporated into the second phase of a similar project implemented in Somalia. The use of project committees, coined to help deliver projects in hard to reach areas due to prevailing insecurity, was found to be a key delivery model. Their involvement in future projects will be strengthened by improving training and monitoring involvement in future project activities. The review also identified the need to improve monitoring and follow up with project participants after being issued with project items. A training manual on business skills has been developed and in future, training will be conducted for all project participants before funds are distributed. Tools for continuous monitoring have also been developed and their use will be incorporated into future projects. In order to improve project participant skills to obtain grants for establishing business and other income generating activities, future screening processes for similar projects will incorporate analysis on culture dynamics. This will provide visibility on whether participants have previous knowledge of business or are interested in undertaking business which is particularly crucial for those involved in cash grants for household businesses.

Photo credit: Maslah Mohamed/WASDA