Final evaluation report

Community Resilience in Somaliland and Puntland (CRISP) project

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Contents

ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	Description
CRISP	Community Resilience in Puntland and Somaliland Project
ADO	Agriculture Development Organization
BRAC	Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate
BRCiS	Building Resilient Community in Somalia
CAV	Climate Adaptive Village
CAHW	Community Animal Health Worker
CRISP	Community Resilience in Somaliland and Puntland
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSB	Community Seed Bank
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DF	Development Fund of Norway
EU	European Union
ETFS	Emergency Trust Fund for Sustainability
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FSNAU	Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit
GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms
HADMA	Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency
HAVOYOCO	Horn of Africa Voluntary Youth Committee
HH	Household
ICPAC	IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Center
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
IP	Implementing Partners
IPC	Integrated Phase Classification
KII	Key Informant Interview
LF	Logical Framework
MoAD	Ministry of Agriculture Development

MLFD	Ministry of Livestock and Fishery Development
MECC	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
MoWD	Ministry of Water Development
NADFOR	National Disaster Preparedness and Food reserve Authority
NAFIS	Network Against female genital mutilation in Somaliland
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa Development
NORAD	Norwegian Agency of Development Cooperation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
NDP II	National Development Plan II
NDP III	National Development Plan III
SHG	Self Help Group
SCI	Save the Children International
USD	United sated Dollar
UN	United Nations
WASH	Water, Hygiene and Sanitation
VDC	Village Development Committee

Executive Summary

The Community Resilience in Somaliland and Puntland (CRISP) project was funded by the European Union (EU) under the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Sustainability (EU ETFS) and Addressing the Root Causes of Reregulating Migration and Displaced Persons in Africa. DF worked with HAVOYOCO, Candlelight, ADO and KAALO local partners to implement the project between 1st July 2018 and 30th April 2022 including a No Cost Extension of 6 months.

The overall objective was to strengthen the resilience of communities in Somaliland and Puntland through reduced vulnerabilities of households caused by climate-related shocks and disasters (the intermediate outcome). The impact was expected to be achieved through three inter-linked outcomes: 1) increased capacity of communities and local institutions to prepare for and manage climate-related shocks and disasters; 2) diversified and strengthened agro-pastoral production systems and 3) opportunities for income generation increased for communities.

Results

Relevance – CRISP was found to complement numerous international and national policy objectives relating to resilience and the overall DF Somaliland portfolio. The project was decisive in its response to COVID-19 although there was limited scope to respond to the drought of 2020-22 and the Desert Locust invasion (2020-21).

The CRISP objectives and associated activities are relevant to the target group, as verified by the beneficiaries, themselves, and other stakeholders consulted. In general, the mode of delivery was accessible for men, women and youth and the aims were appropriate to context or modified as necessary.

Coherence - The main contribution of CRISP towards meeting national policy and in supporting the remit of technical service providers is via the CAV approach and the 78 resultant plans. CRISP partners benefit from cross-learning and there are examples of mutual capacity building across the IPs. Government engagement with specific CRISP activities was significant but linkage between the government stakeholders was found to be less strong.

Effectiveness

Although CRISP achieved 26% fewer community planned adaptation measures than targeted,14 district councils have adopted such plans (Outcome 1). CRISP performed well with respect to agro-pastoral production, diversification and strengthening (Outcome 2). 98% of the targeted households have practised some form of climate smart agriculture - 21% practicing crop rotation and 22% engaged in soil bund construction. Since 2018, the average number of livestock held per household has reduced (camels 16 to 10; cattle 9 to 6; goats 46 to 24, and sheep 35 to 18). 74% of the target fishing group have improved fishing practice. 129 businesses were established via Self Help Groups (SHGs) and 30 businesses via access to financial institutions (Outcome 3). No baseline value exists, but qualitative feedback suggests that household income has increased over the course of the project for target households and currently stands at nearly 120 USD per month. Increased and diversified income is associated as a pathway to increased communities' resilience to withstand climate related shocks, hence any future projects should have indicators to measure changes overtime. The most significant changes achieved by CRISP relate to Technical and Physical Change, especially the rehabilitation or construction of new water infrastructure, and Institutional and Social Change including the development of 78 CAV plans and improved household access to potable water.

The Village Development Committees (VDC) were instrumental for the IPs to mobilize communities for the CAV planning process. Overall, DF and the IPs were effective at establishing community adaptation planning and linking it to aspects of the local and district efforts to build resilience.

The IPs showed initiative in mobilising communities for the CAV planning process using existing structures such as the village development committee before reaching the wider community.

The logframe and indicators are well designed, and targets appear to have been realistic. The baseline data was largely relevant to the logframe, but more contextual information could have been collected at this stage to help increase relevance and effectiveness. The routine reporting between DF and the IPs is via monthly financial reports and quarterly progress reports. However, there is no ongoing way for IPs to capture or communicate issues as they emerge i.e., a form for process documentation or process monitoring. Reporting to DF places a greater emphasis on delivery with respect to the logframe, capturing "whether" the project is delivering, not "how" or "why" it is delivering, or is not delivering, results.

DF capacity building was mostly on financial processes, anti-corruption, and procurement processes, rather than technical development and resilience-related capacity; some partners may lack certain skills with respect to capturing or reporting lesson learned. Moreover, DF provided support to IPs on gender mainstreaming and reporting including the documentation of most significant changes.

Efficiency

CRISP partners worked through the VDCs and, where existing, the local water management committees. Although CRISP did well to re-direct resources and complete activities within the project cycle, some of the project-related impacts may have been secured earlier with better prior knowledge of context e.g., the delay in construction of subsurface water catchments originally

The 28.6% of total budget expenditure on staff costs, while considerable, reflects the large number of management and technical expertise required across the IPs and other stakeholders. Other costs per output and activity seem reasonable when viewed in relation to the tangible reported results and the qualitative feedback derived through this evaluation. It is right for instance, that CRISP invested heavily in the water infrastructure component (24.1% of overall project funds) because these assets are understood to be an enabling feature for virtually all aspects of CRISP. DF could review, however, the relative importance of the climate smart agriculture activities (Output 2.3) versus support to livestock production (Output 2.5) and whether the results justify eight times the expenditure on the latter. The 2.3% allocation to ameliorate the effects of Covid-19 seems reasonable in the context of the project because the virus both impacted the capacity of CRISP to deliver activity and undermined household resilience directly.

Impact

53% of people in vulnerable target communities have had their resilience strengthened. CAV planning process has resulted in new knowledge and greater confidence to address vulnerability with other stakeholders. The CAV plans are not an endpoint in this regard and the impact here should be viewed from a perspective of increased community-wide collaboration exposure to secondary stakeholders and new skills and abilities.

Increased access to potable water reduced the opportunity cost of fetching water which had a direct economic impact on the household. FGDs revealed that increased income has improved healthcare and/or access to education for children.

The effect of drought seems to have been particularly marked in the case of animal re-stocking and some pastoralist respondents revealed that the expected gains did not materialise as animals had to be sold immediately or died from lack of fodder or water. This target group valued highly the support provided by project Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) in the context of drought. The supported fishermen and fishmongers have doubled income through increased daily catch and fish preservation.

With respect to Outcome 3, the SHGs benefit the individuals that receive loans from the accumulated funds, though the arrangements for this seem to vary between the groups. SHG members reported increased social and household status as a result of participation in the SHGs.

The water-related activities have significantly improved the access to water, despite minor disputes associated with site-selection. Generally, the impacts were enjoyed across the community, even if assets were privately owned, and the qualitative responses revealed beneficiaries, IPs and government stakeholders believe these will be enjoyed for several years to come.

The key external natural constraint to impact was the droughts of 2020, 2021 and 2022. In addition, beneficiaries cited the Desert Locust invasion of 2020-21 and beneficiaries in Raqi mentioned the effects of the Sagar Cyclone. The new projects can ameliorate these external challenges and so work to a natural annual calendar for delivery, rather than to the donor's calendar.

Sustainability

Beneficiaries across all the CRISP activities expressed optimism in terms of future use and benefits derived from new or rehabilitated structures, other assets and input and knowledge derived via training. The IPs were careful to distribute animals to households that were committed to long-term breeding, rather than to their immediate sale. In the case of the CSBs, the IPs were successful in their effort to encourage seed donations from local farmers and together these messages have developed enthusiasm for each activity.

The evaluation revealed that new knowledge and practise derived from CRISP trainings is likely to be retained for future use. This includes new community knowledge on diversification of cash crops as well as new knowledge on seed management, water conservation and the reduction of soil erosion.

CRISP had no formal exit plans with project stakeholders. However, each IP has own exit strategy for the completed project activities. Beneficiaries were very confident in their own ability to follow rules of use and ensure community support to the finance and upkeep of structures. CRISP should have established plans and protocols for the community committees and with systems and bylaws to ensure maintenance and financial viability.

Independent linkage between government agencies and the community target group was not well developed. Furthermore, some beneficiaries were unaware of CAV process and some other CRISP activity in their locations.

Project and risk management

There are significant challenges to coordinate a multi-agency project, especially, when it operates in several regions. Mutual learning between DF and the partners occurs during the

quarterly meetings and there is evidence that partners have learned technical skills from one another. COVID-19 movement restrictions resulted in some implementation delays in 2020. DF developed COVID-19 response and ultimately caught up by the end of the no-cost extension period. The construction of subsurface water catchments was delayed as a result of lengthy feasibility assessments; the subsurface dams were then transferred from Puntland to Somaliland in 2020-21. Subsurface dams were originally planned for Puntland sites, though there were no dry rivers for sand sedimentations.

Cross-cutting issues

The project design did specify men, women, and youth as specific participants across many of the CRISP activities. With respect to Outcome 1, the planning process acknowledged the differing perspectives between livelihood groups before bringing them together for co-learning in a “grand meeting”. In this regard, the perspectives of women were clearly represented and seen more legitimate across the community.

Although the VDCs represent a convenient interface between CRISP and the communities, they comprise only men. The sub-clans in and around the villages nominate members to the VDC. Hence, sub-clans always prefer men to represent them in the social forums and the IPs could acknowledge this from the outset and, during the beneficiary and site selections, attempt to make sure that women’s voices were heard.

With respect to Outcome 2 and Outcome 3, women reported via the FGDs that training and support was generally provided in a way that was appropriate and accessible to them. Although there is no specific project-assigned gender specialist, DF report that all IPs have been trained on gender sensitive approaches; HAVOYOCO has a female gender officer while other IPs included gender mainstreaming in the job descriptions of their field staff.

Lessons learned

The value of participatory planning with sub-sets of the community and then in combination – CRISP brought all stakeholders in the CAV training to ensure comprehensive community engagement. Representatives from the public institutions and local groups (women, men, and youth) were involved in the community discussions.

The possibility of a greater role for political representatives (elected decision-makers) - Although CRISP encouraged direct involvement of the technical service providers, it is possible there could also be an important role to be played by local government representatives too i.e., decision-makers and political stakeholders. Participatory planning has been found to me most effective when political and sector specific officials have witnessed the process personally or have been involved directly. DF could look to ensure that IPs have a consistent approach to linkage with local government as well as technical service providers.

The importance of focusing on activity on the ground – rather than coherence with aspirational or abstract policy - Although the government may lack financial capacity, new linkages with the beneficiaries are as important as coherence with regional or national policy declarations with respect to resilience.

The importance of acknowledging a dynamic and diverse “community” - The CRISP partners are aware of the important dynamics within and between communities. DF and the partners should be commended for working with sub-clans because if these invisible or informal institutional issues are overlooked, they could have blocked progress and possibly led to disputes.

The Do No Harm principle was applied in several ways – it can be useful to promote it in terms of community complexity / The water-related activities often result in win-win opportunities -The CRISP partners view the communities as dynamic and complex, rather than homogenous and static. Such situations require win-win opportunities to develop consensus across communities. The rehabilitation of canals and water bodies benefit both animal health and farming – bridging the interests of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, for instance.

The value of using existing formal and informal institutions - Utilising existing institutions such as the VDCs, water management committees, the fisher's association or savings groups was an effective approach. DVCs have broad public legitimacy within communities and are the first contact point for external actors. CRISP facilitated establishment of CAV and CSB committees for effectiveness and sustainability.

Maintaining community awareness of overall CRISP activities and objective - certain participants were unaware of CAV planning or technical activities delivered by the project. The CRISP model implies that activities should be joined up and coordinated around CAV planning. Ideally, all community stakeholders should be fully aware of the project objectives and activities to support resilience.

Sharing as a community strategy for maintaining resilience - The FGD revealed that some of the CRISP beneficiaries share project inputs with other households. Sharing is an important (informal) risk management strategy within communities in the face of stress and works within family or kinship groups. I It would be useful if DF and the IPs considered the extent of such sharing for all project inputs and whether they think this is significant in terms of targeting and monitoring.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are presented in sequence starting with the more overarching and *strategic* recommendations and working towards more specific and *operational* issues.

Developing a second phase for CRISP: CRISP has gone far to achieve its intended outcomes and objectives but the cumulative effect of climate change means there is a real risk of losing momentum and those gains being eroded. Delivering a second phase of CRISP, built on experience and lessons learned, should help these communities protect and consolidate the gains made from 2018-2022.

Design future projects as a component of a multi-agency resilience framework: There should be a concerted effort to support current partners and a broad-based multi-agency group of international and national stakeholders. Being a formal partner within a broad-based consortium would help deliver change at scale and avoid duplicating the actions of other agencies.

Consolidating progress in existing project locations – not dispersing the action to new sites: DF and the IPs should consolidate working with and building resilience of communities in the CRISP sites, and unless inevitable refrain scattering to new sites.

Unpacking "resilience" and consider using alternative terms to "shocks" and "disasters": DF Somalia should adapt the CAV language and logic used in project design so that future projects represent this new reality. The resilience of communities in Somaliland and Puntland can be reduced incrementally with each consecutive poor growing season, rather than suddenly. The CRISP activities helped reduce "stress" in the face of ongoing "trends"

but it should be explicit about which outputs and activities aim to build resilience with respect to “rebuild”, “prevent” etc.

Developing a theory of change: Developing a simple theory of change or model at the design stage can help DF and partners visualise what success might look like for different subsets of the beneficiaries. Any future new project should map out the potential beneficiaries for each activity.

Commission studies to consolidate learning ahead of new project design: Independent researchers should review the performance of CAHWs and SHGs. The output would be a useful learning resource for DF and the IPs.

Reconnaissance as part of the design process: Better knowledge of the project locations would result in more relevant, efficient, and effective interventions. This does not just relate to technical knowledge but to institutional and social knowledge, especially. Stakeholder mapping for each proposed site would list the key individuals and roles of all relevant stakeholders, ideally extending to include political and elected officials that could operate as “champions” for resilience and the CAV process.

Move towards process monitoring: A greater emphasis on process monitoring (rather than delivery against the logframe) would help DF counter problems as they arise and make timely modifications to strategy. The partners should be trained on simple formats for weekly or monthly progress reporting to DF with a particular emphasis on community/social and stakeholder challenges and breakthroughs i.e., the informal institutional context of delivering the project and supporting resilience.

Developing gender awareness and associated capacity within the partners: Women may be represented on planning committees and other platforms but are not always given equal “voice”. DF must support the partners to ensure the power issues are well understood and that the partner can report or address them through process monitoring.

A more strategic communication plan: It would be useful for DF and the partners to explore the purpose and function of the future communication products. A simple and focussed communications strategy can be developed with a matrix that outlines “product”, “target audience”, “purpose” and “intended impact/change in the audience”.

Introduction

Project overview

The Community Resilience in Somaliland and Puntland (CRISP) project was funded by the European Union (EU) under the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Sustainability (EU ETFS) and Addressing the Root Causes of Irregulating Migration and Displaced Persons in Africa. DF is the lead agency and works together with four implementing partners: HAVOYOCO, Candlelight, ADO and KAALO. The project was implemented between 1st July 2018 and 30th April 2022 including a No Cost Extension of 6 months. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, CRISP partners agreed with the EU in Q1 2020 on measures to mitigate adverse effects and the results framework, implementation plan and budget were updated accordingly.

The overall objective (the intended impact) was to strengthen the resilience of communities in Somaliland and Puntland through reduced vulnerabilities of households caused by climate-related shocks and disasters (the intermediate outcome). The intended impact was intended to be achieved through three inter-linked outcomes: 1) increased capacity of communities and local institutions to prepare for and manage climate-related shocks and disasters; 2) diversified and strengthened agro-pastoral production systemsand3) opportunities for income generation increased for communities.

CRISP was implemented in five regions in Somaliland (Waqooyi Galbeed, Awdal, Togdheer, Sool and Sanaag) and 2 regions of Puntland (Bari and Nugaal). It supports 41 communities divided into 71 livelihood zones and encompassing 10,545 HHs in alleviating vulnerability to climate-related shocks and disasters.

The project adapted a Climate Adaptive Village (CAV) approach for designing interventions with communities and worked with the National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserve Authority (NADFOR) in Somaliland and the Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency (HADMA) in Puntland. Other associated line ministries included the Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development and Water.

Purpose and scope of the end-term evaluation

The purpose of the evaluation is to assess and document the performance of CRISP and the extent to which the outputs and outcomes have been achieved, determining relevance, coherence, efficiency, and effectiveness. The evaluation is forward looking and intends to gauge to what extent results are sustainable and contribute to achieving the desired impact. The evaluation is intended to generate actionable recommendations given that DF is likely to extend related work in the coming years. The evaluation covers the entire implementation period (1 July 2018 to 30 April 2022) and all the project components implemented in Somaliland and Puntland.

2. Methodology

Evaluation Approach: The evaluation utilised a participatory and culturally sensitive approach and triangulated qualitative and quantitative data to generate the findings. The evaluation questions are based on each of the six standard DAC evaluation criteria but with special emphasis on sustainability. These questions formed the basis for a set of sub-questions that were explored in detail via data collected from the literature review, a household survey, key informant interviews (KIIs)and Focus Groups Discussion (FGDs).The evaluation collected data from 25 FGDs across the project locations in Puntland and Somaliland, 12 KIIs with DF, implementing partners and national stakeholders and 371

surveys. The evaluation also required the collection of final values for the project indicators to populate the CRISP logframe.

The ToR emphasised the need for a particularly thorough exploration of sustainability and in this regard, the evaluators attempted to uncover the incentives to sustain aspects of CAV and other community-level achievements of CRISP. Such issues could extend beyond financial incentives, such as social factors (community cohesion and peer group) and institutional features (formal responsibilities, roles and power relations).

Initial briefing and orientation - The evaluation process was initiated at a kick-off meeting on 24th May 2022 between the evaluation team, the DF Somaliland Country Office and Ulf Flink, Country Director and a briefing meeting was then held with the consultants, CRISP implementing partners and CRISP project staff in Somaliland and Puntland on 25th May. The final fieldwork schedule was refined in consultation with the CRISP partners at the start of the in-country stage. See the full list of the KIIs and FGDs(annex A and B).

Literature review- The literature review performed two main functions: 1) it demonstrated the quality and extent of existing reporting and 2) it suggested additional lines of enquiry and knowledge gaps to address the evaluation questions whilst in-country. The key literature included the EU application document, Baseline Survey (2019),Project Progress and Performance Evaluation (December 2021),and the Interim Narrative Reports of 2019 and 2020,in addition to the logframe and budget. A full list of documents provided is presented in annex C.

Methodological issues and challenges

The evaluation fieldwork occurred at the peak of severe drought in Somaliland and Puntland. Although the respondents were very cooperative in providing information, the circumstances might have limited further information they could have shared in a more settled season. The communities prioritised coping with the situation and had little appetite to convene for discussions. It is also worth noting that the increased community ownership of the CRISP project has helped the evaluation team receive information in this challenging time.

The project was implemented in extensive geographical coverage with poor road terrains, sometimes taking a full day to travel between two villages apart only 80kms. This has forced the fieldwork to take more than three weeks which, part of this time, could have been used to reflect and learn from the data collected.

Finally, although the DAC criteria help order the evaluation and the analysis, they do not necessarily support a flowing narrative for reporting and discussion. As such, the evaluation questions are all addressed but are sometimes grouped in order to maintain the logic of the narrative, especially within the discussion and conclusion.

RESULTS

3.1 Relevance

Action's relevance to the needs/objectives of DF, partners, donor, Somaliland, and Puntland governments

The scope and aims of CRISP reflect the global targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - in particular, Goals 1 to 3 that cover poverty, hunger, and health and to SDG 13 that covers climate action. The project design also reflects the explicit call from UN agencies for cross-cutting approaches to development.

Community Contingency Planning (a modified form of which is applied within CRISP) was already a component of the national contingency effort led by NEPAD, which itself follows the Hyogo Framework Action 2005-2015 and the Sendai Framework for Action 2015-2030.

CRISP contributes directly to the seven guiding principles that formed the Somaliland National Vision 2030 (in particular, citizen participation, self-reliance, and sustainability) and, with respect to Puntland, most obviously to water conservation and resilience efforts and directives including the Puntland Water Policy.

CRISP complements the entire DF Somaliland portfolio which centres on resilience via three key projects: 1) Building Local Resilience and Adaptation to Climate (BRAC) supported by Norad; 2) and Improved Seed, Food and Livelihood Security for Agropastoralists Project funded by the Darwin Initiative (UK) and CRISP, itself. Linkage to BRAC has contributed to the result and targets of CRISP and the Darwin Initiative funded project has directly informed the design of aspects of Outcome 2 "Agropastoral production system diversified and strengthened", in particular (Final Narrative Report June 2019- April 2022). The latter project directly supported two of the Community Seed Banks (CSBs) utilised within CRISP, helping the project co-finance and establish another in Puntland.

The CAV model and approach is of particular relevance to the remits of NEPAD, NADFOR, HADMA, the Ministry of Agriculture and Development (MoAD), the Ministry of Water Resource Development (MoWRD), the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MoLF) and the Ministry of Environment and Rural Development (MoERD) in the two regions as reported to the evaluators in interview.

Action's relevance to the National Development Plan II and related sectors

CRISP is well-aligned with national policy and development objectives. The National Development Plan II (2017-2021) outlines the key constraints and opportunities with respect to reducing vulnerability (Resilience and Human Rights - Chapter 5) and several of these issues resonate with CRISP. In particular, NDP II identifies the need for sensitisation and empowerment, livelihoods diversification, strengthening existing mechanisms for planning and coping and mainstreaming these approaches. CRISP attempts all four of these. The project also attempts to directly address the 2nd NDP Goal: "Increase resilience against the effects of climate change through improved management of the environment, strategic water management, food security and diversification of the economy." (NDP II: page xiii).

The Somaliland National Development Plan (NDP III) is expected to extend an emphasis on participation resilience to meet the long-term development aspirations of the Somaliland National Vision 2030. CRISP was supported by the Ministry of Agriculture Development as a key participant in project design and the resultant actions and CAV plans produced were scrutinised and approved with respect to relevance to the National Agriculture Policy before they were implemented.

Collaboration between the project stakeholders and COVID-19 response alignment

Collaboration between DF, IPs and line ministries is a core part of the CRISP project design. In facilitating new actions at community level, DF has supported the IPs and line ministries to understand participatory resilience building through the CAV process. Many activities within CRISP required the approval and cooperation from the line ministries. The full range of secondary stakeholders were brought together annually but subsets collaborated throughout the project and worked together in parallel to CRISP during specific working groups such as the Food Security Cluster and WASH cluster and NADFOR and IGAD-organised coordination meetings. This joint planning outside of CRISP should also have helped the

CRISP target groups indirectly. The government stakeholders tended to contest what they believe to be their sole area of responsibility, however, and the scope for truly integrated action was constrained. This might not have impacted delivery as specific actions under CRISP tend to be the core responsibility of a single lead agency – for instance the Ministry of Water Resources Development with respect to borehole rehabilitation or the Ministry of Animals with respect to CAHWs.

Government stakeholders benefited through indirect capacity building by participating in local initiatives and gaining new knowledge which would have strengthened existing relationships to the IPs (e.g., new knowledge on seed bank management via KAALO and as reported by the Somaliland Ministry of Agriculture Development). While the government stakeholders also participated in CAV related training to link community priority needs to national plans. Finally, DF reported that discussions with local agencies including Somaliland and Puntland Authorities, NAFIS network and Kindernothilfe have helped shape the design and implementation from an early stage.

The project was appropriately decisive in its response to COVID-19 but there was very limited scope to respond to the drought of 2020-22 and the Desert Locust invasion (2020-21). Many of the CRISP activities had been completed before the 2020-22 droughts and the scope for modifications in delivery were limited. In the case of the Desert Locust invasion, the IPs continued their advice in partnership with the MoAD and their support on sustainable pest control. Irrespective of these external and environmental challenges, DF and its IPs were flexible in site selection and in the choice of interventions ultimately supported by village committees and district line agencies and experts.

Extent the project objectives and activities relevant to addressing the needs of the beneficiaries.

The CRISP objectives and associated activities are relevant to the target group, as verified by the beneficiaries, themselves, and other stakeholders consulted for this evaluation. In general, the mode of delivery was accessible for men, women and youth and the aims were appropriate to context or modified as necessary (see Cross-cutting issues for a discussion on access for women). The following sub-section briefly outlines observations in relation to each of the three Outcomes:

Outcome 1: Capacity of communities to prepare for and manage climate-related shock and disasters increased.

The CAV and lobbying efforts are clearly relevant, especially in the case of CAV because it has helped engender a collective understanding of how to reduce household vulnerability and resulted in new knowledge, skills, linkage and 78 CAV plans. The activity of planning may ultimately be of more relevance to beneficiaries than the production of each CAV plan itself, however (see Sustainability). The capacity engendered in the village committee, especially, is relevant to their communities as the livelihood constraints represented by climate-related stress continues to be a persistent and severe development and humanitarian challenge to the target group and as experienced during the last two years, especially. The strategy to work through the existing village committees and other existing informal institutions was appropriate to the wider target group although attention needs to be paid to the representation of women within such groups (see Cross Cutting Issues).

Outcome 2: Agropastoral production system diversified and strengthened

The FGD feedback with project beneficiaries indicates that overall, the activities were relevant to those engaged. The need, nationally and locally, is evident and specific activities

and their site selection were appropriately identified in partnership with target communities (with a particular emphasis on village committees as an interface between project and community).

The suite of activities and options available to beneficiaries in order to meet Outcome 2 are typical of many projects but were considered as relevant by the target group to the extent that all were supported, and all resulted in a contribution to increased household resilience. There were no common challenges with respect to access to these activities by women, although in a very small proportion of cases the location and timing of training may not have suited women as well as it could have (for instance, CAHW training at Baha Dhamal).

The original EU application form states that CRISP seeks to build on previous learning and experience and indicated a lack of financial planning associated with continency plans in the past (page 5). The CRISP design and performance have addressed this previous constraint within the target area, although there have been challenges to securing sufficient funds for additional action in most cases. As stated in the Final Narrative Report: *"The authorities in Somaliland and Puntland continue to have limited financial capacity to ensure that community level resilience and contingency plans are developed and focus mainly on priority needs and plans at national level".*

Outcome 3: Opportunities for income generation increased

Cash-for-work appears to have been a useful mechanism for the completion of some of the physical works under Outcome 2and was utilised by men, women and youth as intended and as outlined above, the resultant works were suited to the context. The formation of SHGs and associated support appeared popular and, in part, met a need or constraint i.e., the lack of skills, knowledge and capital required to start a simple business, especially for women. The qualitative feedback can confirm that SHGs were not successfully linked to micro-finance institutions or other external sources of capital as had been hoped, and as reported by the project itself (Final Narrative Report).According to the FGDs with women groups, SHGs were reluctant to take loans from the formal microcredit enterprises because of stringent conditions such as collateral or financial guarantors and possible confiscation of their assets if they delay with the payments. Moreover, access was not ease for the SHGs in remote villages. They complained that the process takes weeks and months.

Finally, the project's COVID-19 response was relevant for several reasons. Firstly, COVID-19 has a direct impact in undermining the resilience of the target households and negating the gains made via CRISP activity. Secondly, it was impacting delivery of the project activity by restricting movement and group-based work. And finally, the response was an opportunity to deliver additional, WASH-related knowledge, that not only addresses COVD-19 but also household resilience, more generally.

3.2. Coherence

Coherence with national policies and other donor-funded development projects in the area

The main contribution of CRISP towards meeting national policy and in supporting the remit of technical service providers is via the CAV approach and the 78 resultant plans. The apparent adoption of 75 measures from these plans is important because it means the needs of communities are articulated across sectors and the various government stakeholders. As stated above, many CRISP activities are the main responsibility of a single line ministry, but the CAV process did help encourage an integrated approach to delivery and local and district stakeholders have committed to implementing these plans. DF report

that 14 districts in Somaliland and Puntland have integrated CAV plan adaptation measures in their government plans and budgets (Final Narrative Report). It appears that there was some competition for ownership over this process and the plans, however, with NADFOR competing with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change for the right to be the "home" of CRISP and the primary line ministry, for instance.

The DF Programme Coordinator identified the particular advantage of working in locations benefiting from both NORAD and EU funded projects with respect to the seed bank activity in Puntland where there is obvious cross-over (NORAD also directly co-financed specific CRISP activities including the 55 check-dams and some CAHWs, for instance).

DF report linkage between CRISP and RESTORE (BRCiS) programme and between Candlelight and NRC in Somaliland and between KAALO and SCI in Puntland.

Synergy and collaboration between Project stakeholders

DF reports that district level disaster preparedness and food reserves agencies in Somaliland and Puntland have been involved in addressing the priorities within the CAV plans. As such, 14 districts have agreed to incorporate CAV measures from the CAV plans and in Puntland, HADMA and the Water Development Agency have agreed to fund the construction of anew borehole at Kobdhexaad community as identified within that CAV plan. The Ministries of Agriculture and Water have also utilised CAV plans in their response (Final Narrative Report: page 5).)

As reported under Relevance, the CRISP partners benefited from cross-learning as confirmed by interview feedback. There is certainly mutual capacity building across the IPs with Candlelight receiving advice and support on SHGs and rangeland management and providing help to ADO and HAVYOCO on agriculture-related activities.

However, there may be less cooperation across the government stakeholders who do apparently contest their roles with respect to CRISP and probably to other resilience actions. There may be a need to clearly predefined specific roles for each stakeholder ahead of project implementation in order to avoid this. This may also reduce duplication, as suggested by a representative of HADMA.

3.3. Effectiveness

The following sub-section presents the extent to which the expected outcomes and outputs have been achieved.

Outcome 1: Capacity of communities to prepare for and manage climate-related shocks and disasters increased

Table 1: progress of outcome 1 indicators

		Indicator	Baseline	Target	Endline
Outcome 1: Capacity of communities to prepare for and manage climate-related shocks and disasters increased	1.1	# of community planned adaptation measures conducted by communities	0	101	75
	1.2	# of national and district government institutions incorporating the community adaptation and contingency plan mechanisms in their own planning	0	10	14

The CRISP project has significantly increased the capacity of the communities to prepare for and manage such climate-related shocks and disasters through CAV. The CAV process has increased the capacities of the communities. For example, Beerato communities have lobbied from Odweyne local council and World Vision to construct village health posts. The Kobdhexaad communities have also asked the National Water Development Agency and the Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency to construct a borehole – one of the measures of the communities' CAV.

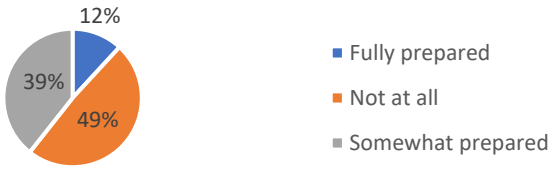
The CAV approach involved a series of steps in which communities and other stakeholders identify climate risks, prioritize the risks, and develop a Community Adaptation plan, including an implementation approach and partnership for adaption. The action has supported the development of 78 CAV plans with 101 adaptation measures. The adaptation measures were mainly on water infrastructure, agriculture, and livestock. Seventy-five of the identified adaptation measures were implemented by the communities. The rest were not implemented, as water measures were prioritized to survive the severe drought in 2021-2022. The CAV approach was participatory and inclusive, involving government stakeholders, women, and youth in the process and its operationalization. Forty-five male and nine female government staff were included in the vulnerability assessment, community planning and CAV training. The training strengthened the local authorities' capacity to conduct need assessments and develop plans to address community priority needs.

Once the CAV plans were finalized, a committee comprising men and women was established for implementation in all villages. For example, in Beerato village, four men and three women committees were established. The CAV committees, the action established, and other community development committees are at the forefront of communities' collective efforts to build resilience. Moreover, 14 district and national government institutions have incorporated community adaptation and contingency plans into their planning.

Although the CAV process has increased the capacities of the communities to prioritize their needs for climate-related risks and related government institutions to incorporate into their plans, none of the developed CAV plans has received investment other than that of DF so far.

The action financed the CAV priorities of all villages, tapping into the CAV response budget and saving from other budget lines for additional community needs that are not in the project activities. For example, Laaya, Gogeysa, and Ceel-Daahir communities have asked for tractor hours as a priority which was not in the planned project activities, but the action was funded from CAV response and savings from other budget lines. It seems the project has overstretched itself to meet all the needs of the communities in the CAV plans rather than facilitating spaces to link them to duty bearers such as the government and other development partners. Although the capacities of the communities have increased to identify climate-related risks and hold duty bearers to account for necessary support, the communities' preparedness for future shocks remains weak.

Chart 1: Household preparedness for the climate-related shocks and disasters (n=371)



Only 12% of the project's target households are fully prepared, 39% are somewhat prepared, and 49% are not prepared for climate-related disasters and shocks. The fully prepared groups are mostly households with diversified income sources, owning water sources and having the capacity to purchase water when the primary water sources are dry. This analysis shows that about 50% of the communities in the project's target locations are vulnerable to shocks and disasters because of dependency on disaster-prone income sources, i.e., livestock herding or growing a few crop varieties on rain-fed and irrigated farms. The focus groups reiterated that when primary water sources evaporate, crops fail, and livestock dies, resulting in increased vulnerabilities.

Outcome 2: Agropastoral production system diversified and strengthened

Table 2: Table one: progress of outcome 2 indicators

		Indicator		Baseline	Target	Endline
Outcome 2: Agropastoral production system diversified and strengthened	2.1	Average distance (km) to nearest water source for women and girls		25.5	3	3.6
	2.2	# of households from the targeted population with access to system for stocking of water, seed, and grain	System for Water stocking	5391	7020	10545
			System for Grain stocking	3273	2990	9701
			System for Seed stocking	2988	4111	8330
	2.3	# of households have adopted climate smart agriculture techniques learned through the project		0	741	10334
	2.4	# of HHs have adopted improved livestock management practices		18% (2285)	53%	96% (10123)
	2.5	# of HHs have adopted improved fishery practices		21% (109)	41%	74% (222)

Under this outcome, all the planned project activities were completed. The construction and rehabilitation of water infrastructures, community seed banks, restocking, and improved livestock management practices and fisheries interventions have significantly contributed to this outcome.

Water and agriculture interventions

The average distance from the household to the nearest waterpoint is 3.6 km in the project areas. The baseline found that the average distance from the household to the nearest water point during the dry season was 25.5 km. The average distance from the household to the nearest water point has decreased by almost 22 km in the project locations.

The constructed and rehabilitated water infrastructures ranging from shallow wells, berkads, earth dams, and bore-holes have increased water availability for the project's target communities. All households of sampled project locations except Ceel-Daahir and Kobdhexaad are 5km from the nearest water points. It is worth noting households in Beer, Beerato, Cawsane, Duruqsi, Gumbura, Cuun, Laaya and Ruqi are less than 0.5km away from the nearest waterpoint aligning with the Sphere Standards of 500 meters from the household to the nearest water point. The berkads and earth dams were constructed closer to the village to increase access to water. The CAV and water committees in the Beerato FGDs appreciated the reduced distance for the community in fetching water for domestic use and trekking livestock long distance for watering.

The project has established or strengthened 65 water communities across the project locations. Community water committees manage and maintain the water infrastructures and work with the local authorities to conduct daily operations, including maintenance, operations, and conflict over water use, specifically in dry seasons. The institutionalization of the water committee and their actions is evidence of increased community capacity to reduce vulnerability to climate-related risks. It had increased community ownership and stewardship of the water infrastructure.

Table 3: Distance from the household to the nearest waterpoint

Town or village	Mean (km)	N	Std. Deviation
Baha-Dhamal	4.8	20	4.6
Bali Cabane	1.6	12	5.2
Beer	0.3	35	0.9
Beerato	0.0	30	0.0
Caluula (Bareeda)	1.2	15	2.7
Cawsane	0.0	26	0.1
Ceel-Daahir	16.0	20	28.6
Duruqsi	0.1	31	0.1
Gogeysa	1.5	35	2.3
Gumbura	0.0	10	0.0
Cuun	0.1	10	0.2
Kobdhexaad	41.2	17	35.5
Laaya	0.0	33	0.0
Qalaanqal	3.2	19	4.0
Ruqi	0.4	28	0.8
Xidh-xidh	0.8	30	0.8
Total	**3.6**	**371**	**13.5**

Although a severe drought affected the project locations resulting in extreme water shortage, dying livestock and erosion of livelihood bases, the heavy project investment in water infrastructure facilities in the project areas is likely to have sustained water supply during this time. On average, a member of the project's target households uses 13 liters of water daily for drinking and domestic use. This is two liters less than the Sphere Standards requirement regarding access and water quantity which is a minimum of 15 liters per person per day. Despite poor rainfall performance and severe pasture scarcity, the water points in most sampled villages had water. This may have influenced the responses of the communities. However, as the situation became hard and water became less accessible and costly, the households started water rationing.

All the project's target communities have access to local water stocking systems. 76% of the households use jerrycans to store water at home, 14% use water tanks, 7% use a geo-plastic membrane 4% use other systems to hold water, including metallic pots and traditional containers made from local materials (Chart 2).

In rural villages, households fetch and store water in plastic jerry cans of 10 or 20 liters. This is preferred because of the constant mobility and convenience of loading the jerrycans on pack animals, i.e., male camels and donkeys. The project evaluation team observed that permanent households at the village center have metallic tanks of 5m3 or 10m3. The metallic tanks are customarily used for guttering water from the roof or storing water trucked from other sources. Some households also have metallic or plastic barrels of 200 liters for the water store. The humanitarian agencies sometimes distribute big plastic containers for communal or household water storage.

The households on the outskirts of village centres have small pits where they fix plastic sheets to harvest rainwater or use it as a container for trucked water from other places.

The households use the stored water for drinking and other domestic uses. In rainy seasons, the water in the pits could be used for kitchen gardening. The evaluation team observed a kitchen garden near an earth dam. There was an empty pit with geomembrane from where the garden was irrigated. When the pit dried up, the owner used a wheelbarrow to carry the water from the earth dam to the garden. In dry spells, weak animals share the stored water with humans.

Chart 2: Household with access to water stocking systems (n=371)

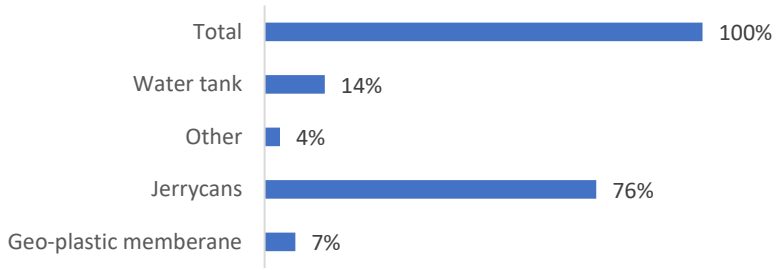
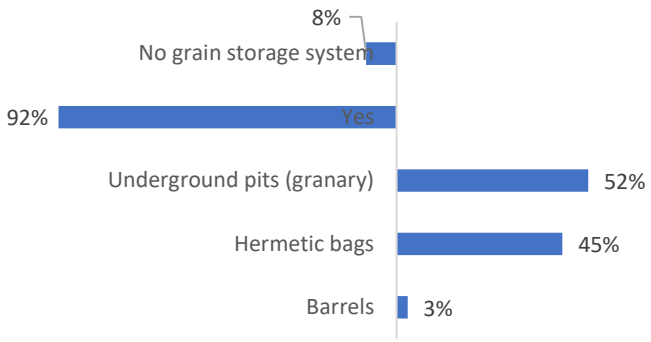


Chart 3 shows that 92% (9701) of the target households have access to grain storage systems mainly for the staple food crops, including maize, sorghum and cowpea. Of those who have access to a grain storage system, 48% of the households use traditional underground pits (granary) to store grains, 41% use hermetic bags and 3% use barrels as a storage system. 8% of the households have no access to grain storage systems. The FGD respondents in the community seed committee and farmers' associations confirmed that many local farmers store grains in granaries. However, the culture is steadily transforming to modern storage systems such as metallic or plastic containers. Those farmers with no grain storage mechanisms sell the harvest and reserve a few bags for household consumption. The farmers in the FGDs complained that the food preference is changing from eating local grains to mostly parboiled rice from Asia and spaghetti. Therefore, most farmers sell grains when the market is favourable.

Chart 3: Households with access to grain stocking systems (n=371)



Regarding household access to seed storage systems, from chart 4, 79% (8330)have access to seed stocking systems. Of those who have access to seed stock systems, 87% use hermetic bags, 9% use metal pots, 2% use wooden pots while 1% use jerrycans. 21% of the households have no access to seed stocking mechanisms.

In the sampled agro-pastoral villages, CRISP had trained the farmers on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and appropriate seed preservation techniques. The communities were facilitated to establish and use community seed banks to use locally adapted seeds. Three Community Seed Banks (CSBs) were established, two in Somaliland and one in Puntland. The FGD facilitated has observed that the Cuun seed bank in Puntland is well-established, and the cash crops and grains were stored separately. The farmers contribute several kilos of the different varieties to the community seedbanks. In addition, the farmers confirmed that the households store seeds in empty plastic water bottles or wrap clothes around the seeds in a safe place in the house. The farmers order the seeds from the nearest markets for the GMO cash crops whose seeds do not germinate.

The action trained eight district extension agents, five men and three women, on seed systems. The farmers have confirmed that they received extension services from the local authorities reinforcing the projects' efforts to capacitate the local authorities to support local farmers to increase their agricultural yield resulting in resilient communities to climate-related risks.

Chart 4: Households with access to seed storage systems (n=371)

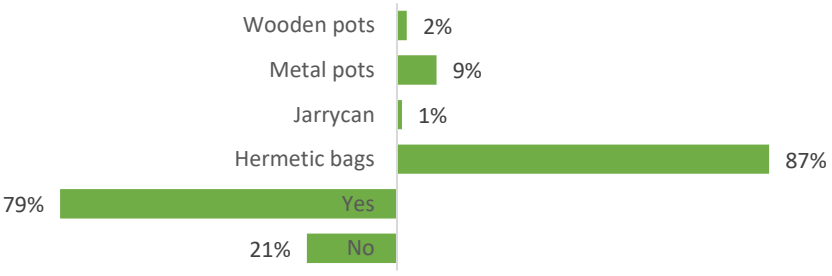
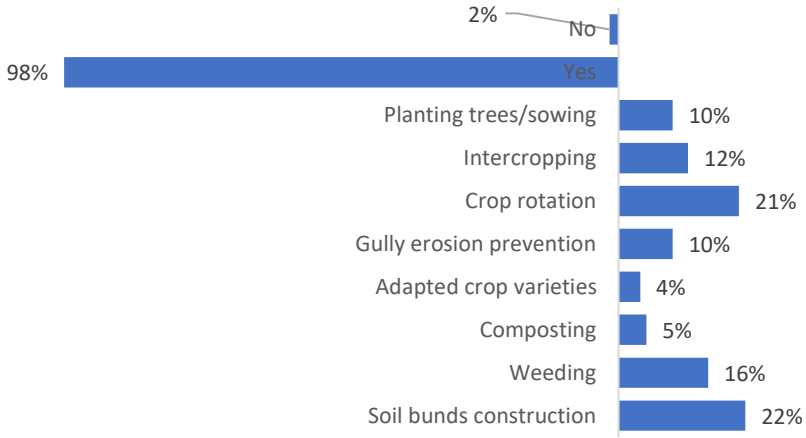


Chart 5 below shows that the communities use various smart farming techniques. 98% (10334) of the agro-pastoral project target households have practised smart agricultural farming techniques to increase crop production. Soil bunds construction, crop rotation and weeding are the most common smart techniques in farming activities.

The farmers in the focus group discussions acknowledged the relevance of the knowledge and skills imparted in the climate-smart agriculture training. The action trained 648 men and 496 women on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA). The farmers confirmed that they used the CSA training skills resulting in increased farm outputs. For example, farmers in Cuun and Ceeldaahir demonstrated that they practice weeding, mulching, drip irrigation and other water conservation and efficiency methods. The farmers also prefer natural pesticides and fertilizers over chemicals. The farmers across agro-pastoral sampled sites use animal manure to increase soil fertility and lowering salinity. In addition, the farmers sufficiently explained the composting process to boost land productivity.

Chart 5: Has your household practiced these smart agricultural techniques in the last three years (n=371)



Livestock interventions

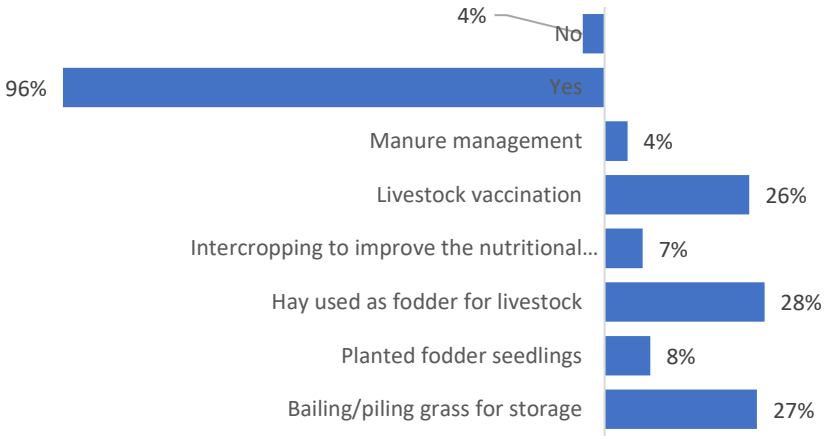
From chart 6 below, 96% of the agro-pastoral households in the project areas practice livestock management techniques when rearing camels, cattle, shoats, and donkeys to alleviate the adverse effect of recurrent droughts on the livestock and, ultimately, their livelihoods. The most practised improved livestock management techniques in the communities are hay used as fodder for livestock, bailing/piling grass for storage and livestock vaccination. Only 2% of the target communities do not practice improved livestock management techniques.

The action trained 106 (80 men and 26 women) as Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) and 1166 (726 men and 440 women) on improved livestock management practices. The communities have commended the CAHWS for helping the herders diagnose the animal health problems, administer the medicine, and explain the dosages of different drugs. As result, 32980 households have received veterinary services from the CAHWs. The communities have practised the livestock management skills and confirmed that it saved many livestock lives in current dry season. In some cases, the application of the practices was not possible. For example, in Gumburaha villages, although training beneficiaries have explained fodder management skills but could not apply because they didn't receive good rain to grow fodder.

The project distributed breeding shoats to 411 to increase their herd sizes as primary income sources. The restocking efforts have targeted the most vulnerable communities' households providing a livelihood base. A young man in Kobdhexaad village received twenty sheep and goats from the project and another twenty shoats from the community to sustain a new family. He was very enthusiastic that he could cover his family's needs. He was determined

to survive his livestock and increase the number when the situation became favourable. The donated animals were vaccinated and treated for common ailments before distribution.

Chart 6: Households that have practised improved livestock management practices in the last three years (n=77)



However, although the communities were practising improved livestock management techniques and vulnerable households have been restocked with shoats, the severe drought in the project areas has significantly reduced the size of the animals per household. The situation is likely to get worse, and the project communities risk losing all their animals if further interventions are not made soonest.

Table 4: The average number of livestock per household

Types of livestock	Descriptive measures	In 2018	Now
Camels	Mean	16	10
	Standard deviation	18	10
Cattle	Mean	9	6
	Standard deviation	9	4
Goats	Mean	46	24
	Standard deviation	65	23
Sheep	Mean	35	18
	Standard deviation	55	20
Chicken	Mean	7	14
	Standard deviation	9	20
Donkey/Horse/Mule	Mean	2	2
	Standard deviation	2	2

The above table shows that the average number of livestock per household has decreased from 2018, when the project started. The goats, sheep and chickens which make the livelihood base for agropastoral communities have almost reduced by half, and the camels and the cattle have significantly decreased. In contrast, donkey/horse/mule used for domestic use remained the same. Pastoralists and agro-pastoralists recovered from the severe drought in 2017 regarding average and above normal rainfall in 2018 until mid-2021. However, consecutive droughts have gradually increased the vulnerabilities in the rural villages. The recent reports of the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FNAU) show declining food security due to the below-average rainfall in the last deyr (Sept-October 2021)

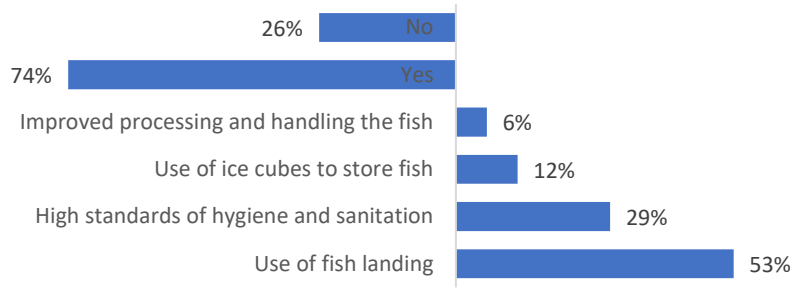
and Gu' (April-May 2022) seasons. The evaluation observed very weak animals and unusual herders' movements in search of pasture. The team also observed households boiling grains to feed the livestock instead of the humans. For example, in Laaya village, a woman brought seven weak cows to an earth dam for watering, but the animals could not take the water because of their empty stomach. Those cows are likely to have died by now. The rural communities were pessimistic about the survival chance of the weak animals since the rainfall was not likely to arrive for another two months.

For example, Mrs Halimo Elmi had 25 heads and received 15 heads in 2019; the number increased to 88 heads in 2021 but had 50 during the interview. The rest of the animals were either consumed by the household or died in the drought.

Fisheries interventions

Somaliland and Puntland have a long coastline rich with marine resources. These waters are home to an extensive list of fish species, including various species of tuna, albacore, lobster, swordfish, and many others. The project fisheries interventions targeted Caluula (Bareeda) area in Puntland. The project trained 109 fishing cooperative members on improved fishery practices and built two fish landings. The survey found 74% of the project target households in the Caluula (Bareeda) village where the project fishery interventions were implemented have adopted improved fishery practices in the last three years. The improved techniques included using fish landing, high hygiene and sanitation standards, using ice to store fish and improved processing and handling of the fish catches. 26% of the target households have not adopted improved fishery practices.

Chart 7: Households adopted improved fishery practices (n=23)



As a result of community lobbying the government, the Puntland Ministry of Fishery and Marine resources provided solar-powered freezers for storing fish stocks at the landing site (fish market). However, the equipment is not yet installed for use. The fishing association asked the Ministry to send technicians to install the kits and train the fishery association on maintenance. The Bareeda fishing association is networking with other fishing associations in Puntland coastal districts. The Bareeda association proposes the Ministry brings together the fishing associations to exchange their experiences face-to-face.

The fishing training and equipment have helped the fisherfolks increase their catch. The landing sites have also helped the fisherfolks increase consumer sales. Although the action's fishing interventions were limited, the fisherfolks have realized increased catches and sales, earning income to meet the family needs.

Outcome 3: Opportunities for income generation increased

Table 5: Table one: progress of outcome 2 indicators

		Indicator	Baseline	Target	Endline	
Outcome 3: Opportunities for income generation increased.	3.1	# of established businesses with cooperation with buyers		0	50	129
	3.2	# of established business entities receive microfinance from financial institutions		0	30	30

Income generation and diversification

Increased and diversified income is a pathway to increase communities' resilience to withstand climate-related shocks and stresses. The project's target groups are agro-pastoralists vulnerable to climate-related risks like droughts. The droughts are becoming recurrent, with more brutal hits recently in Somaliland and Puntland. For example, the last deyr (Sep-October 2021) and Gu' (April-May 2022) rain was below the average eroding the communities' livelihood bases such as livestock and farming. The project's approach – SHGs and cash for work to help the most vulnerable access relevant skills and resources to start business activities has been successful.

The action has established 45 SHGs with 930 members (739 women, 20 men and 171 youth). When designing the SHGs approach, the action engaged with Nafis Network and Kindernothilfe[1] and has learned from their successful SHGs programme, which adapted saving and credit services. The members of each SGH saved a fixed amount of money weekly or monthly, creating a pool of money to fund members to establish new businesses. The SHGs approach created new businesses for 129 members. Although the DF's final narrative report and updated logframe claims, thirty small businesses have received credit from financial institutions, they actually received from the SHGs savings rather than financial credit providers. The businesses included animal fattening, vegetable production, small trades, etc.

The SHGs have become transformative and empowering spaces that have strengthened women's collective agency to claim their rights at the household and national levels. They have led to further engagement on rights-based issues that affect their lives. For example, a record number of women have joined different community committees and are raising their voices about the issues that affect the lives of women, girls, and marginalized groups.

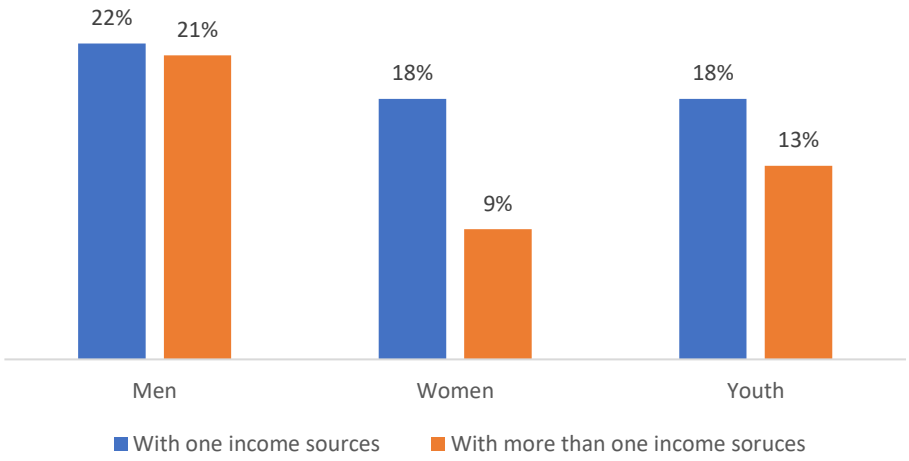
The SHGs capacity building interventions such as business management, entrepreneurship, financial management, business development and marketing have helped members to create a successful business. The members can record business transactions calculating whether the business is making profits or losses.

The cash-for-work activities involved women, youth, and men in constructing soil bunds to retain water for farming and controlling gully erosion, rehabilitation of feeder roads to increase farmers' access to markets, constructing irrigation canals and preparing berkad pits. The cash-for-work activities have created 672short-term jobs, 246 men, 119 women and 307 youth. The beneficiaries have invested their earned income in establishing small businesses or farms to increase the yield.

[1]A German International Non-Governmental Organization

The survey findings reinforce the qualitative discussions. From the chart 8 below 22% of men have a single income source while 21% have more than one income source. Similarly, 18% of women and 18% of youth have a single income source while 9% of women and 13% of youth have more than one income source.

Chart 8: Household Income Diversification (n=371



Although there is no baseline for the average monthly income to measure change over time, the focus group discussions confirmed that income has increased. The average monthly income in the last 12 months is 119.7 USD across the project villages. Cuun, Cawsane and Caluula (Bareeda) communities earned the highest average monthly income(Table 6 below). In contrast, Duruqsi and Xidh-xidh communities earned the lowest average monthly income in the last 12 months across the project villages. The households spend their monthly income on essential needs including food, water, education, health, and rent. Although, was not common, many households spend some of their income on Khat[2].

Table 6: Household average monthly income in the last 12 months.

Town or village	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
Baha-Dhamal	129.6	20.0	77.2
Bali Cabane	100.0	12.0	67.8
Beer	103.7	35.0	53.9
Beerato	100.0	30.0	78.4
Caluula (Bareeda)	172.0	15.0	79.1
Cawsane	171.5	26.0	112.8
Ceel-Daahir	132.4	20.0	118.5
Duruqsi	68.4	31.0	20.8
Gogeysa	110.0	35.0	46.2
Gumbura	122.5	10.0	67.1
Cuun	212.8	10.0	139.8
Kobdhexaad	113.8	17.0	77.7
Laaya	138.1	33.0	92.0

[2] Mild narcotic stimulant mainly imported from Ethiopia

Qalaanqal	128.4	19.0	72.0
Ruqi	124.3	28.0	61.0
Xidh-xidh	85.5	30.0	26.7
Total	119.7	371.0	79.8

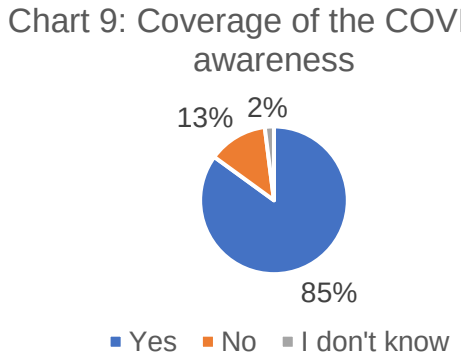
However, the income sources of the project's target communities are linked to agricultural value chains which are prone to worsening drought. The decline of farm outputs, the loss of livestock and the drying of water infrastructures threaten the communities' livelihood bases. This means the action's gains are very vulnerable and unstainable if further investment is not made to the critical infrastructures and strategies that insulate the communities from shocks of the recurrent droughts.

Covid-19 response.

Somaliland has been facing recurrent droughts, locust infestation and serious socio-economic needs, which needed support and assistance. The COVID-19 outbreak worsened the situation risking lives and threatening livelihood bases. There was an urgent need to sensitize the public on COVID-19 safety measures, hygiene, and sanitation guidelines, set up handwashing stations and provide relevant kits to reduce transmission risks. The COVID-19 response was timely and reflected the needs and priorities of the communities. The project's flexibility to address risks that threaten gains made over the past years evidence its design and implementation arrangements are targeted to addressing the needs and priorities of the communities.

Although the COVID-19 lockdown slowed down the implementation of the project, redirecting resources to the emerging risks was commendable. As a result, beneficiary communities and partner organizations approached DF for responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. The donor (EU) has approved redirecting 100,000 Euros from the Communication and Visibility activities and savings from other budget lines to the COVID-19 response. Candlelight in Somaliland and KAALO in Puntland have conducted community awareness and provided sanitary kits and facemasks to the target communities.

The action has trained 280 CHWs, 137 males and 143 females, on COVID-19 management to sensitize the communities to the risks and raise awareness on safety measures, prevention, and mitigation. It also provided 100 sanitary kits and PPEs materials (soap, hygiene sensitizers, jerricans, jugs, masks, and gloves). The action has also set up eight handwashing stations in more vulnerable project locations. It came out in the focus group discussions that the COVID-19 response has been successful and saved lives. From chart 8 below, the project COVID-19 awareness-raising interventions, including the IEC materials, have reached 85% of the target communities. 13% of the target communities have not received CRISP project COVID-19 interventions, while 2% are unaware.



The action's COVID-19 response was coordinated with the Somaliland government, specifically the Ministry of Health development and other development partners. The Ministry of Health Development's task force to coordinate efforts in early detection, surveillance, risk communication, and infection has facilitated coordinated efforts which ultimately reduced the risks to the public. UNICE and Save the Children International (SCI) have conducted a similar COVID-19 response, reinforcing the CRIPS efforts.

The Project's MEAL system

The project has benefited from DF's MEAL systems and approaches. The action has a dedicated MEAL and documentation advisor, which ensures that MEAL procedures are strictly followed by DF and implementing partners. The MEAL and documentation advisor has strong MEAL experience, which benefits the project to track progress and measure changes over time. The logical framework (LF) was used as a highly effective planning tool and clearly expresses the problem the project is trying to solve. The logical framework contains baseline data, yearly progress, targets, deviations from the project and explanations for any divergences from the target. The framework is continuously updated with the generated data from the project interventions. This allowed the CRISP team to monitor the project progress easily and picked up divergences, taking action to adjust them.

The logframe and indicators are well designed, and targets appear to have been realistic as outlined above. The wording of the Specific Objective should be reconsidered, however, because "Reduced vulnerabilities of households caused by climate related shocks and disasters" is slightly confused. If DF believe the corollary of increased resilience needs to be used (i.e. vulnerability), it would be better framed as "Reduced household vulnerability to…..", for instance, and it may be appropriate to move beyond the use of "shocks and disasters" (see Recommendation for a discussion on the relevance of the terms "shocks" and "disasters").

The Baseline Survey of October 2019 provided a comprehensive and quantitative overview of the context. Most of the data presented is relevant to the logframe and could be revisited at endline during this evaluation. Although some data is less useful (i.e., would not be expected to change in relation to the intervention or influence effectiveness or relevance) other contextual background relating to the social and demographic settings of the project sites, could have been useful to implementation and management e.g., the relevance of the activities at specific locations. It would have been useful to have included stakeholder mapping for each project location and overall, there may have been more content that would have helped pre-plan for improved effectiveness.

As a result of COVID-19-related restrictions, the planned mid-term evaluation was substituted with a Progress and Performance Evaluation (December 2021) with emphasis on

impact level indicators and Outcome 2 Results. The data in this report is appropriate to the baseline and logframe but the recommendations do not logically flow from the narrative and unfortunately an opportunity was lost for DF to learn lessons such as understanding bottlenecks to delivery, unexpected breakthroughs, and institutional factors at this stage in the project.

The Narrative Reports to the donor, in particular the Final Narrative Report, provide a coherent overview of project progress and would be a useful resource for all CRISP partners and stakeholders. The format and structure of these reports does not encourage detailed reflection on unexpected breakthroughs or challenges to delivery and effectiveness, however.

The main routine form of reporting between DF and the IPs is via monthly financial reports and quarterly progress reports. Although the DF Programme Coordinator can address individual issues with IPs as they arise, there is no routine way for IPs to capture or communicate issues as they emerge i.e., a form of process documentation or process monitoring. This means to a large degree, the IPs must address the complex field situation and competing interests as they unfold, without recourse to a large degree of DF advice or input. Instead, reporting to DF places a greater emphasis on delivery with respect to the logframe. In this regard the CRISP monitoring system captures “whether” the project is delivering, not “how” or “why” it is delivering, or is not delivering, results. A stronger emphasis on “process” would help DF and IPs capture learning and to increase effectiveness in future(see Recommendations).However, various CRISP stakeholders do already maintain some records that could be re-purposed for process monitoring and learning e.g. the “activity registers” compiled for the CSBs or by the CAHWs.

Capacity building of the implementing partners

The implementing partners have a relationship extending back to 2011 and would have been developing skills and knowledge of resilience related work prior to CRISP. However, the orientation planning was valued by IPs and has helped align the understanding of the partners in relation to overall objectives.

DF provided support to IPs on gender mainstreaming and reporting including the documentation of most significant change. HAVYOCO apparently had existing gender mainstreaming specialists and the other IPs were supported by DF to develop awareness and approaches to ensure the inclusion of women and minority voices. IPs were also re-introduced to the Do No Harm principle which was applied during DF’s initial assessment of project locations and a review of the “connectors” and “dividers” in each project location. A considerable part of capacity building seemed to relate to financial processes and reporting, anti-corruption, and procurement processes, rather than technical development and resilience-related capacity, however. IPs confirmed via the KIIs that they had new knowledge with respect to financial accounting procedures and that CRISP had enhanced their monitoring and evaluation capacity in each case. This was via exposure to new accounting and reporting procedure and, in the latter case, through a project supported M&E Officer role for each IP. Two of the DF interviewees noted however, that although IP monitoring and reporting was delivered effectively and on time, these partners still lacked certain skills with respect to reporting, particularly with respect to documenting lessons learned, and this relates to qualitative capacity and real-time process reporting.

Other aspects of capacity building would have been less direct, as the partners increased their exposure to government resilience stakeholders and learned from one another with respect to particular project activities. As discussed above, Candlelight reported new

knowledge with respect to SHGs and rangeland management and supported ADO and HAVYOCO on agriculture-related activities, for instance.

The most significant changes achieved by the Project

The most significant quantified achievement in relation to the Specific Objective and the indicators are the 53% (5589)people now with diversified income via agriculture or business diversification, as outlined above.

Technical and Physical Changes - There are other achievements that are not necessarily represented within the logframe because of their cross-cutting and less tangible impacts. Although evaluation survey respondents were not required to rank the relative effectiveness of each project activity there is a general theme within the feedback that rates the value of community-level assets above that of more group-specific and discrete activity such as the SHGs or animal-restocking. The recipients of all such support valued it highly but the rehabilitation or construction of new water infrastructure was identified by IPs, communities, and other stakeholders as particularly significant achievements. There seem to be two reasons why these water structures are rated so highly. Firstly, they are visible and easily understood. The physical achievement can be seen and the benefits to the entire community are instantly obvious (see Impact). This is even the case where such assets are ultimately privately owned, due to sharing and reciprocal arrangements and because access to water is such a cross-cutting livelihoods constraint within the communities. Qualitative feedback derived by FGDs with sub-sets of project beneficiaries more often highlighted these water-related achievements than any others. In summary, it is very likely that the construction or rehabilitation of water infrastructure represents the greatest tangible achievement of CRISP, and to a large extent many of the associated benefits should be accessible in future years (see Sustainability).

Institutional and Social Changes - It is not yet clear to what degree the development of 78 CAV plans and the inclusion of some of the relating measures into14 district government plans and budgets represents a significant change, but it should be viewed as a considerable achievement by CRISP and could lead to improved collaboration to support resilience with DF and others in future. If CRISP has developed the confidence and skills of community stakeholders to engage duty bearers and draw on their support, it will have been a huge achievement. Unfortunately, there are likely to remain enormous challenges in securing this support (see Sustainability).

In summary, although CRISP is intended to work holistically, the physical achievements directly related to Outcome 1 and, especially, Outcome 2 are likely to have resulted in the greatest impact for the larger number of people - potentially with benefits to be accessible in the coming years (see Sustainability).

Unexpected results and impacts

One of the most striking and unexpected aspects of the beneficiary feedback was the emphasis that individuals placed on household access to potable water and how its significance has changed over the last few years. The results relating to reduced distances to drinking water probably increased their significance over the course of the project because fuel costs have been so high and have been increasing steadily throughout the project cycle. In turn, this has increased the cost of transported water, the cost of travelling to water and the cost of pumping water. The household gains from increasing access to drinkable water would have been significant in any regard due to the considerable opportunity cost of obtaining water i.e. the time and money that could have been spent on an alternative livelihood activity that would have enhanced resilience. In summary, given the

inflationary pressures that operated during CRISP, this improved access to water can be considered a beneficial impact over and above that previously intended.

CRISP appeared to avoid many potential negative unintended impacts. Given the context of underlying water resource conflict between livelihoods groups, it was inevitable there would be some disputes over the siting and subsequent use of certain project-related assets, but this evaluation encountered only a small number of apparently significant disputes associated with a CRISP activity such as disputes between a farmer and pastoralist over a rehabilitated water dam in Beer village. DF should be commended that serious disputes did not result and this stems from an acknowledgement of existing sub-groups within communities that relates to the Do No Harm Principle. It is not clear whether this apparent lack of conflict also relates to the dispersed nature of delivery reported by some stakeholders, however.

The qualitative feedback revealed some interesting community initiatives that resulted from the CAV process and relate to resilience but are not foreseen by the project design. In particular, there have been positive developments with respect to conflict management and improved security which has introduced communities to additional agencies and support. In Shilmale. Village in Oodwayne district, for instance, the CAV process identified security as a priority cross-cutting issue and so a new police post was established. In this regard, CRISP has achieved some results that relate to social protection and reduce vulnerability to secondary effects of climate change i.e., increased risk of conflict over dwindling water resources.

Cross-linkage to other DF projects was already intended but the DF Programme Coordinator noted that activity delivered via their other projects was sometimes unexpectedly benefiting CRISP e.g., experience in legume production re-applied to CRISP locations to maximise agricultural potential.

Perhaps the most significant negative impact reported via the FGDs relates to safety. It is not clear to what extent these issues were foreseen by the IPs and others but some of the new water infrastructure was reported by community stakeholders to represent a risk to human and animal life as they currently stand. The qualitative feedback revealed there is risk of drowning of people and animals at some water bodies and at certain access points without appropriate fencing or faucets to access the water.

3.4. Efficiency

Extent to which inputs were converted to outputs, outcome and impact

In general, the activities and the inputs at community level were delivered in a logical sequence to maximise efficiency. In the case of climate smart agriculture, for instance the sequence was found to have followed: training ⇨ tools (mattocks followed by hoes etc.) ⇨ seeds.

The FGDs did reveal, however, that on occasion, the inputs were not well timed in relation to the drought of 2021-22. In some cases, geomembrane was provided after the onset of rains and at the start of the drought period and in several cases new livestock were provided during the drought which led to high rates of early animal death and early sales. Although the drought is the worst for several years, partners should be aware of these likely issues and the procurement and distribution of inputs should pre-empt likely seasonal challenges as much as possible to maximise efficiency.

However, there were several ways in which DF and the IPs made sure the implementation was efficient or was improved where possible. CRISP partners always worked through the

VDCs and, if pre-existing, the local water management committees. This is an efficient and effective use of project funds and time and also relates to Do No Harm. This is because new institutional structures are more likely to compete with existing institutions and "ways of getting things done".

Through the CAV process, vulnerability analysis helped identify the specific CRISP action to adopt and its location, apparently always in partnership with the village committee. This helped to ensure that CRISP activities and inputs were likely to translate to desired outcomes and impact.

As discussed above, several of the constraints to securing project outcomes and impact were external i.e. the droughts of 2020-21 and the effect of COVID-19. Although CRISP did well to re-direct resources and complete activities within the project cycle, some of the project-related impacts may have been secured by beneficiaries earlier with better prior knowledge of context e.g., the relevance of subsurface water catchment in Puntland or the likely total cost of new borehole construction. In this regard, some CRISP activities may have been implemented the "wrong side" of the growing season to maximise impact over the course of the reporting period.

Working through existing institutions (including village committees) and supporting the remits for sector-specific extension and technical services via its partnerships with line ministries would also have maintained efficiency. This meant that DF and IPs were not working alone or trying to establish too many new committees etc. for beneficiary representation. It also meant it could use existing products such the MoAD and CAHW technical manuals and avoid replication.

Management and accountability structures and alterations made to project design

The coordination of CRISP by DF ensured there was some level of flexibility within delivery and as such, the management structure ensured the IPs could identify issues and make sure they were addressed with DF and EU support e.g., the need for a COVID-19 response or the relevance of certain water infrastructure activities as in the case of Puntland. The focus of accountability was centred on financial management (see Risk Management for additional detail).

Perhaps the two most fundamental changes to project design that relate to efficiency were the decision to switch from the construction of 12new boreholes to the rehabilitation and the switch from a revolving fund model to the SHG model in 2019. It is certainly clear in the former case that this represented a more realistic use of time and more efficient use of funds for CRISP. It is not so clear how the SHG model represented increased efficiency, however, as this was not explored in detail in the project literature or within this evaluation.

A third important change that would have improved efficiency was the decision to increase the CAV plan seed fund. DF and the IPs held a review workshop in 2019 on the community climate adaptation and contingency plans where it was agreed that the original seed funding for such activity was insufficient (this echoes the qualitative feedback from CRISP stakeholders derived during the current evaluation). Increased seed funding was eventually made available during 2020-21.

Expenditure in relation to the plans, progress, and output of the Project

The following table breaks down the main CRISP expenditure per Output and with respect to staffing and Covid-19 related activity.

Project component	Euros (% total)

Human Resources	1,265,518 (28.6)
Op 1.1 Community climate adaptation & contingency plan development supported	435,028 (9.8)
Op 2.1. Water infrastructures developed & rehabilitated	1,068,058 (24.1)
Op 2.2. Management & the Sustainability of water infrastructures improved	18,366 (0.4)
Op 2.3. Knowledge & skills on climate resilient agriculture raised	67,439 (1.5)
Op 2.4 Community seed system improved	105,441 (2.4)
Op 2.5 Livestock production strengthened	530,637 (12)
Op 2.6 Knowledge & skills on fisheries raised	94,292 (2.1)
Op 3.1 Cash transfer provided to the most vulnerable households	61,366 (1.4)
Op 3.2 Access to credit for investment facilitated	77,680 (1.7)
Op 3.3 Capacity to establish & manage business supported	25,388 (0.6)
Effects of Covid-19 in the targeted communities is reduced	100,000 (2.3)
Source: Final financial report: period (01/07/2018-30/04/2022).	

Table 7: Key CRISP expenditure per Output and component.

The 28.6% expenditure on staff costs, while considerable, reflects the large number of management and technical expertise required across the IPs and other stakeholders.

Other costs per output and activity seem reasonable when viewed in relation to the tangible reported results and the qualitative feedback derived through this evaluation. It is right for instance, that CRISP invested so heavily in the water infrastructure component (24.1% of overall project funds) because these assets are understood to be an enabling feature for virtually all aspects of CRISP. As stated in the effectiveness section, the positive impact of these assets cross-cut community stakeholder and interests and make additional activities more relevant and impactful. Similarly, a nearly 10% expenditure on community climate adaptation and contingency planning (Output 1.1) appears reasonable as it helps combine all CRISP activities and attempts to develop lasting local capacity and vertical linkages.

A question remains, however, on the relative importance to DF and CRISP stakeholders of the climate smart agriculture activities (Output 2.3) versus support to livestock production (Output 2.5) and whether the results justify eight times the expenditure on the latter. The unit costs of each set of 20 animals are very considerable relative to the inputs and training provided under the cultivation component. Although both animals and agricultural production are vulnerable, new knowledge derived via (Output 2.5) should be transferable to future growing seasons and there is a case for DF to review its expenditure on livestock in future.

Finally, a 2.3% allocation to ameliorate the effects of Covid-19 seems reasonable in the context of the project because the virus both impacted the capacity of CRISP to deliver activity and undermined household resilience directly.

It is possible that with greater prior knowledge of the project locations, more people could have benefited during the CRISP project cycle. The project was able to re-direct funds to more suitable activities and locations in the light of assessments between DF, the IPs and the water agencies in Somaliland and Puntland, in particular. As such, boreholes were rehabilitated rather than constructed and sub-surface water catchments were transferred from Puntland to Somaliland, for instance. It is likely that the total impact during the project would have been slightly diminished because these issues took time to identify, and modifications took time to implement. This is not to say that the overall level of activity or number of ultimate beneficiaries was diminished, just that it took longer than it could have done. In some locations, this could have wasted the opportunity provided by the rainy season, meaning that project benefits were deferred by a year or longer as result of the recent droughts.

It appears that project partners were able to reallocate budget “surpluses” from completed activities to other activities and project funds were allocated effectively in this regard. In the

case of Candlelight's work, remaining funds from animal re-stocking were re-allocated to water infrastructure improvements as allowed, for instance.

Each of the implementing partners approached the government stakeholders independently, sometimes causing delays and confusion. The same respondent noted a potential role for DF here as coordinator to avoid duplication and increase efficiency.

3.5 Impact

Attainment of overall objective (intended impact)

The FAO's Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) updated IPC and famine risk analysis technical release dated 4th June 2022 indicates that a large percentage of the population in the CRISP target regions is already experiencing crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or higher) outcomes, including, including 2340 people likely in catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in Nugaal region in June to September 2022.

In the project regions, 39% (1,914,760) of the total population of 4,895,522 are experiencing a crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or higher) outcomes. While 35% (1,727,112) are in IPC phase one. The severe drought is worsening, putting people at an increased risk of famine at least September 2022 if the current Gu' (April-May) season crop and livestock production fail, food prices continue to rise sharply, and humanitarian assistance is not scaled up to reach those most in need.

In relation to CRISP's Specific Objective, 53% people in project locations have had their resilience strengthened, reducing their vulnerability to the drought. The increased average yields of major crops such sorghum, maize, cowpea and onions, and the diversification of income is likely to have contributed to increased resilience.

Table 8: Average yields (Kg/ha) per HHs of major crops

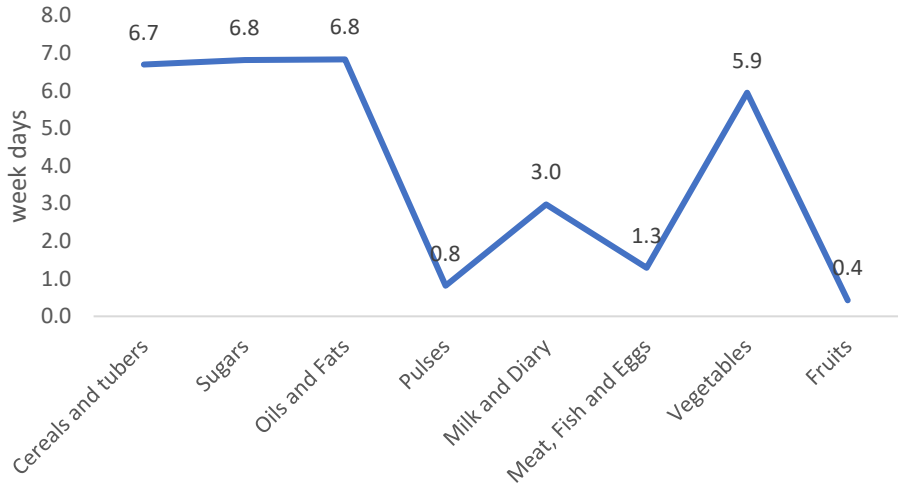
Region	Sorghum	Maize	Cowpea	Onion
Awdal		250.00		3550.00
Bari				733.00
Nugaal	150.00	150.00	50.00	5833.33
Sanaag	100.00			711.67
Togdheer	0.00	40.25		
Waqooyi Galbeed	567.95	506.92		908.80
Total	476.23	407.69	50.00	1419.80

The average sorghum production per household is 476kgs per hector. The average yield of maize per household is 408kgs/ha. The output of cowpea is 50kgs per hector per household, while the onion is the largest harvest of 1420 kgs/ha per household. This represents an increase in the key crop production from the baseline.

Moreover, the improved consumption frequency of the food groups as shown in chart 10 and the 53% of the households with consumption score of acceptable in such critical months is strong indication of reduced communities' vulnerabilities.

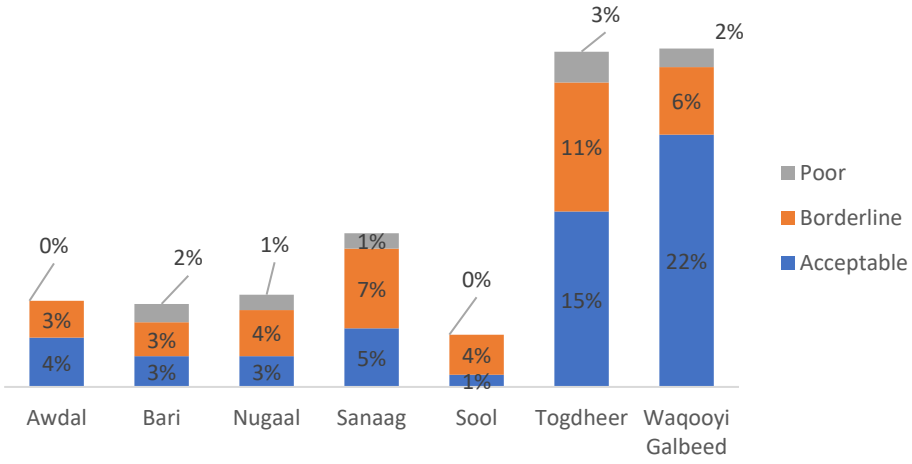
The surveyed households consume cereals and tubers, sugar, oil and fats almost seven days a week; pulses once a week; milk and dairy three days a week; meat, fish and eggs once a week; vegetables almost six days a week; while fruits less than a day in a week.

Chart 10: Consumption Frequencies of Food Groups



As per the below chart, 9% of the project population is in poor consumption with a score of 1-28. 38% are on the borderline with a score of 28.5-42: while 53% are in acceptable consumption with a score greater than 42.

Chart 11: Food consumption score thresholds



The project activities have achieved increased resilience, both in isolation for discrete sets of participants/users, or in combination where they applied together. However, the severe drought is eroding the gains made by the project interventions. The following briefly outlines how the activities have resulted in impacts at community, household and individual level.

Outcome 1: Capacity of communities to prepare and for and manage climate-related shock and disasters increased.

The effects here are derived directly from the 74 measures within the CAV plans that were supported through CRISP and by community input, particularly with respect to the water and irrigation related measures relating to the drought of 2021-2022. The health and financial effects of these interventions and other technical CRISP activity is discussed in more detail below. It is likely that the CAV planning process has resulted in new knowledge and greater confidence to address vulnerability with other stakeholders. The CAV plans are not an endpoint in this regard and the impact here should be viewed from a perspective of

increased community-wide collaboration (social capital), increased exposure to secondary stakeholders (political capital) and new skills and abilities (human capital).

Outcome 2: Agropastoral production system diversified and strengthened

The qualitative feedback revealed numerous anecdotal examples of profound impact at individual or household level as result of Outcome 2 activity. As discussed, the water related activity, in particular benefited communities, households, and women in a wide range of ways. Increased access to potable water reduced the opportunity cost of fetching water which has a direct economic impact on the household.

DF report that the majority of the water infrastructure activity was completed before the onset of the rains and there are several examples of impact such as the following: "*People in Shilmale village had only a small berkad at the primary school. The nearest perennial water sources were 70km away and a drum of water cost 5 USD which was beyond the mean of the majority of households. CRISP rehabilitated 4 disused berkads supported the construction of a new berkad which dramatically increased access to water in that location"* (DF Water Engineer Advisor).

Both the agricultural and animal production was constrained by the droughts and Desert Locust infestation, but the recipients of these inputs did also report significant impacts on their income and their ability to diversify. The FGDs revealed ways in which this increased income from all Outcome 2 activities was then translated to improved healthcare or access to education for children, which both relate back to resilience. The diversification of livelihoods activity has helped reduce risk, although the external constraints of the drought and other environmental shocks have lessened the impact. The effect of drought seems to have been particularly marked in the case of animal re-stocking and several FGDs with pastoralists revealed that the expected gains did not materialise as animals had to be sold immediately or died from lack of fodder or water. Expected impacts were unfortunately dissipated as a result but this target group also reported the benefits of support provided by project supported CAHWs in the context of drought. In the case of Cawsane, for instance the CAHWs were able to respond to a significant disease outbreak one month after training.

Finally, the fisheries related activity under Output 2.6 was reported to have resulted in over a doubling of catch by the recipients of new gears (from 70-75kg to approximately 140-170kg) in a FGD with the beneficiaries. The gears were also said to have increased the quality of the fish and as the market value of the catch. The "fishery house" built by KAALO in December 2019 also apparently increased sales and income via improved hygiene and linkage to buyers. This activity seemed particularly significant because this target group do not have access to arable land and are not pastoralists, their livelihood must be restricted to fishing.

Outcome 3: Opportunities for income generation increased

The SHGs most directly benefit the individuals that receive loans from the accumulated funds and the arrangements for this seem to vary between the groups. The SHGs that were consulted in this evaluation did report individual stories of new business enterprises and the resultant change to their income, for instance: "Amina Yusuf took a loan to purchase food for sale and fodder. She sells surplus to other households in order to repay the loan. As a result, her animals are in better condition than others in the village. Anima also grows onions, lettuce, and peppers from the received loan. She initially irrigated the garden from a pit fixed with a polyethene sheet provided by CRISP but when this water ran out, she travels to the new earth dam (150m away) with a wheelbarrow."

Participants reported increased social and households' status as a result of participation in the SHGs (increased social capital). Financial impacts would have been greatest where the groups were more closely integrated with the other activity associated with Outcome 2 and the contribution of the tractor hours seems to have resulted in significant impact despite the drought periods.

The extent to which the project design and implementation approach contributed to strengthened resilience of the target communities.

DF enabled the IPs and government stakeholders to develop locally relevant interventions. The participatory assessment of sites and activities through the village committees and broader community seems to have been a key factor in ensuring relevance, effectiveness and so impact. As stated, the physical and tangible activity that was delivered via Outcome 2 would have done most to deliver resilience to the target communities. The CAV planning process helped to identify appropriate interventions but the benefits of new CAV planning skills and the plans themselves, may result in long-tern impacts of the project.

As discussed under Effectiveness, the most significant change attributable to CRISP can be either related to technical/physical or institutional/social features.

In the former case, the agricultural and livestock interventions resulted in gains for the participants, but it was the impact of the water-related activity that enabled other community-wide impacts. Although there were minor disputes associated with site-selection, it appears significant how widely supported they were. Generally, the impacts were enjoyed across the community, even if assets were privately owned, and the qualitative responses revealed beneficiaries, IPs and government stakeholders believe these will be enjoyed for several years to come (see Sustainability).

In the case of institutional/social changes, the impacts relate to new exposure and confidence in relation to secondary stakeholders (vertical effects) and improved social cohesion and unity (horizontal effects). A regular theme within the FGD feedback was the degree to which respondents were positive about the common interests of the range of livelihoods groups. However, popular support for the actions of CRISP could have been increased still further with greater overlap and better awareness of the full range of activities delivered across the target community (see Lesson Learned)

Main challenges towards achieving the intended results

The key external natural constraint to impact was the droughts of 2020, 2021 and currently but beneficiaries also cited the Desert Locust invasion of 2020-21 and beneficiaries in Ruqi also mentioned the damage caused by the Sagar Cyclone.

There are several ways in which the drought reduced the intended impact of CRISP. From a community cohesion and planning perspective, the drought caused beneficiary populations to disperse in search of pasture/water and employment and this would have dissipated the impact and effectiveness of the project activities that required collective input, planning and follow-up.In some cases, migration might have meant the temporary abandonment of new or rehabilitated water assets or cultivated (climate smart) plots but the greatest negative impact would have been the direct effect on animal and crop production. DF is correct in suggesting that the drought has significantly reduced the impact of activities under Outcome 3 too, as these ultimately relate back to agricultural productivity (Final Narrative Report).

DF state that the percentage of households adopting climate smart agriculture only reached 44% of the target as a result of the 2020-21 drought conditions suggesting that the constraint

in this case was uptake, rather than delivery. But overall, the drought would have reduced the potential gains in household or community resilience, directly and indirectly.

The negative effect would have been far greater for these target populations without the rehabilitated and new berkad, and other water sources delivered by CRISP, however (see Impact). Qualitative feedback from the CRISP Water Management Committees and other beneficiaries frequently listed the positive impacts of rehabilitated water infrastructure and other assets including rehabilitated boreholes, shallow wells, dams, canals, berkads and soil bunds. The impacts were far ranging, including increased animal and human health via potable water, increased local irrigation and cash crop production and increased fodder. The associated financial gains from increased surplus (increased meat and crop sales) and reduced travel time and transport costs were then transferred to other household strategies to maximise resilience, including education and healthcare.

The main way in which a future related project can ameliorate these external challenges is for all activity to assume such constraints will happen and so work to a natural annual calendar for delivery, rather than to the donor's calendar. This means ensuring funds are released regularly and on time to implement seasonally critical activity such as the construction of water infrastructure and supporting the associated technical expertise ahead of drought.

As discussed in detail above, COVID-19 has affected delivery of the activities, sometime very directly as in the case of a postponed dam, sub-surface dam and four shallow wells, for example, and this would have reduced impact within the project cycle.

There was acknowledgement by DF and the IPs that potential gains could be improved with greater external assistance (financial and technical) but the government stakeholders, themselves, acknowledge their limited potential and financial capacity in this regard (see Discussion).

Finally, DF and the IPs were able to re-direct interventions in response to local feasibility studies. Delays in delivering sub-surface water catchments in Puntland were the result of feasibility studies involving DF, KAALO and the Puntland Water Agency where it transpired that such structures were uncommon to the Puntland context and were subsequently switched to Somaliland, for instance. This change was welcomed but perhaps indicates a weakness in project design or reconnaissance ahead of implementation.

3.6. Sustainability

Mechanisms in place to ensure the continued flow of project benefits

Beneficiary feedback via the FGD survey was generally positive with respect to sustainability. Reponses across all the CRISP activities expressed optimism in terms of future use and future benefits derived from new or rehabilitated structures, other assets and input and knowledge derived via training. This positive outlook seems to relate to the type of structures that were supported. The rehabilitated wells and berkads require routine but simple maintenance for which there appeared to be public support and in general do not require technical and specialist expertise from outside as would be the case with new tube wells, for instance.

The FGDs provided no anecdotal examples of communities having secured their own additional financial support from outside institutions, however and this supports the observation of several IP respondents. In this regard, sustainability of the rehabilitated water structures and other physical assets remains the goal of these beneficiaries, rather than replication or extension of these assets through their own efforts to engage others.

As noted, the development of 78 CAV plans and 45 SHGs with their own operating rules, for instance, is a significant achievement but DF and the IPs have done many other things that combined could help support sustainability (see below). In addition to written plans, there are other aspects to project design that should support sustainability. DF believe that the IPs will stay engaged with the target communities as they deliver other work on subsequent projects and, of course, government partners are long-term actors in each location, despite their limited capacity as agents of change.

Contribution of project results to local ownership and increased capacity of the beneficiaries.

There are several ways in which CRISP attempted to build a sense of ownership. The IPs were careful to distribute animals to households that were apparently committed to long-term breeding, rather than to their immediate sale. In the case of the CSBs, the IPs were successful in their effort to encourage donations of seed from local farmers and together these messages will have developed enthusiasm for each activity.

Despite the negative effect of drought, locust, and cyclone on realising the benefits of the project inputs, the qualitative feedback suggests that new knowledge and practise derived from CRISP training is likely to be retained for future use. This includes a new awareness on diversification for cash crops to minimise risks, as well as new knowledge on seed management, water preservation and the reduction of soil erosion.

The project should be commended on the degree to which activities were community or group-based and the fact that even activity at household level or focussed on water asset owners were in general of benefit to the broader community. In this regard, there is incentive to maintain these gains and the CAV process would have gone some way of alerting the wider community of the importance of doing so. Despite this there are some indications from the beneficiaries and IPs that recipients of CRISP support are not always aware of the CAV process and the other complementary activities that were provided under CRISP. This is probably because the planning focus of CAV is centred on the village committee and the core CAV committee rather than the whole community at large and because CRISP did not always look to overlap inputs and activities in the same locations but in fact dispersed them.

Effectiveness of the action's exit strategy and approaches

CRISP had no formal exit arrangements with project stakeholders. Exit arrangements were said to have been "activity based" and managed differently by each IP. IPs sometimes held ceremonial handovers in public for community water committees at the corresponding rehabilitated borehole etc. The emphasis of CRISP was to establish plans and protocols that could be followed by such committees on their own and with systems and bylaws to ensure maintenance and financial viability. FGD feedback suggests that the local beneficiaries are very confident in their own ability to follow rules of use and ensure community support to the finance and upkeep of structures. In the case of rehabilitated boreholes and other water infrastructure, there is a large collective incentive to ensure they continue to work and the FGDs provide examples of how maintenance and repairs are expected to be conducted in future. Similarly, SHGs were left with their own established systems, sometimes with bylaws, to ensure fair and sustainable use of funds in future. The community level emphasis on handover acknowledges the realty that government stakeholders are severely limited in the services and support they can provide, post-project.

DF collaboration with implementing partners to increase their capacity in a sustainable way

The partners all reported that they attended the various Food Security and WASH Clusters coordinated by government and NGO stakeholders and that these are important networks for decision-making, response and planning within Somaliland and Puntland. Such platforms also included the NADFOR and IGAD-facilitated humanitarian coordination meetings and specific working groups such as those for resilience, Cash for Work, or sector-specific issues.

There is evidence of some mutual capacity building across the implementing partners with Candlelight receiving advice and support on SHG and rangeland management and providing help to ADO and HAVYOCO on agriculture-related activities.

The IPs, government partners and the beneficiaries, themselves, all reported that they had a continued stake in monitoring and maintenance of the plans and assets. The IPs appear most likely to stay engaged, however, (whether it is via a follow-up project or through parallel projects) as exposure to government stakeholders will remain limited, especially in the less secure and more remote project locations.

The multi-agency approach is not without challenges and was reported to have been a constraint by one DF respondent as it resulted in delayed site-visits and community frustration.

Factors that are likely to improve sustainability

Institutional and social factors (incentive and awareness)

The qualitive feedback suggest that linkage between government agencies and the community target group was not usually well developed. In some cases, the linkage was stronger as in the case of the MoRD where government officials attended borehole handover ceremonies or provided routine follow-up with the beneficiaries. But with respect to the CAV process more generally, most FGDs identified a lack of support or any involvement by government officials in the process. It is not clear if the IPs have different approaches to engage and retain involvement by the government stakeholders.

Another aspect that could improve sustainability is community-wide understanding that CRISP is supposed to provide integrated support to resilience building. Some of the FGDs revealed that sub-sets of the beneficiaries were unaware of other CRISP activity in the location or were not aware of the CAV process. This may be because project activities were too dispersed or because the CAV or village committees were not sufficiently opening out the planning process or its communication. DF will need to ensure that the concept behind any future project reaches as many members of the public as possible, even if these are not direct beneficiaries (see Recommendations).

DF could attempt to review the sustainability of the contributions from each CRISP activity, in turn. For instance, is it likely that CAHWs will be able to replenish their stock of drugs and maintain a viable income from the activity without external support? Understanding how the activities can better combine to add value may be a better route to sustainability, however. It would be useful for DF to develop a theory of change, in this regard (see Recommendations).

Technical factors

The communities and IPs seem aware of the technical requirements for sustainability of the new CRISP assets. The water management committees reached though this evaluation

were optimistic in their ability to utilise community support for the upkeep of structures e.g., the collection of money for simple repairs or the volunteering of labour for cleaning of canals and berkads. In some case, however, the structures were not completed to a standard that was perceived to be safe or were not covered to prevent evaporation or unwanted access by animals. To help ensure sustainable benefits from such structures the IPs and the government partners must ensure they reach an acceptable standard before they are left in community hands.

How can the "Do No Harm" perspective better be implemented in the future?

As stated, there do not appear to be significant negative and unintended consequences of the CRISP activities. At community level, there will already be strong and emotional positions taken in relation to kinship (clan-based allegiances) and livelihoods groups (pastoralists and farmers) and towards the "role" of women and others in society. The qualitative data in this evaluation revealed no evidence of newly introduced conflict or widening of the gap in interests and positions. DF and the IPs may not be aware of it but their sensible approach to acknowledging local social institutions (such as clan groups and existing structures like the village committee) relates very directly to the Do No Harm approach. The partners should carry on being sensitive to sub-clan dynamics as they plan the initiatives with communities and work with existing community institutions where they can, but they could be more systematic and direct about this in future.

Guidance on these issues, drawing from lessons in this evaluation, could be published for all partners. This would set out the benefit of working through existing and publicly legitimate institutions such as the village committees or existing water management committees, rather than trying to superimpose new platforms that can contradict, or challenge established entities. Although there appear to be no significant gender issues with respect to access to the benefits of CRISP, DF and partners could be more specific about what they expect in terms of gender representation within new project structures such as CSB committees and CAV committees. Village committees have apparently been encouraged to appoint at least some women to certain roles within new committees, but the IPs could be issued with more specific guidance in this regard.

3.7. Project and risk management

Improving coordination amongst and between the CRISP stakeholders and implementing partners

There are significant challenges to coordinating a multi-agency project, especially, when it operates in several distinct regions. This is because the necessary expertise and input has to be replicated in each location, with a new set of relationships and personal contacts between partners and other agencies. In this regard, national buy-in or support from government stakeholders and others is not necessarily sufficient to ensure effective delivery of quality services and this issue was even highlighted to the evaluation by NADFOR.

There does seems to be room for a stronger coordinating role by DF that could improve linkage and effectiveness. One of the implementing partners highlighted how each partner must work to establish their own relationships with the Ministry of Livestock, for instance. It could be that DF could set the groundwork in Somaliland, Puntland and each district to save time and to increase consistency in approach. This could be part of a thorough stakeholder mapping exercise during project design.

Mutual learning between DF and the partners will occur during the quarterly meetings and there is evidence that partners have learned technical skills from one another. It is not clear

to what degree this mutual learning is ad hoc or deliberate but a stronger and more systematic approach to lesson learning and capture would be beneficial in future (see Recommendations with respect to “process”).

Implementation delays and adjustment strategies

As noted above, COVID-19 movement restrictions resulted in some implementation delays in relation to the 2020 Activity Plan and specifically the establishment of four water structures. DF instead developed its COVID-19 response and ultimately caught up by the end of the no-cost extension period. The construction of subsurface water catchments was also delayed as a result of lengthy feasibility assessments but were then transferred to Somaliland and concluded in 2020-21. This switch was ultimately a more effective use of project funds. A similar situation occurred with respect to the switch from borehole construction to rehabilitation but again, all activity was concluded in 2021-22. The construction of berkads, shallow wells and rehabilitated shallow wells in Puntland was also disrupted: “there have been some delays in reaching all targets as a result of budget limitations” (Final Narrative Report; page 11).

Risk management strategies to cope with the identified risks.

The Risk Analysis and Contingency Plan in the full application form (Annex A.2: section 2.1.4) is thorough and adequately covers the main environment and social features that could have significantly challenged attainment of outcomes. With respect to potential social risks, the Plan includes clan-based conflict and inadequate gender sensitive delivery (for which no significant issues were uncovered in this evaluation). It would have been useful to have included a section on secondary stakeholder engagement and support i.e., the risk of reluctance/inability of government stakeholders/partners to engage adequately or provide financial or other support to consolidate CAV plans etc. In the view of some project stakeholders consulted, this did represent a bottleneck to further achievement for CRISP.

In the face of the major environmental challenges that did transpire (the 2020-21 droughts and the Desert Locust invasion of 2021), it is not clear to what extent the stated mitigation measures were followed or relevant (i.e., links to early warning systems and NERAD, cash transfers). In the face of the COVID-19 outbreak, DF chose to direct resources away from core activities and to awareness raising, WASH and health worker support. In retrospect, this concerted effort was the right one as COVID-19 reduces household resilience and the ability to conduct activities within CRISP.

Systems and capacity for financial management and auditing

EU and DF mechanisms for financial management within CRISP are thorough. DF’s contracts with all implementing partners provide strict guidelines on procurement and all transactions, guided by DF’s Human Resources, Finance and Procurement Manual. Each partner has their own financial and procurement manuals that must comply to DF standards, and each have their own in-house systems for financial reporting using Quick Books or Peachtree has a three-person Procurement Committee and implementing partners are regularly visited for spot-checks and support. The frequency of financial reporting has been increased from quarterly to monthly reporting since 2020, apparently making the system more responsive to change as it happens. The project undergoes an external annual audit and DF also conducts joint programme and financial visits to project locations and each CRISP quarterly meeting also comprises a financial component.

3.8. Cross-cutting issues

Extent the project design, implementation and M&E framework take relevant cross-cutting issues into consideration.

The project design did specify men, woman, and youth as specific participants across many of the CRISP activities. With respect to Outcome 1, the planning process acknowledged the differing perspectives between livelihoods groups, men, and women before bringing these groups back together for co-learning in a "grand meeting". In this regard, the perspectives of women would have been clearly represented and hopefully seen as more legitimate across the community.

Although the VDCs represent a convenient interface between CRISP and the communities, they will comprise only men. DF and the IPs could acknowledge this from the outset and attempt to make sure that women's voices are also included in the early stages when the resilience activities are chosen and when sites and beneficiary households are selected.

With respect to Outcome 2 and Outcome 3, women reported via the FGDs that training and support was generally provided in a way that was appropriate and accessible to them e.g., it was delivered early in the day and close to their homes for safety and to enable their other household activity. Female trainers were sometimes provided but technical inputs tended to be led by male trainers. Female CAHWs were supported and

Although there is no specific project-assigned gender specialist, DF report that all IPs have been trained on gender sensitive approaches and some IPs do have existing in-house expertise in this regard.

CRISP did well to acknowledge differences within communities (working with sub-clans and each livelihoods group, for instance) rather than ignoring them, and the Programme Coordinator reported that a target village in the Sanaag region was represented by minority groups. In this regard DF and the IPs demonstrated they were aware of the complexity within "communities" and the importance of this to relevance and effectiveness.

4.0. Conclusion

CRISP has performed well and met most of its planned targets and DF has reported where and why attainment has sometimes fallen short. As presented throughout this report, the reasons for any shortfalls relate to 1) relevance and implementation (as in the case of the switch from borehole construction to rehabilitation) or to; 2) external factors including COVID-19 and the Desert Locust invasion, but particularly the drought of 2020 to the present. The lessons presented below along with the Recommendations should help address both these areas that represent obstacles to attainment in future.

One of the major strengths, as well as challenges, of CRISP is its multi-agency approach. If all the skills and efforts of each stakeholder can be channelled more effectively, there is a great opportunity to increase the impact of future project activity.

Much of the learning presented below was generated with the input of the resilience stakeholders reached during the evaluation. In other words, many of these things are already known by DF, the IPs and government partners. The evaluators hope these issues can be discussed by all CRISP resilience stakeholders and that future resilience programming remains as broad based as possible.

The following sub-section combines feedback from the project stakeholders with observations by the evaluators. As such, this section represents a combination of issues

already identified by CRISP and partners during interview and emerging lessons as derived by this evaluation. Most of the observations concern social and institutional issues which might affect past and future performance, rather than those that concern the management and coordination of the project.

5.0. Lessons Learned

The value of participatory planning with sub-sets of the community and then in combination

The suite of activities within CRISP is typical of many past resilience projects in wide variety of settings i.e. livelihoods diversification, asset development and consolidation (physical assets/infrastructure and natural assets) and institutional strengthening and linkage. The innovative aspect of CRISP appears to be the application of CAV planning with project partners and others in Somaliland and Puntland.

The design of the CAV model and the way it is applied within CRISP is thoughtful and reflects other successful multi-stakeholder participatory planning processes in other contexts. In particular, the strategy to first explore resilience or livelihoods opportunities and constraints with separate interest groups (women, youth, farmers, pastoralists etc.) and then combine these perspectives in plenary has been shown to add legitimacy and build mutual awareness within the community planning process. CRISP also emphasised a role for existing institutions and important technical service providers such as the line ministries in this planning.

The possibility of a greater role for political representatives (elected decision-makers)

Although CRISP encouraged direct involvement of the technical service providers, it is possible there could also be an important role to be played by local government representatives too i.e., decision-makers and political stakeholders. Some DF and IP respondents reported that political representatives can interfere with site selection for their own personal motives. But if the broader community is to be properly represented by elected officials, then these stakeholders should also be involved in the planning process. IPs could routinely invite local elected officials to group planning and plenary meetings within the CAV process and these representative-types and individuals could be identified beforehand within stakeholder mapping. Participatory planning has been found to be most effective when political and sector specific officials have witnessed the process personally or have been involved directly. This is because these individuals may have more faith in the design of the plans produced and because they may to some extent feel morally obliged to act, having been witnessed by the community to engage or even commit to an action. Such community exposure to officials can be a very important outcome of participatory planning in relation to sustainability because improving beneficiaries' political capital (the ability to influence decision-making)means they can tap into future support and representation post-project via elected officials. It is not clear if the project partners have a strategic approach to including such officials. DF could look to ensure that delivery partners have a consistent approach to linkage with local government as well as technical service providers.

The importance of focussing on activity on the ground – rather than coherence with aspirational or abstract policy

Although the government partners may lack financial capacity, new relationships between them and the beneficiaries are probably as important as any apparent coherence with regional or national policy declarations with respect to resilience. This is because the implementation of policy is limited by institutional issues (financial and human constraints)

and so communities have to navigate the *real politik*, as it exists, rather than as it is intended. It means that the quality of outcomes will vary from site to site, depending on the skills and motivation of specific officials and the task of DF and the IPs will be to find the most sympathetic and useful individuals in each case.

The importance of acknowledging a dynamic and diverse "community"

The CRISP partners are aware of the important dynamics within and between communities which mean plans and activities sometimes have to be developed with particular attention to sub-groups within the target areas. DF and the partners should be commended for working with sub-clans because if these invisible or informal institutional issues are overlooked, they could have blocked progress and possibly led to disputes. Participatory planning can reach an impasse if facilitators are unaware of the divisions and dynamics within communities and facilitators run the risk of reaching the wrong conclusions as to why an intervention is not working well or is not supported. There may be a way to be more systematic in identifying and working with these groups or knowing about them beforehand, however (see Recommendations with respect to reconnaissance).

The Do No Harm principal was applied in several ways – it can be useful to promote it in terms of community complexity. The water-related activities often result in win-win opportunities

Conflict over land and water is not likely to diminish and development partners must recognise the challenge of avoiding introducing new areas for tension and dispute. In this regard, CRISP has done well to acknowledge these issues, and this relates to the Do No Harm concept. The CRISP partners may not always realise they are doing this but viewing the community as dynamic and complex system, rather than a homogenous and static entity, is an important part of understanding context as encapsulated within the Do No Harm principle. Such situations require win-win opportunities to develop consensus across communities. The rehabilitation of canals and water bodies is very useful in this context because the outcomes benefit both animal health and farming – bridging the interests of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, for instance.

The value of using existing formal and informal institutions

Utilising existing institutions such as the village committees, semi-functioning water management committees, the fisher's association in Caluula or semi-functioning savings groups was an effective approach. Village committees appear to have broad public legitimacy within communities and are the first contact point for other potential supporting agencies such as line ministries. CRISP also embedded new committees within existing bodies which has very likely aided effectiveness and sustainability (e.g. the Community Seed Committee at Cuun now forms a large proportion of the executive committee of an existing farmer association).

Maintaining community awareness of overall CRISP activities and objective

Some of the FGD feedback suggests that certain participants were unaware of CAV planning or of other parallel technical activities delivered by the project e.g. "The participants confessed that the community has limited awareness about the existence of the CAV (plan) but respects the trained people as socially resourceful persons" (FGD with the CAV committee, Beerato village). If this is because the participants are too dispersed, DF should consider what this means in terms of synergy between the activities. Alternatively, it may be that the activity of CAV planning or other technical support is not well communicated across the target areas. The CRISP model implies that activities should be joined up (water-related

activity leading to greater farm and livestock potential) and coordinated around CAV planning. Ideally, all community stakeholders should be fully aware of the project objectives and activities to support resilience. This relates to the degree to which synergy is intended and whether design and management could be aided by developing a project theory of change (see Recommendations).

Sharing as a community strategy for maintaining resilience

The FGDs revealed that some of the CRISP beneficiaries may be sharing project inputs with other households (one household was reported to have given away half of their 20animal allocation, for instance). Sharing is an important risk management strategy within communities in the face of stress, and works to maintain social capital, often taking place within family or kinship groups. The sharer may gain from reciprocal action further down the line. This sharing may indicate that project targeting was not as accurate or precise as it could have been. The main effect will be to dissipate the impact of the project activity for the original intended recipient i.e. it will lessen the ability to achieve the logframe result with respect to nutrition, food security or income for that particular household. Although CRISP can advise against the immediate sale of newly provided livestock, for instance, it would not be appropriate to attempt to control sharing. However, it would be useful if DF and the IPs considered the extent of such sharing for all project inputs and whether they think this is significant in terms of targeting and monitoring. DF has already permitted some flexibility in this regard and KII feedback reveals DF has at times distributed 20 animals across two households.

6.0. Recommendations

The following recommendations are presented in sequence starting with the more overarching and *strategic* recommendations and working towards more specific and *operational* issues.

Developing a second phase for CRISP

CRISP has gone far to achieve its intended outcomes and objectives but the cumulative effect of climate change means there is a real risk of losing momentum and those gains being eroded. Delivering a second phase of CRISP, built on experience and lessons learned, should help these communities protect and consolidate the gains made from 2018-2022.

Design future projects as a component of a multi-agency resilience framework

The challenges of incentivising and enabling government agencies to implement policy such as NDP II are enormous. Although some CAV plans may have been adopted by local level agencies it is not clear if these agencies will have the resources to enact them or replicate similar work elsewhere. There needs to be a concerted effort to support these agencies and a broad-based multi-agency group of international and national stakeholders would be best placed to do this. DF Somaliland should ensure it is part of such efforts and that future project design contributes to the broader effort to enact resilience-building policy. Being a formal partner within a broad-based consortium would help deliver change at scale and avoid duplicating the actions of other agencies.

Consolidating progress in existing project locations – not dispersing the action to new sites

DF and the IPs have made good progress and learned a lot about the sites they were work in. Some of these lessons were time consuming and may have affected the degree to which impacts were experienced by beneficiaries within the project cycle. Crucially, the partners and communities have established working relationship with government agencies and technical service providers. These partnerships can come to fruition in the coming years but are most likely to do so as part of a programme of activity facilitated through a project and not in isolation. Unless particularly high potential settings are identified, DF should look at make sure that future project activity overlaps and reinforces past achievements, rather than is dispersed to new sites.

Unpacking "resilience" and consider using alternative terms to "shocks" and "disasters"

The CAV approach has evolved from previous work addressing disasters and shock but given that climate induced hardship has unfortunately become ongoing and an annual occurrence it would be useful for DF Somaliland to adapt the language and logic used in project design so that future projects represent this new reality. Some of the terminology that persists internationally relates to the fact that disaster response agencies were thought to be best placed to address "shocks" but resilience obviously also entails livelihoods development. The resilience of communities in Somaliland and Puntland can be reduced incrementally with each consecutive poor growing season, rather than suddenly. The CRISP activities do already represent an attempt to help reduce "stress" in the face of ongoing "trends" but it might be useful to be explicit about which outputs and activities aim to build resilience with respect to "rebuild", "prevent" etc.

Developing a theory of change

Although the CRISP project proposal explains how the outputs are relevant in the context of Somaliland and Puntland, it does not discuss in detail how these outputs, combined, can work together to deliver the overall aim/goal of CRISP.

Developing a simple theory of change or model at the design stage can help DF and partners visualise what success might look like for different subsets of the beneficiaries. A Venn diagram would help visualise how the activities and outputs overlap for particular individuals, households, villages etc. and can check whether the project is maximising added value between activities and outputs that reinforce impact. For instance, mapping the beneficiaries this way would help to understand the degree to which new household income opportunities via SHGs are even more beneficial when enjoyed in combination with access to new productive or physical assets via the project.

Commission studies to consolidate learning ahead of new project design

Activities that have clear community-wide appeal and relevance such as the water and irrigation initiatives appear to support more beneficiaries and have greater potential for sustainability than household or individually provided inputs such as animal stocking. Despite the project's comprehensive reporting and monitoring and evaluation there are still knowledge gaps in this regard. For instance, it is not clear to what extent aspects of the project like the CAHWs or the SHGs will remain financially viable and relevant to their communities, and it is not clear whether the considerable financial outlay on animal stocking will prove to be good value for money. The performance of these activities could be reviewed post-project by independent researchers and the output would make a useful learning resource for DF and the IPs. The early design phase of a new project should also be particularly thorough in order to assess the technical relevance of interventions in greater detail, site-by-site. This would make sure they were appropriate and financially feasible.

Reconnaissance as part of the design process

Better knowledge of the project locations would result in more relevant, efficient, and effective interventions. This does not just relate to technical knowledge but to institutional and social knowledge, especially. A thorough reconnaissance before project design should include stakeholder mapping for each proposed site. This would list the key individuals and roles of all relevant stakeholders. In addition to the usual technical partners and expertise, this mapping could extend to identifying political and elected officials that could operate as "champions" for resilience and the CAV process. DF and the IPs could also be explicit about the key sub-clans in each location and their particular stake and position with respect to water, pasture, agriculture, representation and planning. It could also identify which locations are most likely to support SHGs that can realistically access external sources of finance and the sources of this finance. This reconnaissance would ideally occur prior to design but aspects of it could be conducted during baseline survey.

Move towards process monitoring

Process monitoring means reviewing and reporting challenges and breakthroughs to implementation as they happen. A greater emphasis on process (rather than delivery against the logframe) would help DF counter problems as they arise, and it would help DF use new learning to make modifications to strategy faster. To do this, partners could be provided simple new formats for weekly or monthly reporting to DF that place a particular emphasis on community/social and stakeholder challenges and breakthroughs i.e., the informal institutional context of delivering the project and supporting resilience.

This information would help generate the Progress Reports, but it would be of particular value to DF and the partners, rather than an external audience or the donor. "Activity registers" could be repurposed for such a use and multiple new formats would not be needed.

Future Mid-Term Reviews should similarly provide an opportunity to explore "process" and to outline the opportunities and constraints encountered by the teams rather than just the completion of activities or the attainment of indicators.

Developing gender awareness and associated capacity within the partners

DF and the partners understand that there are some social and persistent factors that mean the benefits of CRISP cannot always be readily secured by the most vulnerable within each community. For example, women may be represented on planning committees and other platforms but are not always given equal "voice". It would be useful if DF could assign a member of the team to ensure that partners are supported in ways to ensure these power issues are well understood by the partners and that they have some mean to report them or address them as needed via process monitoring.

A more strategic communication plan

The CRISP communication plan was to focus on producing separate products to publicise the EU action for each of the key project outputs and just four external target group types are outlined. It would be useful for DF and the partners to explore in more depth the purpose and function of all the communication products in future. A simple and focussed communications strategy can be developed with a matrix that outlines "product", "target audience", "purpose" and "intended impact/change in the audience". Developing a communications strategy this way would help DF and partners be realistic and creative in the way they want to influence sub-sets of resilience stakeholders at different scales. In other words, it could help provide a

more systematic way to ensure lessons learned and novel approaches associated with CAV planning etc. reach donor, government, and NGO audiences, while technical and advisory products, such as video clips, reach public and local stakeholders, for instance. It could also move forwards the DF Somaliland understanding of and approach to “advocacy” and “lobbying”. It is important that DF focusses on promoting the unique aspect of the CAV planning process i.e. multi-stakeholder planning for resilience with each interest group and in combination across these groups.

8. Annexes

8.1. Annex A: Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

Interview date	Institution	Position(s) of respondent(s)
02 July 2022	KAALO Aid and Development	Project manager and officer
07 July 2022	Candlelight for Environment, Education and Health	Project manager and officer
07 July 2022	Development Fund	Program Coordinator
07 July 2022	Development Fund	Admin and finance advisor
12 July 2022	Development Fund	Program water engineer advisor
12 July 2022	HAVOOCO organization	Project manager
12 July 2022	Water Development	Departmental director of hydrology and tube wells
12 July 2022	Agriculture Development Organization (ODA)	Project manager
14 July 2022	Humanitarian Affair and disaster Management Agency (HADMA) Puntland	Director of coordinator
16 July 2022	Ministry of Agriculture Development	Director of meteorology
19 July 2022	National Disaster Preparedness and Food Authority (NADFOR)	Director coordination
20 July 2022	Oxfam	Resilience program team leader

8.2. Annex B. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

Interview date	Location	District	Type of FGD
18 June 2022	Gogeysa	Gabiley	CAV committee and VDC
18 June 2022	Gogeysa		Water management committee
18 June 2022	Laaya	Gabiley	Self Help Group (women only)
18 June 2022	Laaya	Gabiley	Water management committee and water infrastructure beneficiaries
19 June 2022	Gumburaha	Balligubadle	CRISP beneficiaries (fodder, CAHW, restocking)
19 June 2022	Bali-Cabbane	Balligubadle	Water management committee and water infrastructure beneficiaries
19 June 2022	Baha-Dhamal	Salaxlay	CAV committee and VDC
19 June 2022	Baha-Dhamal	Salaxlay	CRISP beneficiaries (fodder, CAHW, restocking)
21 June 2022	Xidh-xidh	Odweyne	CRISP beneficiaries (fodder, CAHW, restocking, water)
21 June 2022	Xidh-xidh	Odweyne	Farmers who benefited from agriculture interventions
21 June 2022	Beerato	Odweyne	Water management committee and water infrastructure beneficiaries
21 June 2022	Beerato	Odweyne	CAV committee, participants and VDC
21 June 2022	Beer	Burao	Community seed committee and users
21 June 2022	Duruqsi	Burao	CAV committee participants, and VDC

24 June 2022	Ruqi	Baki	Self-Help Group (women only)
	Ruqi	Baki	Water management committee and water infrastructure beneficiaries
28 June 2022	Cuun	Garowe	Community seed committee and users
28 June 2022	Qalaanqal	Garowe	Water management committee and water infrastructure beneficiaries
28 June 2022	Qalaanqal	Garowe	CRISP beneficiaries (fodder, CAHW, restocking, water)
30 June 2022	Ceel-Daahir	Bossaso	Self-Help Group (women only)
30 June 2022	Ceel-Daahir	Bossaso	Farmers who benefited from agriculture interventions
30 June 2022	Kobdhexaad	Bossaso	CRISP beneficiaries (CAHW, restocking, water)
30 June 2022	Kobdhexaad	Bossaso	Self-Help Group (women only)
30 June 2022	Cawsane	Badhan	Beneficiaries benefited from restocking, CAHWs) and other interventions
02 July 2022	Caluula	Bossaso	Fishers who benefited from fishery interventions

8.3. Annex C. List of documents reviewed

i. CRISP baseline, 2019
ii. Project Progress and Performance Evaluation, December 2021
iii. CRISP Interim Narrative Report, 2019
iv. CRISP Interim Narrative Report, 2020
v. Final Narrative Report, 2018-2022
vi. WFP Technical Guidance Sheet, Food Consumption Analysis, 2008
vii. Data4Diets: Building Blocks for Diet-related Food Security Analysis, 2019
viii. CRISP full application form/project proposal
ix. EU CRISP communication plan
x. DF CAV seminar report, 2018
xi. Community based toolkit for practitioners for the Livelihoods and Forestry Programme, 2010
xii. Oxfam, Participatory capacity, and vulnerability analysis, 2012
xiii. CRISP Final financial report: period ((01/07/2018-30/04/2022)
xiv. Community Resilience in Somaliland and Puntland (CRISP) updated logical framework/Indicator Tracking Table (ITT)
xv. Calculation of household food security outcome indicators, WFP Vulnerability Analysis & Mapping Unit, Afghanistan, December 2012
xvi. Somalia updated IPC and famine risk analysis technical release, 4th June 2022

8.4. Annex D. Completed Logframe

Result	Revised #	Indicator		Baseline	Overall Target (Revised 2019)	Endline
Resilience of the vulnerable communities in Puntland and Somaliland strengthened	A	% of people in crisis or worse (IPC phase 3,4,5) in post Deyr season in rural areas and IDP communities in the targeted Districts		24.9%	12%	39%
	B	% of people in minimal situation (IPC phase 1) in post Deyr season in rural areas and IDP communities in targeted Districts		56.7%	66%	35%
Specific Objective-Outcome: Reduced vulnerabilities of households caused by climate related shocks and disasters	1	% of households with food consumption score at least at acceptable level in critical months		52.0%	58%	53%
	2	# of women, men and youth in the targeted population have diversified income from agri-products, value addition or business activities compared to project start	Women	0	400	949
			Men	0	300	2214
			Youth	0	208	1370
	3	# of new entrepreneurial businesses with net profit after 2 years		0	59	65
	4	# of households in targeted communities with sustainable structure in place to implement adaptation and contingency measures		0	15317	14147
	5	Average yields (kg/ha) per HH for major crops	Sorghum	227	329.6	476.2
			Maize	182	264.3	407.7
			Cowpea	158	229.4	50
			Onion	431	625.8	1419.8
	6	# of HHs with increased diversification of crop production		15% (1056)	1724	2069

Outcome 1: Capacity of communities to prepare for and manage climate-related shocks and disasters increased	1.1	# of community planned adaptation measures conducted by communities		0	101	75
	1.2	# of national and district government institutions incorporating the community adaptation and contingency plan mechanisms in their own planning		0	10	14
Output 1.1 Community climate adaptation and contingency plan development supported	1.1.1	# of communities with climate adaptation and contingency plan in place (EUTF ind 2.1)		0	71	78
Output 1.2 Capacity of the district and regional level governmental institutions on resilience and community contingency strengthened	1.2.1	# of government staff included in the vulnerability assessments, community planning and related trainings (F, M)	Male	0	25	45
			Female	0	15	9
Outcome 2: Agropastoral production system diversified and strengthened	2.1	Average distance (km) to nearest water source for women and girls		25.5	3	3.6
	2.2	# of households from the targeted population with access to system for stocking of water, seed and grain	System for Water stocking	5391	7020	10545
			System for Grain stocking	3273	2990	9701
			System for Seed stocking	2988	4111	8330
	2.3	# of households have adopted climate smart agriculture techniques learned through the project		0	741	10334
	2.4	# of HHs have adopted improved livestock management practices		18% (2285)	53%	96% (10123)
	2.5	# of HHs have adopted improved fishery practices		21% (109)	41%	74% (222)
Output 2.1. Water and irrigation infrastructures	2.1.1	# of water infrastructures constructed (EUTF indicator 2.1 bis)		0	28	84

developed and rehabilitated	2.1.2	# of water infrastructures improved or rehabilitated (EUTF indicator 2.1 bis)		0	101	97
	2.1.3	# of households with irrigation supported by the project		0	2551	1582
Output 2.2. Management and the sustainability of water infrastructures improved	2.2.1	# of sustainable and functional community water management systems (according to sustainability criteria)		0	70	65
Output 2.3. Knowledge and skills on climate resilient agriculture raised	2.3.1	# of women and men trained in climate smart agriculture (CSA) techniques (EUTF indicator 2.4)	Men	0	600	648
			Women	0	540	496
	2.3.2	# of households provided with key inputs for agriculture production		0	1254	1261
Output 2.4 Community seed system improved	**2.4.1**	# of women and men with regular access to quality seeds through the built community seed bank	Men	0	825	887
			Women	0	675	349
	2.4.2	# of gov. extension agents (F, M) trained on seed system management	Men	0	5	5
			Women	0	3	3
	2.4.3	# of community seed banks recognised by governmental institutions		0	3	3
Output 2.5 Livestock production strengthened	**2.5.1**	# women and men trained in improved livestock management practices (improved fodder, medical treatment, etc)	Men	0	449	726
			Women	0	479	440
	2.5.2	# women, men and youth trained as community animal health workers (CAHWs)	Men	0	70	80
			Women	0	66	26
	2.5.3	# of HHs receiving veterinary service from CAHWs		0	10500	32980
	2.5.4	# of most vulnerable households receiving restocking (see definition) based on needs		0	371	411
Output 2.6 Knowledge and skills on fisheries raised	**2.6.1**	# of cooperative members trained in improved fishery practices		0	50	109
	2.6.2	# of fish landings built		0	2	2

Outcome 3: Opportunities for income generation increased.	**3.1**	# of established businesses with cooperation with buyers		0	50	129
	3.2	# of established business entities receive microfinance from financial institutions		0	30	30
Output 3.1 Cash transfer provided to the most vulnerable households	**3.1.1**	# of jobs created through cash-for-work	Men	0	196	246
			Women	0	115	119
			Youth	0	250	307
Output 3.2 Access to credit for investments facilitated	**3.2.1**	# of women, men and youth involving in saving and credit cooperatives (SACCO*) through the project (EUTF indicator 1.3)	Women	0	500	739
			Men	0	40	20
			Youth	0	160	171
	3.2.2	# of SACCOs* supported by the project		0	8	45
Output 3.3 Capacity to establish and manage businesses supported	**3.3.1**	# of women, men and youth trained in business management	Women	0	111	148
			Men	0	92	32
			Youth	0	100	90
	3.3.2	# of women, men and youth trained in production for commercialisation	Women	0	700	933
			Men	0	500	374
			Youth	0	620	46
	3.3.3	# of businesses established by SACCO* members		0	76	129
Output 3.4. Afects of COVID-19 is reduced in the targeted communities	**3.4.1**	# of people reached by awarenes raising radio campaigns on COVID-19				85% (8963)
		# of people reached by IEC materials on COVID-19				85% (8963)
		# of CHWs trained on COVID-19 management, male				137
		# of CHWs trained on COVID-19 management, female				143
		# of sanitary kits and PPEs materials (soap, hygiene sensitizers, jerricans, jugs, masks, and gloves) provided				100
		# of handwashing stations established				8

8.5. Annex E. Raw data collection (to be shared in zipped folder)