

Name of Project: Cash Based Public Works Piloting (LBPW) and Targeting Study in Pastoral and Agro-Pastoral areas, Shinile zone in Somali National Regional State

Beneficiaries 9,000 people

Project Duration January –October, 2005: Four months cash distribution (about 144,000 Euro has been distributed over four months)

#### Project Summary

The overall aim of the project was to improve understanding of resource transfer mechanism and community targeting procedures in pastoral context of Somali Regional State

The project intended to achieve this by testing the appropriateness of CFW & LBPW approaches in five villages of Shinile and Dambel districts of Shinile zone. This piloting work has met the immediate needs of 9000 chronically food insecure beneficiaries, who have been identified through the national needs assessment process, for four months through cash distributions<sup>1</sup>. It had also a plan to undertake community-targeting research in Shinile and Fik zones of Somali region to understand targeting issues in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas. The findings of the study is hoped to form basis for developing national targeting guidelines for pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of the country. The community targeting research reviewed all experiences from agro pastoral and pastoral areas within the Horn of Africa Region in targeting. It also looked at all targeting procedures used for relief and development resources in Somali Regional State to date.

The rationale for designing the public work related component of the project was to link the poor food security situation in the areas with the need to improve understanding of resource targeting and transfer mechanisms in the pastoral areas

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<sup>1</sup> The payment rate was calculated based on the full nutritional requirements. (2,100 kcals). SC-UK has been undertaking significant advocacy on ration rates. While households are rarely totally dependent on relief assistance in an individual month, their needs are calculated on their total needs being met over a minimum number of months. When ration rates are below food need levels this logically contributes to asset depletion. A payment rate of 12 birr/p/d for 3.5 days/month has been proposed with the assumption that birr 42 (about 4 Euro) would purchase food that is enough to meet the minimum nutritional requirements of an individual. The same rate was used for gratuitous beneficiaries.

Although Shinile Zone faced drought throughout 2002 and most of 2003, good *karan* rains<sup>2</sup> in late 2003 and the normal *gu* rains<sup>3</sup> in 2004, supplemented by a continuous flow of food aid and non-food interventions led the way out of the crisis. There was some deterioration after worse-than-normal *karan* rains in 2004, but food security remained much better than in 2002 and 2003. Livestock remained in good condition and milk delivery was satisfactory.

Many of the areas within Somali Region have not yet even experimented with EGS<sup>4</sup>, and FFW<sup>5</sup> has been conducted on a limited basis. Although the preparation for government Safety Nets program in pastoral and agro pastoral has been under way and the program was intended to start in 2006, it seems that the program will move to labour based public works. The labour based public work could take different approaches that have differences in their purpose, target groups and mechanisms, levels of benefit, management requirement etc. The common approaches to labour works that are widely practiced in Ethiopia are: FFW/CFW, EGS and Labour Based Public Works. SC UK's interpretation of the differences between these approaches to labour work within the Ethiopian context is shown in the chart below.

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<sup>2</sup> Fall between July and September

<sup>3</sup> Fall between late March and end of May

<sup>4</sup> Employment Generation Schemes

<sup>5</sup> Food for Work

<b>FFW/CFW</b> <i>Food for work/Cash for work</i>	<b>EGS</b> <i>Employment generation scheme</i>	<b>Productive Safety Nets/ Labour Based Public Works</b>
1. Building community assets 2. Income enhancement	1. Saving lives 2. Using relief resources to resource development actions	1. Saving lives and livelihoods 2. Development of community assets
Productive	Protective	Protective and productive
Chronic	Chronic and Acute	Chronic
Untargeted or self targeted	Targeted at those most in need	Targeted at chronically poor
Participants can work as much as they want within the work available	Quantity of work available to a household is dependent on HH size	Quantity of work available to a household is dependent on HH size
Resources depended on work	Uncertainty in amount of resources	Multi-annual resources – but quantity will vary depending on need.
Higher cost, higher input, better supervision of labour	Low cost, low input, little supervision of labour	Higher cost, higher input, better supervision of labour
Any time of the year	Focused on the hungry period	Work in the dry season, payment split between the work period and the hungry period

For all of the above reasons, SC UK was keen to test the appropriateness of CFW & LBPW on a small scale in an effort to inform wider policy debate around the Productive Safety Nets program.

Save the Children UK has planned that lessons from the project will inform the design of safety nets program in pastoral areas. All key advocacy issues that will come out of the project will be articulated and shared with all stakeholders. The advocacy work will focus on issues related to resource transfer mechanisms, targeting, capacity building and reducing vulnerability in pastoral areas. (The targeting research and the final project evaluation are underway. The finding will be shared)