



Emergency Cash Relief Programme (ECRP) Donor: NOVIB

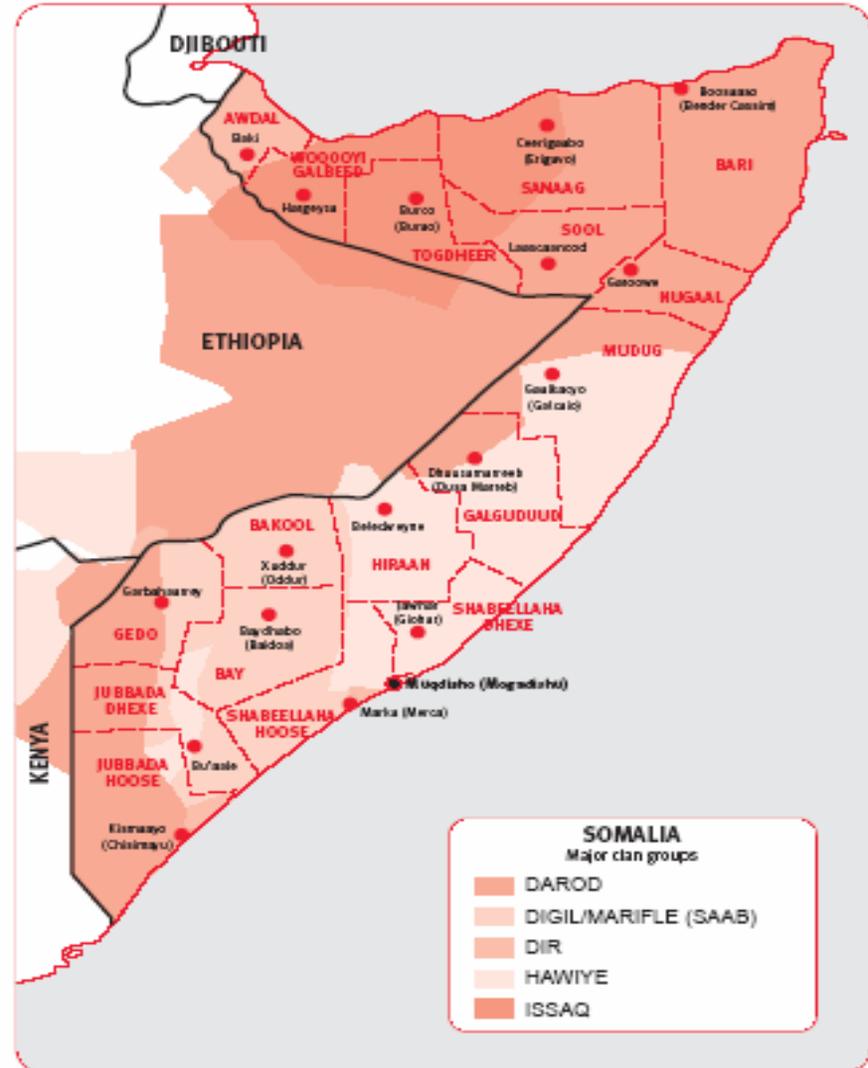


Sool Plateau, Sool and Sanaag Regions,
Somalia December 2003-February 2004



Background

- ➊ **Political and Ethnic Context:** Sool Plateau located in the contested area of Sool and Sanaag by Somaliland and Puntland
- ➋ **Livelihood context:** high reliance on pastoralism; chronic livelihood insecurity (livestock ban, water insecurity, no government assistance; environmental degradation)
- ➌ **Social context:** Male dominance within a patriarchal society; Widespread use of Khat
- ➍ **The humanitarian presence:** limited





Emergency and Response

❁ Inter-agency assessment (OCHA, October 2003)

- ❁ OCHA-coordinated, involving all the main aid actors in the regions
- ❁ Findings: Prolonged drought resulting in acute vulnerability:
 - 15,511 households at acute risk
 - +80% loss of pack camels
 - 70% loss of shoats (sheep and goats)
 - All surface water sources dry (high water price)
 - Collapse of existing coping mechanisms (credit system overstretched, limited migration, etc.)

❁ *“Marka dhulku uu dhinto, xoolahaa dhinta, dadkuna wey dhintaan”*

(When the land dies, the animals die and people follow)

Aden Haji Ali, 73, pastoralist of Hingalool village, Dhahar District, Sanaag region.

❁ *“Cudurka ugu weyn oo bada i hayaa waa raja la’aan”*

(“My worst disease is lack of hope”)

Asher Abdullah, “destitute” pastoral woman in El Buh, Badan district



Emergency and Response Cont'd

Why cash:

- HR members of assessment suggested cash as an effective response in both phases but controversial
- Food available in the market, but purchasing power was extremely low
- Local economy under stress due to overstretched credit system/high debt burden
- Rapid response and beneficiary empowerment (flexible for vast array of needs)
- Stop gap measure – longer term interventions expected to follow





Project Design

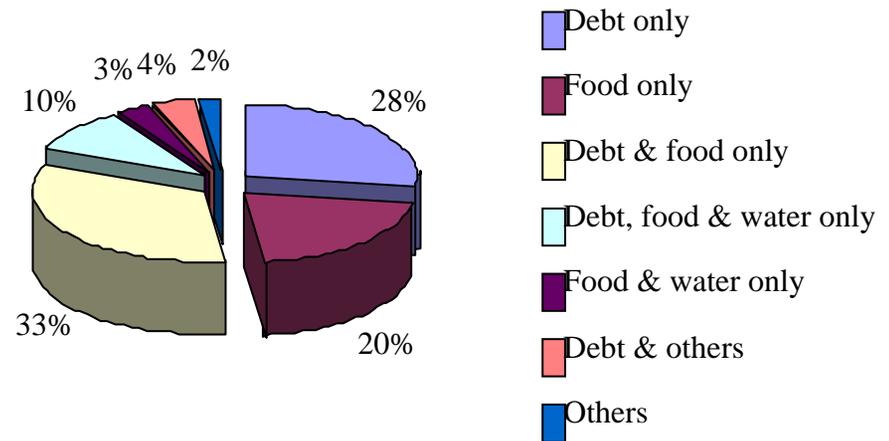
- **Tripartite agreement:** between OCHA, Horn Relief and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), sub-contracted to implement in Sool region. OCHA monitored overall security, coordinated with partners/relevant administrations and responsible for undertaking a post-distribution survey.
- **Proper targeting/Impartiality:** Community-based targeting using Village Relief Committees (VRCs) focused on alleviating destitution among pastoralists.
 - **Beneficiary Selection Criteria:** Selection criteria determined based on FSAU wealth ranking, inter-agency assessment findings, and field reports:
 - destitute pastoralists only
 - livestock ownership
 - physical assets
 - social capital and among those structurally vulnerable groups such as women, minorities, elderly, disabled, large families, etc. were given the priority and must be prioritized on registration lists)
- **Internal Capacity Building/Training:** Proper training for all field staff in beneficiary selection/targeting, and logistics of distribution was conducted and is essential to successful cash programs.



Program Impact

- Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms (HR Internal/OCHA/NOVIB Copies of reports available)
- Were the most vulnerable targeted?
- Were priorities met?
- Did women have control over the grant?
- Did political tension increase?

Figure 1. How Families Spent Their Cash





Lessons Learnt

- ❖ **Cash is cost effective:** ECRP overhead was 17%, versus an estimated 25-35% for other relief interventions
- ❖ **Financial Issues:** currency of payment and exchange rate
- ❖ **Coordination with other aid agencies:** on methodology and implementation of complementary interventions to maximize impact of the grant
- ❖ **Security during cash distribution:** should involve partner communities and money transfer companies
- ❖ **No blueprint for cash interventions:** These preconditions need to apply:
 - ❑ To be recognized as an appropriate intervention within assessment process
 - ❑ Conducive market conditions
 - ❑ Money transfer systems in place
 - ❑ Thorough risk analysis



Conclusion: Cash Relief in Perspective

- ✚ Integration into assessment process and streamlining cash as part of menu of options
- ✚ cash interventions within the emergency response cycle: when is cash relief or cash-for-work appropriate?
- ✚ Should one agency be mandated to do cash?
- ✚ Guidelines and framework on implementation of cash-based responses
- ✚ Review of our attitude towards our partner communities: **CASH WORKS!**





Final Thought:

“The fear of giving money is almost pathological among aid agencies, even though, or maybe because, it would be simpler and cheaper to give than any other form of help.”

Barry Sesnan, ‘The Case for Cash: Goma after the Nyirango Eruption’, *Humanitarian Exchange*, no. 28, November 2004.