

July 2024

COMMUNITY CENTER FOR CARE AND PEACE



FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

Third-Party Evaluation of Japan Platform-funded Project in Somalia

*"Emergency Food Assistance and Food-for-Work
(EFAFW) in Baidoa and Dusamareb, Somalia".*

Phase 2: Jul 17, 2023 - May 17, 2024

Funded by:



Implemented by:



Evaluated by:



EVALUATION SUMMARY

Evaluation Type	Third-Party Final (End-of-Project) Evaluation
Conducted By	MEAL Center (MC)
Donor	Japan Platform (JPF)
Country	Federal Republic of Somalia
Project to be Evaluated	EFAFW Project - Emergency Food Assistance and Food-for-Work to extremely vulnerable people in IDPs camps and local communities in Baidoa and Dusamareb, Somalia
Project Implementing Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACCEPT International • Somali Development Initiative (SODIN)
Evaluation Locations	2 cities; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baidoa. • Dusamareb.
Evaluation Purpose and Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a thorough assessment into the effectiveness and impact of the JPF-EFAFW project in the regions of Baidoa and Dusamareb, Somalia. • Scrutinize the strategies implemented by JPF's member organizations, with a focus on identifying both traditional and innovative approaches, including Cash for Food and Vocational Training programs. • Deliver actionable recommendations for Japanese NGOs, thereby enhancing the selection and implementation of projects that are closely aligned with the exigencies of the local context. • This evaluation will cover key aspects such as efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, beneficiary satisfaction, contributions to humanitarian plans, participation and accountability, sustainability, and lessons learned for implementing NGOs and JPF. • Emphasis will also be placed on recommendations concerning project design, stakeholder engagement, gender mainstreaming, behavior change communications, and program priorities for JPF, particularly focusing on the discussion of localization. • The evaluation will utilize the OECD/DAC Evaluation Criteria to assess project performance and the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) to evaluate the quality of interventions and accountability aspects.
Evaluation Methodology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Desk review for project related documents. b) Conducting key informant interviews (KIIs) and household beneficiary surveys. c) Conducting project staff interviews. d) Conducting Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). e) Field observation visits.
Evaluation Duration	April – July 2024

Table 1: Evaluation Summary

DISCLAIMER

This report was produced by the MEAL Center (MC) and commissioned by Japan Platform (JPF) for an external and independent third-party evaluation (TPE). The views expressed in this report are those of the MC and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of JPF.

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We trust that the findings and recommendations outlined in the evaluation will significantly enhance informed and responsive planning for future endeavors.

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ACCEPT	ACCEPT International
CHS	Core Humanitarian Standards
CU2	Children under 2 years of age
DCTs	Data Collection Tools
EFAFW	Emergency Food Assistance and Food-for-Work Project
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
FSNAU	Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit
HHs	Households
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IDPs	Internally displaced persons
IPC	Integrated Phase Classification
JPF	Japan Platform
JPY	Japanese Yen
Kg	Kilogram
KIIs	Key Informant interviews
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MC	MEAL Center
MUAC	Mid Upper Arm Circumference
MPCA	Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance
MEB	Minimum Expenditure Basket
NGO	Non-Government Organization
OECD-DAC	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development - Development Assistance Committee
PDM	Post-Distribution Monitoring
PLWs	Pregnant and Lactating Women
QC	Quality Control
SODIN	Somali Development Initiative
ToR	Terms of Reference
TPE	Third-Party Evaluation
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Country	Federal Republic of Somalia			
Program Name	JPF Food Security Sector Program			
Project Title	EFAFW Project - Emergency Food Assistance and Food-for-Work to extremely vulnerable people in IDPs camps and local communities in Baidoa and Dusamareb, Somalia			
Donor	Japan Platform (JPF)			
Implementing Partners	ACCEPT International in collaboration with Somali Development Initiative (SODIN)			
Project Locations	3 IDP camps in Baidoa or Baidoa: Jinaale, Bohol, Al baraka 3 IDP camps in Dusamareb or Dhusamreb: Ujooaan, Shabeel, Shalxad			
Project Budget	41,677,500 yen			
Project Duration	<u>Start Date</u>	17 th July 2023	<u>End Date</u>	17 th May 2024
Project Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide access to essential nutrition for new IDP households with infants, children under five, and pregnant and lactating women living in IDP camps, thereby sustaining their lives during critical times.• To enhance the resilience of vulnerable households in IDP camps and local communities through access to nutrition and engagement in Food-for-Work activities, ultimately strengthening their ability to maintain and improve their living conditions in the face of adversity.			
Number of Estimated Beneficiaries	<p>The total explicitly mentioned beneficiaries amount to approximately 2800 individuals, considering both the IDP households and the vulnerable individuals from IDP camps and local communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 400 IDP households (approximately 2400 individuals, assuming an average of 6 members per household) with infants, children under five, and pregnant and lactating women.• 400 vulnerable individuals from IDP camps and local communities are specifically mentioned, which likely refers to a distinct group of beneficiaries targeted by the project activities			
Project Targets	<p>The project targets two primary groups of beneficiaries within IDP camps and local communities in Baidoa and Dusamareb, Somalia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New IDP households with vulnerable members, including households that have newly arrived in IDP camps and consist of infants, children under five, and pregnant and lactating women. These beneficiaries are <u>specifically targeted due to their high vulnerability and critical nutritional needs</u> to sustain their lives.• Vulnerable individuals in IDP camps and local communities, including individuals who are often marginalized and impoverished within IDP camps and local communities. The project aims to address their <u>nutritional needs</u> and enhance their <u>resilience through food assistance</u> and <u>involvement in Food-for-Work initiatives</u>, which also aim to provide access to social services and opportunities related to health and nutrition.			
Action Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nutritional Support and Food Security• Food-for-Work.• Provision of advice of access to Social Services and Opportunities			

Table 2: Project Summary

The **main objective of the project** "Emergency Food Assistance and Food-for-Work to extremely vulnerable people in IDPs camps and local communities in Baidoa and Dusamareb, Somalia" was to improve the nutritional status and food security of vulnerable people in IDP camps/communities in Baidoa, Dusamareb, and Garmdoug, Somalia.

The purpose of this evaluation is to effectively capture information, verify activities, analyze data, and provide valuable recommendations that can be utilized in the implementation of similar projects. The outcomes of this evaluation will be used by JPF to inform decision-making and improve future project implementations.

MC used a mixed-method approach, utilizing quantitative and qualitative (structured and semi-structured survey questionnaires) tools such as observations, desk reviews, site visits, direct interviews with beneficiaries and project staff, community members, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs/Qualitative interviews). The data collection included gender, age, and location disaggregation. The total sample size was 260 individuals in addition to 28 participants in four FGDs and 8 KIIs. Data were collected through a group of electronic tools (forms) that are facilitated using electronic mobile devices (smartphones and tablets) and the forms were submitted to an online server during the field visits. The data came to one server from all field monitors once the mobile device found internet coverage. This enables the database specialist to provide feedback on data quality while monitors were still in the field. This helped correct mistakes or modify the sample if the data collected was not in line with what was planned.

Below is the main project information for phase 1 and phase 2:

Phase 1:

Outcome	Families with infants, children under 5 year's of age, and pregnant and lactating women living in IDPs camps in Garmdougou Province are able to provide adequate nutritional support for their immediate needs		
Overall business benefits (Overview)	<p>A month's supply of food was distributed to 443 household's with infants, children under five year's of age, and pregnant and lactating women in three IDPs camps (Arlaadi, Dawacoley, Ilbir) near dusamaleb in garmdoug province. This contributed to ensuring that they and their families had the nutrition they needed for their immediate lives. In addition, by sharing their issues and needs with local government agencies and cluster officials, we will be able to help the state, which has a large number of new internally displaced persons (Internally Displaced Person: IDP) due to the prolonged drought and intensifying conflicts with the so-called terrorist group al-Shabaab.</p> <p>The urgent need for support to protect the nutrition and health of especially vulnerable people and the need for medium-to long-term collaboration.</p>		
Output achievement and learning from it		Beneficiaries (who, how many)	
<p>A total of three IDPs camps were able to distribute one month's worth of food to a total of 443 vulnerable household's (including household's with infants and children under five year's old, and household's with pregnant and nursing women), exceeding the planned number. In addition, new due to a combination of factors</p> <p>In addition, we were able to understand the various issues facing people who have been forced to evacuate,</p> <p>Comprehensive and medium-to long-term, even in an emergency such as Somalia, where famine is now imminent</p> <p>I strongly felt the necessity and importance of conducting support activities based on a temporary perspective.</p>		<p>443 household's with infants, children under 5 year's of age, pregnant and nursing women (2658 employees)</p> <p><achievement> above plan</p>	
Status before commencement of business	As we set out at the start of the project Outcome	On outcome achievement Indicators and targets to be measured (confirmation methods)	Post-project performance (Results against the targets set at the start of the project)

<p>In garmdug province IDPs camping smell We need to evacuate again. Infants and children under 5 year's of age, pregnant women and nursing mothers Need a lactating woman Access to food aid Can't, malnutrition and The disease caused by it Be exposed to risks</p>	<p>Household's with infants, children under five, and expectant and lactating women in three IDPs camps (Arlaadi, Dawacoley, Ilbir) in garmdougou province are able to provide adequate nutritional support for their immediate needs.</p>	<p>1420 infants and children under 5 year's of age and 1160 pregnant and lactating women supported by 430 generations Eighty percent of 66 household's selected from a random sample of 2580 household's responded that they were able to consume the minimum amount of nutrition (signing the completion of receipt of the beneficiary on the list of beneficiaries at the time of distribution, and asking the beneficiaries after the project). Interview)</p>	<p>Supported household's with infants and children under five (168 households) and household's with pregnant and nursing women Of 66 household's randomly selected from a total of 443 household's (total of 2658 people) (275 households) 100% said they were getting the minimum nutrition <how to check> • Sign of completion of receipt by the beneficiaries on the list of beneficiaries at the time of food distribution • Responses to post-project interviews with beneficiaries (PDM)</p>
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<p><u>Status before commencement of business</u></p>	<p>Output targeted at the start of the project</p>	<p>Indicators and targets for measuring the degree of output achievement (confirmation methods)</p>	<p>Post-project performance (At the start of the project Actual results against the targets set</p>
<p>Household's with infants, children under 5 year's of age, and pregnant and nursing women are not able to secure the necessary food and nutrition.</p>	<p>Household's with infants, children under five, and pregnant and lactating women receive a month's worth of food support to ensure adequate nutrition</p>	<p>100% of the 430 household's (2580 people) with infants, children under 5 year's of age, expectant and lactating women eat \$60/household worth of food for a month He gets his food in two parts. <how to check> • Signing of completion of receipt by beneficiaries on the list of beneficiaries at the time of food distribution</p>	<p>100 per cent of the 443 household's (2658 people) with infants, children under five, and pregnant and lactating women received \$60 per household's worth of food for a month</p>
<p>Activities performed (Specific Statements)</p>	<p>After implementation Individual and secondary effects of</p>		<p>Positive external factors Negative external factors</p>
<p>Distribution of food to household's with infants, children under 5 year's of age, pregnant and nursing women ① Selection and listing of beneficiaries in target areas ② Procurement of foodstuffs ③ Distribution of food supplies ④ Implementation of real-time monitoring to check receipt status on food distribution days ⑤ PDM related to changes in food receipt and health-related conditions Implementation of the survey</p>	<p><effect> Ensuring that household's with particularly vulnerable people have adequate nutrition for their immediate needs <secondary effects> Shared with local stakeholders more comprehensive challenges and needs of vulnerable IDPs that are not supported by other agencies, leading to agreement on longer-term assistance delivery</p>		<p>Intensification of conflict in garmdug province Rapid increase in IDPs inflow (Arlaadi camping)</p>

Phase 2:










































Outcome	<p>1. Newly fledged IDPs families with infants, children under five and pregnant and lactating women living in six IDPs camps in Baidore Dusamalev are getting the nourishment they need to sustain their lives.</p> <p>2. Vulnerable household's in six IDPs camps/communities in Baidore Dusamalev are being nourished and resilient to sustain life</p>
Business Overview	In six IDPs camps/communities in Baidore, Somalia and Dusamalev, Garmdoug, food distribution support will be provided to newly fledged IDPs families with infants, children under five year's of age, pregnant and lactating women, and Food-for-Work will be provided to marginalized and needy IDPs and communities. Through such support, Japan aims to ensure that vulnerable people have the nutrition they need for their immediate livelihoods, and to maintain and strengthen their livelihoods by enjoying social services and opportunities.
Description of business (only outline)	
1. Newly fledged IDPs families with infants, children under five, and pregnant and lactating women will receive a month's supply of appropriate nutritional food, including rice, cooking oil, beans, powdered milk, and dates, for two months.	400 household's (2400 persons) with infants, children under five, expectant and nursing women newly fleeing to IDPs camps
2. Food-for-Work will be implemented for marginalized and impoverished IDPs and communities, and one month's worth of food will be distributed for two months to those who have worked on building multi-purpose community centres. It will also provide social services and opportunities related to health and nutrition through the multi-purpose community centers that have been built.	Vulnerable and marginalized 400 (400 households) in IDPs camps/communities

Current status (before commencement of business) In IDPs camps/communities in Baidore, Somalia and Dusamalev, Garmdoug, newly displaced families with infants and children under five, pregnant and lactating women, and marginalized and impoverished people are at risk of malnutrition and disease due to lack of access to food to sustain their immediate livelihoods, and are vulnerable to lack of social services/opportunities to strengthen their livelihoods.	Desired outcome Newly fledged IDPs families with infants, children under five, and expectant and nursing women living in six IDPs camps in Baidore Dusamalev are getting the nourishment they need to sustain their lives. Six IDPs camps/communities in Baidore Dusamalev have provided the marginalized and needy with life-sustaining nourishment and enhanced resilience	Indicators and Targets for Outcome Achievement (Confirmation Methods) At the end of the project, 80% of 120 household's (15% of the total) selected by random sampling from IDPs 400 household's with infants and children under 5 year's of age (total of 2400 people) and 400 vulnerable household's living in IDPs camps/communities (total of 2400 people) who received food distribution support and Food-for-Work answered that they were able to consume the minimum nutrients (signing that the beneficiaries had received the project at the time of distribution and interviewing the beneficiaries after the project). At the end of the project, 30 people/facilities who used the multipurpose community center responded that they were able to "get more services and opportunities in the local community related to maintaining and strengthening their own and their families' lives" (interviews with beneficiaries after the project)		
Current status (before commencement of business) 1. IDPs families with newly fledged infants, children under five year's of age, pregnant and lactating women in IDPs camps around Baidore, Southwest Somalia and Dusamaleb,	Desired output IDPs household's with infants, children under five, and pregnant and lactating women receive a month's worth of food aid to ensure adequate nutrition for two months.	Indicators and targets for measuring the degree of output achievement (confirmation methods) A total of 400 households (2400 persons)	Activities to achieve output Distribution of food supplies to household's with infants, children under five year's of age, pregnant and nursing women	Prerequisites Agreement on project implementation with the governments of southwest somalia and garumdugou

<p>Garmdoug are unable to secure food and nutrition.</p>		<p>with infants, children under 5 years of age, and pregnant and nursing women receive \$100/month of food for 2 months (signed by the beneficiaries in the beneficiaries list at the time of distribution) for 100%.</p>	<p>1-1. Selection and registration of beneficiaries 1-2. Nutrition screening and referral to medical facilities 1-3. Procurement of foodstuffs 1-4. Distribution of food supplies 1-5. Real-time monitoring 1-6. Implementation of the evaluation</p>	<p>Coordination with local government agencies, IDPs camp leaders, and community leaders Risk Fighting with al-shabaab intensifies in southwestern somalia and garmdug states, and the target area of the project becomes</p>
<p>2. Marginalized and impoverished IDPs and communities living in IDPs camps/communities around Baidore and Dusamalev in Garmdougou are not fully accessible to social services/opportunities to maintain and strengthen their livelihoods.</p>	<p>2. Marginalized and impoverished IDPs and local communities will receive one month's worth of food aid for two months, which will enable them to participate in Food-for-Work and support their families. In addition, health/nutrition social services/opportunities will be provided through the multi-purpose community centres that have been built.</p>	<p>2-1. Seventy percent of the total of 400 marginalized and impoverished IDPs and communities (400 households, not duplicated in component 1) continue to participate in the Food-for-Work and receive food equivalent to \$100 per household for two months. 2-2. A total of six multipurpose community centers will be built (photo of the facilities) 2-3. The multipurpose community center will be used by a total of 1000 people per facility per month, and awareness-raising events will be held once a week for two months (event minutes, list of attendees).</p>	<p>2. Food-for-Work for vulnerable IDPs and communities 2-1. Selection and registration of beneficiaries 2-2. Nutrition screening and referral to medical facilities 2-3. Construction of multi-purpose community centers and distribution of food 2-4. Opening of multi-purpose community centers and implementation of awareness-raising programs 2-5. Real-time monitoring 2-6. Implementation of the evaluation</p>	<p>the target of direct attacks and fighting. Droughts, al-shabaab threats. IDPs numbers will skyrocket.</p>

1. Findings and Analysis

The main findings are presented below in accordance with the evaluation questions that reflect OECD DAC criteria.

Evaluation Criteria	Rate	Icon
Relevance	4.56	
1.1 Situation Before the Intervention	5	
1.2 Situation During the Intervention	4.65	
1.3 Alignment of Project Objectives with Beneficiary Needs and Priorities	5	
1.4 Relevancy of Intervention in Addressing HHs Needs	3.5	
1.5 Relevancy of Constructed Multipurpose Community Centers	5	
1.6 Project Design, Planning and Implementation	4	
1.7 Leveraging Insights from Previous Projects to Enhance Project Design	4.5	
1.8 Participatory Approach in Project Design	4.8	
Effectiveness	4.73	
2.1 Effectiveness of Food Assistance on Improving Food Consumption	4.9	
2.2 Effectiveness of Food Assistance to Meet Essential Nutrition & Dietary Needs	4.8	
2.3 Effectiveness on well-being, resilience, & socio-economic conditions	4.9	
2.4 Satisfaction about Provided Food Assistance	4	
2.5 Quality of Distributed Food Items	4.5	
2.6 Outcome Challenges & Addressing Strategies	4.8	
2.7 Commitment to Do No Harm Principles	4.9	
2.8 Sensitive Approach for Vulnerable Groups During Implementation	4.9	
2.9 Compliance with CHSs on Accountability	4.8	
2.10 Complaints Feedback Mechanism	4.7	
2.11 Project Monitoring and Evaluation	4.8	
Efficiency	4.60	
3.1 Efficiency of the food assistance delivery	3.5	
3.2 Utilization of Local resources and expertise	4.8	
3.3 Mechanisms for Timely and Accurate Food Assistance Delivery	4.7	
3.4 Maximizing Value of Money for food assistance and construction of community centers	4.9	
3.5 Strategies Implemented for Ensuring Quality and Budget Allocation:	4.9	
3.6 Efficiency of Budget and Project Resources	4.8	
Coherence	4.72	
4.1 Coordination and Collaboration with FSAC and Partners	5	
4.2 Synergies and Coordination with Other Organizations & Food Cluster	4.2	
4.3 Coordination with Local Authorities and Stakeholders	5	
4.4 Integration of Feedback from Targeted Households and Community Representatives	4.7	
Sustainability	3.72	
5.1 Enhancing Self-Reliance: Project Impact on Nutritional Sustainability	3.2	
5.2 Sustainability of training to enhance knowledge& skills related to food security and nutrition	3.8	
5.3 Expectations for Sustaining Positive Impacts Post-Project Completion	3.4	
5.4 Sustainability of Multi-purpose Community Centers	5	
5.5 Measures for Long-Term Sustainability of Project Outcomes	3.9	
5.6 Anticipated Challenges in Sustaining Project Outcomes and Impacts	4.4	
5.7 Mechanisms for Continued Food and Nutrition Support	2	

Impact		4.35	!
6.1 Positive Changes in Food Security among Targeted Households during the project period		5	!
6.2 Impact of Multi-Purpose Community Center on Resilience and Living Conditions		4.7	!
6.3 Improvements in living conditions due to the project		4.7	!
6.4 Impact of the project on nutrition situation		2.85	!
6.5 Impact of Project on Peace and Social cohesion		4.5	!
Great	Good but could use some improvement	Attention is required	Could use a lot of improvement

Table 3: Summary Rate for Evaluation Criteria

1.1 Relevance

The situation before the intervention in the camp was dire, marked by widespread malnutrition, food insecurity, and health challenges. Families struggled to access an adequate food supply, often resorting to skipping meals or settling for less nutritious options due to limited food assistance. Children were particularly vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition. High food prices resulting from drought and conflict exacerbated the situation. The project intervention brought hope and improvement, providing essential food support and skills to enhance food security and nutrition for the community members. The project significantly alleviated the hardships faced by the residents, offering nutritious meals, improving energy levels, and addressing the long-standing hunger and malnutrition issues.

Both Component 1 and Component 2 shared the same distribution of food products to households: rice (10kg), cooking oil (3L), beans (10kg), powdered milk (2.5kg), dates (10kg), and sugar (10kg). Under Component 1, households received \$100 of food for a duration of 2 months. In Component 2, IDPs and communities participated in the Food-for-Work program and received the equivalent of \$100 worth of food for two months. The activities included beneficiary selection and registration, nutrition screening and referral to medical facilities, procurement of food supplies, distribution of food, real-time monitoring, and evaluation implementation.

Beneficiary households involved in the construction work received one month's supply if the construction progress reached 50%. An additional month's supply was provided upon the completion of all work processes.

During the project implementation, beneficiaries reported significant improvements in household nutrition, with 93% noting a reduction in food insecurity and malnutrition, particularly among children and Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLWs). Also, 37% mentioned heightened community awareness of nutrition-related issues, while 29% cited enhanced abilities to manage household living conditions amidst adversity. However, 92% of the interviewed beneficiaries reported that they or PLWs in their households received nutritional awareness beside the received food assistance.

The consistent food supply was reported to be led to increased daily meals, lower malnutrition rates, and expanded food choices, alleviating hunger and food insecurity. However, challenges persisted as some households found the provided food quantities insufficient for an entire month, leading to the need for costly supplementation. This could be attributed to short period of the project and the less number of distribution cycle of the food basket. For example, the project provided 100\$ for a household per month for two months. According to the recommended food basket by Joint Somalia

Cash Working Group (CWG) and Food Security Cluster (FSC), the food cash transfers should be provided for a minimum of 3 months to the same household in order to ensure a meaningful impact on households' food security and basic needs status ¹

Despite the reported improvements in nutrition situation, concerns regarding food sufficiency remained, emphasizing the importance of aligning the food assistance with the FSNAU's minimum requirements to ensure adequate support for beneficiaries. When asked the project staff about this, he noted that they knew from the PDM with beneficiaries that the food basket items were not sufficient. However, he reported that ACCEPT/SODIN couldn't add more food items since it was based on the project budget. This give indication that the project design was not based on comprehensive needs assessment or did not consider the scale of needs for the targeted households. Therefore, it recommended that correction actions to be taken by ACCEPT during the project intervention to address the sufficiency of the food items either through probing the reasons for the insufficiency or discuss with JPF.

Therefore, it is recommended to consider distributing the food basket according to the number of the household members or to increase its it according to the quantities specified by the food cluster. Additionally, it is recommended to increase the number of the distribution cycles in any future similar project to at least 3 months to the same household in order to ensure a meaningful impact on households' food security and basic needs as it is recommended by the Food Security Cluster.

The project objectives were strongly aligned with the needs and priorities of the targeted beneficiaries, primarily displaced individuals seeking medical assistance, food, and shelter in Dusamareb and Baidoa. The project focused on vulnerable groups like lactating mothers, pregnant women, and households with children under five, reflecting a clear understanding of beneficiary requirements. Collaborating with local government and community leaders, the project tailored assistance based on community input, utilizing food items like milk powder and dates deemed beneficial for children and mothers. Despite challenges in resource allocation, the project's alignment with local priorities, such as addressing food security and supporting social development, was evident. The collaboration with local authorities facilitated the identification and prioritization of beneficiaries, ensuring effective assistance allocation to those most in need.

Among the reported awareness topics reported by the project staff, is the hygiene practices, which includes the food hygiene. Regarding powdered milk, the project staff reported that clean water is monitored by the government, and which ensure that the households get clean water, noting that the households were trained by the ministry of health regarding using clean water in preparing foods, including powdered milk. However, it is commendable that ACCEPT has SOPs for the distribution of powdered milk to ensure safe utilization of milk by the targeted beneficiaries

The project demonstrated a high level of alignment with beneficiary needs, with 92% of interviewed beneficiaries finding it highly relevant and addressing specific marginalized groups' requirements. Alongside food assistance, 92% reported receiving nutritional awareness, benefiting from activities like nutrition screening and medical referrals in community centers. Based on the analysis of the findings, it seems that the project activities helped in improving the household nutrition, reducing malnutrition rates and enhancing overall well-being. Key changes reported by the respondents included reduced malnutrition, increased food security, improved diets, strengthened social networks, enhanced financial stability, and better health status among community members. These

¹ [Joint Somalia Cash Working Group and Food Security Cluster Technical Note, September 2022](#)

outcomes underscore the project's success in positively impacting nutrition, health, and community well-being, reflecting an effective intervention that meets critical needs and promotes development.

The multi-purpose community centers constructed as part of the project were unanimously deemed highly relevant by respondents, catering to diverse community needs and promoting inclusivity. These centers, acknowledged for addressing local priorities like healthcare and education, also enhance community resilience during emergencies and support collective decision-making processes. The Camps Coordinators highlighted the role of these centers in providing holistic support beyond food aid, contributing significantly to the overall well-being of the communities. Notably, 92% of beneficiaries received nutritional awareness in conjunction with food assistance, demonstrating the multifaceted impact of the project on community development.

In summary, the project demonstrated a strong alignment with the local needs and priorities of beneficiaries, effectively addressing issues of malnutrition, food insecurity, and health challenges in the targeted areas. Beneficiaries reported notable improvements in household nutrition and reduced food insecurity, indicating the project's success in meeting critical community needs and promoting well-being through initiatives like multi-purpose community centers.

1.2 Effectiveness

The effectiveness of food assistance in improving food consumption was overwhelmingly endorsed by beneficiaries, with 99.6% noting enhanced household food access post-assistance. Key figures included participants across four FGDs expressing gratitude for the aid, citing stability and relief from hunger worries. Notably, the provision of nutritious items was reported that it has boosted meal quality. Moreover, some of the community members noted that food for work component of the project not only addressed immediate hunger of the beneficiaries participated in the construction activities but also provided valuable skills and income opportunities, fostering self-sufficiency and cooperation between IDPs and host communities, who were involved in the food for work activities.

However, from the analysis of the findings it was not evident that the beneficiaries involved in the Food-for-Work components has used the reported skills they learned in engaging in any income generation activities. The short period of the project might be one of the constraints for the beneficiaries to master a skill and be able to utilize in earning some money beyond the project period

While lauded for its positive impacts, concerns were raised about long-term food security solutions and the sustainability of aid post-program conclusion. Camps coordinators emphasized the programs' role in improving health and nutritional status, enhancing purchasing power, and reducing community vulnerability and food scarcity, with respondents noting a significant increase in daily meals from once to potentially three times a day.

The effectiveness of food assistance on meeting essential nutrition and dietary needs was significant, with 97% of beneficiaries reporting that the aid helped fulfill these requirements for their families. Moreover, 78% noted substantial improvements in food security and nutrition status, leading to positive changes in dietary diversity, health, and well-being for 20% of respondents. The assistance also positively affected household income, as 79% stated that it improved their financial situation, enabling them to cover other basic needs and reduce reliance on negative coping strategies like selling assets or borrowing money. Participants highlighted that the project not only alleviated immediate food needs but also provided valuable skills and employment opportunities, fostering long-term financial stability and reducing dependency on external assistance.

The project has significantly enhanced the well-being, socio-economic conditions, and resilience of participating households, as reported by camps coordinators and the community committee. Beneficiaries have witnessed improvements in food security, increased income, better healthcare access, and enhanced community bonds, with notable positive changes in nutritional status, economic stability, and overall quality of life. The provision of nutritious food rations and livelihood support has notably benefited vulnerable groups like children and pregnant/breastfeeding women.

Moreover, a high satisfaction rate of 92% among beneficiaries and FGD participants underscores the effectiveness of the provided food assistance in meeting essential needs, improving well-being, and ensuring food security. While a small percentage expressed some level of dissatisfaction due to perceived inadequacy in duration or quantity, the majority praised the assistance as a vital and reliable source of nutritious support.

The quality of the distributed food items in the project received unanimous praise from interviewed beneficiaries, community members, and project staff, with all parties noting the excellent standard of the provided items. Staff emphasized adherence to high-quality standards in food selection and procurement, ensuring that the distributed items aligned with the project's principles. A thorough assessment confirmed the exceptional quality of the food items, further reinforcing the effectiveness of the project in delivering top-notch assistance to beneficiaries.

However, the project encountered various challenges that required strategic solutions. Delays in fund transfers from Japan to Somalia due to complex routing issues were initially problematic but were effectively addressed by rerouting funds through Kenya, streamlining the transfer process. Challenges in engaging and motivating participants in training programs prompted the exploration of alternative strategies, such as seeking external support from professional trainers and enhancing communication with beneficiaries. Also, issues like beneficiary preference for cash compensation over food, coordination difficulties between project stakeholders, insufficient food quantities for larger households, and transportation obstacles were identified and tackled through improved communication, clearer coordination, and proactive measures to ensure adequate support and smooth project operations.

The project was notably committed to upholding the safety and well-being of beneficiaries and workers throughout its food distribution and construction phases. Beneficiaries unanimously reported easy and secure access to distribution points, citing well-managed processes and safety measures such as trained staff, queueing systems, and police presence. The project's dedication to hygiene protocols, trained personnel, and close proximity of distribution sites to beneficiaries' residences further ensured the safety and reliability of the distribution process. Also, worker safety was prioritized through the provision of protective gear, thorough training, and the assignment of security officers, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to mitigating potential risks and harm.

A sensitive and inclusive approach was adopted towards vulnerable groups such as women, youth, and people with disabilities during project implementation. Gender, youth, and disability analyses informed tailored strategies, including separate distribution times for women, accessible distribution points, and specialized support for people with disabilities. The project's commitment to inclusivity extended to offering sign language support, assistance during distribution, and specialized rations for pregnant and breastfeeding women, ensuring that vulnerable populations had equitable access to assistance and support for improved livelihoods. The project's incorporation of targeted measures and a sensitive approach underscored its commitment to addressing the unique needs and perspectives of marginalized groups.

Striving for accountability, the project diligently adhered to the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) on accountability. Pre-distribution briefings emphasized respect for vulnerable individuals' rights, and a feedback mechanism allowed beneficiaries to voice concerns and provide suggestions. Despite challenges in setting up suggestion boxes, clear communication channels were established through partner organization contact numbers, promoting transparency and accountability throughout the project. At routine meetings with project staff, training sessions held before food distribution, guidance was provided on effective communication with women, children, and minority clan members during real-time monitoring and PDM, considering their specific backgrounds and experiences, a crucial aspect during monitoring process. Regarding their awareness about the channels to raise their complaints, 97% stated that they know who to contact if they have a complaint or comment about the staff or activities of SODIN, but they said that they have not complained to SODIN about a service or staff. The complaints feedback system facilitated the receipt of feedback from beneficiaries, primarily centered around food quantity adequacy, leading to adjustments based on household sizes to better meet beneficiaries' needs. Based on the finding, the project staff could address the aforementioned complaints of the beneficiaries and justify the context of the distributed food items.

Therefore, having a phone number of beneficiaries is deemed to be effective in enabling people to raise their complaints, while maintain the privacy of the complainant. However, it is still recommended to have complaint box at the project site to enable beneficiaries who do not have or lack access to phone to file their complaints in the complaints box. The complaints box should be opened regularly for example weekly or bi-weekly and report them to the concerned project staff to address these complaints.

Continuous monitoring and evaluation through regular reports from SODIN based on project progress and findings from the interviews of the 15% randomly selected beneficiaries in PDM enabled effective project management, decision-making, and impact assessment, ensuring alignment with project goals and facilitating necessary adjustments for enhanced effectiveness and success. Regular weekly meetings were held to discuss and address any issues affecting the budget and project activities. Problems were prioritized, with immediate attention given to urgent matters. Quick interventions were made as needed, even outside the scheduled meeting times, ensuring that critical issues were promptly addressed, and decisions were made in a timely manner.

1.3 Efficiency

The food assistance delivery efficiency was highly praised by beneficiaries, with 96% expressing satisfaction with the quantity and frequency of distributed food assistance and 86% confirming that the food packages were sufficient for a month for their families. Participants in FGDs highlighted the project's positive impact on access to nutritious and affordable food, leading to improved diets, increased food variety, and financial relief. They noted a shift towards nutrient-rich foods, eliminating the need to skip meals and enhancing overall food security. Also, the participants noted that the project was credited with fostering community development through the constructed community centers and resilience through skill-building for the beneficiaries involved in Food for Work activities. However, 14% of beneficiaries raised concerns about the insufficiency of the food packages, lasting only 10 to 20 days, emphasizing the importance of providing adequate support to ensure sustained access to nutritious food for the entire month and maximize the program's effectiveness.

As mentioned previously, ACCEPT/SODIN is recommended to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to build the design of the project budget on it in order to ensure that the volume of the

intervention match the scale of the needs for the targeted beneficiaries. Furthermore, conducting FGDs and/ survey with beneficiaries would be commendable to probe the reasons for the inadequacy of the distributed items.

The project effectively leveraged local resources, expertise, and networks to enhance efficiency and effectiveness, particularly through the successful implementation of the Food-for-Work program. Community members participated in construction projects in exchange for food items, with the initiative motivating swift project completion and fostering long-term benefits through construction skill training. The involvement of local authorities facilitated smooth distribution processes, ensuring safety and accessibility. Security officers were deployed to safeguard items, highlighting the project's commitment to utilizing and supporting local resources for successful outcomes.

Mechanisms for ensuring timely and accurate food assistance delivery were implemented, including registration checks to verify beneficiaries, communication through local authorities to disseminate distribution information, and well-organized distribution processes to streamline operations. While minor delays were addressed promptly, close coordination with suppliers helped mitigate potential disruptions, ensuring timely delivery of food assistance. These procedures underscore the project's commitment to efficient aid delivery and proactive management of challenges to meet beneficiaries' needs effectively.

Maximizing the value of funds for food assistance and community center construction was a key focus, with strategies emphasizing comprehensive supplier selection processes, approval procedures, and market appraisals to secure high-quality items at competitive prices. The logistics officer played a pivotal role in supplier selection and negotiation, aiming to obtain the best value for the budget and maximize impact for beneficiaries. By prioritizing cost-effectiveness and prudent resource allocation, the project demonstrated a commitment to optimizing the utilization of funds for sustainable aid delivery and community development initiatives.

The SODIN project staff emphasized stringent measures to ensure the quality of food items within budget constraints. Thorough quality checks were conducted, including market inspections and supplier visits, with a focus on maintaining high standards. When lower-quality beans were identified in Baidoa, distribution was postponed replacing them, highlighting the commitment to providing top-notch food items. Cost-saving measures were implemented without compromising quality, with a priority on ensuring that all items met high standards. Adherence to standard operating procedures aimed at cost-effectiveness and transparency, including obtaining multiple quotations to minimize costs while meeting quality criteria, despite challenges posed by local procurement dynamics in Somalia.

Regarding the efficiency of budget and project resources, SODIN minimized unnecessary staffing expenses by employing only two individuals per area for monitoring and distribution, providing incentive money instead of full-time employment. ACCEPT focused on paying the minimum necessary for essential services like food distribution, security, and transportation, engaging personnel on an as-needed basis to optimize budget efficiency and extend support to more beneficiaries. These measures from both SODIN and ACCEPT aimed to streamline resource allocation, reduce unnecessary costs, and concentrate efforts on activities directly contributing to the project's objectives, showcasing a commitment to maximizing the impact of allocated resources.

1.4 Coherence

Based on the interviews with the project staff, the project's alignment with food security and nutrition strategies in Somalia was highlighted through consultations with international NGOs like WFP and UNICEF before the implementation of the project, ensuring the suitability of distributed food items, with a focus on beneficiary preferences in terms of specific type of the preferred food items such as rice and sugar. The response plan prioritized lifesaving support for vulnerable populations, integrating feedback from agencies like UNDP to effectively target crisis areas in Dusamareb and Baidoa. The interviewed project staff confirmed that the project considered all the feedback from the aforementioned partners and incorporated in the design of the distributed food items.

In terms of synergies and coordination, the SODIN project collaborated with the Food Security Cluster and other organizations, receiving positive feedback for its food distribution activities. Despite challenges like potential overlaps or gaps in services due to the absence of ongoing projects by other organizations, coordination efforts were well-received. SODIN's distinct focus on food distribution, complementing services provided by organizations like WFP, created a comprehensive support system that effectively addressed beneficiaries' needs in the region.

The project showed strong coordination and collaboration with local authorities and stakeholders, ensuring alignment with broader policies and strategies related to nutrition, food security, and social development. Active engagement and shared responsibility among entities facilitated effective project implementation and supported local development objectives, showcasing a harmonious relationship and a strategic approach towards sustainable community well-being. Challenges in coordination were minimal, with positive interactions and support from various entities contributing to the successful project implementation in targeted areas.

Moreover, the project staff from SODIN integrated feedback from households and community representatives, demonstrating responsiveness to input and a willingness to adapt strategies based on feedback. Adjustments were made in response to concerns raised by the local government about repetitive food distribution to specific IDP camps, showcasing a flexible approach to address issues. Community centers provided various benefits and were handed over to the government to ensure the continuation of support for nutrition and awareness initiatives, reflecting a sustainable and community-focused engagement strategy.

1.5 Sustainability

The project has been well-received for its positive impact on enhancing self-reliance and nutritional sustainability among households. Participants of FGDs highlighted improved access to food, enhanced children's health, and decreased hospital visits as key outcomes. The food assistance and Food-for-Work initiatives were praised for empowering households with knowledge and skills to sustain their living conditions independently, fostering confidence and capability in providing nutritious meals.

Regarding the sustainability of training aimed at enhancing knowledge and skills related to food security and nutrition, a significant majority of beneficiaries (94%, n=165 out of 176) participating in the Food-for-Work component reported receiving extensive training and support from the project. Participants acknowledged the project's role in equipping them with essential knowledge and skills, enabling better food choices and understanding of nutrition. While some desired more structured skill development sessions, about five participants of one of the four FGDs expressed gaps in training and support, indicating a need for further enhancement in these areas. Despite varying experiences,

participants valued specific learnings from the project, such as identifying nutritious foods for children and proper cooking techniques, emphasizing the practical knowledge gained and its positive impact on their ability to provide nutritious meals for their families.

The expectations for sustaining the positive impacts of the project post-completion varied among participants of FGDs and community committees. While many expressed optimism and confidence in maintaining the positive changes through the acquired skills and knowledge, some raised concerns about the sustainability of the project's impacts due to limited food assistance received. Calls were made for continued support, particularly through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) centers, to acquire skills necessary for competing in the labor market and sustaining the project's achievements. Community committees emphasized the importance of ongoing implementation and management of food security programs, highlighting expectations for sustaining the constructed community centers to lead to lasting improvements in community well-being, resilience, and development. However, the project staff reported that they recruited professional staff to conduct the awareness sessions for the beneficiaries. However, it would be commendable to ensure having the awareness sessions conducted by trained community members through conducting training of trainers (ToTs) for the community members to ensure the sustainability of the project impact after the end of the project.

The construction of multi-purpose community centers has significantly contributed to community empowerment and resilience-building efforts within IDP camps and host communities. Interviewed community committee members noted various benefits, including fostering social cohesion and inclusion by providing a neutral gathering space for diverse community members. The centers have also served as centralized hubs for education, training, and social interaction, equipping community members with tools for emergency preparedness and response. Also, these centers have empowered local populations, promoted social unity, and enhanced community resilience through increased interaction and solidarity, essential for collective readiness to face future challenges.

The measures implemented by SODIN to ensure the long-term sustainability of project outcomes and benefits were comprehensive, with community centers offering services beyond food distribution, including safety training, medical checkups, and discussions on issues concerning internally displaced persons (IDPs). Specialized awareness programs targeted young women of reproductive age, focusing on hygiene practices and the correct use of sanitary products. The holistic strategy aimed at long-term sustainability also included financial awareness programs to encourage saving, training in basic skills for sustainable livelihoods, and active engagement of the local community in all project stages, emphasizing collaboration and ownership.

Plans and initiatives to enhance community capacity for sustaining food security and nutrition practices involved linking community centers to local authorities and beneficiaries. Monitoring continued post-handover to ensure ongoing use and effectiveness of the centers. Despite anticipated challenges such as policy changes by the current government potentially affecting project success, maintaining open communication with authorities and aligning activities with policies was identified as crucial. Anticipated challenges in community center sustainability and ownership were addressed through encouraging the community members to monitor the functionality of these centers to promptly resolve issues and ensure the centers continue to meet community needs effectively. During the time of the evaluation, the community centers were still functional. As reported by the project staff, efforts to enhance the sustainability of the community centers involved linking them with local authorities and beneficiaries to serve as resource hubs for engagement and training. The project staff reported that monitoring continued post-handover to ensure ongoing effectiveness, with persistent

training and capacity-building initiatives conducted to improve community skills and maintain center utility. Collaborative discussions with local organizations and authorities were conducted to bolster sustainability, and engagement was initiated with district and local authorities who expressed their willingness to support the community centers.

Efforts to secure continued access to food and nutrition support for beneficiary households post-project involved communication with organizations like the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for specialized nutritional supplements. Despite unsuccessful attempts at the time, the importance of contingency planning, collaboration with external partners, and exploring alternative strategies was underscored to ensure sustained access to essential food and nutrition support for vulnerable households in the absence of anticipated assistance. However, no outcomes were reported out of these communication, which emphasize the importance of coordination and collaboration with relevant clusters such as food security cluster along with the local authority to support these beneficiaries after the project period.

1.6 Impact

Beneficiaries expressed gratitude for the intervention, citing how it not only addressed immediate food insecurity but also strengthened social cohesion, improved health outcomes, and reduced stress associated with meeting basic needs. Moreover, beneficiaries highlighted how the initiative temporarily alleviated food insecurity, reduced stunting risks in children.

Regarding the impact of the multi-purpose community center, a significant portion of beneficiaries reported positive outcomes, such as increased access to essential services and facilities within the center as reported by 91% of the interviewed beneficiaries. The construction of these centers also fostered community cohesion and social interactions (35%), provided enhanced educational opportunities and skill-building programs (33%), expanded economic opportunities and livelihood options through activities like Food-for-Work (16%), and strengthened the community's resilience in facing challenges (14%). These figures underscore the multifaceted benefits brought about by the community centers, showcasing their role in enhancing community well-being, fostering social cohesion, and creating opportunities for growth and development among beneficiaries.

Although, the project was reported to have significantly improved the living conditions of beneficiaries, with 94% mentioning a positive improvement on their households' overall well-being and quality of life, particularly through improved nutrition, this improvement was only on the short-term, during the project period. Moreover, 36% reported that the project's assistance reduced hunger and malnutrition, while 23% stated that it increased their income and savings by reallocating funds previously spent on food to other basic needs. Also, 15% highlighted that besides enhancing nutrition, the project also improved social well-being and community engagement. The project interventions, as acknowledged by community committee members, camps coordinators, and participants of FGDs, have led to substantial enhancements in food security, nutrition, and general well-being within the community. Notable improvements include eradication of hunger for up to two months, increased food availability, better nutrition, particularly benefiting children, and enhanced economic stability for households.

The project's impact on nutrition practices has been profound, with 57% of beneficiaries noting positive changes in the nutritional status and feeding practices of infants and young children in their households or communities after their participation in the nutrition awareness session. These changes encompassed enhanced health, increased activity levels, better nutrition, improved feeding practices, increased food availability, reduced hunger and malnutrition, and heightened dietary diversity.

The project staff noted improvements in the health and nutritional status of children under 2 years of age, Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLWs), and IDPs following the provision of milk powder. However, it is critical to ensure that any distributed milk, particularly for young children, is appropriate for their age group. The use of milk products not specifically formulated for infants under 2 years can pose health risks and may lead to adverse health consequences.

While 43% did not observe noticeable changes in nutrition and feeding practices, recommendations include ensuring sustained and adequate provision of nutritional resources for extended support, prolonging project durations for lasting impacts, and enhancing nutrition awareness programs to maximize participant benefits and knowledge retention for sustained improvement. From the previous findings, it seems that the process of monitoring and evaluation during the project implementation, especially after carrying out the awareness session, was ineffective to inform ACCEPT about the outcome of the nutrition awareness on the beneficiaries in order to consider corrective measures for awareness raising to enhance the changes in nutrition and feeding practices. Therefore, it is recommended that the PDM should include surveys with households to assess their benefit from the activities. The findings of these surveys are supposed to inform the project management to take action to address the detected deficiency or lack of benefit and ensure more effectiveness of the project on the beneficiaries.

The project has had a significant impact on peace and social cohesion within the community, fostering positive shifts in community dynamics, relationships, and cooperation. Community Committee members highlighted improvements in community cohesion, problem-solving capabilities, and collaboration resulting from their involvement in the Food-for-Work project and the utilization of the multipurpose community center. The initiatives empowered marginalized groups, strengthened community bonds, and created a more interconnected and supportive environment where residents collectively worked towards common goals. Project activities, particularly the Food-for-Work program and the construction of the community center, enhanced social cohesion and trust between ex-militias and the broader community in Dusamareb and Baidoa districts. By providing tangible benefits and creating shared spaces for interaction, these initiatives encouraged collaboration, understanding, and respect among diverse groups, ultimately reducing tensions and fostering a more stable environment. Local committees were formed to address communal needs and maintain the community center, reflecting a stronger sense of ownership. Regular cultural and social events at the community center further enhanced social cohesion by facilitating diverse group interactions.

Regular interactions through project activities allowed individuals from diverse backgrounds to build personal relationships, fostering trust and strengthening social bonds over time. Involving vulnerable communities in decision-making processes empowered them and instilled a sense of ownership, leading to increased pride and collective efforts towards community improvement. The project's activities not only addressed practical needs like food security and infrastructure but also promoted reconciliation, social cohesion, and trust-building among diverse community groups, contributing to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Despite the absence of unintended negative impacts, the project elicited unforeseen positive outcomes such as improved relationships between IDPs and host communities, fostering solidarity, empathy, and cooperation, which enriched the overall success and harmony of the project.

1.7 Localization

The utilization of local resources and capacities has been instrumental in the successful implementation of projects carried out by ACCEPT, as noted by interviewed Community Committee members and Camp Coordinators. Local community leaders and authorities played indispensable roles in project operations, assisting in community engagement, mobilization, decision-making processes, and ensuring the security of both project staff and displaced individuals. Community Committee leaders were reported to be actively participated in needs assessments, project design, and collaboration with the implementation team to highlight the critical needs of their community like food insecurity and inadequate housing conditions of IDPs. They also facilitated smooth food distribution processes to ensure beneficiaries received assistance effectively.

Camps Coordinators were actively involved in project activities, raising awareness, aligning projects with local needs, managing logistics, coordinating food distribution, and identifying vulnerable individuals within the community. The project received high praise for considering and respecting local customs, traditions, and cultural practices related to food security and nutrition. KIIs confirmed that the project effectively integrated local customs and values, allowing individuals to engage in cultural practices without concerns about food shortages. This culturally sensitive approach, coupled with active engagement with local communities and leaders, ensured interventions aligned with cultural preferences and values, fostering a community-centric approach to addressing food security and nutritional needs.

The process of localization within projects led by ACCEPT or the SODIN effectively shifted leadership, decision-making, and implementation responsibilities to local actors. Thorough coordination with local authorities and government ministries regarding the beneficiary selection criteria, agreeing on the type and the location of the project activities along with the agreement on the quantity of the food basket distributed to the beneficiaries. It also included discussions with the Ministry of Finance and engagements with relevant ministries for licensing, ensured a seamless transition of responsibilities to local entities. The strategic development of local capacities for sustainability and community resilience through the establishment of community-based committees like the food assistance distribution committee and the community center management committee further solidified the project's long-term goals.

The collaboration between SODIN and ACCEPT in the project was marked by a clear division of roles and a cooperative approach. ACCEPT was responsible for formulating business content and plans, acquiring budgets, determining beneficiaries and project sites, and negotiating with stakeholders such as the federal government of Somalia and the government of Galmudug. They provided progress reports, implemented safety measures, and coordinated with stakeholders. SODIN executed the budget, managed project activities including procurement, distribution, and monitoring, and maintained close communication with ACCEPT and stakeholders. Regarding the development of the project, ACCEPT and SODIN worked together on the development of the project proposal. During the implementation, SODIN was more involved in the implementation of the project activities. Weekly online meetings and daily reports during the implementation process ensured transparency, alignment, and efficient decision-making, with joint review and approval mechanisms in place for budget execution, emphasizing shared responsibility and oversight for effective project coordination.

In terms of ACCEPT's expertise, technical capacity, and coordination skills, while no specific training sessions were reported, SODIN's extensive experience gained from previous collaborations with other partnerships of SODIN since 2011 enabled them to proficiently manage the project without formal capacity-building sessions. Regarding the partnership of SODIN with ACCEPT, it was reported that it

has started in 2021. Continuous and thorough communication between SODIN and ACCEPT through the reported weekly meeting ensured that project details were promptly addressed, with the ACCEPT project manager closely tracking progress and providing feedback to resolve any issues faced by SODIN. SODIN took the lead in on-the-ground operations, handling beneficiary identification, procurement, and distribution, while ACCEPT played a critical role in oversight and support to ensure adherence to project objectives and donor requirements. This collaborative effort between the two organizations facilitated successful project delivery, with SODIN focusing on practical execution and ACCEPT overseeing compliance, coordination, and alignment with project goals, highlighting a synergistic approach to achieving project success through effective collaboration and coordination.

In managing urgent issues within the project, a structured process was followed by ACCEPT and SODIN. When urgent changes, like timeline adjustments or critical issue resolutions, arose, ACCEPT consulted with donors such as JPF, providing detailed explanations and responses regarding the proposed modifications. After thorough discussions and gathering necessary information, ACCEPT presented these to the donors for review and confirmation. For more manageable adjustments, like extending deadlines or changing distribution schedules, ACCEPT and SODIN collaboratively evaluated the reasons for the changes, submitting detailed requests to donors for approval before implementation. Regular weekly meetings were instrumental in prioritizing and addressing issues affecting the project's budget and activities, with immediate attention given to urgent matters to ensure prompt resolution and timely decision-making both during and outside scheduled meeting times, showcasing a proactive approach to issue management.

ACCEPT's selection of SODIN as an implementing partner was based on a rigorous evaluation process that focused on qualifications and past experiences. Local candidates were assessed for their suitability through interviews that probed into their backgrounds in community development, peacebuilding, and working with vulnerable populations like IDPs. The selection criteria emphasized a track record in these areas to ensure that selected partners possessed the requisite skills and experience to effectively contribute to the project. SODIN's qualifications and connections were considered well-matched with the project's requirements, aligning closely with ACCEPT's goals and standards, indicating a strategic alignment in partner selection to enhance project success.

2. Conclusions

- While the distributed items provide some of the core food commodities, they do not fully align with the minimum food basket requirements as defined by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) in Somalia. The distributed basket appears to be missing key food groups and quantities to meet the basic caloric and nutritional needs of the targeted households. These gaps are significant because they can lead to malnutrition, stunting, and other health issues, especially for vulnerable groups like young children and pregnant/lactating women. A balanced, nutritious diet is critical in crisis settings to prevent these adverse outcomes.
- No involvement of food security and nutrition experts were reported by the interviewed project staff. This highlights a critical gap in the planning process. The lack of specialized expertise can lead to inadequate assessment of nutritional needs, suboptimal intervention strategies, and missed opportunities for addressing food security effectively. Future projects should ensure the early and active involvement of food security and nutrition experts to provide essential guidance, develop evidence-based solutions, and enhance the overall impact of the interventions. This approach will

improve the alignment of project activities with the specific needs of the target populations and increase the likelihood of achieving meaningful and sustainable outcomes.

- Among the reported awareness topics reported by the project staff, is the hygiene practices, which includes the food hygiene. Regarding powdered milk, the project staff reported that clean water is monitored by the government and which ensure that the households get clean water, noting that the households were trained by the ministry of health regarding using clean water in preparing foods, including powdered milk. However, it is commendable that ACCEPT has SOPs for the distribution of powdered milk to ensure safe utilization of milk by the targeted beneficiaries. Moreover, it is crucial to provide clear instructions on the preparation and use of powdered milk to avoid misuse and ensure it is consumed safely.
- The beneficiaries overwhelmingly reported that food assistance significantly alleviated food insecurity and malnutrition among children and Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLWs), with a majority citing improved awareness of nutrition-related issues and enhanced ability to maintain household living conditions. Despite these positive impacts, challenges persist in ensuring adequate and consistent food supplies, as highlighted by participants who expressed ongoing struggles to meet their families' nutritional needs even with assistance. Recommendations include providing food baskets in alignment with the minimum criteria established by the FSNAU to address these ongoing challenges and enhance food security for vulnerable populations.
- The construction of multi-purpose community centers has showcased their high relevance in meeting a variety of community needs. These centers, as highlighted by Camps Coordinators, serve as vital spaces for community gatherings, promoting inclusivity and bridging humanitarian and developmental efforts by addressing healthcare services and educational requirements. They play a crucial role in enhancing community resilience by functioning as emergency shelters during disasters, raising awareness, addressing community issues, and providing educational opportunities. Moreover, the centers' value lies in their capacity to amplify the impact of food assistance initiatives, acting as distribution hubs for essential supplies and hosting educational sessions that empower participants to optimize nutritional benefits.
- The finding demonstrates that food assistance project has improved household access to food, reduced hunger, and enhanced food security within the community during the project period. The provision of nutritious food rations and the opportunities provided through Food-for-Work initiatives were mentioned that it has not only addressed immediate food needs but also empowered individuals and strengthened community resilience. However, from the analysis of the findings it was not evident that the beneficiaries involved in the Food-for-Work components has used the reported skills they learned in engaging in any income generating activities. The short period of the project might be one of the constraints for the beneficiaries to master a skill and be able to utilize in earning some money beyond the project period
- ACCEPT and SODIN were acknowledged for implementing efficient measures to maximize cost-effectiveness for food assistance and community center construction. Through rigorous supplier selection, approval processes, market assessments, and negotiations, they aimed to procure high-quality items while obtaining the best value for money. These endeavors contributed to cost-efficiency and the successful delivery of aid to beneficiaries.
- The project activities have garnered overall positive feedback for enhancing households' self-reliance and sustainability in meeting nutritional needs, as emphasized by FGD participants and KIIs. The Food-for-Work initiatives were recognized for enabling households to access food, improve children's health, and acquire skills for long-term sustainability. While some participants expressed reservations, citing limitations in project assistance, the majority acknowledged the positive impacts on nutrition,

financial savings, community cohesion, and education in healthy eating practices provided by the project.

- The project has had a positive impact on the nutritional status and feeding practices of infants and young children, with a majority of beneficiaries reporting improvements in health, nutrition, and feeding practices. However, a significant proportion of beneficiaries did not notice any changes, highlighting the need for continued support and improvement.

3. Lessons Learnt

- The FGDs highlighted the importance of taking a comprehensive approach to address food insecurity. It is crucial to combine food assistance with opportunities for skill acquisition, income generation, and community integration. This multifaceted approach not only alleviates immediate hunger but also empowers individuals and communities to become more self-sufficient and resilient in the long run.
- A considerable percentage of the beneficiaries reported that the food basket was not sufficient to cover the food needs for the whole month. This suggests that the distributed food items should align with the quantities specified by the food security cluster to ensure covering the beneficiaries needs of food for the whole month.
- When asked the project staff about the sufficiency of the distributed food basket, they noted that they knew from the PDM with beneficiaries that the food basket items were not sufficient. However, he reported that ACCEPT/SODIN couldn't add more food items since it was based on the project budget. This give indication that the project design was not based on comprehensive needs assessment or did not consider the scale of needs for the targeted households. Therefore, it recommended that correction actions to be taken by ACCEPT during the project intervention to address the sufficiency of the food items either through probing the reasons for the insufficiency or discuss with JPF. Sharing the food basket with relatives of the beneficiaries could be one of the reasons for the inadequacy of the food items, therefore, from the corrective measures that are recommended to be take is to enhance the awareness of the beneficiaries to not share the food basket with other households to ensure their benefit from it.
- From the mentioned challenges during the implementation of the project, particularly the Food-for-Work activities is the beneficiaries' preference to receive cash instead of food. Therefore, the food cluster is Somalia recommended that the cash assistance is utilized in instances in which markets are determined safe, functional, well stocked with basic goods and physically accessible to all. Markets should be able to respond to changes in demand and maintain reasonable prices;
- The project staff noted that the food basket items were insufficient, but ACCEPT/SODIN could not add more items due to budget constraints. This suggests that either the project design was not based on an accurate needs assessment, or it did not fully account for the scale of needs. ACCEPT/SODIN should reassess the project design and budget to better address the needs of the targeted households.
- About 43% of participants did not report noticeable changes in nutrition and feeding practices. This suggests that while the provision of milk powder had positive impacts, the associated nutrition awareness programs and monitoring processes were not sufficiently effective in promoting lasting improvements in practices.
- It is critical to ensure that any distributed milk, particularly for young children, is appropriate for their age group. The use of milk products not specifically formulated for infants under 2 years can pose health risks and may lead to adverse health consequences.

- One key lesson learned from this project is the importance of comprehensive safety planning and proactive measures. By deploying police officers in all distribution sites, implementing queuing systems, providing protective equipment, and assigning security officers, the project effectively mitigated risks and ensured the safety of beneficiaries and workers. Having the security officers were recommended by the local authority to avoid any potential risks or attacks on the project distribution sites. This highlights the value of thorough risk assessment, strategic distribution site selection, and the implementation of appropriate safety protocols to create a secure environment. The project's emphasis on safety serves as an important lesson for future initiatives, emphasizing the need to prioritize the well-being of all stakeholders involved in similar humanitarian assistance projects.
- Multi-purpose community centers play a crucial role in promoting inclusivity and fostering the humanitarian-development nexus by bringing different groups together and addressing various community needs.
- The project staff highlighted the commitment to maintaining quality as a priority. Despite working within budget constraints, it is crucial to ensure that all food items and building materials meet high standards. This lesson learned supports the recommendation to prioritize quality and avoid compromising the impact of the project.
- The project has highlighted the importance of multi-purpose community centers in promoting community engagement, learning, and resilience-building efforts, emphasizing the significance of inclusivity and educational opportunities. Also, it underscores the value of sustainable facilities in strengthening social cohesion and unity among targeted communities, showcasing the long-term benefits of such initiatives beyond immediate assistance. After the project, the respondents reported that local committees were formed to address communal needs and maintain the community center, reflecting a stronger sense of ownership. Regular cultural and social events at the community center further enhanced social cohesion by facilitating diverse group interactions.
- While some of the respondents reported that the project enhanced the nutritional status and feeding practices of infants and young children for a majority of beneficiaries, the notable percentage that did not perceive any changes underscores the necessity for ongoing support and refinements to ensure sustained impact and reach all beneficiaries effectively. Additionally, increasing the quantities of the distributed food items is crucial to ensure covering the food needs for households for the whole month. MPCA could be a good alternative also to ensure beneficiaries covering their basic needs and invest in any livelihood activities
- It is crucial for SODIN to engage with diverse organizations, especially health and education service providers, to ensure the sustained utilization of these centers for delivering vital services to both IDPs and the host community.

4. Recommendations

The recommendations below apply to future projects, project staff, and JPF.

4.1 For Future Projects

If there is a next phase of the project in the same area or other areas of similar needs building on the great positive impact on and success achieved by this project, ***the following recommendations could be considered:***

- It is recommended that regular nutrition workshops be conducted, and educational materials be provided to empower beneficiaries with knowledge and skills for making informed dietary choices, fostering long-term health benefits within the community.
- Building on the positive impact of practical knowledge transfer highlighted by participants, it is recommended that future projects prioritize holistic training approaches and consider implementing cooking demonstration sessions. By focusing on essential skills like understanding nutritious food choices for children and proper cooking techniques, projects can empower households to provide healthy meals effectively. Integrating practical learning opportunities into training initiatives will ensure a comprehensive and sustainable impact on food security and nutrition outcomes in similar contexts.
- For future projects, it is advisable to integrate emergency livelihood assistance alongside the provision of vocational training in addition to the distribution of food baskets. This combined approach will more effectively address both immediate food security and nutrition needs, as well as support longer-term livelihood recovery. Incorporating emergency livelihood assistance can significantly enhance the overall impact of the intervention by not only meeting the immediate food needs but also by providing the tools and resources necessary for vulnerable households, particularly internally displaced persons (IDPs), to either resume or initiate productive livelihood activities. This dual-focus strategy will better support the affected communities in achieving sustainable self-reliance and economic stability.
- Given the challenges observed during the implementation of the project, especially regarding Food-for-Work activities, it is recommended that beneficiaries' preference for cash assistance be considered. The food cluster in Somalia suggests that cash assistance should be used when markets are assessed as safe, functional, well-stocked with basic goods, and physically accessible. Additionally, markets should be capable of responding to changes in demand and maintaining reasonable prices.
- It is recommended to extend the duration of nutrition assistance beyond two months to enable beneficiaries to experience more sustained benefits. This extension could lead to improved nutritional outcomes as individuals will have access to resources for a longer period, promoting better health and well-being among infants and young children.
- It is advised to prolong the project duration to allow participants to internalize and adopt new feeding practices and nutritional habits more effectively. Over an extended period, individuals are more likely to integrate these changes into their daily routines, leading to lasting improvements in health, nutrition, and overall well-being.
- To enhance the effectiveness of future interventions, it is recommended that Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) include comprehensive surveys with households to assess their benefit from the activities and gauge the effectiveness of nutrition awareness programs. These surveys should provide detailed insights into how beneficiaries are utilizing the nutritional resources and

implementing recommended practices. The findings should then be used to inform project management, allowing for timely corrective actions and adjustments to improve the impact of the intervention and ensure that nutrition awareness translates into meaningful changes in feeding practices.

- In future project, prior to distribution, it is recommended to confirm that all milk products provided, especially those intended for children under 2 years, are specifically formulated for their age group. Regularly review and update the criteria for milk products to ensure they meet the nutritional and health needs of the target population.
- It is suggested to implement robust monitoring and evaluation processes to assess the impact of the distributed milk on the health of children and other beneficiaries. This should include tracking health outcomes, and any adverse effects reported along with developing and using detailed monitoring tools to gather feedback from beneficiaries and healthcare providers. Regularly review data is commendable to ensure the milk products are effectively meeting the nutritional needs without causing harm.
- It is recommended to provide clear guidance and education to beneficiaries on the appropriate use of milk products, including the correct preparation and feeding practices for different age groups. This can be done through conducting training sessions and distributing informational materials to caregivers on the nutritional requirements for children under 2 years and the proper use of distributed milk products.
- In future projects, it is important to consider providing food assistance for a longer duration to ensure sustained support and address the beneficiaries' food security needs. Additionally future projects are recommended to increase the quantity of food assistance provided to meet the nutritional requirements of the beneficiaries adequately. This can help alleviate their concerns about the adequacy of the assistance and provide a more considerable impact on their overall well-being.
- Given the concerns regarding food sufficiency despite reported improvements in nutrition, it is crucial to align the food assistance with FSNAU's minimum requirements. This alignment will ensure that the support provided meets the actual needs of the beneficiaries.
- It is recommended to consider adjusting the food basket distribution to account for the number of household members. This adjustment should follow the quantities specified by the food cluster to ensure adequacy. Additionally, it is recommended to increase the number of the distribution cycles in any future similar project to at least 3 months to the same household in order to ensure a meaningful impact on households' food security and basic needs as it is recommended by the Food Security Cluster.
- To address the issue of food insufficiency potentially caused by beneficiaries sharing their food baskets with others, it is recommended to enhance awareness among beneficiaries about the importance of using the food basket solely for their household. This measure will help ensure that the intended support is utilized effectively.
- ACCEPT/SODIN is recommended to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to build the design of the project budget on it in order to ensure that the volume of the intervention match the scale of the needs for the targeted beneficiaries. Furthermore, conducting FGDs and/ survey with beneficiaries would be commendable to probe the reasons for the inadequacy of the distributed items.

- It is suggested to strengthen and diversify nutrition awareness initiatives to increase knowledge retention and behavioral change among beneficiaries. By offering comprehensive and engaging sessions on nutrition and feeding practices, participants are more likely to implement and sustain positive changes, ultimately leading to better health outcomes for infants and young children.
- It is recommended to include awareness-raising and promotion of breastfeeding alongside the distribution of milk powder and baby formula. This approach will not only address immediate nutritional needs but also support long-term health by promoting breastfeeding as the optimal solution for infant nutrition. By integrating educational initiatives on breastfeeding, we can enhance the overall nutritional situation for children. This combined strategy will ensure a more comprehensive approach to meeting both immediate and sustained dietary needs.
- For future projects, it is recommended to include additional specialized food kits designed specifically for pregnant and lactating women and for children under 2 years old. For pregnant and lactating women, consider kits such as “Maternal Nutrition Support Packs” which could include fortified cereals, iron and calcium supplements, and high-protein foods. For children under 2 years old, “Early Childhood Nutrition Kits” could be provided, containing age-appropriate fortified infant formula, nutritious pureed foods, and vitamin supplements. These targeted kits will address the unique nutritional needs of these vulnerable groups, improving maternal and child health outcomes and supporting overall developmental progress.
- It would be commendable to ensure having the awareness sessions conducted by trained community members through conducting training of trainers (ToTs) for the community members to ensure the sustainability of the project impact after the end of the project.

4.2 For ACCEPT/SODIN (Implementing Partners)

The following recommendations are for ACCEPT/SODIN to consider in the design and implementation of its further projects:

- It is recommended that for ACCEPT/SODIN, collaboration during the project development phase be strengthened. Ideally, the initial project idea should originate from the local partner and be supported by thorough needs assessments. This approach will ensure that the project is closely aligned with local needs and conditions, enhancing its relevance and effectiveness.
- It is recommended to involve a nutrition or food security expert during the design phase of future projects. Integrating this expertise from the outset will ensure that the project’s strategies and interventions are grounded in sound nutritional principles and effectively address food security concerns. The expert can provide valuable insights into the specific nutritional needs of target populations, help design evidence-based interventions, and contribute to the development of realistic and impactful project goals. Their involvement will enhance the project’s ability to develop comprehensive, context-specific solutions that optimize food security and nutrition outcomes.
- It is recommended that ACCEPT/SODIN Organization prioritizes sustained support and investment in multi-purpose community centers to ensure the ongoing provision of essential services beyond food aid. The type of infrastructure facility should be constructed based on the needs of the targeted community.
- It is recommended that ACCEPT Organization fosters partnerships with local organizations, and local authority, educational institutions, and healthcare providers to expand the range of services offered at the community centers to ensure the complementarity and the synergies of the constructed centers.

- It is recommended that ACCEPT Organization actively involves community members in the planning, implementation, and decision-making processes related to the community centers, ensuring their needs and priorities are considered.
- It is recommended that ACCEPT/SODIN Organization establishes robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact and effectiveness of the community centers in improving food security and overall community well-being. This can be achieved in collaboration with the local authority in the city level as they will be responsible for these centers after the completion of the project
- It is recommended that ACCEPT/SODIN conduct a comprehensive baseline survey to measure key food security and nutrition indicators, including the food consumption score, coping strategy index, and rates of malnutrition among children under 5 years and children under 2 years. Additionally, performing an endline assessment is crucial to evaluate improvements in these food security and nutrition-related indicators. This approach will provide a thorough understanding of the initial conditions and the effectiveness of the interventions, enabling informed adjustments and demonstrating the impact of the project on targeted outcomes.
- It is advisable for SODIN to develop a comprehensive exit strategy that delineates the transfer of responsibilities to local authorities for the sustained operation, maintenance, and potential rehabilitation of the community centers post-completion, aligning with the community empowerment and resilience-building efforts. This strategic planning will ensure a smooth transition of ownership and responsibilities, fostering community engagement and ownership over the centers, leading to their continued utilization and positive impact on social cohesion and resilience within the community
- It is advisable for SODIN to collaborate with various organizations, particularly health and education service providers, to maximize the utilization of the community centers for offering essential services such as healthcare and educational programs to both IDPs and the host community. By leveraging partnerships for service provision, the community centers will become hubs for holistic development, fostering social inclusion, education, and healthcare access, thereby strengthening community bonds and preparedness for future emergencies.
- It is recommended for SODIN to conduct training and capacity-building workshops for the community members to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge for effectively managing and maintaining the community centers in the long term. Empowering local authorities and community members through training will promote sustainability, as well as foster a sense of responsibility and pride in maintaining the centers, leading to sustained community cohesion and resilience.
- It recommended that correction actions to be taken by ACCEPT during the project intervention to address the sufficiency of the food items either through probing the reasons for the insufficiency or discuss with JPF. Sharing the food basket with relatives of the beneficiaries could be one of the reasons for the inadequacy of the food items, therefore, from the corrective measures that are recommended to be taken is to enhance the awareness of the beneficiaries to not share the food basket with other households to ensure their benefit from it.
- The project staff acknowledged that the food basket items were insufficient as per the Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) feedback. This indicates that either the project design was not based on a comprehensive needs assessment, or it did not fully account for the scale of needs. ACCEPT/SODIN is recommended to review the project's design and budget allocations to determine if adjustments can be made to better meet the needs of the targeted households. It is

recommended that ACCEPT/SODIN foster community engagement by establishing community committees or task forces responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations and upkeep of the facilities, encouraging a sense of ownership among community members.

- It is recommended to collect the demographic information of the beneficiaries during the registration process to know the size of the targeted family. This will help in reconsidering the amount they receive fit the scale of their needs and whether they eligible to receive another basket or to increase the quantities of their food basket.
- It is recommended to also to collect the information about the illiteracy of the beneficiaries to consider having a complaints box in the distribution points where there are people who can read and write to ensure that they can file their complaints in the box.
- It is recommended that ACCEPT/SODIN explore diverse opportunities for resource mobilization through partnerships with local businesses, NGOs, or governmental agencies to secure funding for the maintenance and future enhancements of the community centers.
- It is recommended for ACCEPT to consider in the design of the project distributing food items within the recommended food value by Food Security Cluster to ensure having reasonable impact on the households' food security and basic needs. This could help the targeted beneficiaries to cover their basic food needs for the whole month.
- Having a phone number of beneficiaries is deemed to be effective in enabling people to raise their complaints, while maintain the privacy of the complainant. However, it is still recommended to have complaint box at the project site to enable beneficiaries who do not have or lack access to phone to file their complaints in the complaints box. The complaints box should be opened regularly for example weekly or bi-weekly and report them to the concerned project staff to address these complaints.

4.3 For Japan Platform (Donor)

- It is recommended that JPF prioritizes sustained support and investment in multi-purpose community centers to ensure the ongoing provision of essential services beyond food aid in similar conflicting context. Adopting similar Food-for-Work activities can address the emergency needs of vulnerable households and sustain lasting benefits from the constructed facilities such as the multi-purpose community centers.
- It is recommended that efforts be made by JPF to encourage and support agricultural initiatives and home gardening projects among beneficiaries to enhance food self-sufficiency, increase fresh produce access, and improve overall food security in the community.
- It is recommended to consider supporting interventions in similar context with more distribution cycles to enable longer benefit of the beneficiaries from the project assistance to enhance their nutrition situation and achieve an impact in the health situation of children and PLWs.



Somalia faces a severe food crisis due to the worst drought in 40 years, rising food prices, and increased displacement amid conflict with al-Shabaab. Despite some humanitarian aid improvements since mid-2022, food insecurity remains critical. The JPF-EFAFW project, implemented in two phases, addresses urgent nutritional needs in IDP camps by providing food assistance, Food-for-Work programs, and building multi-purpose community centers. This dual approach aims to offer immediate relief and promote long-term resilience for vulnerable groups, particularly young children, and pregnant and lactating women

1. Context Background

The Federal Republic of Somalia in East Africa is facing a severe food crisis, driven by the worst drought in 40 years, sharp rises in food prices, and a rapid increase in IDPs amid ongoing fighting against the terrorist group al-Shabaab. In 2022, at least 43,000 people, half of them children under 5, died as a result of the drought.² However, humanitarian assistance has expanded since mid-2022, and the number of people facing "crisis-level" and "starvation-level" food insecurity has declined, particularly in Mogadishu and the southwestern Baidoa region. The drought situation is also gradually improving, with more rainfall expected during the rainy season starting in April 2023. Despite these improvements, access to food and nutrition remains a serious issue due to the multi-season droughts, high food prices, and fragile infrastructure. From April to June 2023, around 6.6 million people, mainly in central and southern Somalia, faced "acute food insecurity" or worse, with 1.9 million in "humanitarian crisis" and 40,400 in "hunger."³ The cumulative number of excess deaths could rival the 260,000 seen in 2011. Moreover, the prolonged drought, flooding, and worsening conflicts are expected to displace many more people, particularly in central Somalia, making it difficult for humanitarian aid to reach those in need.

The southwestern Somali state of Southwest State, including the Baidoa region, is one of the areas facing the highest risk of famine. Over 1.1 million people there are experiencing acute food insecurity, with some areas classified as in a "humanitarian crisis."⁴ Malnutrition rates among newly displaced IDPs in camps around Baidoa are extremely high, with over 93% lacking access to sufficient food and over 50% of children suffering from severe or moderate malnutrition⁵ (MUAC survey conducted in September 2022).

The central Galmudug state is also facing a dire situation, with over 915,000 people experiencing acute food insecurity. Humanitarian access is restricted in Al-Shabaab controlled areas, and the displaced populations in camps around the capital Dusamareb lack critical assistance. Nationwide, an estimated 2.2 million children under 5 and pregnant/lactating women require life-saving nutrition support⁶, in addition to the marginalized communities outside of IDP camps also facing extreme food shortages.

In response to the worsening security and humanitarian crisis in Somalia, humanitarian clusters are advocating for a "twin-track strategy" to simultaneously provide emergency food assistance and nutrition support while also strengthening livelihoods and resilience. The Food Security Cluster is pushing for urgent life-saving aid to address acute food insecurity and malnutrition, especially among vulnerable groups like displaced individuals, pregnant/lactating women, and children. At the same time, the Nutrition Cluster is emphasizing the need to assess nutritional status, ensure access to services, and promote healthy

² UNICEF, "New study finds that 43,000 "excess deaths" may have occurred in 2022 from the drought in Somalia" <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/new-study-finds-43000-excess-deaths-may-have-occurred-2022-drought-somalia>

³ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan 2023 (Issued February 2023), <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/1133/summary>

⁴ UNHCR, Drought Situation Response Update: East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes Region (Issued March 2023)

⁵ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Response Plan 2023 (Issued February 2023), p.21, <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/1133/summary>

⁶ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Need Overview Somalia 2023 (Issued February 2023), p.79

behaviors. Also, HRP2023 stresses the importance of bolstering population resilience through livelihoods support, service provision, social inclusion, and peace-building efforts to address the underlying drivers of the crisis. This comprehensive, dual approach of saving lives now while also building long-term resilience is seen as critical to effectively responding to Somalia's compounding challenges.

2. Intervention Overview

The JPF-EFAFW project to be evaluated, aims to address critical nutritional needs among the most vulnerable populations, including new IDP households with infants, children under five, and pregnant and lactating women living in six IDP camps. Implemented over a period of 245 days, from 17th July 2023 to 17th May 2024, the project focuses on delivering essential food assistance and engaging marginalized and impoverished community members in Food-for-Work initiatives. Through a combination of direct food distribution and the creation of multipurpose community centers, the project seeks not only to meet immediate nutritional needs but also to strengthen resilience and provide access to health and nutrition-related services, thereby aiming to have a sustainable impact on the well-being and self-reliance of the targeted communities.

EFAFW was implemented in two phases, each with distinct approaches tailored to the evolving needs of the IDP communities. Phase I, spanning 60 days from October 31, 2022, to December 29, 2022, focused on providing immediate relief to 443 households across three IDP camps in Dusamareb. With a budget of 5,000,000 yen, this phase primarily concentrated on distributing one month's worth of food to families with young children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.

Phase II, commencing on July 17, 2023, and extending for 245 days until March 17, 2024, provided more comprehensive and sustainable support. With a budget of 41,677,500 yen, this phase targeted 400 households across six IDP camps in Baidoa and Dusamareb. It provided two months' worth of food, implemented a Food-for-Work program for marginalized individuals, and facilitated the construction of six multi-purpose community centers. Moreover, recognizing local knowledge and context, it included the distribution of powdered milk and dates to households with infants, children under five year's of age, expectant and nursing women.

While both phases shared the objective of alleviating hunger and improving health outcomes, their distinct approaches reflected the evolving needs and circumstances of the IDP communities. Phase I provided immediate relief during a critical period, while **Phase II** aimed for a more long-term impact, empowering communities, and fostering self-sufficiency.

Both phases were implemented by ACCEPT in collaboration with SODIN, demonstrating the importance of partnerships in addressing humanitarian crises. Through their dedicated efforts, countless lives were touched, and hope was rekindled in the hearts of those most in need.

The desk review provides details of each phase, highlighting their successes, challenges, and lessons learned. It also provides recommendations for future interventions aimed at improving the lives of vulnerable populations in Somalia. Both phases shared a common goal to alleviate the suffering of extremely vulnerable individuals residing in IDP camps. However, their approaches differed in several key aspects.

Feature	Phase I	Phase II
Project Duration	60 days (Oct 31, 2022 - Dec 29, 2022)	245 days (Jul 17, 2023 - May 17, 2024)
Total Budget	5,000,000 yen	41,677,500 yen
Target Households	443 households across 3 IDP camps (Arlaadi, Dawacoley, Ilbir) in Dusamareb, the capital of Galmudug Province	400 households across 6 IDP camps Baidoa and Dusamareb
Food Assistance	One month's worth	Two months' worth
Objective	Provide food assistance to 430 households with infants, children under five years of age, and pregnant and lactating women who are particularly vulnerable due to malnutrition and illness. The food assistance was in the form of a one-month supply of food that provides adequate nutrition.	provide food distribution and Food-for-Work programs to 400 households in IDP camps with children under five and pregnant and lactating women who have newly fled due to drought or conflict. It also intends to improve the immediate food and nutritional accessibility of these families
Rationale	The situation is particularly severe in Garmudugou state, which is classified as a food "IPC Phase 4" by the Integrated Food Security Classification system. The number of IDPs in the state has been increasing due to the drought and the threat of Al-Shabaab, and many of them are living in IDP camps with inadequate access to food and healthcare.	The project rationale highlights the urgent need to address the severe food insecurity plaguing the IDP camps in Galmudug and Southwest states, Somalia. It provides immediate food assistance and lays the groundwork for long-term solutions that address the underlying causes of food insecurity and poverty within these communities. The project also addresses other critical needs, such as access to healthcare, education, and sanitation facilities, taking a comprehensive approach to support the displaced populations and build sustainable resilience.
Additional Activities	None	Food-for-Work program for multi-purpose community center construction
Medical Consultations	Yes	Yes
Powdered Milk and Dates	No	Yes
Multi-Purpose Community Centers	No	Construction of 6 centers
Implementing Organizations	ACCEPT International and Somali Development Initiative (SODIN)	ACCEPT International and Somali Development Initiative (SODIN)
Target Beneficiaries	Infants, children under 5, pregnant and lactating women	Infants, children under 5, pregnant and lactating women

Table 4: Comparison between project Phase I and Phase II

3. Status and Needs

The key issues and needs in the IDP camps in Baidoa and Dusamareb include the following:

Urgent Food Security:

- *Severe food insecurity:* The ongoing drought and conflict have caused severe food insecurity in the IDP camps, leaving families at risk of malnutrition and starvation.
- *Lack of food support:* Newly established camps are particularly lacking in food support, putting them at greater risk.
- *Vulnerable groups:* Households with young children and women are particularly vulnerable to malnutrition and disease and require nutritious food support.

Social Marginalization:

- *Minority groups:* IDPs belonging to minority clans and tribal minorities may be left behind by the host community's support and lack access to essential resources.
- *Women and children:* Many households are headed by women or children, putting them at increased risk of vulnerability.
- *Disabilities:* People with disabilities face additional challenges in accessing food and other resources.
- *Former al-Shabaab members:* These individuals and their families face negative perceptions from the local community and struggle to access social services and opportunities, including food.

Livelihoods Support:

- *Lack of income:* Many IDPs and vulnerable individuals in the surrounding areas lack income sources due to drought, conflict, and displacement.
- *Need for sustainable livelihoods:* There is a need for interventions that support and strengthen livelihoods for long-term sustainability.

Security Concerns:

- *Ongoing conflict:* The region is a frontline area of conflict with al-Shabaab, posing security risks for IDPs and local communities.
- *Negative perceptions of former al-Shabaab members:* This can lead to social exclusion and hamper their reintegration into society.



The project “Emergency Food Assistance and Food-for-Work to extremely vulnerable people in IDPs camps and local communities in Baidoa and Dusamareb, Somalia”, funded by Japan Platform (JPF) and implemented by ACCEPT in collaboration with Somali Development Initiative (SODIN). It aims improve the nutritional status and food security of vulnerable people in IDP camps/communities in Baidoa, Dusamareb, Somalia. This project provided essential support to households to provide access to essential nutrition for new IDP households with infants, children under five, and pregnant and lactating women living in IDP camps, sustaining their lives during critical times and enhancing the resilience of vulnerable households in IDP camps and local communities through access to nutrition and engagement in Food-for-Work activities. This ultimately strengthens their ability to maintain and improve their living conditions in the face of adversity. The evaluation, conducted by MEAL Center, thoroughly assessed the project’s impact, adherence to humanitarian standards, and beneficiary satisfaction. It evaluated the effectiveness of direct food assistance and Food-for-Work, offering valuable insights and recommendations to enhance future interventions. The findings aim to improve project design, implementation strategies, and organizational capacity, ensuring more effective and sustainable support for vulnerable communities in Somalia.

1. Background of the Evaluated Project

The table below shows the EFAFW Project in Baidoa, and Dusamareb, in Somalia funded by JPF and implemented by ACCEPT and SODIN.

Project Summary				
Country	Federal Republic of Somalia			
Program Name	JPF Food Security Sector Program			
Project Title	EFAFW Project - Emergency Food Assistance and Food-for-Work to extremely vulnerable people in IDPs camps and local communities in Baidoa and Dusamareb, Somalia			
Donor	Japan Platform (JPF)			
Implementing Partners	ACCEPT International in collaboration with Somali Development Initiative (SODIN)			
Project Locations	3 IDP camps in Baidoa or Baidoa: Jinaale, Bohol, Al baraka 3 IDP camps in Dusamareb or Dhusamrebe: Ujooaan, Shabeel, Shalxad			
Project Budget	41,677,500 yen			
Project Duration	<u>Start Date</u>	17 th July 2023	<u>End Date</u>	17 th May 2024
Project Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide access to essential nutrition for new IDP households with infants, children under five, and pregnant and lactating women living in IDP camps, thereby sustaining their lives during critical times. To enhance the resilience of vulnerable households in IDP camps and local communities through access to nutrition and engagement in Food-for-Work activities, ultimately strengthening their ability to maintain and improve their living conditions in the face of adversity. 			

<p>Number of Estimated Beneficiaries</p>	<p>The total explicitly mentioned beneficiaries amount to approximately 2800 individuals, considering both the IDP households and the vulnerable individuals from IDP camps and local communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 400 IDP households (approximately 2400 individuals, assuming an average of 6 members per household) with infants, children under five, and pregnant and lactating women. • 400 vulnerable individuals from IDP camps and local communities are specifically mentioned, which likely refers to a distinct group of beneficiaries targeted by the project activities
<p>Project Targets</p>	<p>The project targets two primary groups of beneficiaries within IDP camps and local communities in Baidoa and Dusamareb, Somalia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New IDP households with vulnerable members, including households that have newly arrived in IDP camps and consist of infants, children under five, and pregnant and lactating women. These beneficiaries are <u>specifically targeted due to their high vulnerability and critical nutritional needs</u> to sustain their lives. • Vulnerable individuals in IDP camps and local communities, including individuals who are often marginalized and impoverished within IDP camps and local communities. The project aims to address their <u>nutritional needs</u> and enhance their <u>resilience through food assistance</u> and <u>involvement in Food-for-Work initiatives</u>, which also aim to provide access to social services and opportunities related to health and nutrition.
<p>Action Focus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutritional Support and Food Security • Enhancing Resilience • Food-for-Work, Vocational Training that is combined with Food Distribution. • Provision of advice of access to Social Services and Opportunities

Table 5: Project Summary

1.1 Project Activities

The project activities of phase 1 included distribution of food to households with infants, children under 5 years of age, pregnant and nursing women. Below are the details of **phase 1 project activities**:

- Selection and listing of beneficiaries in target areas
- Procurement of foodstuffs
- Distribution of food supplies
- Implementation of real-time monitoring to check receipt status on food distribution days
- PDM related to changes in food receipt and health-related conditions
- Implementation of the survey

In Phase 2 the project activities included **Component 1: food for IDPs households with infants, children under 5 years of age, expectant and lactating women Distribution of supplies**

- Selection and registration of beneficiaries
- Nutritional status screening Referral to a health care facility
- Determination and procurement of food products
- Distribution of food supplies
- Real-time monitoring
- Implementation of the evaluation

Component 2: Food-for-Work for vulnerable IDPs and communities

- Selection and registration of beneficiaries
- Nutritional status screening Referral to a health care facility
- Construction of Multipurpose community center -and distribution of food
- Multipurpose community center: Opening up and implementing awareness-raising programs

1.2 Project Objectives

Main goal of the project is to improve the nutritional status and food security of vulnerable people in IDP camps/communities in Baidoa, Dusamareb, in, Somalia. *The project specifically aimed to:*

- To provide access to essential nutrition for new IDP households with infants, children under five, and pregnant and lactating women living in IDP camps, thereby sustaining their lives during critical times.
- To enhance the resilience of vulnerable households in IDP camps and local communities through access to nutrition and engagement in Food-for-Work activities, ultimately strengthening their ability to maintain and improve their living conditions in the face of adversity.

1.3 Project Outcomes

Phase 1: Families with infants, children under 5 years of age, and pregnant and lactating women living in IDPs camps in Garmdougou Province are able to provide adequate nutritional support for their immediate needs.

Phase 2:

- Newly fledged IDPs families with infants, children under five, and expectant and nursing women living in six IDPs camps in Baidoa and Dusamareb are getting the nourishment they need to sustain their lives.
- Six IDPs camps/communities in in Baidoa and Dusamareb have provided the marginalized and needy with life-sustaining nourishment and enhanced resilience

1.4 Project Outputs

Phase 1: Households with infants, children under five, and pregnant and lactating women receive a month's worth of food support to ensure adequate nutrition

Phase 2:

- IDPs household with an infant, child under five, or a pregnant or lactating woman receives a month's worth of adequate food support for two months
- Marginalized and impoverished IDPs and local communities will receive one month's worth of food aid for two months, which will enable them to participate in Food-for-Work and provide for their families. They will also be able to enjoy health/nutrition social services/opportunities through the multi-purpose community centers that have been built.

2. Purpose of the Evaluation



The purpose of this evaluation is to conduct a thorough assessment into the effectiveness and impact of the JPF-EFAFW project in the regions of Baidoa and Dusamareb, Somalia. This evaluation is designed to scrutinize the strategies implemented by JPF's member organizations, with a focus on identifying both traditional and innovative approaches, including Cash for Food and resilience-enhancement programs.

Our goal is to deliver actionable recommendations for Japanese NGOs, thereby enhancing the selection and implementation of projects that are closely aligned with the exigencies of the local context. This evaluation will cover key aspects such as efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, beneficiary satisfaction, contributions to humanitarian plans, participation and accountability, sustainability, and lessons learned for implementing NGOs and JPF.

Emphasis will also be placed on recommendations concerning project design, stakeholder engagement, gender mainstreaming, behavior change communications, and program priorities for JPF, particularly focusing on the discussion of localization. The evaluation will utilize the OECD/DAC Evaluation Criteria to assess project performance and the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) to evaluate the quality of interventions and accountability aspects.

3. Scope of the Evaluation

- Conduct the output to review, validating the efficient delivery of intended outputs and ascertaining if and how they led to the intended outcome as per the purpose statement (in line with OECD DAC criteria of efficiency, effectiveness, and coherence).
 - To what extent has the project contributed to strengthen resilience of the beneficiaries through access to the nutrition they need.
- Assess the level of satisfaction of beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender) with the changes brought by the project. Seek feedback from relevant stakeholders on the project interventions (in line with OECD DAC criteria of effectiveness).
- Assess the contributions of the project to the countries Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) objectives and goals (in line with OECD DAC criteria of impact and relevance).
- Assess the level of participation of, and accountability to the crisis affected people, particularly vulnerable individuals including women, in the project related decision making and assess how effectively the project strengthened the key local actors.
- Financial efficiency evaluation of these projects including but not limited to the basis mentioned below.
 - Analyzing the overspent/underspent budget lines and reason behind them
 - Analyzing the rationale behind the number of overall staff, technical staff and managerial staff against the activities, tasks and produced output/outcome.
 - Analyzing the budget lines versus the project activities, outputs and outcomes.
 - Analyzing the efficiency of the equipment, material and trainings provided versus the funds allocated.
- Draw lessons learnt from the evaluation for the implementing NGO, JPF and other JPF member agencies active.

- a. Recommendations for the implementing NGO on the project design, implementation modality and stakeholder engagement.
 - b. Recommendations for the member NGO on the project implementation that includes needs assessment, designing, selection of local partner organization, capacity assessment and development of implementing partner, coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of implementing partner's activities.
 - c. Replicable lessons learnt on gender equity, awareness raising, inter-sectoral programming that are of broader relevance beyond this project.
 - d. Recommendations for JPF on the program priorities
 - e. Areas for further discussion between JPF and its member agencies on the localization agenda and humanitarian-development nexus
7. Technical Capacity and Expertise Review
- a. Considering the sector that the member NGOs are working on, do they need any technical capacity or technical expert on board or external to support the local implementing partner / project implementation?
 - b. What technical capacity and expertise that the member NGO / implementing partner has? (Internal – External)
 - c. From the perspective of the local implementing NGO / local staff, what is the technical capacity or expertise support that they have received during the project implementation from the member NGO?
 - d. What would be the areas that the member NGO should have technical capacity or expertise to ensure quality and improvement of the project activities?
 - e. Assess the active involvement and support of JPF member NGO staff in field research, needs analysis, monitoring, and information gathering.
8. Partnership and Management Modality Review
- a. Considering the different types of partnerships modalities, what is the approach of member NGOs?
 - b. What are the areas for improvement considering from the selection of partners, due diligence checks, risk transfers to capacity building of local partners?
 - c. Considering the limited access of the member NGO staff to Somalia, what are the best practices to ensure good checks and balances and quality outcome of the activities?
 - d. Assessing the MEAL system and practices applied by the member NGO for quality assurance as well as ensuring feedback and complain mechanisms are in place.

The targeted project locations to be assessed by this evaluation are:

Regions	States	Cities	Locations
Bay	South West	Baydoor/Baidoa	3 IDP camps; Jinaale, Bohol, and Al baraka
Galgaduud	Galmudug	Dusamaleb/Dhusamreb	3 IDP camps; Ujoraan, Shabeel, and Shalxad

Table 6: Targeted locations in evaluation of EFAFW Project

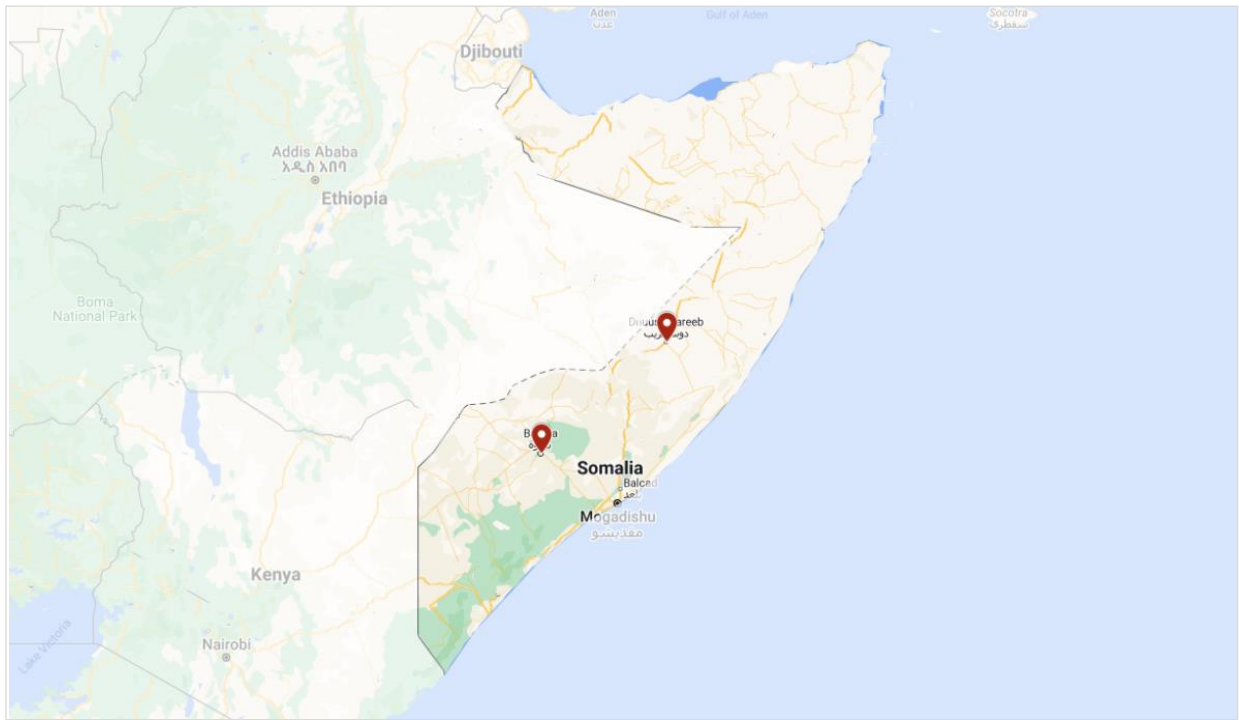


Figure 1: Map of the targeted location by the project

4. Evaluation Objectives

The objective of this evaluation is to ensure the effectiveness and success of humanitarian projects, evaluation activities play a critical role. These activities serve several key objectives, including:

Assessment of Effectiveness and Impact:

- Undertaking a comprehensive output-to-purpose review to validate the efficiency in delivering intended outputs and their contribution towards achieving the anticipated outcomes, adhering to the OECD DAC criteria of efficiency, effectiveness, and coherence.



Beneficiary Satisfaction and Stakeholder Feedback:

- Measuring the level of satisfaction among beneficiaries, disaggregated by gender, regarding the project's impact.
- Gathering feedback from relevant stakeholders on the project's interventions, consistent with the OECD DAC criteria of effectiveness.



Contribution to Humanitarian Response Goals:

- Evaluating the project's contribution towards the objectives outlined in the Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan and JPF's programmatic goals, with an emphasis on impact and relevance.



Participation, Accountability, and Local Ownership:

- Assessing the degree of participation and accountability to crisis-affected populations, particularly focusing on vulnerable groups and women, in project related decision-making processes.



- Evaluating the project's effectiveness in enhancing local actors' sense of ownership, capacities, and systems, in line with CHS Commitment 4 and Localization principles.

Sustainability of Interventions:

- Analyzing the likelihood of the sustainability of project interventions, especially the durability of knowledge and skills acquired through the program, based on the OECD DAC criteria of sustainability.



Lessons Learned and Recommendations

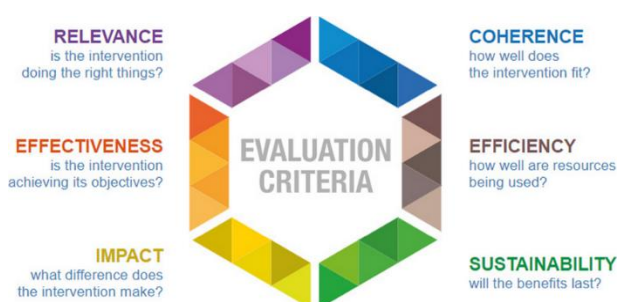
Draw lessons from the evaluation for the implementing NGO, JPF, and other JPF member agencies:



- Provide recommendations for the implementing NGO on project design, implementation modalities, and stakeholder engagement.
- Offer recommendations for member NGOs on project implementation, including needs assessment, local partner selection, capacity assessment, and coordination.
- Identify replicable lessons on gender mainstreaming, behavior change communications, and intersectoral programming.
- Provide recommendations for JPF on program priorities.
- Highlight areas for further discussion between JPF and its member agencies on localization.

5. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation is guided by the Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development - Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC) criteria. The evaluation utilized the OECD/DAC Evaluation Criteria to assess project performance and the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) to evaluate the quality of interventions and accountability aspects.



The CHS and OECD-DAC criteria for evaluating the project include:

- **Relevance:** The alignment of the project with the immediate and strategic needs of the target populations in Somalia.
- **Coherence:** The project's compatibility with other initiatives, adherence to humanitarian principles, and the incorporation of synergies with JPF's strategies and activities.
- **Efficiency:** The cost-effectiveness and timeliness of the project's execution and resource allocation.
- **Effectiveness:** The achievement of project goals and the degree to which it meets the needs of the beneficiaries.
- **Impact:** The broader effects of the project on the target populations, both positive and negative.
- **Sustainability:** The durability of the project's benefits beyond the period of direct support, encompassing financial, social, environmental, and economic dimensions.

In addition to the above criteria, the evaluation will also address the following aspects:

- **Beneficiary satisfaction:** Assessing satisfaction levels among beneficiaries, with a focus on gender disaggregation and feedback from stakeholders.
- **Contributions to HRP and program goals:** Evaluating the project's impact on improving living standards, resilience, and timely assistance as outlined in the HRP.
- **Participation and accountability:** Assessing the involvement of crisis-affected individuals, especially vulnerable groups, in decision-making processes and evaluating the project's contribution to local ownership and capacity building.
- **Lessons learned and recommendations:** Identifying key lessons for the implementing NGOs and JPF member agencies, providing recommendations on project design, stakeholder engagement, and improvements in various areas. Sharing replicable lessons on gender mainstreaming, behavior change, and intersectoral programming. Recommending program priorities for JPF and highlighting areas for further discussion on localization and the humanitarian-development nexus.



EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The evaluation team used a mixed-method methodology, utilizing quantitative and qualitative (structured and semi-structured survey questionnaires) tools such as observations, desk reviews, site visits, direct interviews with beneficiaries and staff at the project sites/locations, community members, key informants (KIs), and FGDs (FGDs/ Qualitative interviews).

1. Study Design

The evaluation employed quantitative and qualitative participatory methods. The data collection included gender, age, and location disaggregation and reached all the beneficiaries targeted by the project.

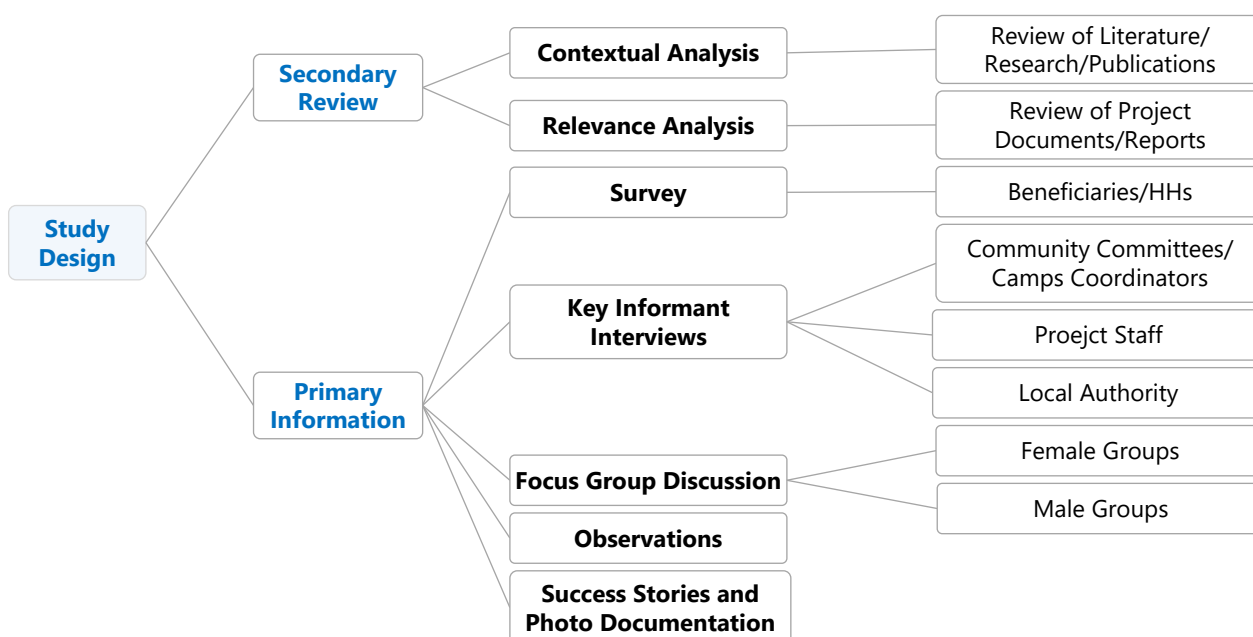


Figure 2: Evaluation Design

2. Evaluation Sample

The total beneficiaries of the “Emergency Food Assistance and Food-for-Work to extremely vulnerable people in IDPs camps and local communities in Baidoa and Dusamareb, Somalia” project is 400 households with infants, children under five and pregnant and lactating women who have newly fled to IDPs camps and 400 HHs beneficiaries from Food-for-Work. The sample size calculation used here assumes the project beneficiaries’ size is 800 household (HH) beneficiaries (400 HHs beneficiaries from direct food assistance and 400 HHs beneficiaries from Food-for-Work). It accepts a 5% margin of error and accepts a 95% confidence level (an alpha of 0.05). Based on the calculation of the sample size, the sample of this evaluation is **260** beneficiaries and the sample selection was from the beneficiaries of phase 2.

The balanced number of participants in the quantitative and qualitative interviews is meant to obtain enough details for evaluators to pass a value judgment about the project and evaluate the project effectiveness and impact on the beneficiaries. MC selected a representative sample of all the projects Components and locations.

Below is the targeted sample (**household surveys, FGDs** and **KIIs**).

Stakeholders and Beneficiaries	Baidoa	Dusamareb	Total
Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)			
Community committees and community leaders	2	2	4
Camps coordinators	2	2	4
Interviews with government officials (local authority in the targeted areas)	1	1	2
Sub-Total (KIIs)			10
Project Staff			
Project officers & assistants (SODIN)	2		2
Project Management & Coordinators (ACCEPT)	2		2
FGDs (FGDs)			
Beneficiaries (FGDs)	2 (1 male & 1 female)	2 (1 male & 1 female)	4
Sub-Total FGDs	<i>2*8 participants =16</i>	<i>2*8 participants =16</i>	32 participants
Beneficiaries' interviews			
Beneficiaries	130	130	260
Sub-Total beneficiaries (including FGDs participants)			292
Grand Total interviews			306

Table 7: Distribution of Qualitative and Quantitative Survey Samples

3. Evaluation Activities

The evaluation activities included:

- Desk review of the implementing partner’s project documents
- Beneficiary surveys to verify that HHs received the proposed service or input.
- Key indicators as defined in the proposal.
- Project Site visits and verification of project activities.
- In-depth interviews with beneficiaries.
- Key Informant in-depth Interview with stakeholders.
- Project Staff in-depth interviews with project staff to assess ACCEPT and SODIN contributions and responsibilities in managing program cycle
- FGDs (Qualitative interviews).
- Country and sector context analysis.



4. Evaluation Tools and Field Work

The evaluation tools were developed for the HH Survey, FGD and KII tools. The fieldwork for the EFAFW project was conducted across the two cities of Baidoa and Dusamareb, with specific start and end dates to ensure a streamlined process. In Baidoa, the team commenced their data collection on June 7th and concluded on June 11th. Meanwhile, the team in Dusamareb started a day earlier, on June 6th, and also finished on June 11th. It is important to note that the enumerators worked 8 hours daily, and some off time was designated to allow the teams to rest and prepare for the subsequent day of data collection. This schedule helped in maintaining the efficiency and well-being of the teams, ensuring that they could perform optimally throughout the days they were active. This systematic approach enabled us to manage the project effectively, adapting to challenges on the ground and achieving the set goals within the established timelines. The evaluation team leaders monitored the data collection activities closely, and by the end of the day, every researcher reported their work (number and type interviews with gender disaggregation) to ensure adhering to the proposed sample and covering all the required individual interviews, KIIs, FGDs and monitoring observation. Then it was entered on “Kobo toolbox” software using mobile phones. The data has been exported to Microsoft Excel. Data has been verified by team supervisors on the field and by MC team.

5. Evaluation Researchers

The field team was composed of 6 researchers (30% female). A team of six researchers were involved in field data collection, including two female and four male researchers. (see Table 5). The team members were selected from the target areas based on their previous experience in field research. Field data collection teams received training before the fieldwork. A data analyst was devoted to developing a database from collected data, based on which statistical analysis was conducted.

Field Researchers per City			
City	Female	Male	Total
Baidoa and Dusamareb	2	4	6

Table 8: Field Researchers per City

6. Data Cleaning and Analysis

The analysis for reporting requires triangulation of qualitative data, quantitative data, and documentation. Managed by the MC data team, all uploaded data to the server were first validated to ensure accuracy. The collected data were cleaned initially through the website platform, which was developed to facilitate real-time tracking and monitoring of submitted raw data before conducting the analysis. Afterwards, normalization was conducted to ensure authentic and accurate data interpretation and remove any ambiguity, duplication, or inconsistencies. Then the data set was cleaned through manual and automated revisions.

Quantitative Data Analysis. The analysis involved summarizing data with graphical representations in the form of histograms, pie charts and bar charts. This provides a quick method of making comparisons between different sets of data and spotting the smallest and largest values, trends, or changes over a period of time.

Qualitative Data Analysis. Qualitative data analysis is a process aimed at reducing and making sense of vast amounts of qualitative information – very often from multiple sources, such as FGD notes, individual interview notes and observations – in order to deduce relevant themes and patterns that address the M&E questions posed. When analyzing qualitative data, the focus was on the words spoken by the respondents, the context in which the data was collected, the consistency and contradictions of respondents' views, the frequency and intensity of participants' comments, their specificity and emerging themes and patterns.

For the qualitative portion, the evaluation team used minimum FGDs, KIIs, direct observations, and site visits. However, the final decision on the methods was provided by the evaluation team. The evaluation team kept in mind that it is undertaking a major responsibility in its attempt to make cross-cultural references and analysis. The qualitative data were represented in a narrative form and, wherever it was meaningful and possible, it was accompanied with descriptive statistics. Regardless of their nature, data were disaggregated by gender.

7. Limitations to the Study

During the data collection for the EFAFW project in Somalia, enumerators has encountered several challenges that tested the resilience and adaptability of the field enumerators. Although field access was generally smooth, one significant hurdle was organizing the FGDs within the planned timelines. Gathering the necessary groups on time proved to be a logistical challenge, primarily due to varying availability and the coordination required to bring together diverse participants. Also, completing the data collection within the five-day window was ambitious. The enumerators rose to the occasion by optimizing their schedules, prioritizing tasks, and maintaining flexible but focused workdays to ensure that all necessary data was accurately gathered within the specified time.



The Data Analysis and Findings section presents an analysis of the intervention's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, sustainability, impact, and localization. It assesses the project's alignment with household needs and the Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2022 goals, the participatory approach in design, and how well it addressed food security and nutrition challenges. Effectiveness is reviewed through coordination efforts, beneficiary satisfaction, and the project's impact on dietary needs, and food consumption. Efficiency covers efficiency of food assistance, implementation challenges, resource optimization, and timely delivery. Coherence examines coordination with partners and feedback integration, while sustainability evaluates long-term improvements, capacity building, and promoting local ownership. Impact analysis focuses on changes in food security, nutrition awareness, and unintended effects. Finally, localization assesses the use of local resources, leadership shifts to local actors, and the roles and expertise of ACCEPT and SODIN.

1. Relevance

This section of the report will assess the extent to which the project aligns with local needs and priorities of the beneficiaries in the targeted areas.



The minimum requirements for a food basket in Somalia, as developed by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), include a set of basic food and non-food items necessary to meet the essential needs of a household. The **Minimum Food Basket includes Cereals:** Red sorghum (95kg), Wheat flour (3.75kg); **Sugar:** 5kg; **Vegetable Oil:** Urban town (4Lt), Rural town (3Lt); **Milk:** Urban town (15Lt), Rural town (20Lt); **Meat:** Urban town (4kg), Rural town (2kg); **Tea Leaves:** 0.5kg; **Salt:** 1.5kg; **Cowpeas:** Urban town (6kg), Rural town (4kg). This basket is designed to provide a minimum of **2,100 kilocalories/person/day**, which is the basic energy requirement for a household of 6–7 members.⁷ The food items account for 70-80% of the total Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), reflecting the economic principle that poorer households spend a larger portion of their income on food.

When asked the beneficiaries about the type of assistance they received from the project all the interviewed 260 beneficiaries reported that they received 20kg rice, 10kg sugar, 10 kg beans, 3L oil, 1 cane milk powder. According to SODIN project staff and the reviewed project documents, the beneficiaries received a food basket comprises of rice (10kg), cooking oil (3L), beans (10kg), milk (2.5kg), and dates (10kg). Therefore, when comparing the distributed food basket to the minimum requirements for a food basket in Somalia, it shows that the distributed items partially meet the minimum food basket requirements that include other items like:

- Cereals: The minimum basket includes red sorghum (95kg) and wheat flour (3.75kg), while the distributed items only include 10kg rice.
- Meat: The minimum basket includes 4kg of meat for urban areas and 2kg for rural areas, while the distributed items do not include any meat.
- Cowpeas: The minimum basket includes 6kg of cowpeas for urban areas and 4kg for rural areas, while the distributed items include beans instead.
- Milk: The minimum basket includes 15L of milk for urban areas and 20L for rural areas, while the distributed items include 2.5kg of powdered milk.
- Other items: The minimum basket includes tea leaves, salt, and additional oil and sugar quantities that are not matched by the distributed items.

⁷ Cost of Minimum Expenditure Basket (CMB); https://fsnau.org/downloads/FSNAU_CMB_CPI_for_Somalia.pdf

While the distributed items provide some of the core food commodities, they do not fully align with the minimum food basket requirements as defined by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) in Somalia. The distributed basket appears to be missing key food groups and quantities to meet the basic caloric and nutritional needs of the targeted households. The project staff attributed this to constraints of the limited project budget.

The minimum food basket defined by FSNAU is intended to provide a household of 6-7 members with a minimum of 2,100 kilocalories per person per day. This is the basic energy requirement to meet essential nutritional needs.

The key gaps identified in the distributed items compared to the minimum basket include:

1. Cereal shortfall: Cereals like sorghum and wheat flour make up the bulk of the caloric intake in the minimum basket. The reliance solely on 10kg of rice in the distributed items is likely insufficient to meet overall cereal requirements.
2. Protein deficit: The lack of meat and limited inclusion of beans/cowpeas means the distributed basket is deficient in providing adequate protein for the household. Protein is crucial for growth, development, and maintaining a healthy immune system.
3. Micronutrient gaps: Items like tea leaves, and salt in the minimum basket help provide essential micronutrients like iodine, and vitamins. The distributed basket seems to lack these important micronutrient sources.
4. Quantity imbalance: Even for the items that overlap, such as oil and sugar, the distributed quantities may not align with the minimum requirements outlined for a typical household.

These gaps are significant because they can lead to malnutrition, stunting, and other health issues, especially for vulnerable groups like young children and pregnant/lactating women. A balanced, nutritious diet is critical in crisis settings to prevent these adverse outcomes.

The interviewed camps coordinators reported that the Emergency Food Assistance and Food-for-Work programs by ACCEPT have had a significant impact on the camps IDPs, providing immediate relief to those in need and promoting community development. They noted that provision of food assistance came at a crucial time when the situation in the IDPs was extremely dire, and they were facing severe food insecurity.

“The camp is home to many vulnerable individuals and families whose lives are in a state of desperation. The receipt of food aid from ACCEPT was a lifeline for them. They have received food assistance on multiple occasions, and each time it arrived when it was most needed”.

One of the camps coordinators.

One of the respondents added that the food provided by ACCEPT included essential items such as rice, oil, powdered milk, and flour. These supplies were necessary in addressing the immediate nutritional needs of the camp residents. However, it is important to note that the food distributions were not consistent or regular, which created ongoing challenges for the beneficiaries. They noted that the provision of essential food assistance has alleviated immediate hunger and malnutrition concerns. Also, the promotion of sustainable solutions to food insecurity through the Food-for-Work program has contributed to community development and resilience-building. Despite the occasional inconsistency in food supplies, the project has made a positive impact in improving the overall well-being of the camp residents.

Moving forward, it is recommended to explore mechanisms for more regular and consistent food distributions to ensure sustained support for the vulnerable population in the camp for a longer period to ensure more effectiveness in the food security and nutritional situation of the beneficiaries.

1.1 Situation Before the Intervention

According to the camp coordinators' responses, the food and nutrition situation of the targeted beneficiaries in the area before the intervention of the project was very challenging. The community of new refugees in the camp struggled to adapt to their circumstances, facing various hardships including a lack of food, water shortages, and inadequate shelter. The vulnerability to rain and cold was compounded by the severe shortage of food and water. There was a lack of daily food availability, particularly for a community already facing disabilities and other difficulties such as limited access to an adequate supply of healthy food, high prevalence of malnutrition, incidence of health problems related to poor nutrition and poor dietary diversity.

“Before the intervention, we were characterized by widespread malnutrition, food insecurity and healthy challenges”.

One of the community committee members.

The participants of FGDs revealed the profound and complicated difficulties experienced by the community members regarding food and nutrition prior to the project intervention. Families faced significant challenges in obtaining an adequate food supply, often struggling with insufficient quantities of food and relying on limited food assistance that was barely enough to sustain them for a short period, typically a week or a few days.

“Before the project, my family struggled to have enough food to eat. We often had to skip meals or settle for cheaper, less nutritious options”.

One of the FGDs participants.

The households had to make difficult choices between purchasing food and fulfilling other basic necessities, as the available food assistance did not meet their nutritional needs. As a result, they often had to skip meals or settle for cheaper, less nutritious options, which further compromised their overall well-being.

Children within the household were particularly affected, frequently experiencing hunger and malnutrition due to the family's inability to afford the appropriate types of food. Although the small amount of food assistance provided some relief, it was inadequate to ensure their proper nourishment.

The food and nutrition situation before the project was described as extremely challenging, with families having to ration their meals and sometimes going without food for extended periods. Their meals primarily consisted of sorghum and maize, lacking variety and nutritional value. The high food prices caused by drought and conflict made it even more challenging for families to afford an

adequate amount of food. However, the project provided support and helped improve their food security and survival, giving them hope for a better future.

The participants of FGDs for beneficiaries of Food-for-Work described their lives as miserable and hopeless before they received the food assistance. They faced displacement due to conflicts and were unable to work in their own lands. Their living conditions deteriorated, and they had to rely on assistance from relatives in nearby villages. However, the project intervention changed their circumstances, providing them with the skills and resources to sustain their lives and improve their food security and nutrition.

Other challenges mentioned by the participants of FGDs included lack of skills to sustain a stable living, limited income, unstable or low-paying jobs, difficulties in budgeting and choosing affordable yet nutritious foods, insufficient food resources for the total family members, and the ongoing struggle despite the availability of a food basket.

The community committee added that:

- Before the implementation of the project, the community members had to work hard to secure food for their meals. They strived to have two meals a day, indicating their inability to afford three meals. The available food had lower nutritional value, impacting their overall nutrition and well-being. *“Before this project people used to work so hard for them to get food on the table, they used to strive to have 2 meals a day meaning they could not afford 3 meals a day, they used to have food with less nutrition. After the implementation of this project communities got the opportunity to have plenty food rich in nutrition, the energy raised after the usage of the food”*, said one of the KIs.
- The Shabelle camp faced severe hardships, with inadequate access to food and shelter. The community living in the camp endured extremely difficult living conditions, struggling with deprivation and lacking basic necessities. The absence of sufficient food and proper housing exacerbated the dire circumstances faced by the residents.
- The implementation of the project provided the community with ample food that was rich in nutrition. This improved their energy levels and overall well-being, offering them the opportunity to have nutritious meals that were previously lacking.
- The target beneficiaries experienced prolonged periods of hunger and poor nutrition, which can lead to various health issues.

Therefore, there was critical need for food assistance and the significant positive impact of the project in addressing the food and nutrition challenges faced by the targeted beneficiaries in the area.

1.2 Situation during the Project Implementation

When asked the beneficiaries how the food assistance improved their household’s nutritional situation, the majority of the respondents (93% or n=243) reported that the food assistance significantly reduced food insecurity and malnutrition among children and Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLWs). Also, 37% mentioned that the project increased their awareness and understanding of nutrition-related issues among community members and 29% said it strengthened their ability to maintain and improve their household living conditions in the face of adversity.

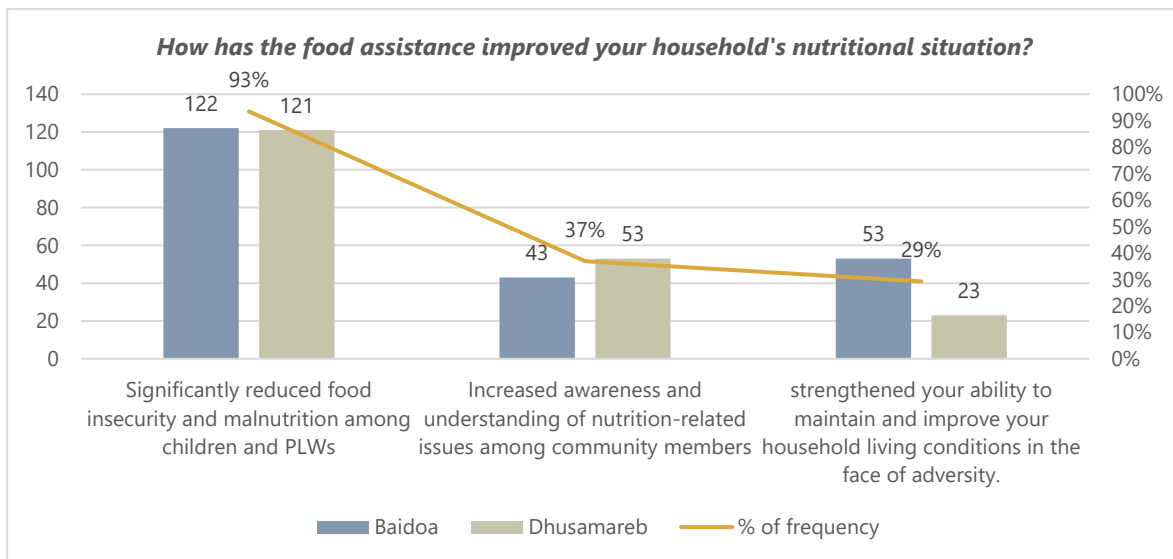


Figure 3: Improvement in Household Nutrition due to Food Assistance

The beneficiaries noted that the food assistance in the camp has had a positive impact, increased their daily meals and led to a drop in malnutrition rates. The consistent food supply has ensured that households could have regular meals, reducing periods of hunger and food insecurity. The availability of diverse foods through food assistance has expanded food choices and reduced hunger among households.

“My children situation became very good as they're able to get milk that has improved their nutrition status”.

One of the interviewed mothers.

Nonetheless, when comparing their situations during the period of receiving food assistance to the challenges they faced in securing an adequate and consistent food supply for their households, the participants of the FGDs shared some concerns and difficulties. Among the challenges mentioned by multiple households was that even with the food assistance, it was still a struggle to ensure their families had enough to eat. The amount of food received was often insufficient to last the entire month, requiring them to find alternative ways to supplement their supply, which was both difficult and costly. This created a constant worry and the need to ration and stretch out the food to make it last.

“My children were often hungry and malnourished because we couldn't afford to buy the right kinds of foods. The small amount of food assistance we received helped, but it was not sufficient to keep us fully nourished”.

One of the FGDs participants.

“While it was not adequate, there were improvements in nutrition security for children and elderly people. The struggle continued but having a food basket available helped us persevere”.

Another one of the FGDs participants.

Therefore, it is recommended to provide food baskets according to the minimum food basket determined by the FSNAU.

1.3 Alignment of Project Objectives with Beneficiary Needs and Priorities

The project staff reported that the project objectives were to be well-aligned with the needs and priorities of the targeted beneficiaries. The beneficiaries, who were primarily displaced individuals seeking medical assistance, food, and shelter in Dusamareb and Baidoa, were facing significant challenges and hardships. These individuals belonged to minority tribes and had experienced discrimination, violence, and loss of family members at the hands of Al Shabaab. The project prioritized the most vulnerable groups, including lactating mothers, pregnant women, and households with children under five. This focus on the specific needs of these groups demonstrates a clear alignment between the project objectives and the priorities of the beneficiaries. The project staff added that SODIN collaborated closely with the local government and community leaders to understand the needs of the IDPs and prioritize assistance. They suggested the food items, such as milk powder and dates, which were deemed better for children and mothers. Meetings were also held with randomly selected IDPs to gather their input, ensuring our plan was well-received. The planning phase took two to three months, during which we continuously refined our strategy based on feedback from the community.

“This collaborative approach ensured that our assistance was effectively aligned with the needs of the beneficiaries”.

One of the project staff.

The interviewed local authority members mentioned that that the project effectively aligned with their priorities and objectives in addressing food security, resilience, and social development issues. The authorities displayed a clear understanding of the settlement of the camp and actively participated in the distribution process to ensure that the project reached the intended beneficiaries. Also, they played a crucial role in providing sufficient security during the implementation process.

They added that the food assistance program specifically demonstrated a strong alignment with local priorities. It effectively addressed the food security concerns of the community, providing support in a manner that was consistent with the objectives and needs identified by the local authorities. Also, the local authority noted that the project activities complemented and supported existing local authority initiatives. The local authority prioritized people with disabilities and the project aligned with this objective. Additionally, the project directly contributed to the local authority's strategic plans, such as reducing malnutrition rates. This collaboration between the project and the local authority enhanced the impact and effectiveness of both efforts.

While efforts were made to provide assistance to the affected families, the project staff mentioned that challenges were encountered, particularly in resource allocation and determining which families were in the most need.

“Despite our efforts, the assistance provided, such as 10 kg of rice, was often insufficient for large families”.

One of the project staff.

However, the involvement of community leaders and local government officials played a crucial role in identifying and prioritizing the beneficiaries. Their support and collaboration in making difficult decisions helped address many of the challenges and ensured that assistance reached those who were most vulnerable.

1.4 Relevancy of the food assistance

About 92% (n=240) of the interviewed beneficiaries reported that the project was relevant and aligned to their needs as a community and specific marginalized groups and 8% mentioned that the project the project was somehow relevant. This demonstrates that all the interviewed beneficiaries considered the project was relevant to address their needs.

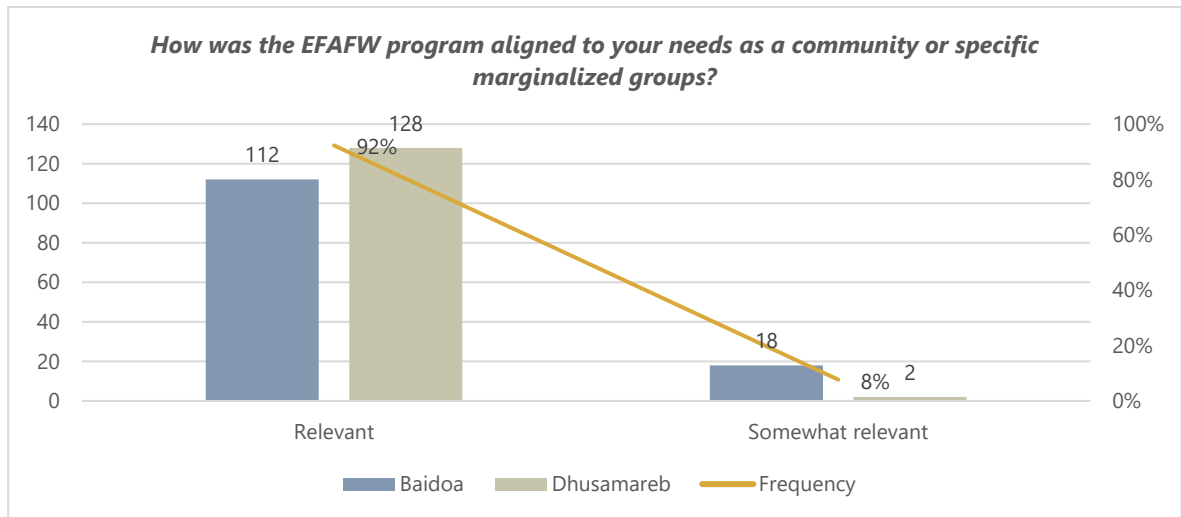


Figure 4: Alignment of EFAFW Program with Community Needs

Moreover, 92% of the interviewed beneficiaries reported that they or PLWs in their households received nutritional awareness beside the received food assistance. The multipurpose community centers were used to cater to approximately 1000 individuals per facility per month, with weekly awareness-raising events held for two months. The activities implemented to achieve this output included nutrition screening and referral to medical facilities, and implementation of awareness-raising programs.

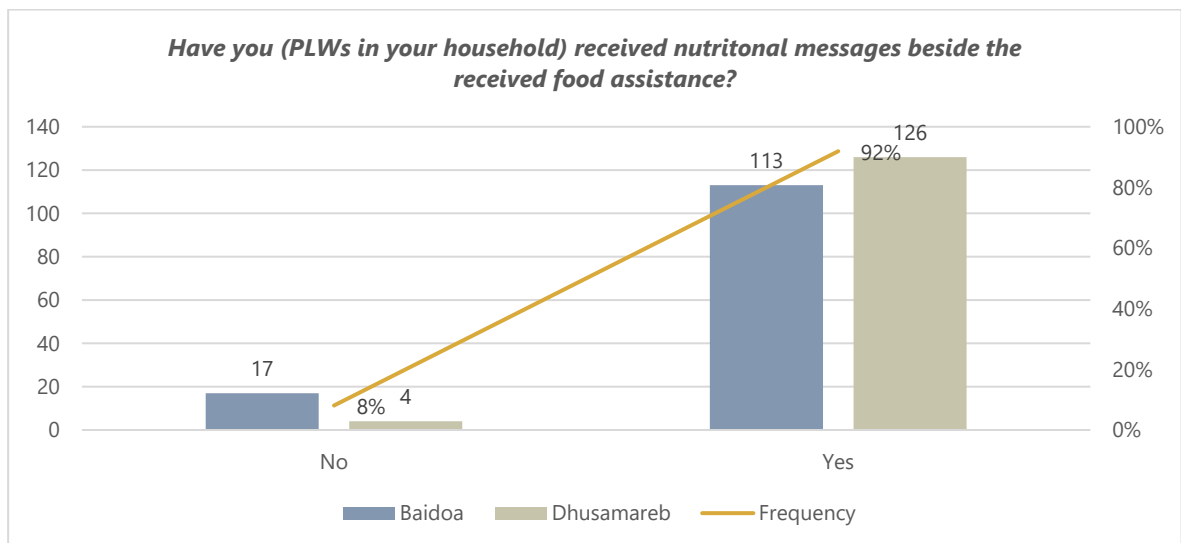








Figure 5: Nutritional Messaging Received Alongside Food Assistance

The interviewed community members reported that food assistance program implemented has had a significant positive impact on household nutrition within the community. They noted that the provision of nutritious food rations has addressed critical gaps in dietary intake that many families were facing prior to the project. Therefore, they think that this has resulted in improved health statuses and better health outcomes, including reduced rates of malnutrition among children. The community committee members expressed that the food assistance program has had a meaningful and multifaceted impact. By improving household nutrition, the project has positively influenced the overall well-being of community members. It has not only ensured food security but has also enhanced their daily living conditions. The respondents think that reduction in rates of malnutrition among children was a clear indication of the positive outcomes achieved through this project.

According to the KIIs, the project has brought about significant changes in the nutritional status and overall well-being of households in their community. *These changes include:*

- Reduced rates of malnutrition: The availability of nutrient-dense dietary sources has led to improvements in overall nutritional status, resulting in reduced rates of malnutrition among community members. 
- Increased food security: The project has reduced food insecurity within households, providing them with a more stable and reliable source of nourishment. 
- Improved diets and healthy eating habits: Community members have reported increased awareness of healthy eating habits, leading to improved dietary choices and nutritional intake. 
- Strengthened social networks and community cohesion: Participation in project activities has fostered social connections and increased community cohesion, creating a supportive environment for health and nutrition initiatives. 
- Increased financial stability: With reduced spending on the search for food, households have been able to save more for the future, improving their overall financial stability. 
- Improved health status: The project's impact extends beyond nutrition, positively influencing the overall health status of community members. 

1.5 Relevancy of Constructed Multipurpose Community Centers

When asked the KIIs about the relevancy of the constructed multi-purpose community centers, there was a consensus by all the respondents that multi-purpose community centers are highly relevant and valuable in meeting diverse community needs, promoting inclusivity, addressing local priorities such as healthcare and education, enhancing community resilience during emergencies, and facilitating collective decision-making processes. The centers have also proven effective in providing holistic support beyond food aid, contributing to the overall well-being of the communities.

The constructed multi-purpose community centers are deemed highly relevant as they meet diverse community needs. The Camps Coordinators mentioned that these centers provided a space for different groups to come together, promoting inclusivity and contributing to the humanitarian-development nexus. They address local priorities such as healthcare services and educational resources. Also, the centers enhance community resilience by serving as emergency shelters during disasters. The centers also play a crucial role in raising awareness, solving community issues, and educating children during the day.

The respondents also noted that the inclusion of multi-purpose community centers in the project is deemed highly valuable. These shared community spaces significantly amplify the impact of food assistance efforts. The centers can serve as convenient distribution points for monthly food rations, making it easier for families to access vital supplies. They can also host regular nutrition education workshops and cooking demonstrations, empowering participants to maximize the nutritional benefits of the provided foods.

Also, multi-purpose community centers provided holistic support beyond just food aid. According to the community committee members, they addressed various needs, including healthcare, thereby contributing to the comprehensive well-being of the IDPs. The construction of these premises has provided a significant place for people to address their situations, hold meetings, facilitate learning, and welcome new refugees. The centers served as multifunctional spaces that cater to the diverse needs of the community, promoting a sense of belonging and support.

Therefore, the aforementioned findings indicated the relevance and value of multi-purpose community centers in meeting community needs, promoting inclusivity, enhancing resilience, and providing holistic support. These centers not only addressed specific priorities such as healthcare and education but also amplified the impact of food assistance efforts and contributed to the overall well-being of the communities.

1.6 Project Design, Planning and Implementation

During Phase 1 of the project's design and planning, the project team conducted consultations with stakeholders, including government officials, camp operators, and community leaders, to assess the number of households requiring assistance. As per the project completion report, some households were excluded based on relative assessments, prompting the team to reassess food distribution operations and successfully reach more vulnerable households, surpassing the planned goals. Valuable information about the situation in Central Somali Garmdug Province was gathered, revealing the challenges faced by men who fled al-Shabaab-controlled areas, the prevalence of women and children in makeshift tents at high risk of violence and health issues, and the need for education and healthcare facilities. Feedback from these findings was shared with relevant authorities to advocate for support, emphasizing the importance of comprehensive long-term assistance, even in emergency situations like impending famine in Central Somalia.

In the project design and planning for phase 2, there are two main components. Component one focused on the distribution of food supplies to IDP households with infants, children under 5 years of age, and pregnant and lactating women. The selection and registration of beneficiaries involved collaboration between district officials, camp management, and community representatives. They shared up-to-date information on the number of targeted households and agreed on selection criteria for particularly vulnerable situations. The numbers of beneficiaries in six IDP camps were determined accordingly. Each camp leader made appropriate announcements to the residents, and no significant issues or criticisms were reported.

Component two involved providing Food-for-Work to vulnerable IDPs and communities. The selection and registration of beneficiaries were done through consultations with government officials, clan leaders, IDP camp leaders, regional community leaders, and minority clans. It was agreed to use the Food-for-Work framework to support local communities, especially those marginalized in social services and opportunities. The preparation of a list of beneficiaries was finalized. In collaboration with rehabilitation centers and the Defector Rehabilitation Program (DRP), former Al-Shabaab members and surrendered soldiers were interviewed to understand their living conditions and discuss

their participation as beneficiaries of Food-for-Work. It was emphasized that each person's intention to participate would be respected, and potential beneficiaries were identified by the rehabilitation centers and DRP teams. The plan was to involve project staff in the selection process in the future.

When asked the project staff about the project identified the specific food security and nutrition needs in the project areas that led to the design of this project, they noted during the budget design phase, the project team engaged in consultations with local authorities, including the camp management team and the District Council. SODIN, along with other key stakeholders, participated in these discussions to ensure that the budget and project plans were aligned with local needs and conditions.

No involvement of food security and nutrition experts were reported by the interviewed project staff. This highlights a critical gap in the planning process. The lack of specialized expertise can lead to inadequate assessment of nutritional needs, suboptimal intervention strategies, and missed opportunities for addressing food security effectively. Future projects should ensure the early and active involvement of food security and nutrition experts to provide essential guidance, develop evidence-based solutions, and enhance the overall impact of the interventions. This approach will improve the alignment of project activities with the specific needs of the target populations and increase the likelihood of achieving meaningful and sustainable outcomes.

According to SODIN Project Manager, both ACCEPT and SODIN dedicated approximately three months to project design and planning. This period allowed for a well formulation of strategies and implementation approaches. Once the planning phase was completed, no adjustments were deemed necessary as the initial strategy was well-designed and comprehensive. The Project Manager emphasized the effectiveness of the thorough planning process in ensuring a successful project implementation.

“During this time, we carefully strategized how to tackle and implement the project. After completing the planning phase, we did not make any adjustments to our strategy, as it was well-designed and required no changes”.

The project manager.

The project staff reported that no improvement or adjustment was made for project activities during the implementation of the project according to any assessment or mid-term evaluation. However, they mentioned instances for the change in the distributed items, particularly dates which was substituted with beans due to market restrictions. According to the phase one completion report, powdered milk was distributed instead of liquid milk due to local hygiene and weather conditions. This decision was made considering the challenges of keeping liquid milk fresh for an extended period in the given circumstances.

1.7 Leveraging Insights from Previous Projects to Enhance Project Design

The project design and planning process incorporated insights from internal and external evaluations as well as recommendations. In 2022, a project was implemented to provide assistance to individuals fleeing from Al Shabaab due to drought, addressing their essential needs such as water, education, and medical care. Through this implementation, it became evident that a significant need for assistance still existed.

Based on the insights gained from the previous project, the project staff noted that the current planning phase was informed and influenced. Lessons learned and recommendations from the previous project were leveraged to enhance the design and planning of the current project. Notably, one key difference in the current project said the respondents was the inclusion of community centers, which were not part of the previous initiative. This addition reflects the integration of previous experiences and recommendations to better meet the beneficiaries' needs in a more effective manner.

For instance, additional resources were allocated to establish community centers that would support long-term community learning and education. Health-related improvements, such as handwashing stations, were also introduced. The project team recognized gaps in the initial design, such as the need for a "Food-for-Work" component to engage younger individuals and provide them with opportunities to contribute and avoid potential risks. Consequently, efforts were made to incorporate such initiatives, ensuring that the project addressed both immediate needs and provided sustainable benefits for the community.

1.8 Participatory Approach

The project staff reported that during the first phase, local community leaders, camp managers, and local authorities were actively engaged in the design process, providing their input and insights. Their involvement ensured that the initial plan was informed by the local context and the specific needs identified through field research.

In the second phase of the project, there was likely further engagement with a wider range of stakeholders to gather additional perspectives. This has also included consultations with government officials and district administrations. By involving these diverse stakeholders, the project design could benefit from a more comprehensive understanding of the situation and the needs of the affected populations.

According to the project staff, they used to receive feedback from the community regarding the relevance of the project's interventions through engaging with the community and addressing any concerns that arose. He added that the project staff along with the community managed issues as they came up and to ensure that no major problems arise.

"For instance, when we had to substitute dates with beans due to market restrictions, we explained the situation to the beneficiaries and provided a special project phone number for any further questions or needs".

One of the project staff.

Local authority perspectives and needs were effectively incorporated into the project planning and implementation processes. According to interviewed local authority members, this was achieved through the establishment of joint planning committees that included representatives from the local authorities, ensuring their direct involvement in decision-making processes. Also, efforts were made to align EFAFW project with existing local development plans.

The local authority expressed satisfaction with the level of consideration given to their perspectives and needs throughout the project. They highlighted their comprehensive engagement, which spanned from the initial planning stages to the actual implementation of the project. This inclusive

approach demonstrated a commitment to involving the local authority at every stage, ensuring that their perspectives and needs were thoroughly taken into account and ensured that the project was effectively tailored to address their specific requirements.

The interviewed community committee members confirmed that they involved in the preparations, design, and implementation of the project. They played an integral role in ensuring that the project met the specific needs and preferences of their community. The committee conducted assessments to identify key issues and priorities, allowing for a targeted and tailored approach. They also ensured that the project design reflected local cultural norms and practices. Also, they reported that they community committee encouraged community engagement by involving them in various tasks, such as construction activities of the multi-purpose community centers within the camp.

The community committee members expressed their satisfaction with their involvement in the project. They highlighted that from the very beginning, the project team sought their input and actively engaged them in the decision-making processes. This inclusive approach allowed the community committee to have a meaningful role throughout the different phases of the food assistance project.

The responses indicated a collaborative and participatory approach in which local authority, camps coordinators and community committee members contributed to the project's preparations, design, and implementation. Their involvement ensured that the project was well-aligned with the community's needs, cultural context, and preferences. Therefore, this level of engagement fostered a sense of ownership and empowerment within the community, enhancing the overall success and impact of the project.

2. Effectiveness

This part of the report highlights the extent to which the project interventions have achieved satisfactory results and objectives in addressing the needs of beneficiaries.



2.1 Effectiveness of Food Assistance on Improving Food Consumption

Almost all the interviewed beneficiaries (99.6%) confirmed that they have noticed an improvement in their household's food consumption since receiving the food assistance. The food assistance and Food-for-Work programs have had a significant positive impact on improving household access to food and reducing hunger within the community. The KIIs reported that the project provided immediate relief by ensuring families had enough to eat while also promoting community empowerment through initiatives like Food-for-Work.

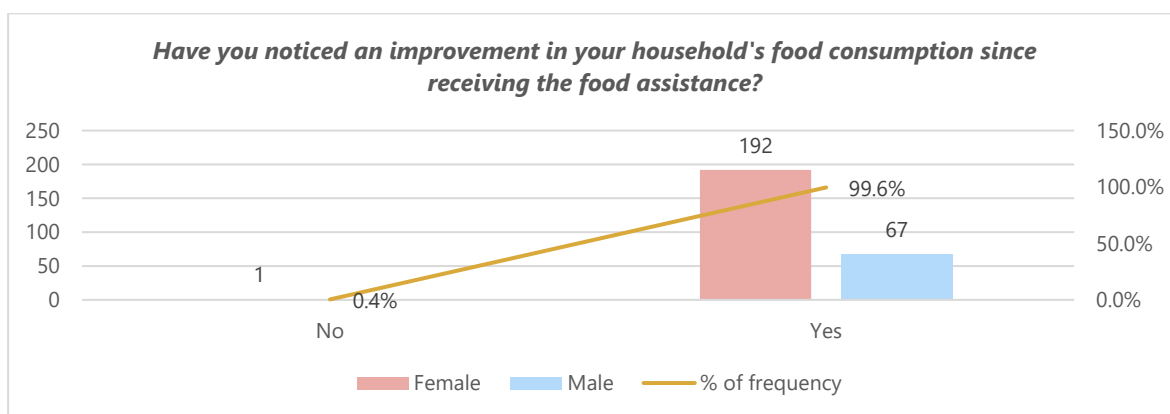


Figure 6: Household Food Consumption Improvement

The participants across all the four conducted FGDs consistently expressed gratitude for the food assistance provided, highlighting its significant role in alleviating hunger and reducing stress within their households. They reported that regular access to food through the assistance programs had brought stability and relief, ensuring that they no longer had to worry about where their next meal would come from. The provision of nutritious food items was particularly appreciated, as it improved the quality of meals and contributed to better overall well-being. The community committee members echoed the positive effects of food assistance on household access to food and the reduction of hunger. They highlighted that the program directly addressed the gap between families' needs and their ability to acquire sufficient and diverse foods.

Moreover, the participants emphasized the positive outcomes beyond immediate hunger relief. They mentioned that the food assistance and accompanying work opportunities had provided them with valuable skills and income-generating opportunities, enhancing their ability to earn a livelihood and support their families. The programs also fostered integration and cooperation between IDPs and host communities, reducing dependency on humanitarian aid and creating a sense of dignity and self-sufficiency. The community members also agreed that the Food-for-Work component also empowered participants by providing them with potential opportunities to earn income or acquire new skills, further enhancing their ability to meet their own food needs in a sustainable manner. However, from the analysis of the findings it was not evident that the beneficiaries involved in the Food-for-Work components has used the reported skills they learned in engaging in any income generating activities. The short period of the project might be one of the constraints for the beneficiaries to master a skill and be able to utilize in earning some money beyond the project period.

However, alongside these positive experiences, some concerns were voiced. The respondents highlighted the need for long-term solutions to address underlying issues contributing to food insecurity, such as limited access to affordable and healthy food options. Also, there were concerns about the sustainability of food assistance once the programs end, with worries about maintaining the same level of food access and security for their families.

According to the camps coordinators, the food assistance programs improved health, reduced financial strain, and relied on collaboration between government, SODIN, and local communities for effective distribution. They also highlighted the food assistance of enhanced purchasing power and improved nutritional status, particularly for vulnerable populations such as children and expectant mothers. The camps coordinators further emphasized that the food assistance contributed to reducing community vulnerability and food scarcity.

“Previously, many households could only eat once a day, but with food assistance, they had access to two or sometimes three meals a day”.

One of the respondents.

This increased food availability had a positive impact on individuals' ability to concentrate on other activities and reduced their vulnerability. Therefore, the above finding demonstrates that food assistance project significantly improved household access to food, reduced hunger, and enhanced food security within the community. The provision of nutritious food rations and the opportunities provided through Food-for-Work initiatives not only addressed immediate food needs but also empowered individuals and strengthened community resilience.

2.2 Effectiveness of Food Assistance to Meet Essential Nutrition & Dietary Needs

About 97% (n=253) of the interviewed beneficiaries reported that the food assistance helped them meet the essential nutrition and dietary needs of all their family members, including children and vulnerable individuals, while only 3% said the assistance did meet their essential nutrition and dietary needs.

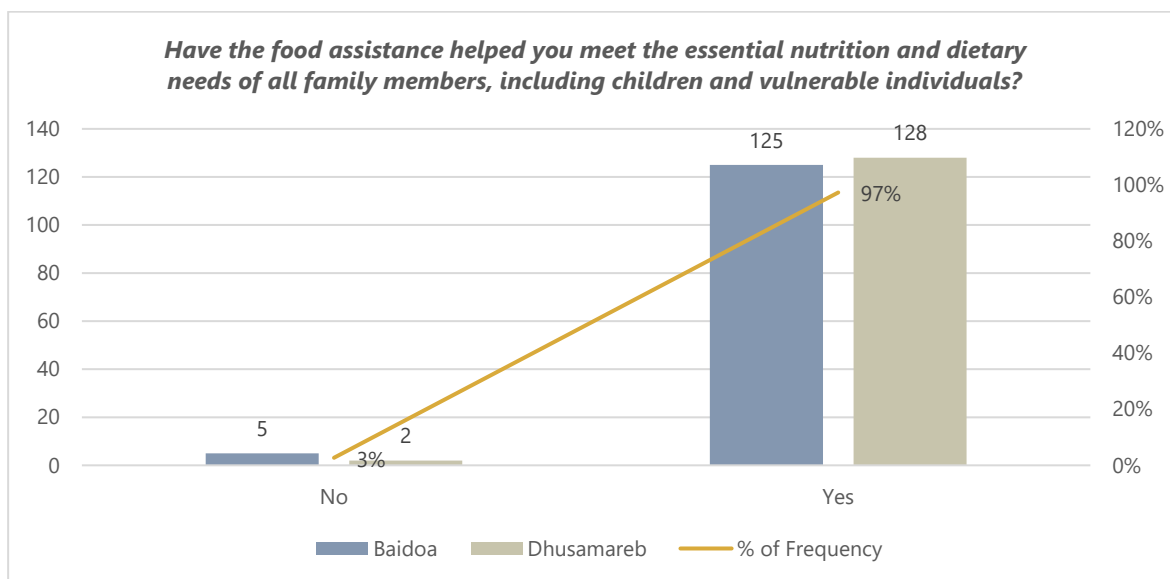


Figure 7: Impact of Food Assistance on Family Nutrition

Moreover, about 78% (n=203) confirmed that the project has significantly improved their food security and nutrition status. On the other hand, 20% (n=52) said they observed some positive changes in their food consumption, dietary diversity, health, and well-being, while only 2% said they did not notice significant changes in their food security and nutrition situation.

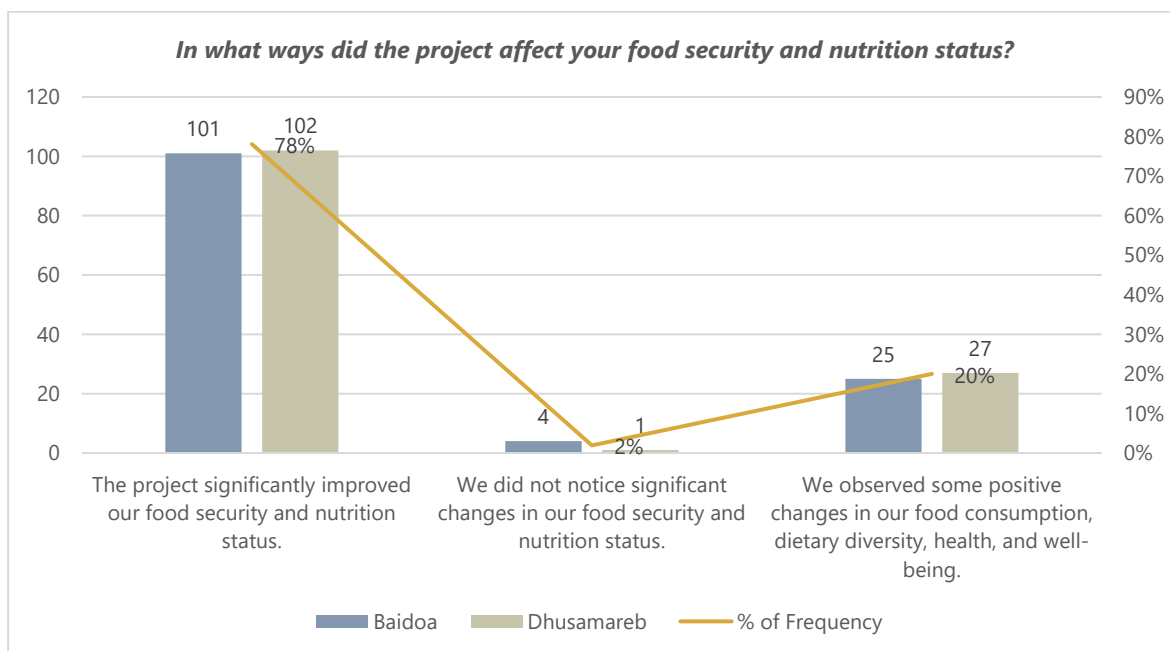


Figure 8: Project Impact on Food Security and Nutrition Status

Most of the respondents (79%, n=205) stated that the food assistance positively improved their household income and improved their financial situation and became able to cover other basic needs

using the money they used to spend on food before the intervention of the project. The feedback from the participants of FGDs indicated that the food assistance resulted in a notable reduction in household expenditure and improved financial stability. By receiving support for their food needs, participants reported being able to allocate the saved money towards other critical expenses such as healthcare, education, etc. This financial relief provided a sense of security and allowed households to better manage their overall finances.

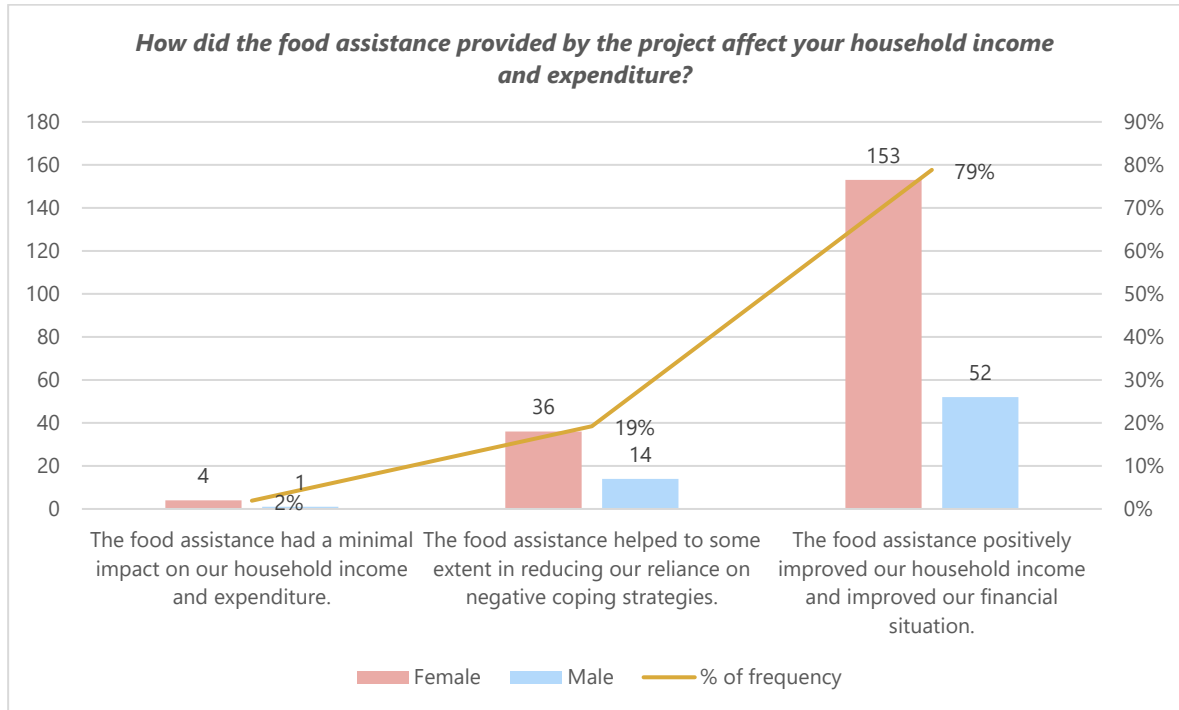


Figure 9: Impact of Project Food Assistance on Household income

Also, 19% said the food assistance helped to some extent in reducing their reliance on negative coping strategies. Most of the FGDs participants agreed that the food assistance provided by the project had a significant impact on reducing their reliance on negative coping strategies. They mentioned that they no longer had to resort to borrowing money, selling assets, or reducing their food intake to meet their basic needs.

“I used to have to sell off livestock or other assets just to afford basic meals. However, the project's support has stopped me from having to make those difficult choices”.
 One of the FGDs participants.

“After receiving the food assistance, I do not have to take out loans or ask relatives for help to feed my family anymore. It has been a huge relief”.
 Another one of the FGDs participants.

This shift away from harmful coping mechanisms highlights the effectiveness of food assistance in providing a solution to address food insecurity and financial strain.

The project's food assistance through Food-for-Work went beyond addressing immediate food needs and had a positive impact on income generation. Respondents emphasized that the project provided them with valuable skills and employment opportunities, enabling them to seek employment and earn income. This aspect of the assistance program had a broader impact on improving household income and reducing overall reliance on external support, contributing to long-term financial stability.

While the majority of respondents reported positive outcomes, it is important to acknowledge that some participants felt that the impact of the food assistance was insufficient. They mentioned that the amount of assistance received was still inadequate to fully meet their needs, leading to continued reliance on negative coping mechanisms. This feedback calls for further evaluation and potential adjustments in the assistance program in future projects to ensure it adequately addresses the specific needs of all beneficiaries.

2.3 Effectiveness on Well-being, Resilience, & Socio-economic Conditions

The targeted households participating in the project have experienced various positive changes in their overall well-being, socio-economic conditions, and resilience. According to the camps coordinators, these changes include improved food security, increased household income, better access to healthcare, enhanced resilience to shocks and stresses through the skills they learned from the Food-for-Work, and an overall improvement in well-being and quality of life. Also, the community committee reports that the project has led to improved nutritional status and health, enhanced food security, economic stability, empowerment, and stronger community bonds. The beneficiaries have observed changes such as increased savings, better opportunities for education for children. The project's provision of nutritious food rations and livelihood support has contributed to improved health, nutrition, and economic stability, particularly benefiting vulnerable groups like young children and pregnant/breastfeeding women.

2.4 Satisfaction about Provided Food Assistance

About 92% (n=238) of the interviewed beneficiaries and the majority of the participants in the four conducted FGDs expressed their satisfaction with the provided food assistance. They mentioned that it helped meet their food needs, saved them money, improved their well-being, and provided food security. The assistance was appreciated for its quality and duration, and it brought significant relief to families facing food insecurity. Some of the FGDs participants described the food assistance as a lifeline, a lifesaver, and a relief from financial pressure. *“The food assistance has been excellent It provides us with a reliable source of nutritious items that we otherwise wouldn't be able to afford”*, said a female participant.

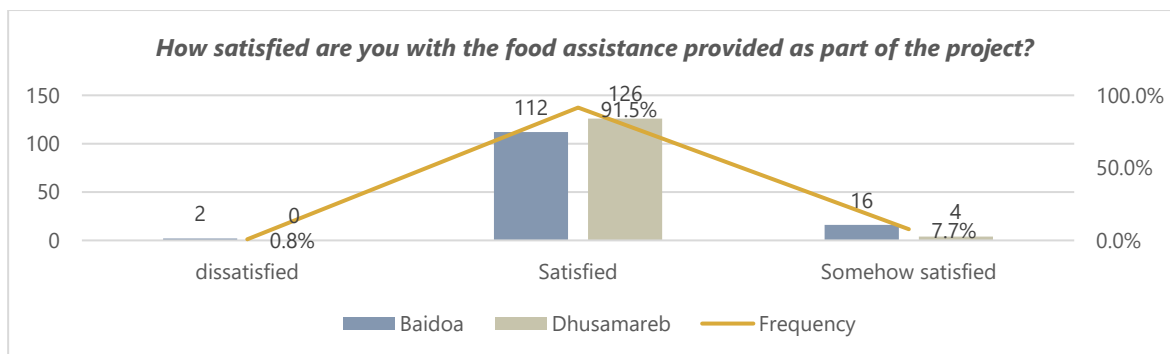


Figure 10: Satisfaction about Provided Food Assistance

Also, more than 7% said they are somehow satisfied, while only two beneficiaries said they are dissatisfied with the distributed food assistance. Those who said that they are dissatisfied noted that the assistance was only sufficient for a few days or less than a month, and they needed more support. Others were somewhat satisfied, mentioned that the aid was not enough to meet their family's needs in the long term. This could be attributed to short period of the project and the less number of distribution cycle of the food basket. For example, the project provided 100\$ for a household per month for two months. According to the recommended food basket by Joint Somalia Cash Working Group (CWG) and Food Security Cluster (FSC), the food cash transfers should be provided for a minimum of 3 months to the same household in order to ensure a meaningful impact on households' food security and basic needs status



In future projects, it is important to consider providing food assistance for a longer duration to ensure sustained support and address the beneficiaries' food security needs. Additionally future projects are recommended to increase the quantity of food assistance provided to meet the nutritional requirements of the beneficiaries adequately. This can help alleviate their concerns about the adequacy of the assistance and provide a more considerable impact on their overall well-being.

2.5 Quality of Distributed Food Items

According to all the interviewed beneficiaries, community members and project staff, the received items of the distributed food assistance were of a good quality. The project staff reported that the project outputs were delivered in accordance with the expected quality standards and aligned with the project proposal. The quality and standard of the food items provided were in line with the project's principles, and an assessment confirmed that the quality was excellent. The staff emphasized their focus on selecting items that adhered to the highest quality standards and shared their quality criteria with the project management, who reviewed and approved the selections. Once the choices were confirmed, they proceeded with procuring and delivering the approved items, ensuring they met the project's quality requirements.

2.6 Outcome Challenges & Addressing Strategies

According to the interviewed project staff, one of the challenges faced by the project was the difficulty in transferring money from Japan to Somalia. Delays occurred due to the complex routing required through Kenya and Mogadishu, as well as issues with the local banking system. Initially, funds were sent directly, and resulted in transfer issues. To address this challenge, ACCEPT and SODIN made the decision to route the funds through Kenya first before transferring them to Mogadishu. This adjustment in the routing process streamlined the transfer process, making it more efficient and effectively resolving the transfer issues.

#	 Challenges	 Overcomes
1	Engaging beneficiaries in training.	Seek professional training support
2	Cash preference over food.	Communication and raising awareness
3	Coordination and communication issues.	Define clear roles, communication.
4	Transportation and security issues.	Seek alternative sourcing, enhance security.

The project staff mentioned several challenges and barriers in achieving their desired outcomes:

- It was challenging to effectively engage and motivate the participants in the training programs. This was due to a lack of clear understanding and motivation among the beneficiaries. To address this, the staff explored alternative strategies, such as seeking external support from professional trainers or improving their own training skills through workshops. They also worked on enhancing communication with the beneficiaries to better convey the objectives and benefits of the training programs.
- Beneficiaries expressed a preference for cash compensation instead of food, leading to complaints and dissatisfaction. ***“There were complaints about the compensation model; beneficiaries preferred cash over food, which led to dissatisfaction”***, said one of the project staff. He noted that the project staff conducted awareness session to explain for the beneficiaries that the modality of the project is to distribute food items.
- The project faced confusion and coordination challenges between the local community, the construction team, and the Food-for-Work program. This created complexities in maintaining project effectiveness and beneficiary engagement. The staff addressed these challenges by improving communication channels and establishing clear lines of coordination. They ensured that roles and responsibilities were clearly defined and communicated to minimize confusion and enhance project coordination.
- The quantity of food provided was insufficient to meet the needs of larger households. For example, giving 10 kg of food to a family of 10 people was inadequate and did not fulfill their nutritional requirements. Therefore, it is recommended in any upcoming similar projects to ensure that the quantities of the food baskets match the proposed quantities by the food cluster. This is expected to enhance the sufficiency of the food items for the whole month.
- The project encountered challenges related to transportation difficulties and occasional insecurity, which affected the delivery of items. To overcome these constraints, the staff sought alternative sourcing options from other districts or locations outside their area. They remained proactive in finding the best solutions and implemented security measures to ensure the safe transportation of goods.

2.7 Commitment to Do No Harm Principles

When asking the beneficiaries about their access to the distribution point to receive the food assistance, all of them confirmed that it was easy and safe for them to access to receive the food assistance. In Baidoa, the response from the interviews indicated that the food distribution process implemented by SODIN was perceived as safe and easy by the beneficiaries. Measures put in place, such as a queueing system and trained staff, ensured the safety and integrity of the distribution process. Participants expressed satisfaction with the clear and well-managed process, highlighting that everyone received their share and there were no obstacles or difficulties encountered. The trained distributors and protocol teams played a crucial role in ensuring a smooth and safe distribution. In Dusamareb, the interviewed beneficiaries mentioned that measures such as beneficiary registration, distribution schedules, and organized distribution lines were put in place to ensure fairness and prevent theft or diversion of assistance. The project's commitment to hygiene protocols and the use of trained staff were reported to be further contributed to the safety and reliability of the distribution.

All the interviewed beneficiaries also agreed that there were no safety and security risks for beneficiaries on the way to receive their food assistance. This gives indication that the project distribution sites were close to beneficiaries' residence, and this secured safe access by the beneficiaries.

During the construction and food distribution phases, safety and security were ensured by deploying police officers to the distribution centers, according to the interviewed project staff. Officers were stationed a day before to check the site and again on the distribution day to oversee the process and ensure all recipients received their food. Security was generally good in Dusamareb, while Baidoa faced more challenges. The community centers in Dusamareb were located in safer areas, close to police stations, minimizing risks. In Baidoa, although security issues were present, they were managed effectively. While there was a risk from the group Al Shabaab, their focus was more on government targets rather than NGOs.

The project staff also added that the safety of the workers participated in the Food-for-Work was prioritized by providing comprehensive protective equipment and training. Gloves were given to protect their hands, and helmets were provided to shield their heads from falling objects. Thorough training was conducted to ensure that all workers knew how to use the safety gear effectively. Also, sanitizers were provided for hygiene purposes, and sun protection gear was distributed to shield them from sunlight. Security officers were also assigned to oversee their protection, further enhancing their safety. Extensive measures were taken to ensure their well-being and prevent any potential harm throughout the project.

In conclusion, the project demonstrated its commitment to the safety and well-being of both beneficiaries and workers throughout the food distribution and construction phases. The beneficiaries reported easy and safe access to the distribution points, with well-managed processes and measures in place to ensure fairness and prevent theft. The project's dedication to hygiene protocols, trained staff, and close to distribution sites to beneficiaries' residences further contributed to the safety and reliability of the distribution process. Also, the project prioritized the safety of workers through the provision of protective equipment, thorough training, and the assignment of security officers. The project's comprehensive approach to addressing safety and security challenges resulted in successful and secure implementation.

2.8 Sensitive Approach for Vulnerable Groups During Implementation

The project demonstrated a comprehensive and sensitive approach to addressing the standpoint of women, youth, and people with disabilities in project distribution points. According to the camp coordinators, the project prioritized the needs of vulnerable groups, including women, youth, and marginalized individuals, during the distribution of food assistance. This highlighted the project workers' commitment to giving special consideration and priority to vulnerable populations. To ensure inclusivity, the project conducted gender, youth, and disability analyses, which allowed for the implementation of tailored distribution strategies that catered to the specific needs of women, youth, and people with disabilities. They added that the project took measures such as providing accessible distribution points, engaging with community leaders, and offering training and support to empower these groups, thereby enabling their full participation in the project.

The community committee recognized the incorporation of targeted measures within the EFAFW project to uphold principles of gender equality, youth empowerment, and disability inclusion at the food distribution points. The committee also noted that the organization's employees consistently demonstrated consideration and respect for the elderly and individuals with special needs. Moreover,

the project ensured a sensitive approach to the standpoint of women, youth, and people with disabilities through various measures. This commitment to inclusivity ensured that people with disabilities had the same opportunities as others, ultimately providing them with food security for improved livelihoods.

The respondents mentioned examples about the specific measures taken to address the needs and perspectives of marginalized groups include providing separate distribution times or locations for women, offering gender-sensitive information materials, and engaging female community leaders to facilitate communication with women. For people with disabilities, measures include ensuring accessibility of distribution points, providing materials in alternative formats, and training staff to interact respectfully with them. Examples of these measures included giving assistance to people with disabilities during the distribution process, providing home delivery for those with severe disabilities, separate queues, and using large prints and audio announcements to ensure accurate information for people with disabilities. Also, the project implemented separate food distribution lines for women, sign language support, and assistance for people with disabilities during distribution, such as carrying food parcels. Specialized rations tailored to the nutritional needs of pregnant and breastfeeding women were also provided. These measures demonstrate a sensitive and inclusive approach to addressing the needs of women, youth, and people with disabilities at the distribution points.

2.9 Compliance with CHSs on Accountability

The project undertook various activities to ensure the fulfillment of Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS). Prior to the scheduled food distribution at each IDP camp, camp leaders, community representatives, and officials from the Dusamareb district administration were briefed on the commitment to respect the rights of vulnerable individuals, irrespective of clan, gender, or disability, and to ensure equitable assistance for all. Moreover, at routine meetings with project staff, training sessions held before food distribution, guidance was provided on effective communication with women, children, and minority clan members during real-time monitoring and PDM, considering their specific backgrounds and experiences, a crucial aspect during monitoring process.

Establishing suggestion boxes at each camp was not feasible. Instead, beneficiaries and other IDP members were informed of the partner organization's contact number, enabling them to voice opinions, raise complaints, and make requests regarding the project at any time.

Therefore, the findings give indication that the project diligently ensured compliance with the CHS on accountability. Prior to food distribution at each IDP camp, community committee, project staff were briefed on the commitment to respect the rights of vulnerable individuals impartially. Although setting up suggestion boxes was unfeasible, beneficiaries could easily communicate their feedback and concerns through the partner organization's contact number, promoting transparency and accountability throughout the project.

2.10 Complaints Feedback Mechanism

As per the project completion report, the **complaints and feedback system** were established to receive feedback from local communities, including project beneficiaries. This was accomplished through various means, such as distributing complaint forms during food distribution, conducting home visits by SODIN staff, organizing hearings, and providing the contact information (consultation desk) of SODINs. Clear explanations were given to ensure that community members understood they were encouraged to safely voice their complaints and opinions.

When asking the beneficiaries and community members about the behavior of SODIN staff while providing the food assistance, they expressed their satisfaction with the behavior of the SODIN staff. Regarding their awareness about the channels to raise their complaints, 97% stated that they know who to contact if they have a complaint or comment about the staff or activities of SODIN, but they said that they have not complained to SODIN about a service or staff. Whilst only 3% said they do not know about the complaints feedback mechanism of the project.

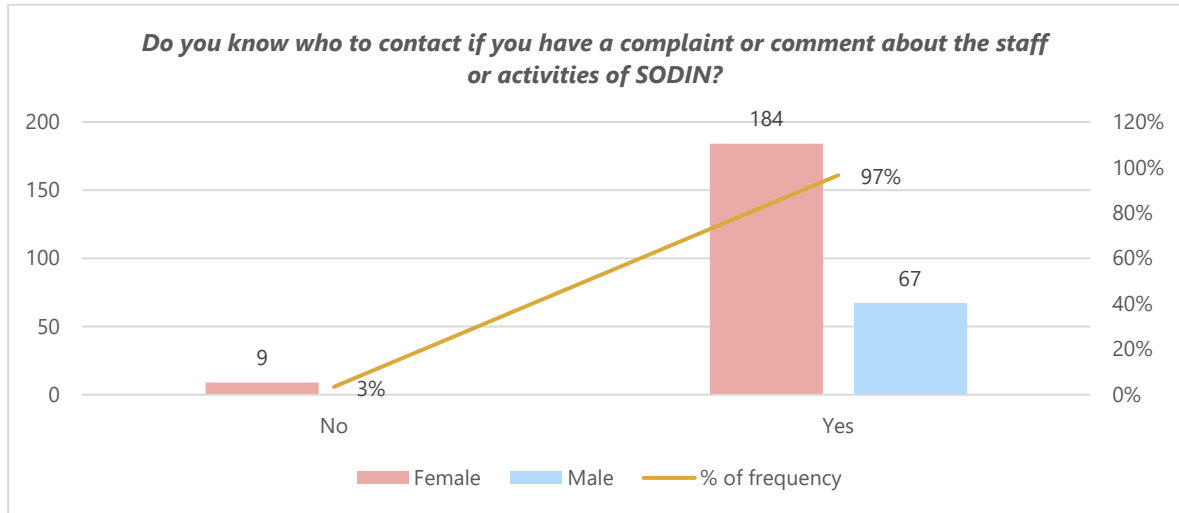


Figure 11: Beneficiaries awareness about the complaints feedback mechanism

To address feedback effectively, the project provided designated phone numbers for complaints and suggestions, with specific contacts in Dusamareb and in Baidoa. Most feedback received was related to the perceived insufficiency of food quantities and requests for adjustments based on household sizes. The project team explained the budget constraints and assured that any necessary changes would be considered in future projects. Despite these limitations, the aid provided was appreciated by the recipients. The project received minimal complaints during its implementation, primarily revolving around the adequacy of food quantities provided, with requests for more items and adjustments based on household sizes. The feedback loop established by the project enabled continuous improvement and responsiveness to the needs and voices of the beneficiaries and community members.

Based on the finding, the project staff could address the aforementioned complaints of the beneficiaries and justify the context of the distributed food items. Therefore, having a phone number of beneficiaries is deemed to be effective in enabling people to raise their complaints, while maintain the privacy of the complainant. However, it is still recommended to have complaint box at the project site to enable beneficiaries who do not have or lack access to phone to file their complaints in the complaints box. The complaints box should be opened regularly for example weekly or bi-weekly and report them to the concerned project staff to address these complaints.

2.11 Project Monitoring and Evaluation

During the construction phase of the community centers, subcontractors played a crucial role in site management. Construction company workers, consisting of two or more individuals stationed at each construction site, provided instructions on work processes, supervised the site, managed safety protocols, confirmed the participation of beneficiaries, and collaborated with staff from SODIN. Resident civil engineers from the construction company oversaw the quality of each construction task and ensured adherence to the schedule.

Construction progress was also monitored by SODINs. They conducted regular checks on the work's progress, usually once a week. When the construction process reached 50% or 100%, SODINs, in conjunction with the civil engineers, verified the quality and condition of the completed work.

Upon the completion of the construction work, representatives from SODIN, local government agencies, and leaders from IDP camps or communities visited the centers. Their purpose was to confirm that the construction had been performed adequately and to facilitate the handover of the facilities to the administrative agency, typically the state government.

During the food distribution process, immediate follow-up was conducted by the staff of SODIN. They visited 5% (7 households) of the beneficiaries residing in each camp or residence after every monthly distribution. These visits aimed to verify that the food had been received correctly and to ensure that no bribes or unfair practices had occurred. Any issues related to the distribution process and the response of the distribution staff were reported and discussed in regular meetings between the corporation and SODINs.

The operation of the community centers involved diligent record-keeping by the center management staff. They maintained daily records of the center's usage, including the number and characteristics of users, which were shared with affiliated organizations. Minutes were documented for each educational program, noting the number and characteristics of participants. Telephone numbers of SODINs were visibly displayed at each center, allowing users and participants to freely express their opinions and lodge complaints. To foster continuous improvement, regular meetings were held between the center management staff and the staff of affiliated organizations to discuss measures for enhancement and share responses.

Moreover, post-distribution monitoring (PDM) and surveys were conducted to assess the impact of the project. Two weeks after food distribution, a PDM was conducted, involving a randomly selected 15% (20 households) of beneficiary families. These households were surveyed using a pre-prepared questionnaire to gather insights into their experiences.

Similarly, for the multi-purpose community centers, a survey was conducted on 30 randomly selected users of the facility, with priority given to those who participated in the Food-for-Work program. This survey, initiated by the SODIN, aimed to measure changes in service awareness and knowledge concerning life maintenance and improvement through center utilization and participation in educational events.

The evaluation findings indicate that SODIN consistently submitted regular periodic reports to the ACCEPT project manager throughout project implementation. These reports were noted to play a crucial role in maintaining project progress and potentially achieving further objectives. The daily reports and updates shared by SODIN functioned as tools for monitoring the project's activities and advancements. Through the provision of routine updates, which included reports on financial activities, the reports facilitated a comprehensive understanding of the project's status and performance for the project manager. According to the project staff, regular weekly meetings were held to discuss and address any issues affecting the budget and project activities. Problems were prioritized, with immediate attention given to urgent matters. Quick interventions were made as needed, even outside the scheduled meeting times, ensuring that critical issues were promptly addressed, and decisions were made in a timely manner.

These reports were observed to enhance the project's management by offering valuable insights into its operations and activities. They provided a means for the project manager to oversee the implementation process, identify potential issues or challenges, and make well-informed decisions

for timely resolution. Also, the reports aided in evaluating the project's impact and effectiveness by documenting the outcomes of financial activities and other project-related results. This evaluation process enabled adjustments and enhancements to be made, ensuring the project's alignment with its intended goals and objectives.

Conclusively, the regular periodic reports submitted by SODIN to ACCEPT project manager were found to have made a significant contribution to maintaining project progress and potentially achieving additional objectives. They supported effective project management, facilitated timely decision-making, and served as a foundation for evaluating the project's advancement and impact.

3. Efficiency



This section highlights to which extent the project has delivered its interventions in a timely and economical manner, ensuring effective use of resources.

3.1 Efficiency of the Food Assistance Delivery

Based on the findings from various sources, including camps coordinators, community committees, and FGDs, it was generally reported that beneficiaries have not encountered significant challenges or delays in receiving food assistance. Regarding the quantity, about 96% (n=255) reported that they are satisfied with the quantity and frequency of the distributed food assistance about 86% of the confirmed that the food package content enough for a month for their family.

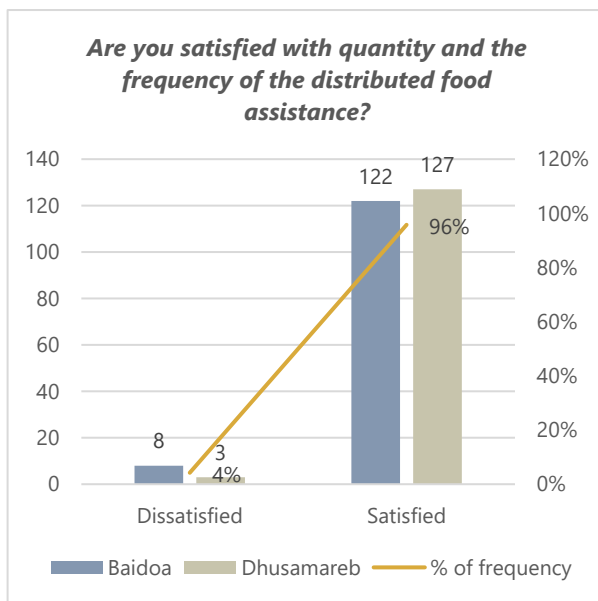


Figure 12: Satisfaction about quantity and frequency of the distributed food assistance

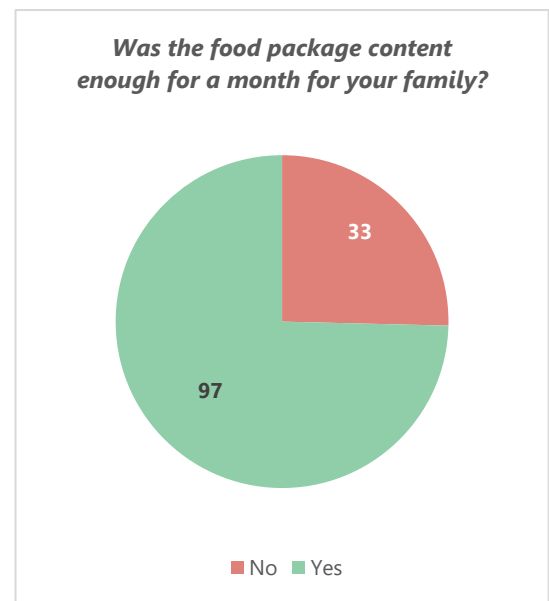


Figure 13: Sufficiency of the distributed food package for entire month

In the four FGDs, participants shared diverse perspectives on how the food assistance project improved their access to nutritious and affordable food. The majority expressed gratitude for the project's impact, citing enhanced access to balanced diets, expanded food variety, and the ability to provide healthier meals for their families. Participants highlighted that the project alleviated financial constraints, enabling them to make better food choices without compromising on quality. They noted a significant shift towards more diverse and nutrient-rich foods, ensuring their families received

essential nutrients for growth. For many, food assistance eliminated the need to skip meals or reduce portion sizes, enhancing overall food security and well-being.

Moreover, participants emphasized that the project not only improved individual households' access to nutritious food but also contributed to community development and resilience. By ensuring a steady and reliable food supply, the project helped mitigate food shortages and instilled self-reliance among community members. Participants reported acquiring new skills through Food-for-Work programs, enabling them to address food affordability challenges and build resilience against humanitarian crises. The collective sentiment across the discussions reflected a consensus that the food assistance project had a tangible and positive impact, empowering families to access nutritious foods, develop new skills, and enhance their overall well-being.

In contrast to the overwhelmingly positive feedback from the majority of respondents and participants in the FGDs regarding the efficiency of food assistance, 14% of the interviewed beneficiaries expressed their dissatisfaction with the quantity of the distributed food items, attributing that to the insufficiency of covering food needs for the entire month. They reported that the food package lasted between 10 and 20 days. Also, four participants of one FGDs expressed reservations about the efficiency of the project on their access to nutritious and affordable food. These individuals highlighted limitations in the quantity and variety of food received, indicating that the assistance provided was insufficient to significantly enhance their food options. Despite acknowledging the helpfulness of the project, they emphasized that the current level of support did not lead to substantial improvements in their ability to access nutritious and affordable food.

They noted that the modest nature of the assistance constrained their food choices, leading to continued challenges in affording a diverse range of healthy foods for their families. Their feedback underscored the importance of considering the adequacy of support provided in food assistance programs to ensure meaningful impact on participants' nutritional well-being. Therefore, it is commendable to consider distributing food packages that is sufficient to cover the monthly food needs of the households to ensure the effectiveness of the food assistance to cover households' food needs for the entire month.

3.2 Utilization of Local resources and expertise

The project staff reported that the project successfully utilized local resources, expertise, and networks to optimize efficiency and effectiveness, particularly in implementing the Food-for-Work program. The "Food-for-Work" approach, where community members participated in constructing community centers in exchange for food items, was deemed successful in motivating the community to quickly and efficiently complete the construction. The program also provided training in construction skills, benefiting the community members in the long term, particularly those who are responsible for running the community center. The implementation process was reported to be smooth, with the community welcoming and supporting the initiative, leading to the successful completion of the projects.

The project staff also reported utilizing storage facilities to securely store the items, ensuring their safety and preservation. Engineers and trainers were trained and recruited to oversee the construction process, leveraging local expertise. They also noted that the local authorities played a crucial role in facilitating the distribution process. They provided space for the distribution activities and ensured the safety and accessibility for the community. Their involvement also helped build trust within the community, making the distribution more effective and secure. Security officers were employed in coordination with the local authority to protect the items, and they were compensated for their

services. The duration of their employment varied depending on the project's needs and timing, typically spanning two to three days.

According to the project staff, the project effectively utilized local resources, expertise, and networks, resulting in optimized efficiency and successful implementation of the Food-for-Work program. The active involvement of the community, utilization of storage facilities, recruitment of skilled personnel, and provision of training were key factors contributing to the reported success of the projects.

3.3 Mechanisms for Timely and Accurate Food Assistance Delivery

According to the interviewed project staff, several mechanisms and procedures were reported to be in place to ensure the timely and accurate delivery of food assistance to beneficiaries. These mechanisms include:

- **Registration check:** The project staff conducted a registration process to create a distribution list of eligible beneficiaries. This step ensured that only qualified individuals received food assistance, helping to target and prioritize those in need.
- **Communication through local authorities and the camp management team:** The project staff made use of local authorities and the camp management team to disseminate announcements and notifications regarding the distribution process. This approach helped in effectively communicating the distribution schedule and any updates or changes to the beneficiaries, ensuring they were aware of when and where to receive their food assistance.
- **Addressing delays:** While occasional delays were reported, they were generally minor in nature. Factors such as seasonal variations in Somalia or supplier issues could impact the timing of the distribution. The project staff acknowledged these challenges and made efforts to address and minimize any delays, ensuring that the food assistance reached the beneficiaries as soon as possible.
- **Supplier coordination:** The project staff maintained close coordination with suppliers involved in providing food assistance. Delays in transporting food items from suppliers were identified as a potential factor that could impact the timing of the distribution. The staff worked closely with suppliers to mitigate any delays and ensure that the food items were delivered on time.
- **Well-organized distribution process:** According to the project staff, the distribution process itself was reported to be well-organized. The staff ensured that items, including the food items, were prepared and delivered on time to the designated distribution locations. This systematic approach helped streamline the distribution process, contributing to the accurate and timely delivery of food assistance to the beneficiaries.

Based on the information reported by the project staff, these mechanisms and procedures were implemented to ensure the efficient and accurate delivery of food assistance to the beneficiaries, demonstrating a commitment to addressing potential challenges and ensuring the timely provision of essential aid.

3.4 Maximizing Value of Money for Food Assistance and Construction of Community Centers

Based on the provided information from the logistics officer, it can be inferred that both ACCEPT and SODIN have taken effective measures to maximize the utilization of the budget and contribute to the beneficiaries.

The following strategies were implemented:

- a. Supplier selection process: The logistics officer played a crucial role in obtaining quotations and selecting suppliers offering the best quality food items at competitive prices. Personal visits to the market were conducted to gather price information and compare items. By choosing three suppliers with the lowest prices while ensuring high quality, the project aimed to obtain the best value for the budget.
- b. Approval process and alternative options: The selected options were shared with Hashim, who reviewed and made the final decision on the supplier. If none of the initial three options were chosen, alternative suppliers were sought. This approach ensured careful consideration and selection of suppliers, maximizing the budget's impact by making informed decisions.
- c. Thorough market appraisals and negotiation: Market appraisals were conducted in Dusamareb and Baidoa to source high-quality food items and building materials (for the construction of community centers) at the lowest possible prices. Negotiating contracts with local shops and companies helped lock in prices and prevent price fluctuations during the project. This proactive approach aimed to ensure cost-effectiveness and maximize the budget's utilization.

From the aforementioned strategies, there is indication of effective measures taken by ACCEPT and SODIN, which focused on obtaining the best value for the budget, sourcing high-quality items at competitive prices, and preventing unnecessary expenditure. These efforts contributed effectively to the beneficiaries and maximize the impact of the allocated resources.

3.5 Strategies Implemented for Ensuring Quality and Budget Allocation

From the interview with SODIN project staff, it was detailed that stringent measures were taken to guarantee the quality of food items distributed to beneficiaries within the allocated budget. Staff members conducted thorough checks before distribution by visiting suppliers to confirm the quality, with a particular emphasis on items like milk powder, consistently sourced at the highest quality. Also, each product was individually inspected in the market to ensure it met their standards. An incident in Baidoa underscored their commitment to quality when lower-quality beans were discovered. In response, the team postponed distribution by three days to replace the beans, showcasing their dedication to providing high-quality food items to beneficiaries.

According to the project staff, several cost-saving measures were implemented without compromising the quality and impact of the project. They noted that SODIN ensured that the quality of the items provided was their first priority. Despite working within budget constraints, they made sure that all food items and building materials met high standards and did not compromise on quality. This commitment to quality was reported to be consistently targeted and maintained throughout the project.

The project staff confirmed that SODIN adhered to standard operating procedure (SOP) designed to ensure cost-effectiveness and transparency in the procurement process. The SOP included obtaining at least three quotations for each item intended for community distribution. This approach aimed to minimize costs while meeting specific criteria for quality and suitability. On the other hand, they acknowledged the unique challenges posed by the procurement procedures in Somalia. Local procurement often involved smaller retailers instead of large suppliers, which could impact the consistency and reliability of the items procured. The staff recognized and navigated these challenges to ensure the best possible outcomes.

The project staff acknowledged that the practicalities of operating in a humanitarian context sometimes led to variations in the procurement process. Local conditions and supplier capabilities could influence the availability and pricing of items. Despite these challenges, the staff confirmed that efforts were made to document procurement decisions thoroughly and select options that offered the best value in terms of both cost and quality.

Therefore, ACCEPT and SODIN deemed to be implemented effective measures to maximize the value of money for food assistance and the construction of community centers. Through comprehensive supplier selection, approval processes, market appraisals, and negotiation, they aimed to obtain the best value for the budget and ensure high-quality items were procured. These efforts contributed to cost-effectiveness and the successful delivery of assistance to beneficiaries.

3.6 Efficiency of Budget and Project Resources

In response to the question about measures taken to minimize unnecessary staff employment and expenses for activities that do not directly contribute to the project's objectives, the project staff from SODIN mentioned that they minimized staffing to align with the tight budget. They employed only two individuals per area for monitoring and food distribution, providing them with incentive money instead of full-time employment to prevent unnecessary staffing, crucial given the limited budget constraints.

On the other hand, the project staff from ACCEPT highlighted their strategy of paying the minimum necessary for essential services like food distribution, security, and transportation. Instead of maintaining full-time staff for these roles, personnel were engaged on an as-needed basis. Staff were brought in only when specific tasks, such as food distribution, required their services for a day or two, aiming to maximize the budget's efficiency and extend support to a larger number of beneficiaries while effectively managing costs.

These measures, as reported by the project staff from SODIN and ACCEPT, were implemented to optimize resource allocation, reduce unnecessary staffing expenses, and ensure that project efforts were focused on activities directly contributing to the project's objectives.

4. Coherence

This section aims to evaluate the consideration of contextual factors, coherence with other stakeholders, and synergies with other interventions by JPF and its member NGO.



4.1 Project Alignment with Food Security and Nutrition Strategies in Somalia.

From the interview with project staff, it was reported that the project aligned well with broader strategies and initiatives addressing food security and nutrition needs in Somalia. Before distribution, the project team consulted international NGOs such as WFP and UNICEF to ensure the suitability of the food items acquired for distribution. According to the project staff, feedback from these consultations confirmed that the selected food items were ideal for the situation. However, it was found out that there are discrepancies in the quantities of the distributed items and the items proposed by the food cluster.

While the distributed items provide some of the core food commodities, they do not fully align with the minimum food basket requirements as defined by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) in Somalia. The distributed basket appears to be missing key food groups and quantities to

meet the basic caloric and nutritional needs of the targeted households. The project staff attributed this to constraints of the limited project budget.

Therefore, when comparing the distributed food basket to the minimum requirements for a food basket in Somalia, it shows that the distributed items partially meet the minimum food basket requirements that include other items like:

- Cereals: The minimum basket includes red sorghum (95kg) and wheat flour (3.75kg), while the distributed items only include 10kg rice.
- Meat: The minimum basket includes 4kg of meat for urban areas and 2kg for rural areas, while the distributed items do not include any meat.
- Cowpeas: The minimum basket includes 6kg of cowpeas for urban areas and 4kg for rural areas, while the distributed items include beans instead.
- Milk: The minimum basket includes 15L of milk for urban areas and 20L for rural areas, while the distributed items include 2.5kg of powdered milk.
- Other items: The minimum basket includes tea leaves, salt, and additional oil and sugar quantities that are not matched by the distributed items.

Given the concerns regarding food sufficiency despite reported improvements in nutrition, it is crucial to align the food assistance with FSNAU's minimum requirements. This alignment will ensure that the support provided meets the actual needs of the beneficiaries.

The project staff noted that WFP had transitioned from distributing specific food items like maize and sorghum to cash transfers, enabling beneficiaries to purchase desired items such as rice, sugar, and wheat flour. This shift was based on the observation that people were not consuming the distributed food items as expected. The project's food distribution plan was validated through these consultations, indicating alignment with best practices for nutrition and local consumption preferences, by distributing the preferred items mentioned by WFP such as rice and sugar instead of distributing cash assistance. .

Moreover, the response plan prioritized lifesaving support for vulnerable populations, including IDPs and those in conflict frontline areas. It encompassed critical purchases and resilience-building efforts as part of a comprehensive strategy, addressing immediate and long-term needs with a focus on communities in Dusamareb and Baidoa. Key components included food distribution, health awareness initiatives, and community center activities, integrating reports and feedback from agencies like UNDP to effectively target crisis areas.

In conclusion, the findings from the interviews with project staff underscore the strong alignment of the project with food security and nutrition strategies in Somalia. Through consultations with international NGOs such as WFP and UNICEF, the project ensured the appropriateness of distributed food items, reflecting a responsive approach to local needs. By prioritizing vulnerable populations and integrating feedback from agencies like UNDP, the project's response plan effectively targeted crisis areas, combining lifesaving support with resilience-building efforts. These insights highlight the project's adherence to best practices in nutrition, local consumption habits, and strategic planning to address both immediate and long-term food security challenges in communities across Dusamareb and Baidoa.

4.2 Synergies and Coordination with Other Organizations & Food Cluster

Based on the interview with SODIN project staff, it was stated that coordination efforts were made with the Food Security Cluster and other relevant organizations in the area. The project team engaged with the food cluster, presenting their planned food distribution activities. The food cluster welcomed the project's ideas, considering them to be the optimal approach for food provision in the area. Also, the food cluster recommended including flour and spaghetti in the distribution, but the project staff noted that items were not initially in the project budget, and they were not included. Despite not being part of the original plan, these additions were seen as beneficial by the food cluster, emphasizing the collaborative and adaptive nature of the coordination efforts with external organizations.

SODIN project staff also reported that one of the primary challenges faced was the absence of ongoing projects by other organizations assisting or addressing the needs at the time of the project implementation. This situation might have led to potential overlaps or gaps in services, impacting the overall coordination efforts. However, despite these challenges, feedback from organizations was positive, with recognition and praise for the project's food distribution modality rather than cash transfers modality.

It was also confirmed that the project activities complemented rather than duplicated existing initiatives in the targeted areas. Specifically, in Baidoa, the World Food Programme (WFP) was providing temporary shelters, latrines, and water services. In contrast, the SODIN project focused on food distribution and nutrition assistance, which included providing nurses for nutrition screening services. This delineation of responsibilities ensured that the services offered by each organization were distinct and complementary, rather than overlapping or duplicating efforts.

The unique approach taken by the SODIN project, concentrating on food distribution, was well-received by beneficiaries in the area. This distinct focus on addressing specific needs, coupled with the services provided by WFP, created a comprehensive support system that catered to different aspects of the beneficiaries' requirements, ultimately enhancing the overall impact and effectiveness of humanitarian efforts in the region.

4.3 Coordination and Collaboration with Local Authority and Stakeholders:

During the interview with the local authority, it was confirmed that there was active coordination and collaboration between the local authority and other stakeholders involved in the project. The local authority stated that there was regular communication, joint planning, and shared objectives among all parties. This collaborative approach likely facilitated effective project implementation and alignment of efforts towards common goals.

Furthermore, the local authority mentioned that both the local authorities and other stakeholders collaborated during the project implementation by providing manpower to ensure the project progressed smoothly. This joint effort in contributing human resources underscores the cooperative spirit and shared responsibility among the involved entities, showcasing a unified approach towards the successful execution of the project. They also noted that the project activities significantly aligned with the broader policies, strategies, and plans related to nutrition, food security, resilience, and social development. The local authority emphasized that the project goals were carefully mapped against the broader social development objectives of the local authorities. This mapping ensured coherence, social cohesion, and support for ongoing local initiatives, indicating a strategic alignment with overarching community development goals.

Moreover, the local authority stated that the project was in accordance with existing local policies and strategies aimed at enhancing nutrition, food security, and economic development plans. The project's alignment with these local policies not only reinforced the community's focus on improving crucial aspects like nutrition and food security but also supported the local authorities' strategies to enhance resilience in the face of various shocks, such as droughts, floods, or economic crises.

It was also found out that the local authority played an integral role in ensuring the coherence and synergy of the Emergency Food-for-Work project with other local initiatives, as confirmed during the interview the local authority interviewees in Baidoa and Dusamareb. The local authorities led regular coordination meetings involving various stakeholders such as NGOs, community groups, and international organizations. These meetings were aimed at aligning activities and preventing duplication of efforts, showcasing proactive steps taken to ensure collaboration and effectiveness across initiatives.

Also, the local authorities actively engaged in strategic planning and coordination efforts to harmonize the Emergency Food-for-Work project with existing local initiatives. They facilitated resource sharing among stakeholders and integrated project activities with local policies and strategies, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to maximizing impact and fostering integration within the community. This coordination between the project activities and the local authority's overarching plans signifies a harmonious relationship and a concerted effort towards sustainable development and community well-being.

Challenges in Coordinating with Local Authorities and Stakeholders:

According to the SODIN project staff, there were no significant challenges in coordinating with local authorities and stakeholders to ensure coherence in the project implementation. During interactions in Baidoa, a representative from a smaller organization, IDPs for Southwest, was initially anticipated to pose challenges. However, this individual turned out to be very supportive and offered advice to proceed as planned. Regular meetings were held with this him, and communication was maintained through email updates, indicating a smooth and cooperative relationship in the coordination process.

Moreover, the project staff successfully obtained the necessary licenses from both the ministry and the local government. Notably, the state president facilitated the issuance of the ministry license for free, saving the project \$500. This gesture of support and facilitation from the local authorities streamlined the administrative processes, demonstrating a positive and enabling environment for project implementation. Overall, the experience was characterized by strong collaboration and effective communication channels, with no notable challenges reported in coordinating with local authorities and stakeholders. This positive interaction and support from various entities contributed to the successful implementation of the project in the targeted areas.

4.4 Consideration & Integration of Feedback from Households and Community Representatives

The project staff from SODIN highlighted a comprehensive approach to considering and integrating feedback from the targeted households and community representatives during the planning and implementation stages of the project. Initially, there was a complaint from the local government regarding the repetitive distribution of food items to specific IDP camps like Jurat, Duran, Shahak, and Sharelle.

The project had a policy of providing food twice to each camp before moving on to others, which raised concerns. After discussions, the project staff clarified their approach, and the government agreed with the revised plan, showcasing a responsiveness to feedback and a willingness to adapt strategies based on input received.

Additionally, the project extended support through community centers for displaced individuals, offering various benefits such as training on terrorism prevention, free medical checkups, prescription services, and hygiene awareness programs for young women. The community centers were handed over to the government, with expectations that they would continue to support nutrition and awareness initiatives, demonstrating a sustainable approach to community engagement and support.

5. Sustainability

This section analyzed the sustainability of the project activities and assess the extent to which the benefits of the project are maintained after formal support has ended and focus on the continuation of the overall value of the intervention and the adaptation of acquired knowledge and skills.



5.1 Enhancing Self-Reliance: Project Impact on Nutritional Sustainability

The project activities have generally been perceived positively in terms of helping households become more self-reliant and sustainable in meeting their nutritional needs. Participants from the FGDs along with eight KIIs unanimously agreed that the project's food assistance and Food-for-Work initiatives have contributed to making their households more self-reliant and sustainable in meeting their nutritional needs. They highlighted how the project provided access to food, improved the health of their children, and reduced hospital visits. However, based on the overall findings of the evaluation, it was not evident that the project activities, particularly the distributed food assistance either unconditional or through Food-for-Work, achieved sustainability. However, there is expectation that the impact of the conducted training is expected to last contributing to enhance the nutrition situation of children and PLWs, especially in terms of acquiring the knowledge of preparing nutritious meals using the existing resources in their locality.

The FGDs participants reported that the second component of the project (Food-for-Work) equipped them with knowledge and skills for sustaining their living conditions in the future. Participants mentioned that the project activities had empowered them to be more self-sufficient, providing them with the foundation to build upon and the resources to sustainably provide nutritious food for their families through encouraging them to search for works to earn some money for their households food items. They noted that women, including PLWs learned new ways to access and prepare healthy, affordable foods independently, feeling more confident and capable in meeting their nutritional needs. However, financially, they might face some difficulties in terms of having source of income to afford for the nutritious food items.

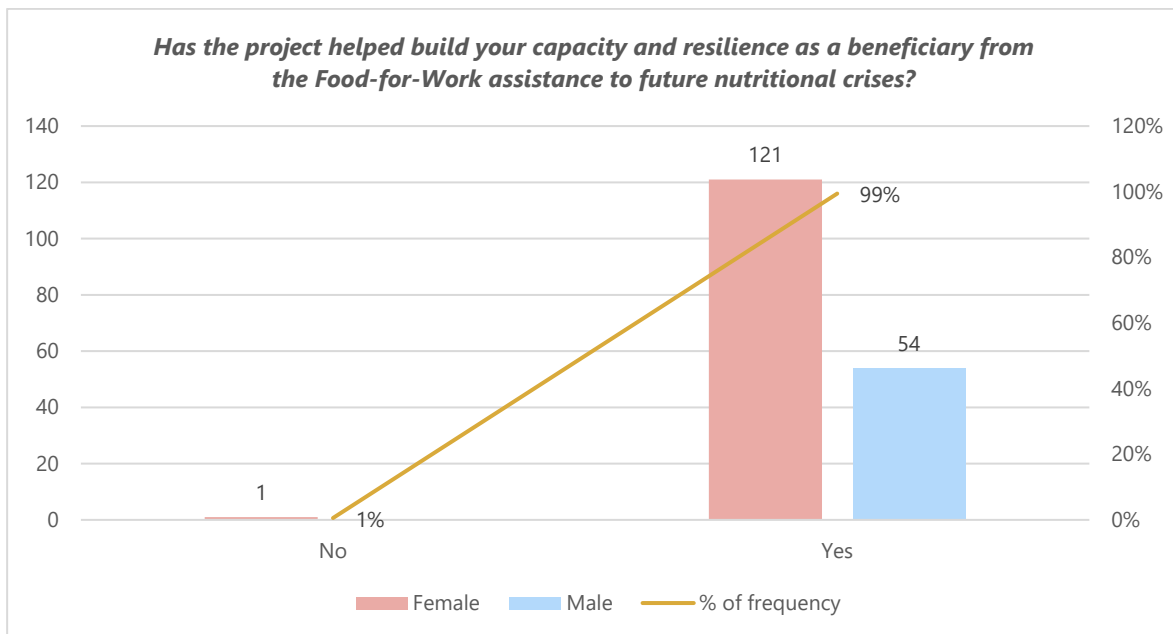


Figure 14: % of females and males beneficiaries reported improved resilience from the project

While most respondents expressed positive outcomes, a few participants did voice reservations. One respondent stated that the project assistance was still limited, leading to continued dependency on outside help. Another mentioned that the impact of the project activities had been minimal so far. This raises concerns that the situation after the project implementation will go back to the situation prior to the project. However, it was acknowledged that households that received assistance were able to benefit and that the project facilitated their engagement in other construction works, particularly some of those engaged in the food for work activities. However, the respondents did not give any examples of their engagement, but it is expected that some might have mastered some manual crafts and they could find opportunity to work in their locality within their mastered crafts.

Respondents mentioned that the project had led to them eating a more nutritious diet, saving money on food, feeling hopeful about the future, and strengthening community bonds. The project was also credited with providing valuable nutrition education, training on healthy eating practices, meal planning, and food preparation techniques. However, the short period of the project and the type of provided food assistance which is consumed during the one month might not enhance self-reliance, but the skills acquired by those involved in Food-for-Work activities might have building skills. However, securing future opportunities depends on the accessibility in their areas.

Therefore, in future projects, it is important to consider providing food assistance for a longer duration to ensure sustained support and address the beneficiaries' food security needs. Additionally, future projects are recommended to increase the quantity of food assistance provided to meet the nutritional requirements of the beneficiaries adequately. This can help alleviate their concerns about the adequacy of the assistance and provide a more considerable impact on their overall well-being. Given the concerns regarding food sufficiency despite reported improvements in nutrition, it is also crucial to align the food assistance with FSNAU's minimum requirements. This alignment will ensure that the support provided meets the actual needs of the beneficiaries.

5.2 Sustainability of Training to Enhance Knowledge & Skills Related to Food Security and Nutrition

About 94% (n=165 out of 176) beneficiaries participated in Food-for-Work reported that they have received extensive training or support from the project to help build their knowledge and skills related to food security and nutrition.

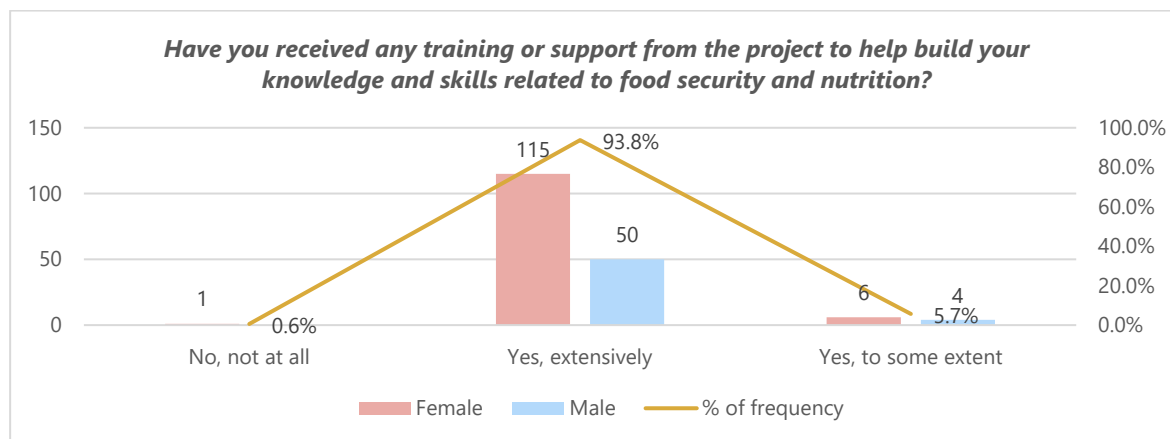


Figure 15: Training and Support for Enhancing Knowledge and Skills in Food Security and Nutrition

The responses from the FGDs indicated a varied experience regarding the training and support received from the project to build knowledge and skills related to food security and nutrition. Participants in the FGDs expressed appreciation for the training and support provided by the project. They highlighted how the project had equipped them with knowledge and skills related to food security and nutrition, empowering them to make better food choices for their families. Some respondents mentioned that the educational resources and workshops offered were beneficial in improving their understanding of nutrition and accessing affordable, healthy foods.

While acknowledging the initial briefing workshops and skills provided by the project, participants have expressed a desire for more structured skill creation sessions to further enhance their capabilities in sustaining food security and nutrition. This indicates a willingness to engage in more in-depth training activities to build upon the foundation laid by the project.

On the other hand, some respondents mentioned that they had not received meaningful training or support from the project in relation to food security and nutrition. They noted that the assistance provided was limited, and they felt lacking in critical skills in these areas. Despite receiving food assistance, some participants expressed a gap in knowledge-building activities from the project.

Participants highlighted specific learnings from the project, such as understanding which foods are good for children and how to cook them properly. This practical knowledge was deemed valuable by the respondents, indicating a positive impact on their ability to provide nutritious meals for their families.

In summary, while there were both positive responses regarding the training and support received from the project to enhance knowledge and skills related to food security and nutrition, there were also requests for more structured sessions and instances where participants felt the support was lacking or limited. The project seems to have made a positive impact on some participants by providing essential knowledge and skills, but there is room for improvement in ensuring comprehensive and ongoing training opportunities to empower households further in sustaining food security and nutrition.

5.3 Expectations for Sustaining Positive Impacts Post-Project Completion

The expectations for sustaining the positive impacts of the project after its completion are varied among the participants of FGDs and community committees. Participants expressed optimism and confidence in maintaining the positive changes brought about by the project. They highlighted how the skills they gained from the Food-for-Work, and knowledge gained would enable them to continue providing for their families' nutritional needs sustainably.

There were calls by the community members for continued support through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) centers to acquire skills necessary to compete in the labor market and to sustain the positive impacts achieved through the project.

However, not all participants shared the same level of confidence in the sustainability of the project's impacts. Some expressed concerns about the limited assistance received and questioned whether the improvements would be maintained once the project concluded. They worried about potential setbacks in maintaining progress without ongoing support. Therefore, considering more livelihood activities that address the emergency situation of the vulnerable such as MPCA, which could be a good alternative also to ensure beneficiaries covering their basic needs and invest in any livelihood activities

The community committees emphasized the importance of continuing to implement and manage food security programs, with requests for more projects similar to the current one, particularly Food-for-Work. They expressed high expectations for sustainability for the constructed community centers, hoping that the positive impact of the project would lead to lasting improvements in community well-being, resilience, and development.

5.4 Sustainability of Multi-purpose Community Centers

The construction of the multi-purpose community centers has played a significant role in community empowerment and resilience-building efforts within the IDP camps and host community. The interviewed community committee members reported that the community centers contribute to

- **Fostering Social Cohesion and Inclusion:** The center has provided a neutral and accessible space for diverse community members to come together, interact, and build relationships. By hosting events, activities, and services that bring people together, it has strengthened social bonds and promoted social cohesion within the community.
- **Centralized Space for Education and Training:** By serving as a centralized space for education, training, and social interaction, the multi-purpose community centers have equipped community members with the necessary tools and resources to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies. This aspect is crucial for enhancing community resilience and readiness for future crises or emergencies.
- **Empowerment and Resilience Enhancement:** The centers have contributed to empowering the local population by providing them with a space to learn, grow, and connect with one another. This empowerment, coupled with the promotion of social unity in both the host communities and IDP camps, has enhanced the community's resilience in the face of challenges.
- **Promoting Interaction and Unity:** Through the multi-purpose center, the community members have had the opportunity to get to know each other better and engage in improved interactions. This increased interaction fosters a sense of unity and solidarity within the community, which is essential for collective resilience and readiness to face future emergencies or crises.

The construction of the multi-purpose community center has not only provided a physical space but has also served as a hub for community engagement, learning, and social cohesion. It also contributed to the humanitarian-development nexus by providing the beneficiaries with their emergency humanitarian food assistance and achieving more sustainable facilities, which are used to strengthening the social cohesion and the unity of the targeted committees. By promoting inclusivity, offering educational opportunities, and fostering unity, the center has significantly contributed to community empowerment and resilience-building efforts, preparing the community to better handle and recover from future emergencies and crises. Therefore, it is expected that the contracted community centers will benefit from after the completion of the project by the targeted beneficiaries.

5.5 Measures for Long-Term Sustainability of Project Outcomes

As reported by the project staff from SODIN, measures were implemented to ensure the long-term sustainability of project outcomes and benefits. This included the establishment of community centers that offered a range of services beyond food distribution. These services encompassed safety training to prevent extremist activities, free medical checkups, and prescriptions. Moreover, the community centers served as pivotal spaces for discussing issues concerning IDPs and promoting community engagement. Also, specialized awareness programs were conducted, specifically targeting young women of reproductive age. These programs focused on hygiene practices and the correct utilization of sanitary products to improve health and well-being.

The community committee confirmed that the project demonstrated a holistic strategy aimed at ensuring the long-term sustainability of its outcomes and benefits. The focus on empowering individuals through financial awareness programs, including encouraging saving for the future, indicates a proactive approach to enhancing long-term economic stability and resilience among community members. Moreover, they reported that the provision of training and basic skills not only enhances individual capacities but also supports sustainable livelihoods within the community, contributing to self-sufficiency and long-term project sustainability. Moreover, they reported that SODIN actively engaged the local community in all project stages, from planning to implementation, which demonstrates a collaborative approach that prioritizes community participation and ownership.

The project staff reported that the plans and initiatives that were implemented to enhance the capacity of local communities to sustain food security and nutrition practices included linking some community centers to local authorities and beneficiaries, with the intention of serving as resource hubs for community engagement and training. Monitoring was continued after handing over the centers to ensure their continued use and effectiveness. Even after the project had concluded, training and capacity-building endeavors persisted, with a focus on improving community skills and maintaining the utility of the centers.

When inquired about establishing partnerships or collaborations with local organizations or authorities to bolster sustainability efforts, the project staff member indicated that discussions had taken place regarding continuing collaboration with the local district and authorities to support the community centers. They had already initiated engagement with the district and local authorities, who had expressed their willingness to provide assistance.

5.6 Anticipated Challenges in Sustaining Project Outcomes and Impacts

According to SODIN project staff the completion of the project has resulted in positive impacts, but the potential challenge of continuity arises because of the policy changes by the current government in Dusamareb and Baidoa. For instance, a new policy mandating government approval for assistance reaching IDP camps which could hinder the project's ongoing success. To address this, maintaining open communication channels with relevant authorities and proactively engaging in dialogue to align project activities with government policies can help navigate potential policy changes and ensure continued support for the project's objectives.

While establishing the community centers with the aim of local retention for continuous use, the project staff anticipated challenges regarding community ownership and sustainability, recognizing the potential difficulties in retaining the established community centers. The project staff reported that anticipated challenges in community center sustainability and ownership were addressed through encouraging the community members to monitor the functionality of these centers to promptly resolve issues and ensure the centers continue to meet community needs effectively. During the time of the evaluation, the community centers were still functional. As reported by the project staff, efforts to enhance the sustainability of the community centers involved linking them with local authorities and beneficiaries to serve as resource hubs for engagement and training. The project staff reported that monitoring continued post-handover to ensure ongoing effectiveness, with persistent training and capacity-building initiatives conducted to improve community skills and maintain center utility. Collaborative discussions with local organizations and authorities were conducted to bolster sustainability, and engagement was initiated with district and local authorities who expressed their willingness to support the community centers.

5.7 Mechanisms for Continued Food and Nutrition Support

The Project Staff confirmed that there were mechanisms and plans in place to ensure continued access to food and nutrition support for beneficiary households after the project's conclusion. They mention that they communicated with the WFP and the UNICEF to request specialized nutritional supplements, such as Nutritious Packs, particularly for children. However, despite these efforts and discussions, they were unable to obtain support from WFP and UNICEF for these specific items at that time.

The response from the Project Staff at SODIN indicates an attempt to secure continued access to food and nutrition support for beneficiary households' post-project. This scenario underscores the importance of contingency planning, collaboration with external partners, and exploring alternative strategies to guarantee continued access to essential food and nutrition support for vulnerable households in the absence of anticipated assistance. However, it was not confirmed that there is any organization continued to provide food assistance to the targeted beneficiaries after the end of this project.

6. Impact

This part of the report determines whether the project's results and achievements in the areas of improving the food security and nutrition situation and have generated significant positive or negative effects on the targeted population.



6.1 Positive Impact of the Project on Daily Life and Family Members

When asking beneficiaries about the project positive influence on their daily lives and on their family members, they reported a short-term impact of nutrition, food security, during the project period. Many beneficiaries and participants of FGDs expressed gratitude for the project's provision of consistent, balanced meals, which has enabled them to shift towards healthier eating habits and improve their dietary diversity. Before the project, the beneficiaries reported that food scarcity and financial burden were prevalent issues, but during the project, families were able to cook multiple meals daily, reduce hunger, and save money on food expenses. However, the findings did not show that the improvement will continue after the end of the project the same it was during the project and the situation is expected go back to the situation prior to the project.

"The project has positively influenced our lives as we are able to eat everyday food".

One of the beneficiaries.

"The project allowed us to cope with the hunger caused by the droughts".

Another one of the beneficiaries.

"The project allows me not to take borrowing from the Shops".

Also, another one of the beneficiaries.

They mentioned that this intervention not only addressed immediate food insecurity but also contributed to enhanced social cohesion, improved health outcomes, and reduced stress associated with meeting basic needs, thus fostering hope and stability within the community. ***"This program reduced the likelihood of social unrest and crime that can arise from desperation and hunger"***, said one of the beneficiaries. The participants of one FGDs also emphasized how the project had temporarily alleviated food insecurity, reduced the risk of stunting in children, and created job opportunities.

Moreover, the interviewed beneficiaries and the participants of the four FGDs highlighted that the project has not only improved their nutritional status and dietary practices but has also positively impacted some of household incomes and financial situations, particularly those engaged in construction activities and could master manual craft. By providing food assistance, participants of FGDs reported that the project has reduced hunger, malnutrition rates, and the financial strain related to food expenditures that families were struggling to cover. Families reported feeling a sense of independence and resilience, with the project empowering them to better address food insecurity issues. The project's influence extended beyond merely providing food, touching various aspects of their lives and creating a lasting positive impact on their well-being, economic stability, and social relationships. Overall, the project's intervention has been helpful in transforming the daily lives of beneficiaries, leading to improved health, economic relief, and a strengthened sense of community well-being.

6.2 Impact of Multi-Purpose Community Center on Resilience and Living Conditions

When asked the interviewed beneficiaries about how the construction of the multi-purpose community center benefited them and their community in terms of resilience and living conditions, about 91% (n= 236) reported that the constructed community centers increased their access to essential services and facilities within the community center; 35% said they improved community cohesion and social interactions and 33% said they enhanced opportunities for education and skill-building. Also, 16% said the construction of the community centers expanded economic opportunities and livelihood options for community members who have been involved in the Food-for-Work and 14% said these centers strengthened the ability to withstand and overcome challenges and adversity.

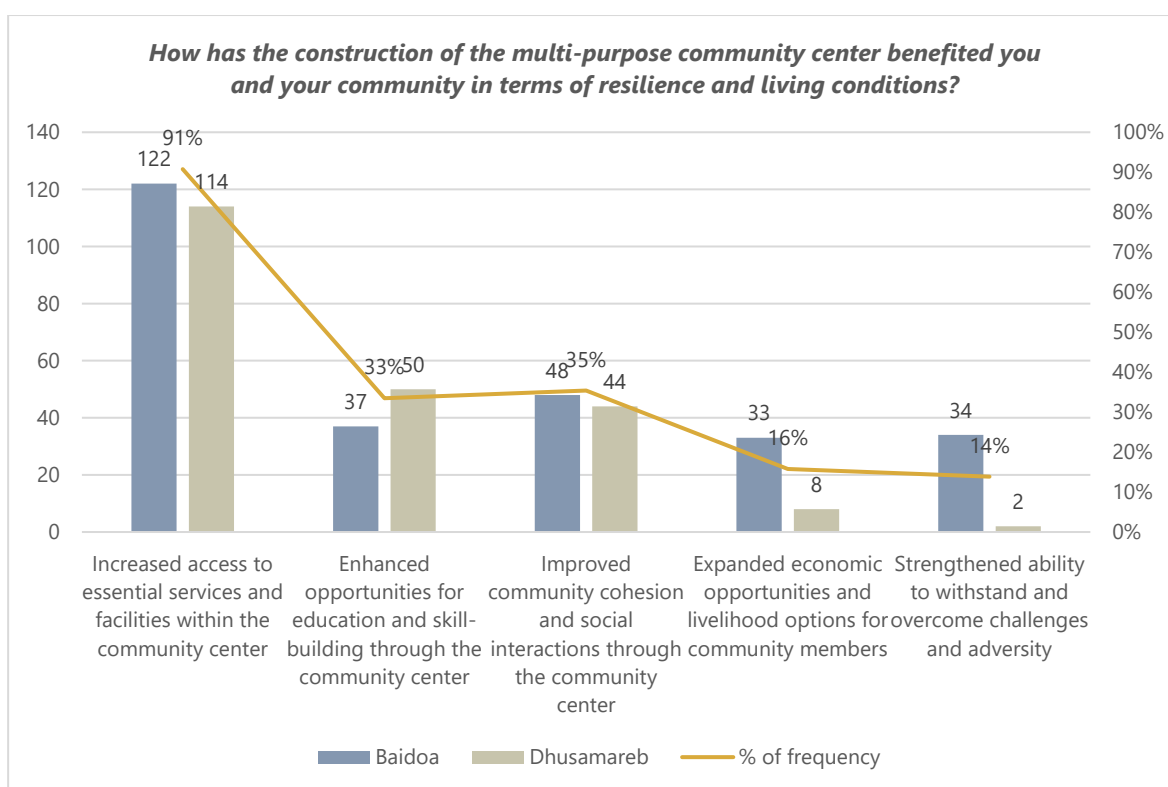


Figure 16: Impact of Multi-Purpose Community Center on Resilience and Living Conditions

6.3 Improvements in living conditions due to the project

The majority of the interviewed beneficiaries (94% or 245) mentioned that the project has positively impacted their household's overall well-being and quality of life by providing them with improved nutrition. Also, 36% said the projected assistance reduced their hunger and malnutrition. Also, 23% said it increased their income and savings using the money they used to spend on food before receiving the food assistance on other basic needs. Moreover, 15% said besides improving their nutrition, the project also enhanced their social well-being and community engagement.

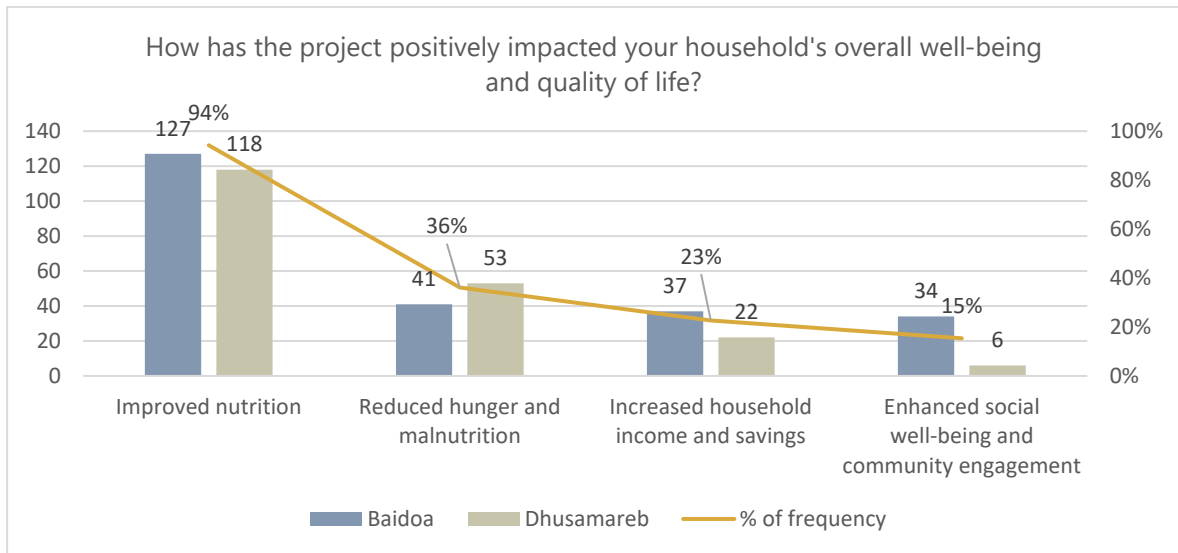


Figure 17: Project's impact on household well-being and quality of life

All the interviewed community committee members and camps coordinators and participants of FGDs reveal significant positive changes in households' living conditions resulting from project interventions. The insights gathered indicate that the project has led to marked improvements in food security, nutrition, and overall well-being within the community. Community committee feedback emphasizes the eradication of hunger for two months, improved food availability, enhanced nutrition, particularly benefiting children.

Food Security and Nutrition: Across all focus groups, participants highlighted improvements in food security and nutrition as a direct result of the project. Families noted increased access to higher-quality food, leading to healthier and more balanced diets. This enhancement in food quality translated into improved health outcomes, particularly for children, who experienced reduced illnesses and increased vitality.



Economic Stability: The project played a crucial role in enhancing economic stability for households. Participants mentioned cost savings on food expenses, enabling them to allocate resources to other essential needs. This financial flexibility not only alleviated immediate financial pressures but also contributed to long-term economic resilience within the households.



Community Integration and Social Cohesion: The project enhanced community integration and social cohesion among participants. By providing spaces for social activities and community gatherings, such as the constructed communal halls, the project facilitated stronger bonds within the communities. Participants of FGDs felt valued and welcomed, enhancing their sense of belonging and social support networks. Also, camps coordinators noted that the community center improved issue resolution processes, leading to better problem-solving within the camp.



Health and Well-being: Improved health and well-being emerged as a common theme in all the conducted FGDs. Participants reported positive changes in their overall health status, attributing these improvements to the project's focus on nutrition and health interventions. Reduced illnesses, increased energy levels, and better overall quality of life were noted outcomes of the project's initiatives.



The project's holistic approach addressed critical aspects of participants' living conditions, including food security, economic stability, health, and social well-being. Participants across all focus groups acknowledged tangible and meaningful improvements in their daily lives, underscoring the project's effectiveness in enhancing their quality of life and resilience against challenges. Therefore, the project's interventions significantly contributed to enhancing participants' household living conditions by improving food security, economic stability, community integration, and health outcomes. The positive impacts observed underscored the project's success in addressing key areas of concern and bringing about positive changes in the lives of the participants.

6.4 Impact of the Project on Nutrition Situation

About 57% of the interviewed beneficiaries reported that they have noticed changes in the nutritional status and feeding practices of infants and young children in their household or community since participating in the project. They noted improvements such as enhanced health, increased activity levels, better nutrition, improved feeding practices, increased food availability, reduced hunger and malnutrition and heightened dietary diversity.

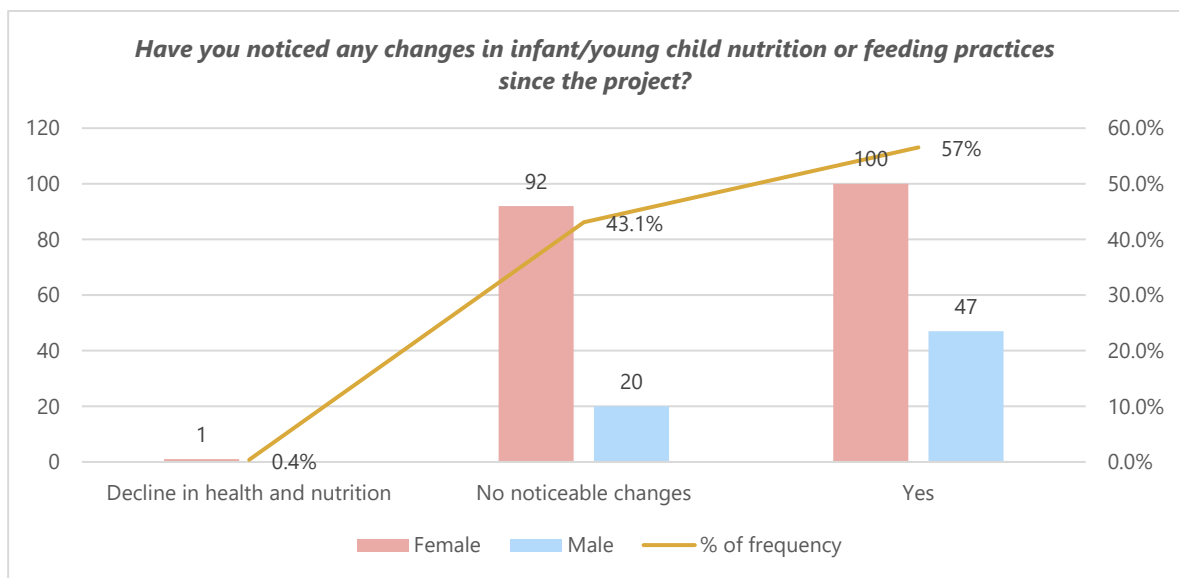


Figure 18: Observed changes in nutrition and feeding practices

The project staff noted significant improvements in the health and nutritional status of children under 2 years of age, Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLWs), and IDPs following the provision of milk powder. However, it is important that the distributed milk is suitable for the consumption of children under 2 years to avoid any health consequences might occur for introducing such milk for babies. This intervention not only directly benefited the children by enhancing their nutrition but also supported breastfeeding mothers, leading to improved overall health outcomes within these vulnerable populations. Despite the initial challenge of not securing biscuits, the dual purpose served by the milk powder in nourishing both children and mothers proved highly beneficial in promoting better health and well-being.

However, 43% (n=112) said there were no noticeable changes in the nutritional situation and feeding practices of infants since their participation in the project. This lack of change could be attributed to factors such as inadequate nutrition provisions, a short duration of assistance (limited to two months), and minimal benefits derived from nutrition awareness sessions. Therefore, it is recommended to ensure sustained and adequate provision of nutritional resources for extended

nutrition support, while also extending project durations to facilitate lasting changes in feeding practices and nutritional outcomes. Strengthening and diversifying nutrition awareness programs can further maximize participant benefits and knowledge retention for sustained impact.

6.5 Impact of Project on Peace and Social Cohesion

The Community Committee members reported that there were positive shifts in community dynamics, relationships, and cooperation because of their participation in the Food-for-Work project and the utilization of the multipurpose community center. They noted enhanced community cohesion, improved problem-solving capabilities, and increased collaboration among the community members.

“The community members had a better chance to meet and solve issues, they had a place to address their problems”.

One of the community members.

These changes had empowered marginalized groups and had strengthened community bonds, leading to a more interconnected and supportive environment where residents worked together towards common goals.

The project staff noted that the project activities, particularly the Food-for-Work initiative and the construction of a community center, significantly enhanced social cohesion and trust between ex-militias and the broader community in the Dusamareb and Baidoa districts. He noted that the Food-for-Work program had encouraged collaboration by providing tangible benefits to both ex-militias and community members, promoting cooperation towards shared goals and fostering mutual understanding and respect. The community center had created a shared space for various groups to interact and participate in joint activities, facilitating informal conversations and cultural exchanges that enhanced social integration. By involving ex-militias in constructive activities that benefited the entire community, he thinks that the project helped alleviate previous tensions and grievances, reducing the likelihood of conflicts and contributing to a more stable environment.

According to the interviewed project staff, the regular interactions through project activities had allowed individuals from diverse backgrounds to get to know each other personally, fostering trust and strengthening social bonds over time. Also, engaging vulnerable communities in decision-making processes related to the projects had empowered them and given them a sense of ownership, leading to increased pride in their community and a collective effort towards its improvement.

From the findings, it is evident that the project's activities have effectively addressed practical needs, such as food security and infrastructure, while fostering reconciliation, social cohesion, and trust-building among diverse community groups, thereby contributing to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

6.6 Unintended Positive and Negative Impacts

Based on the findings of the interviewed respondents, there were no unintended negative impacts caused by the implementation of the project. The interviewed project staff along with the local authority confirmed that the project has achieved positive impacts on the targeted beneficiaries and

local communities, noting that the local community and IDPs did not encounter any unintended challenges as a result of the project. On the other hand, the respondents reported that unintended positive impacts, represented by the improvement of the relationship between the IDPs in the targeted camps and the host community. According to them, the residents displayed support and understanding towards the IDPs who had traveled long distances from areas like Galmudug, offering them land for settlement. This unforeseen positive impact fostered a sense of community solidarity, empathy, and cooperation, contributing to the overall success and harmony of the project.

7. Localization

This section of the report Examine the operational reliability and significance of JPF member NGOs, ACCEPT assessing their responsibilities, leadership, and impact on project implementation, excluding financial contributions, while comparing project outputs to initial assessments and forecasting future impacts. Assess the learning of ACCEPT and SODIN from their previous experience to improve their skills and strategies to have bigger impact.



7.1 Utilization of Local Resources and Capacities

According to the interviewed Community Committee and Camp Coordinators, the indispensable roles that local community leaders and authorities have played in the projects carried out by ACCEPT. The respondents reported that the Community Committee members assisted in the community engagement, mobilization, and decision-making processes. Additionally, the local authority had great role in ensuring the security of both project staff and displaced individuals, highlighting their multi-faceted involvement in project operations.

Moreover, the Community Committee leaders were pivotal in the successful execution of the project within the community. Their active participation encompassed various essential tasks, including needs assessments, project design, and close collaboration with the implementation team to address critical needs such as food insecurity and inadequate housing conditions of IDPs. They also made sure that beneficiaries were available to receive the food, and the distribution process goes smoothly.

Also, the Camps Coordinators were reported to be actively engaged in project activities, raising awareness and ensuring that the projects resonated with the local population's needs. They took on crucial roles in managing logistics, coordinating food distribution, and identifying vulnerable individuals within the community, showcasing their comprehensive involvement in project operations.

When asked about the extent of how well the project took into account the local customs, traditions, and cultural practices related to food security and nutrition, all the interviewed KIIs confirmed that the project considered them very well. They reported that the project has been effective in considering and respecting local customs, traditions, and cultural practices related to food security and nutrition. They emphasized that this approach allowed individuals to engage in their cultural practices without the worry of food shortages, particularly enabling them to carry out activities like prayers comfortably. Moreover, the respondents highlighted the project's active engagement with local communities and leaders to ensure that interventions align with cultural preferences and values, indicating a culturally sensitive and community-centric approach to addressing food security and nutritional needs.

7.2 Shifting Leadership and Decision-making to Local Actors

As reported by the project staff, the process of localization within the projects led by ACCEPT or SODIN has been effectively executed by shifting leadership, decision-making, and implementation responsibilities to local actors. Prior to project commencement, thorough coordination took place with local authorities and government ministries. Collaborative efforts and discussions with the Ministry of Finance clarified that project staff would not require salaries, accompanied by the submission of necessary documentation and staff profiles. Engagements with relevant ministries for licensing and with the local community, including the mayor, were integral.

According to the KIIs, the project has strategically developed local capacities for sustainability and community resilience by establishing community-based committees like the food assistance distribution committee and the community center management committee. These committees have played vital roles in ensuring efficient food distribution and managing community resources effectively. The project enhanced long-term sustainability and resilience within the community. It also empowered local structures to address challenges independently and maintain positive outcomes over time.

7.3 Roles and Responsibilities of ACCEPT and SODIN

The collaboration between SODIN and ACCEPT in the project was characterized by a clear division of duties and cooperative methods. As per the partnership between the two organizations, ACCEPT was tasked with formulating business content and plans, acquiring the budget, determining beneficiaries and project sites, establishing assessment and monitoring criteria, allocating tasks and budgets, as well as coordinating and negotiating with stakeholders such as the federal government of Somalia and the government of Garmdug. They also provided weekly progress reports and donor evaluations, implemented safety measures and business continuity planning. SODIN, on the other hand, executed the budget, conducted preliminary surveys, managed project activities including procurement, assessment, distribution, and monitoring, and assigned necessary personnel for project implementation. They maintained regular communication with ACCEPT and stakeholders like the Garmdougou State Government, providing updates on business progress and task planning.

The two organizations maintained a close link through weekly online meetings to discuss project progress, address issues, and incorporate feedback from beneficiaries. Daily reports from SODIN kept ACCEPT informed about business progress and task planning, ensuring transparency and alignment. Each budget execution underwent joint review and approval by SODIN in collaboration with ACCEPT, demonstrating a shared responsibility and oversight mechanism. This collaborative approach facilitated effective coordination and decision-making throughout the project, enhancing efficiency and communication between the partners involved.

As reported by the project staff from SODIN and ACCEPT regarding their roles and responsibilities in project implementation and decision-making, SODIN's key tasks included obtaining licenses and security clearances, conducting surveys, identifying beneficiary needs, and ensuring safe food delivery to targeted areas. Collaboration with ACCEPT was pivotal for needs assessment, proposing solutions, and securing funding. Detailed reporting on activities and challenges was crucial, with ongoing communication between SODIN and ACCEPT to address issues effectively. SODIN actively participated in planning and design phases, incorporating stakeholder input for proposals, budgeting decisions, and project scope adjustments based on collaborative feedback. The focus was on achieving cost-efficient and effective project outcomes through consensus-driven decision-making.

and stakeholder engagement, ensuring a balanced approach to meet beneficiary needs while managing budgets and project execution efficiently.

ACCEPT roles were reported to be very important in terms of transparency and efficiency and showing clear financial management. ACCEPT used to ask for detailed documentation for expenses was diligently provided, and proactive measures were taken to prepare for audits by promptly requesting all necessary invoices and documents.

Also, ACCEPT team based in Mogadishu, were reported to be familiar with project locations and activities, coordinated with SODIN staff members, visiting the project location Dusamareb and Baidoa. ACCEPT team also engaged in both remote management and on-the-ground supervision of project activities, indicating a significant approach to project oversight and implementation.

Therefore, this structured collaboration between SODIN and ACCEPT exemplifies the importance of clear delineation of responsibilities, regular communication, and joint oversight in project management. The division of duties allowed each organization to focus on their respective strengths, while the close connection through meetings and reports ensured that progress was monitored, and issues were addressed promptly. The joint review of budget executions underscored the shared commitment to financial transparency and accountability. Overall, this collaborative model promoted effective project implementation and stakeholder engagement, leading to successful outcomes for the project.

7.4 ACCEPT's Expertise, Technical Capacity, and Coordination Skills in Project Delivery

In terms of capacity building, it was reported there was no specific training provided by ACCEPT. Nonetheless, SODIN team, was reported to be having a very long experience gained from collaborations with various organizations since 2011, adeptly managed the project without formal capacity-building sessions. Regarding the collaboration between ACCEPT and SODIN, it has started in 2021.

SODIN team reported that throughout the project period, communication with ACCEPT project manager was continuous and thorough on daily basis to ensure that all details and issues were promptly addressed. Also, the project staff reported that ACCEPT project manager was tracking the progress of the work closely with SODIN team to ensure smooth implementing and provide feedback and suggestion when needed to resolve any issues faced by SODIN. They added that ACCEPT ensured that SODIN aligned with the project goals through the raised progress reports raised by SODIN.

In implementing the project, SODIN emerged as the primary organization responsible for on-the-ground operations, playing a pivotal role in tasks like beneficiary identification, procurement, distribution of food items, and the establishment of monitoring systems. Their hands-on involvement ensured the execution of activities aligned with donor-provided plans and guidelines. ACCEPT, while not directly engaged in these field activities, assumed a critical role in providing oversight and support, guaranteeing adherence to project objectives and donor stipulations. Both organizations effectively fulfilled their designated responsibilities, with SODIN focusing on practical execution and ACCEPT overseeing compliance and coordination, indicating a collaborative effort in achieving project success.

7.5 Prioritizing and Decision-making for Urgent Issues

In situations necessitating urgent changes, such as adjusting project timelines or addressing critical issues, the process typically involved several steps. According to the project staff, for instance, when modifications were required, ACCEPT would first consult with the donors, providing detailed explanations and responses to their inquiries regarding the reasons and impacts of these adjustments. After gathering all necessary information and responses, ACCEPT then presented these to the donors, like JPF. Once JPF had reviewed and confirmed the changes, ACCEPT would inform that the adjustments were approved, allowing the project to proceed accordingly. For more manageable adjustments, like extending deadlines or altering distribution schedules, project staff followed a structured process. Whenever changes were necessary, such as delaying food distribution from May to June, ACCEPT and SODIN first discuss the situation thoroughly, evaluating the reasons for the changes and then ACCEPT submit a detailed request to the donor. Only after receiving the donor's approval, SODIN proceed with the changes. This process ensured that all modifications were properly reviewed and authorized before implementation.

As mentioned previously, regular weekly meetings were held to discuss and address any issues affecting the budget and project activities. Problems were prioritized, with immediate attention given to urgent matters. Quick interventions were made as needed, even outside the scheduled meeting times, ensuring that critical issues were promptly addressed, and decisions were made in a timely manner.

7.6 Criteria for Evaluating Capacity and Past Experiences of Selected IPs

According to ACCEPT KIIs, ACCEPT selected SODIN as their implementing partners through a rigorous evaluation process based on qualifications and experience. Local candidates were assessed for their suitability, with interviews conducted to delve into their experience in community development, peace-building initiatives, and working with vulnerable populations such as IDPs. The selection criteria emphasized a track record in these areas, ensuring that the chosen partners had the requisite skills and background to effectively contribute to the project. The qualifications and connections of SODIN candidates were deemed particularly fitting for the project's needs, aligning well with the goals and requirements set forth by ACCEPT.



- While the distributed items provide some of the core food commodities, they do not fully align with the minimum food basket requirements as defined by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) in Somalia. The distributed basket appears to be missing key food groups and quantities to meet the basic caloric and nutritional needs of the targeted households. These gaps are significant because they can lead to malnutrition, stunting, and other health issues, especially for vulnerable groups like young children and pregnant/lactating women. A balanced, nutritious diet is critical in crisis settings to prevent these adverse outcomes.
- No involvement of food security and nutrition experts were reported by the interviewed project staff. This highlights a critical gap in the planning process. The lack of specialized expertise can lead to inadequate assessment of nutritional needs, suboptimal intervention strategies, and missed opportunities for addressing food security effectively. Future projects should ensure the early and active involvement of food security and nutrition experts to provide essential guidance, develop evidence-based solutions, and enhance the overall impact of the interventions. This approach will improve the alignment of project activities with the specific needs of the target populations and increase the likelihood of achieving meaningful and sustainable outcomes.
- Among the reported awareness topics by the project staff, is the hygiene practices, which includes the food hygiene. Regarding powdered milk, the project staff reported that clean water is monitored by the government and which ensure that the households get clean water, noting that the households were trained by the ministry of health regarding using clean water in preparing foods, including powdered milk. However, it is commendable that ACCEPT has SOPs for the distribution of powdered milk to ensure safe utilization of milk by the targeted beneficiaries. Moreover, it is crucial to provide clear instructions on the preparation and use of powdered milk to avoid misuse and ensure it is consumed safely.
- The beneficiaries overwhelmingly reported that food assistance alleviated food insecurity and malnutrition among children and Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLWs), with a majority citing improved awareness of nutrition-related issues and enhanced ability to maintain household living conditions. Despite these positive impacts, challenges persist in ensuring adequate and consistent food supplies, as highlighted by participants who expressed ongoing struggles to meet their families' nutritional needs even with assistance. Recommendations include providing food baskets in alignment with the minimum criteria established by the FSNAU to address these ongoing challenges and enhance food security for vulnerable populations.
- The construction of multi-purpose community centers has showcased their high relevance in meeting a variety of community needs. These centers, as highlighted by Camps Coordinators, serve as vital spaces for community gatherings, promoting inclusivity and bridging humanitarian and developmental efforts by addressing healthcare services and educational requirements. They play a crucial role in enhancing community resilience by functioning as emergency shelters during disasters, raising awareness, addressing community issues, and providing educational opportunities. Moreover, the centers' value lies in their capacity to amplify the impact of food assistance initiatives, acting as distribution hubs for essential supplies and hosting educational sessions that empower participants to optimize nutritional benefits.

- The finding demonstrates that food assistance project has improved household access to food, reduced hunger, and enhanced food security within the community during the project period. The provision of nutritious food rations and the opportunities provided through Food-for-Work initiatives were mentioned that it has not only addressed immediate food needs but also empowered individuals and strengthened community resilience. However, from the analysis of the findings it was not evident that the beneficiaries involved in the Food-for-Work components has used the reported skills they learned in engaging in any income generating activities. The short period of the project might be one of the constraints for the beneficiaries to master a skill and be able to utilize in earning some money beyond the project period
- ACCEPT and SODIN were acknowledged for implementing efficient measures to maximize cost-effectiveness for food assistance and community center construction. Through rigorous supplier selection, approval processes, market assessments, and negotiations, they aimed to procure high-quality items while obtaining the best value for money. These endeavors contributed to cost-efficiency and the successful delivery of aid to beneficiaries.
- The project activities have garnered overall positive feedback for enhancing households' self-reliance and sustainability in meeting nutritional needs, as emphasized by FGD participants and KIIs. The Food-for-Work initiatives were recognized for enabling households to access food, improve children's health, and acquire skills for long-term sustainability. While some participants expressed reservations, citing limitations in project assistance, the majority acknowledged the positive impacts on nutrition, financial savings, community cohesion, and education in healthy eating practices provided by the project.
- The project has had a positive impact on the nutritional status and feeding practices of infants and young children, with a majority of beneficiaries reporting improvements in health, nutrition, and feeding practices. However, a significant proportion of beneficiaries did not notice any changes, highlighting the need for continued support and improvement.



1. The FGDs highlighted the importance of taking a comprehensive approach to address food insecurity. It is crucial to combine food assistance with opportunities for skill acquisition, income generation, and community integration. This multifaceted approach not only alleviates immediate hunger but also empowers individuals and communities to become more self-sufficient and resilient in the long run.
2. A considerable percentage of the beneficiaries reported that the food basket was not sufficient to cover the food needs for the whole month. This suggests that the distributed food items should align with the quantities specified by the food security cluster to ensure covering the beneficiaries needs of food for the whole month.
3. When asked the project staff about the sufficiency of the distributed food basket, they noted that they knew from the PDM with beneficiaries that the food basket items were not sufficient. However, he reported that ACCEPT/SODIN couldn't add more food items since it was based on the project budget. This give indication that the project design was not based on comprehensive needs assessment or did not consider the scale of needs for the targeted households. Therefore, it recommended that correction actions to be taken by ACCEPT during the project intervention to address the sufficiency of the food items either through probing the reasons for the insufficiency or discuss with JPF. Sharing the food basket with relatives of the beneficiaries could be one of the reasons for the inadequacy of the food items, therefore, from the corrective measures that are recommended to be take is to enhance the awareness of the beneficiaries to not share the food basket with other households to ensure their benefit from it.
4. From the mentioned challenges during the implementation of the project, particularly the Food-for-Work activities is the beneficiaries' preference to receive cash instead of food. Therefore, the food cluster is Somalia recommended that the cash assistance is utilized in instances in which markets are determined safe, functional, well stocked with basic goods and physically accessible to all. Markets should be able to respond to changes in demand and maintain reasonable prices;
5. The project staff noted that the food basket items were insufficient, but ACCEPT/SODIN could not add more items due to budget constraints. This suggests that either the project design was not based on an accurate needs assessment or it did not fully account for the scale of needs. ACCEPT/SODIN should reassess the project design and budget to better address the needs of the targeted households.
6. About 43% of participants did not report noticeable changes in nutrition and feeding practices. This suggests that while the provision of milk powder had positive impacts, the associated nutrition awareness programs and monitoring processes were not sufficiently effective in promoting lasting improvements in practices.
7. It is critical to ensure that any distributed milk, particularly for young children, is appropriate for their age group. The use of milk products not specifically formulated for infants under 2 years can pose health risks and may lead to adverse health consequences.
8. One key lesson learned from this project is the importance of comprehensive safety planning and proactive measures. By deploying police officers in all distribution sites, implementing queuing systems, providing protective equipment, and assigning security officers, the project effectively mitigated risks and ensured the safety of beneficiaries and workers. Having the security officers were recommended by the local authority to avoid any potential risks or attacks on the project distribution

sites. This highlights the value of thorough risk assessment, strategic distribution site selection, and the implementation of appropriate safety protocols to create a secure environment. The project's emphasis on safety serves as an important lesson for future initiatives, emphasizing the need to prioritize the well-being of all stakeholders involved in similar humanitarian assistance projects.

9. Multi-purpose community centers play a crucial role in promoting inclusivity and fostering the humanitarian-development nexus by bringing different groups together and addressing various community needs.
10. The project staff highlighted the commitment to maintaining quality as a priority. Despite working within budget constraints, it is crucial to ensure that all food items and building materials meet high standards. This lesson learned supports the recommendation to prioritize quality and avoid compromising the impact of the project.
11. The project has highlighted the importance of multi-purpose community centers in promoting community engagement, learning, and resilience-building efforts, emphasizing the significance of inclusivity and educational opportunities. Also, it underscores the value of sustainable facilities in strengthening social cohesion and unity among targeted communities, showcasing the long-term benefits of such initiatives beyond immediate assistance. After the project, the respondents reported that local committees were formed to address communal needs and maintain the community center, reflecting a stronger sense of ownership. Regular cultural and social events at the community center further enhanced social cohesion by facilitating diverse group interactions.
12. While some of the respondents reported that the project enhanced the nutritional status and feeding practices of infants and young children for a majority of beneficiaries, the notable percentage that did not perceive any changes underscores the necessity for ongoing support and refinements to ensure sustained impact and reach all beneficiaries effectively. Additionally, increasing the quantities of the distributed food items is crucial to ensure covering the food needs for households for the whole month. MPCA could be a good alternative also to ensure beneficiaries covering their basic needs and invest in any livelihood activities
13. It is crucial for SODIN to engage with diverse organizations, especially health and education service providers, to ensure the sustained utilization of these centers for delivering vital services to both IDPs and the host community.



The recommendations below apply to future projects, local authorities, project staff, and Japan Platform (JPF).

1. For Future Projects

If there is a next phase of the project in the same area or other areas of similar needs building on the great positive impact on and success achieved by this project, ***the following recommendations could be considered:***

- a) It is recommended that regular nutrition workshops be conducted, and educational materials be provided to empower beneficiaries with knowledge and skills for making informed dietary choices, fostering long-term health benefits within the community.
- b) Building on the positive impact of practical knowledge transfer highlighted by participants, it is recommended that future projects prioritize holistic training approaches and consider implementing cooking demonstration sessions. By focusing on essential skills like understanding nutritious food choices for children and proper cooking techniques, projects can empower households to provide healthy meals effectively. Integrating practical learning opportunities into training initiatives will ensure a comprehensive and sustainable impact on food security and nutrition outcomes in similar contexts.
- c) For future projects, it is advisable to integrate emergency livelihood assistance alongside the provision of vocational training in addition to the distribution of food baskets. This combined approach will more effectively address both immediate food security and nutrition needs, as well as support longer-term livelihood recovery. Incorporating emergency livelihood assistance can significantly enhance the overall impact of the intervention by not only meeting the immediate food needs but also by providing the tools and resources necessary for vulnerable households, particularly internally displaced persons (IDPs), to either resume or initiate productive livelihood activities. This dual-focus strategy will better support the affected communities in achieving sustainable self-reliance and economic stability.
- d) Given the challenges observed during the implementation of the project, especially regarding Food-for-Work activities, it is recommended that beneficiaries' preference for cash assistance be considered. The food cluster in Somalia suggests that cash assistance should be used when markets are assessed as safe, functional, well-stocked with basic goods, and physically accessible. Additionally, markets should be capable of responding to changes in demand and maintaining reasonable prices.
- e) It is recommended to extend the duration of nutrition assistance beyond two months to enable beneficiaries to experience more sustained benefits. This extension could lead to improved nutritional outcomes as individuals will have access to resources for a longer period, promoting better health and well-being among infants and young children.
- f) It is advised to prolong the project duration to allow participants to internalize and adopt new feeding practices and nutritional habits more effectively. Over an extended period, individuals are more likely to integrate these changes into their daily routines, leading to lasting improvements in health, nutrition, and overall well-being.
- g) To enhance the effectiveness of future interventions, it is recommended that Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) include comprehensive surveys with households to assess their benefit from the activities and gauge the effectiveness of nutrition awareness programs. These surveys should provide detailed insights into how beneficiaries are utilizing the nutritional resources and implementing

recommended practices. The findings should then be used to inform project management, allowing for timely corrective actions and adjustments to improve the impact of the intervention and ensure that nutrition awareness translates into meaningful changes in feeding practices.

- h) In future project, prior to distribution, it is recommended to confirm that all milk products provided, especially those intended for children under 2 years, are specifically formulated for their age group. Regularly review and update the criteria for milk products to ensure they meet the nutritional and health needs of the target population.
- i) It is suggested to implement robust monitoring and evaluation processes to assess the impact of the distributed milk on the health of children and other beneficiaries. This should include tracking health outcomes and any adverse effects reported along with developing and using detailed monitoring tools to gather feedback from beneficiaries and healthcare providers. Regularly review data is commendable to ensure the milk products are effectively meeting the nutritional needs without causing harm.
- j) It is recommended to provide clear guidance and education to beneficiaries on the appropriate use of milk products, including the correct preparation and feeding practices for different age groups. This can be done through conducting training sessions and distributing informational materials to caregivers on the nutritional requirements for children under 2 years and the proper use of distributed milk products.
- k) In future projects, it is important to consider providing food assistance for a longer duration to ensure sustained support and address the beneficiaries' food security needs. Additionally future projects are recommended to increase the quantity of food assistance provided to meet the nutritional requirements of the beneficiaries adequately. This can help alleviate their concerns about the adequacy of the assistance and provide a more considerable impact on their overall well-being.
- l) Given the concerns regarding food sufficiency despite reported improvements in nutrition, it is crucial to align the food assistance with FSNAU's minimum requirements. This alignment will ensure that the support provided meets the actual needs of the beneficiaries.
- m) It is recommended to consider adjusting the food basket distribution to account for the number of household members. This adjustment should follow the quantities specified by the food cluster to ensure adequacy. Additionally, it is recommended to increase the number of the distribution cycles in any future similar project to at least 3 months to the same household in order to ensure a meaningful impact on households' food security and basic needs as it is recommended by the Food Security Cluster.
- n) To address the issue of food insufficiency potentially caused by beneficiaries sharing their food baskets with others, it is recommended to enhance awareness among beneficiaries about the importance of using the food basket solely for their household. This measure will help ensure that the intended support is utilized effectively.
- o) ACCEPT/SODIN is recommended to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to build the design of the project budget on it in order to ensure that the volume of the intervention match the scale of the needs for the targeted beneficiaries. Furthermore, conducting FGDs and/ survey with beneficiaries would be commendable to probe the reasons for the inadequacy of the distributed items.
- p) It is suggested to strengthen and diversify nutrition awareness initiatives to increase knowledge retention and behavioral change among beneficiaries. By offering comprehensive and engaging sessions on nutrition and feeding practices, participants are more likely to implement and sustain positive changes, ultimately leading to better health outcomes for infants and young children.

- q) It is recommended to include awareness-raising and promotion of breastfeeding alongside the distribution of milk powder and baby formula. This approach will not only address immediate nutritional needs but also support long-term health by promoting breastfeeding as the optimal solution for infant nutrition. By integrating educational initiatives on breastfeeding, we can enhance the overall nutritional situation for children. This combined strategy will ensure a more comprehensive approach to meeting both immediate and sustained dietary needs.
- r) For future projects, it is recommended to include additional specialized food kits designed specifically for pregnant and lactating women and for children under 2 years old. For pregnant and lactating women, consider kits such as “Maternal Nutrition Support Packs” which could include fortified cereals, iron and calcium supplements, and high-protein foods. For children under 2 years old, “Early Childhood Nutrition Kits” could be provided, containing age-appropriate fortified infant formula, nutritious pureed foods, and vitamin supplements. These targeted kits will address the unique nutritional needs of these vulnerable groups, improving maternal and child health outcomes and supporting overall developmental progress.
- s) It would be commendable to ensure having the awareness sessions conducted by trained community members through conducting training of trainers (ToTs) for the community members to ensure the sustainability of the project impact after the end of the project.

2. For ACCEPT/SODIN (Implementing Partners)

The following recommendations are for ACCEPT to consider in the design and implementation of its further projects:

- a) It is recommended that for ACCEPT/SODIN, collaboration during the project development phase be strengthened. Ideally, the initial project idea should originate from the local partner and be supported by thorough needs assessments. This approach will ensure that the project is closely aligned with local needs and conditions, enhancing its relevance and effectiveness.
- b) It is recommended to involve a nutrition or food security expert during the design phase of future projects. Integrating this expertise from the outset will ensure that the project’s strategies and interventions are grounded in sound nutritional principles and effectively address food security concerns. The expert can provide valuable insights into the specific nutritional needs of target populations, help design evidence-based interventions, and contribute to the development of realistic and impactful project goals. Their involvement will enhance the project’s ability to develop comprehensive, context-specific solutions that optimize food security and nutrition outcomes.
- c) It is recommended that ACCEPT/SODIN Organization prioritizes sustained support and investment in multi-purpose community centers to ensure the ongoing provision of essential services beyond food aid. The type of infrastructure facility should be constructed based on the needs of the targeted community.
- d) It is recommended that ACCEPT Organization fosters partnerships with local organizations, and local authority, educational institutions, and healthcare providers to expand the range of services offered at the community centers to ensure the complementarity and the synergies of the constructed centers.
- e) It is recommended that ACCEPT Organization actively involves community members in the planning, implementation, and decision-making processes related to the community centers, ensuring their needs and priorities are considered.

- f) It is recommended that ACCEPT/SODIN Organization establishes robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact and effectiveness of the community centers in improving food security and overall community well-being. This can be achieved in collaboration with the local authority in the city level as they will be responsible for these centers after the completion of the project
- g) It is recommended that ACCEPT/SODIN conduct a comprehensive baseline survey to measure key food security and nutrition indicators, including the food consumption score, coping strategy index, and rates of malnutrition among children under 5 years and children under 2 years. Additionally, performing an endline assessment is crucial to evaluate improvements in these food security and nutrition-related indicators. This approach will provide a thorough understanding of the initial conditions and the effectiveness of the interventions, enabling informed adjustments and demonstrating the impact of the project on targeted outcomes.
- h) It is advisable for SODIN to develop a comprehensive exit strategy that delineates the transfer of responsibilities to local authorities for the sustained operation, maintenance, and potential rehabilitation of the community centers post-completion, aligning with the community empowerment and resilience-building efforts. This strategic planning will ensure a smooth transition of ownership and responsibilities, fostering community engagement and ownership over the centers, leading to their continued utilization and positive impact on social cohesion and resilience within the community
- i) It is advisable for SODIN to collaborate with various organizations, particularly health and education service providers, to maximize the utilization of the community centers for offering essential services such as healthcare and educational programs to both IDPs and the host community. By leveraging partnerships for service provision, the community centers will become hubs for holistic development, fostering social inclusion, education, and healthcare access, thereby strengthening community bonds and preparedness for future emergencies.
- j) It is recommended for SODIN to conduct training and capacity-building workshops for the community members to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge for effectively managing and maintaining the community centers in the long term. Empowering local authorities and community members through training will promote sustainability, as well as foster a sense of responsibility and pride in maintaining the centers, leading to sustained community cohesion and resilience.
- k) It is recommended that corrective actions to be taken by ACCEPT during the project intervention to address the insufficiency of the food items either through probing the reasons for the insufficiency or discuss with JPF. Sharing the food basket with relatives of the beneficiaries could be one of the reasons for the inadequacy of the food items, therefore, from the corrective measures that are recommended to be taken is to enhance the awareness of the beneficiaries to not share the food basket with other households to ensure their benefit from it.
- l) The project staff acknowledged that the food basket items were insufficient as per the Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) feedback. This indicates that either the project design was not based on a comprehensive needs assessment or it did not fully account for the scale of needs. ACCEPT/SODIN is recommended to review the project's design and budget allocations to determine if adjustments can be made to better meet the needs of the targeted households. It is recommended that ACCEPT/SODIN foster community engagement by establishing community committees or task forces responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations and upkeep of the facilities, encouraging a sense of ownership among community members.
- m) It is recommended to collect the demographic information of the beneficiaries during the registration process to know the size of the targeted family. This will help in reconsidering the amount they receive

fit the scale of their needs and whether they eligible to receive another basket or to increase the quantities of their food basket.

- n) It is recommended to also to collect the information about the illiteracy of the beneficiaries to consider having a complaints box in the distribution points where there are people who can read and write to ensure that they can file their complaints in the box.
- o) It is recommended that ACCEPT/SODIN explore diverse opportunities for resource mobilization through partnerships with local businesses, NGOs, or governmental agencies to secure funding for the maintenance and future enhancements of the community centers.
- p) It is recommended for ACCEPT to consider in the design of the project distributing food items within the recommended food value by Food Security Cluster to ensure having reasonable impact on the households' food security and basic needs. This could help the targeted beneficiaries to cover their basic food needs for the whole month.
- q) Having a phone number of beneficiaries is deemed to be effective in enabling people to raise their complaints, while maintain the privacy of the complainant. However, it is still recommended to have complaint box at the project site to enable beneficiaries who do not have or lack access to phone to file their complaints in the complaints box. The complaints box should be opened regularly for example weekly or bi-weekly and report them to the concerned project staff to address these complaints.

3. For Japan Platform (Donor)

- a) It is recommended that JPF prioritizes sustained support and investment in multi-purpose community centers to ensure the ongoing provision of essential services beyond food aid in similar conflicting contexts. Adopting cash for work activities can address the emergency needs of vulnerable households and sustain lasting benefits from the constructed facilities such as the multi-purpose community centers.
- b) It is also recommended that JPF increase the scale of budget for food security project to help the IPs to increase the quantities of the distributed food items is crucial to ensure covering the food needs for households for the whole month. MPCA could be a good alternative also to ensure beneficiaries covering their basic needs and invest in any livelihood activities
- c) It is recommended that efforts be made by JPF to encourage and support agricultural initiatives and home gardening projects among beneficiaries to enhance food self-sufficiency, increase fresh produce access, and improve overall food security in the community.
- d) It is recommended to consider supporting interventions in similar context with more distribution cycles to enable longer benefit of the beneficiaries from the project assistance to enhance their nutrition situation and achieve an impact in the health situation of children and PLWs.



Annex I - Evaluation Inception Report



2nd Draft - Inception
Report of JPF-EFAFW

Annex II - ToR for Evaluation



TPE_ToR_JPF-SML-24-
02.pdf

Annex III - Matrix of Evaluation Questions



Question Matrix-
Final Evaluation -EFAF

Annex IV - English Data Collection Tools (Word Format)



Questions for Final Evaluation - EFAFW - I Evaluation - EFAFW - I Evaluation - EFAFW - I Evaluation - EFAFW - I Evaluation - EFAFW - I Evaluation - EFAFW - I



Questions for Final
Evaluation - EFAFW - I

Annex V - Data Used for Analysis



Data of Somalia
EFAFW Project Evalu

Annex VI - Detailed Rating of DAC Criteria

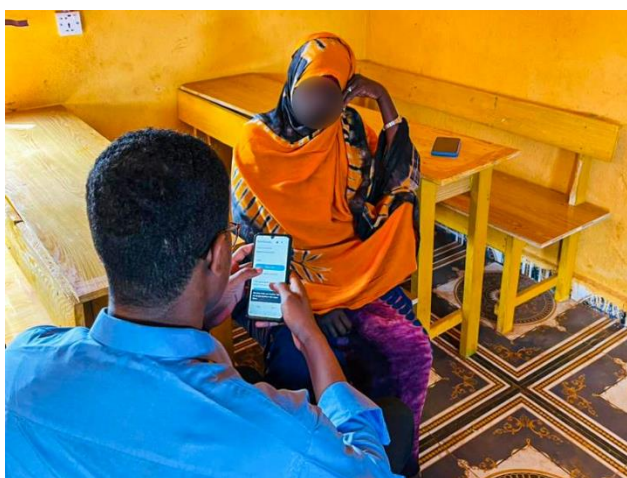


Rating DAC
Criteria_EFAFW.xlsx

Annex VII - Evaluation Team from MEAL Center

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5	Field team from HC	(2 Female & 7 Male)	-

Annex VIII - Photos



A photo taken for a researcher while interviewing a female beneficiary in Baidoa city, Somalia June 7, 2024



A photo taken for a researcher while interviewing a female beneficiary in Baidoa city, Somalia June 8, 2024



A photo taken for a researcher while interviewing a female beneficiary in Baidoa city, Somalia June 9, 2024



A photo taken for a researcher while interviewing a female beneficiary in Baidoa city, Somalia June 9, 2024



A photo was taken of the Community Center for Care and Pace in Baidoa city, Somalia June 8, 2024



A photo was taken of the camps in Baidoa city, Somalia June 9, 2024



A photo was taken of the camps in Baidoa city, Somalia June 9, 2024



A photo was taken of the camps in Baidoa city, Somalia June 9, 2024



A photo was taken for researchers while conducting an FGD in Dusamareb city, Somalia June 8, 2024



A photo was taken for two researchers while conducting an FGD in Dusamareb city, Somalia June 9, 2024



A photo was taken for a researcher while interviewing a male Head of humanitarian and IDP in Dusamareb city, Somalia June 11, 2024



A photo was taken for a researcher while interviewing a female Camps Coordinator in Dusamareb city, Somalia June 6, 2024



A photo was taken in Dusamareb city, Somalia June 11, 2024



A photo was taken of the camps in Dusamareb city, Somalia June 11, 2024



A photo taken for a researcher while interviewing a male beneficiary in Dusamareb city, Somalia June 9, 2024



A photo taken for a researcher while interviewing a male beneficiary in Dusamareb city, Somalia June 10, 2024



A photo taken for a researcher while interviewing a female beneficiary in Dusamareb city, Somalia June 10, 2024



A photo taken for a researcher while interviewing a female beneficiary in Dusamareb city, Somalia June 10, 2024



A photo taken for a researcher while interviewing a male beneficiary in Dusamareb city, Somalia June 11, 2024



A photo taken for a researcher while interviewing a male beneficiary in Dusamareb city, Somalia June 11, 2024



Monitoring & Evaluation
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