

**SHABELLE RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION**

SHARDO

LOWER SHABELLE NGOS MEETING

FOR

RIVER FLOOD PREPARADNESS

OCTOBER 8RD 2009

Introduction

Somalia is a food deficit country and improved agricultural production would not only benefit the smallholder families living in the action target irrigation farming areas, but could provide surpluses to improve food security in the country as a whole, as well as reducing import requirements.

Agriculture is an important livelihood activity in Somalia, not only in terms of meeting the food needs of the population (nearly 50% of population's cereal requirements are met through domestic production), but also generating income through crop sales and agricultural labor opportunities.

Agriculture is a major component particularly for two of the main rural livelihood systems in Somalia:

Project area:

Lower Shabelle Region is among the richest region of crop production in southern Somalia. The region is bisected the Shabelle River. Agriculture in the form of crop production is the main principle economic sources for livelihoods in the area. 65% of the population is estimated to be subsistence farmers owning a farm land from 0.5 to 2 hectares. The farming system in the area is based on traditional farming methods; land preparation, is usually carried with removal of bushes using hoes. Though, the farming system in the area is based on irrigation system, the irrigation infrastructure in the area is not functional and has adverse impacts on the crop production in the area. Shabelle River is main source of irrigation water to the farmlands cultivated by both subsistence and plantation farmers.

Many farmers depend on rainfalls while they are only some distance form the river, in accordance of recent seasons the rains were very limited resulted that no crop is harvested. Some parts of the area, the river flooded and worsened the condition of the agricultural infrastructure.

Floods are one of the most dangerous environmental destruction in the area. It covers a vast area and destroys all the plants grown, roads, houses and causes different epidemic diseases which affects the health status of human and livestock. It also affects the movements between the villages and to the main towns. Generally the floods causes mosquito breeding that brings malaria outbreak and other environmental problems. It also causes displacement to the community in the villages near and distant from the river. Floods are seen every season, that means twice a year. At moment, it is the most critical period of floods to be started on Der season.

Having seen this routine problem, about 15 Local NGOs came together in order to get a solution to this issue. The main Objective of this meeting is:

1. To assess the most critical areas of floods

2. To identify the root causes of the issue,
3. To put in place an agreed solutions to overcome the prolonged issue of floods in Lower Shabelle region and present to the Donors and International NGOs.
4. To nominate flood control committee from the NGOs.

The participants of the meeting are:

S#	Participant's Name	NGO	Position
01	Ali Elmi Shekhdon	SHARDO	Chairman
02	Hussein Muse Malisha	LORDO	Chairman
03	Hashi Mohamud Osman	CDA	Chairman
04	Mohamed Ali Ismail	SAREDO	Chairman
05	Bube Abdulle Bube	Aw-Faqi	Chairman
06	Mohamud Hassan Isaq	SARD	Chairman
07	Mohamed Omer Yarro	CCD	Chairman
08	A/Kadir Osman Mohamed	SOCHET	Chairman
09	Mohamed Hassan Oorow	ASAL	Chairman
10	Nuradin Mohamud Hashi	CADO	Chairman
11	Mohamed Ibrahim Busuri	SSHADA	Director
12	Abdi risak omar	Sts Dan mark	Secretary

SHARDO NGO has hosted the Meeting.

These NGOs are also mentioned the effective and efficient works carrying by FAO Somalia and SWALIM concerning Canal rehabilitation and Control Gate rehabilitation for the river Dikes in Lower Shabelle region. But these activities need to be extended to whole region.

The agreed interventions to overcome the flood problems in Lower Shabelle region are as follows:

Closing the river broken points and deepening/digging the river:

Since it is the most probable period of floods to occur, it requires intervening as soon as possible before it destroys the cultivation land and contributing to the already exacerbated food insecurity in the region. To overcome it needs to close all broken points and deepen the river itself in some parts of the region.

Beside that, the river needs to be deepened and/or dug some parts of Kurtunwarey/Sablale area. The river, in this case, deviated from the original follow and every year it destroys almost 50Km square of cultivated land and settled villages. The community worked about 6Km and needs to complete about 18km.

- **Rehabilitation of river dikes:**

This logically play very important role in controlling the river water into the irrigation canals and farms. During the low river water, some of these dikes will be used to control the irrigation water and it also reduces the floods when functioning.

- **Sluice gates:**

It is one of the most important irrigation infrastructures. It regulates the water follow to the canals and avoids the river to flood. Sluice gates generally could be automatically with the use of generators when we talk about the big ones for river, dam regulators and/or it could be manual as the one uses Subsistence farmers in the Somalia. The sluice gates the canal management committee will control and regulate depending on the need of irrigation water to the farms. The committee will be responsible opening and closing the sluice gate following the irrigation requirements. Since most of the main canals are coming from the river, those canals without sluice gates has problem of water floods. Such canals will create floods if sluice gates are missing or not functioning properly. Even sometimes the canal itself may have branches irrigating many farms in different directions, such canals may require division boxes which is small sluice gates which can regulate the water follow into the appropriate direction.

- **Establish village and District level Committee for Flood preparedness:**

It is very obvious that, flood and draught preparedness technology should be given to the community along the river line in order to defend themselves before the floods start. Reports on climatic changes should be prepared in Somali and distribute to the villages in order to follow the climatic information of the country. Provision of training on how to overcome the flood problems before it affects the area. At least Village Development Committees need to be established in every village and will be giving training on Flood and disaster preparedness.

- **Canals rehabilitation:**

Lack of canals is the main issue increasing the flood to destroy the production. This is due to the silted canals, leaking, and seepage where the subsistence farmers cannot afford to rehabilitate. Canal rehabilitation farmers will gain an income as labor and contributes for increasing crop production.

- **Construction of culverts:**

Culverts are another problem facilitating floods to destroy farms and villages when are not functioning. Again some of the canals cross the roads and at the intersection points there are no culverts to cross the canals. This may facilitate the river water to flood.

In this regard, the NGOs identified the area of flood affected every year is starting from Hawi village of Sablale District to Marerei village of Afgoie District. From this area about 350 broken points of different size are identified along the river line. The most critical areas of floods are found Sablale, Korirolei, Kurtunwarey, Awdhegle and parts of Merca Districts. Table below summarizes the river broken points.

S#	District	Villages	# of Broken points	Remarks
01	Sablaale	Hawai	3	Very severe
		B/Shekh	1	
		Farjano	1	
		Diririmo	2	
		Lab Giso	1	
		Fulayley	1	
		Salxow	1	
		Laabmeey	1	
		Balbaale	1	
		deebeey	1	
		Aqoon	2	
		Arbow yare	1	
		Garas Eedan	1	
		Cadey Bare	1	
	TOTAL		18	
O2	Kurtunwarey	Dacarta	25Km	Here even the river needs to be deepening up to Alafuto
		Afgoie yarey	4	
		Bananey	3	
		Uranurow	2	
		Bambaasa	2	
			12	
03	Korioley	Jasira	3	
		Gaawarow	2	
	Total		5	

04	Awdhegle	Bariire	2	
		Tawakal	1	
		Nuun	1	
		Shaan	1	
	Total		5	
05	Afgoie	Beledul Amin	2	
		Raqayle	1	
		Moordiinle	1	
		Sabiid	1	
		Anoole	1	
		Marerei	3	
	Total		9	
06	Merca	Tugaarey	1	
		Ganale	2	
		Mushani	1	
		Wagade	1	
	Total		6	
	Over all Total		55 whereby 1 is 25Km	

The identified important broken points are 55 whereby 1 broken point is 25Km from Dacaarta to Alafuto. The rest is about 37Km. Therefore, total Km is 62Km.

The meeting nominated the Flood Control committee which will have the following responsibilities:

1. Identify the critical river broken points
2. Assess and analyze the situation of these broken points
3. Reporting
4. Call for meeting to discuss the results
5. Present recommendations for reducing the mitigation impacts of the floods.
6. Other solutions presentation.

Flood Control Committee:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Mohamed Ibrahim Moghamed | Chairperson |
| 2. Ali Elmi Shekhdoon | Vice |
| 3. Hussein Muse Malisha | Secretary |
| 4. Mohamed Omer Yarro | Member |
| 5. Nuradin Mohamud Hashi | Member |