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Resilient nations.*

**United Nations Development Programme Iraq
Stabilisation Agriculture Cash For Work Project in Dhuluiyah, Salah Al-
Din Governorate**

FINAL PROJECT REPORT



Frontline in Dhuluiyah, June 2016

Human Relief Foundation

23 January 2017

Context

Brief background

Dhuluiyah is an agricultural-based town located on the Tigris River (see Map 1). The majority of residents are farmers that farm the irrigated areas either side of the River Tigris. Since July 2014, the town has been on the front line in the conflict between Daesh (Islamic State) and the Government of Iraq. Consequently, the town has a high percentage of war-damage buildings, as well as having five IDP camps located in Dhuluiyah District. In June 2016, a HRF team comprising of staff from the HRF Tikrit Office and the Senior Technical Advisor from HRF Erbil Office, visiting Dhuluiyah District to conduct a needs assessment. The HRF assessment team consulted with Colonel Thabet Hamed Subhy, Dhuluiyah Regiment Commander; Mayor of Dhuluiyah Mr Hamed, and the heads of the Electricity Department, Water and Sewage Department and Agriculture Department; IDP camp managers, tribal leaders (representing four tribes). The Dhuluiyah Council Board members selected the areas to be targeted in discussion with HRF Staff. Also with community leaders the establishment of a community platform was used to identify the pressing needs and to ensure that community members have a direct input into the selection of cash-for-work activities.

Map 1: *Dhuluiyah town on the Tigris River*



From the assessment and the Community Platform the following problems were raised. Impact from the conflict had left the agricultural sector in urgent need of rehabilitation to bring the farm systems back to their full potential. Areas that required urgent attention included:

1. Land management activities such as clearing of weeds and shrubs and soil preparation;
2. Provision of farm inputs (NPK fertilizer/seeds/fishlings/fish feed);
3. Repair of greenhouse;
4. Repair of transformers and electric pumps for irrigation systems;
5. Restocking of livestock/beekeeping;
6. Debris removal and street cleaning (e.g. school classrooms);
7. Repair of institutional buildings.

In addition, many of the farm lands were overgrown with weeds and shrubs and farmers no longer have access to suitable equipment, farm inputs (fertilisers/seeds), tools and labour to prepare for the coming season. In regards to livestock, the restocking of livestock was also urgently required. Whereas in the urban areas there was widespread damage and destruction of institutional buildings which now required repairing, and rubble removal and street cleaning were additional much-needed activities. The local authorities were unable to deliver any services such as debris removal and solid waste management. The residents of Dhuluiyah District were in urgent need of assistance particularly to encourage returnees by providing an enabling environment that supports local food production with a focus of targeting the most vulnerable families in the District.

Rationale

The project was required to provide immediate support for current residents which provided incentives and boosted the safe return of displaced families through the rehabilitation of livelihoods in the newly accessible areas of Dhuluiyah. Linking livelihood stabilisation and enterprise recovery provides the building blocks in long-term recovery and the building of a strong local economy which is also required to build social cohesion and minimise the impacts of the regional conflict as well as deterring extremism and sectarian-based violence which has clearly recently been evident in all areas of Salah Al-Din Governorate. As in HRF's previous interventions this project was not just about recovery and rehabilitation but also re-building the community fabric including the social dimensions required for a just and fair society for the future of Iraq.

Intended objectives

1. Preparation of agricultural lands.
2. Repair of irrigation systems.
3. Repair of greenhouses.
4. Restocking of livestock / bee keeping.
5. Rubble removal
6. Street cleaning and solid waste management.
7. Institutional building repairs.

Intended beneficiaries

In Dhuluiyah District, HRF worked with the poorest community members through the targeting of vulnerable groups. HRF has always selected beneficiaries for 'cash-for-work' programme based on their need and their availability regardless of their religious, ethnic and/or political backgrounds. As such HRF have never faced political issues or problems in working with beneficiaries in this region.

To maximise the beneficial impacts in all the project activities HRF will adopted a selection criteria in each component that is based on maximising the impact to the most vulnerable residents of Dhuluiyah District. In addition, a minimum of the 330 workers of the project beneficiaries were women, particularly as it is culturally acceptable for women to work in agriculture related activities. In term of stabilisation this can potentially have profound impacts as forming 'women cash-for-work groups' to prepare agricultural land for spring planting will bring a triple-win scenario: 1) direct economic enhancement of women; 2) much need cash injection in the communities and; 3) huge labour burden will be removed as the agricultural lands will be ready for spring planting.

The recruitment of the beneficiaries took place in close consultation with the following bodies:

- Mayor of Dhuluiyah
- Dhuluiyah local government board
- Head of Department of Agriculture in Dhuluiyah

The Dhuluiyah Council Board supplied a list of priority beneficiaries that was cross checked using the HRF Selection Criteria. Additional beneficiaries will then be recruited at the local level in each of the project areas using the HRF Selection Criteria. HRF did not recruit beneficiaries without close consultation with the above bodies and in accordance with the selection criteria as detailed in the project document.

Funding was planned to recruit and employ on average x65 people per week for a period of approximately 12-weeks. As mentioned a priority was to ensure that a weekly minimum of 26 workers were women however this figure was raised were possible.

Main project stakeholders

- Dhuluiyah Security Forces
- of Dhuluiyah
- The Dhuluiyah Council Board
- District Agriculture Office
- District Electricity Board
- District Water and Sewage Department
- Tribal leaders (representing four tribes)
- IDP camp managers
- Al Hajaj Community Platform

Implementing arrangements

The project was managed by the Head of the HRF Tikrit Office under the direct supervision of the HRF Chief Technical Advisor based in the HRF Erbil Office. In addition the Senior Technical Advisor also based in the HRF Erbil Office carried out regular monitoring missions to Dhuluiyah. The required capacity building and training of key staff from the HRF Tikrit Office took place in Erbil and was conducted by the HRF technical advisors. The cash-for-work modality was managed by the HRF Cash-for-Work Coordinator based in Tikrit and was implemented through a low-profile cash transfer mechanism.

Implementation Progress

Output 1 Preparation of agricultural lands

Agriculture irrigated from the River Tigris is a critical livelihood activity for the people of Dhuluiyah. Farming not only directly sustains the local population but also provides valuable market products for the supply to regional markets that extends even as far as the capital Baghdad, as is the case in all agricultural areas along the River Tigris. Due to the recent protracted conflict many of the fields were not cultivated in 2015, resulting in a decline in locally produced food items, a loss of profits, and the overall collapse of local markets resulting in major food insecurity. In addition to the negative impact on food security many of the farm lands have been neglected and thus are now overgrown with weeds and scrub bushes. Also due to this period of neglect during the traditional farming seasons the top soils have been left exposed to rain, solar, and wind erosion. In addition, top soils in some framings areas were bulldozed into defensive mounds resulting in damage to farming areas, loss of top soils and increased soil erosion. These major agricultural constraints provided a critical entry point for the cash-for-work modality which was used to clear farm lands in preparation for spring planting and to carry out a number of land conservation measures. In addition, other activities also included the production of compost utilising the removed bio-wastes for simple on-farm windrow composting and the clearing of land under, and in some cases pruning of, olive, fruit and palm tree plantations.

In total, 3,000 cash-for-work days were completed and 70 farmers were provided with farm inputs.

All project targets that were set in the work plan have been achieved.

Output 2 Repair of irrigation systems

Irrigation systems are critical to the river-based farming systems along the Tigris River. Irrigation pumps are powered by generators or electricity supply but currently due to the damage of power transformers many of the supply lines have been cut. HRF focussed on the repair of on-farm irrigation pumps.

A total of 300 cash-for-work days were completed. In addition, a total 45 on-farm irrigation pumps were fixed and one mainline network was fixed which supplies water to 4,000 donums.

One project target was not achieved – repairing of 6 transformers. This was reported to UNDP in a letter dated on the 17 November 2016 and the budget (US\$6,000) following UNDO approval was transferred to asset replacement in the form of dairy cows.

All other project targets that were set in the work plan have been achieved.

Output 3 Repair of Greenhouses

There was high demand and great potential opportunity for greenhouse repair. Plastic sheets were required to recover the polytunnel frames. More than 50 greenhouses required repairing. Greenhouses (polytunnels) can contribute substantially to a stabilisation programme in terms of regenerating the local economy and increasing local food production and food security. Replacing the plastic covers of polytunnels and increasing access to seeds, tools and other horticultural inputs offers an effective way to rebuild agricultural-based livelihoods.

A total of 21 greenhouses were repaired.

All project targets that were set in the work plan have been achieved.

Output 4 Restocking of livestock /bee keeping

The programme has also partially contributed to local food security by implementing restocking measures that not only increased local food supply and thus availability but also ensured a degree of social mobility for the most vulnerable of poor village families by providing important economic assets in the form of livestock restocking (dairy cattle/poultry).

A total of 200 cash-for-work days were completed. In addition, a total of 36 cows were handed over, and 100 poultry farms and 32 fish farms were restocked with 8,000 fishlings.

One project target was not achieved – provision of beehives to 20 beekeepers. This was not possible due to the limited season to supply bees and this window of opportunity was lost.

All other project targets that were set in the work plan have been achieved.

Output 5 Rubble removal

In villages and areas that are still covered in debris and rubble a number of cash-for-work days was allocated to debris removal. This activity also served as a clear post-conflict indicator bringing a degree of psychological comfort as normality is brought back to village life.

A total of 400 cash-for-work days were completed.

All project targets that were set in the work plan have been achieved.

Output 6 Street cleaning and solid waste management

In villages and areas that are still covered in debris and rubble a number of cash-for-work days was allocated to street cleaning. This activity also served as a clear post-conflict indicator bringing a degree of psychological comfort as normality is brought back to village life.

A total of 150 cash-for-work days were completed.

All project targets that were set in the work plan have been achieved.

Output 7 Institutional Building Repairs

In the urban areas there was widespread damage and destruction of institutional buildings. The buildings required urgent repairs include: 1) storage warehouse at the Agriculture Directorate and; 2) schools. The allocated budget was used to repair the storage warehouse at the agriculture directorate, and then the remaining funds were used to repair damaged schools with the objective of opening as many classrooms as possible. These activities also provided critical cash inputs into constriction-based livelihoods that also serve as locally-based enterprises such as village masons and carpenters thus building the local town economy.

A total of 600 cash-for-work days were completed and the agricultural warehouse, governorate office and two classrooms were repaired.

All project targets that were set in the work plan have been achieved.

Challenges and Issues

Managing expectations

As in the previous project in Al Hajaj, demand in all project activities was much higher than the support and inputs that were provide. Consequently the community platform had to take a more active role in final beneficiary selection. In some cases the local Mayor would precede over section procedures such as the dairy cow distribution which was done through random picking names from a pile of beneficiaries that all met the 'vulnerable' selection criteria. Open transparency was key to ensuring these results were accepted by all the community.

ISIS Attacks

In the first month there was an attack from ISIS in Dhuluiyah district which killed 35 members of the security forces, 10 people injured and 12 people were kidnaped. This stopped our work for 3 days.

Lessons Learned

Improvement in agricultural techniques and extension

As previously reported following the Al Hajaj project, the current stabilisation programmes are based on the provision of inputs through 'financial inputs' as cash-for-work and 'agricultural inputs'. Both of these are forms of short duration stabilisation injections that provide an initial boost to upstart agricultural livelihoods, and return to previous farming systems. However, these systems are based on conventional agriculture that is dependent on chemical inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides. An effort should be made to make farmers more aware to organic and low-external-input-sustainable-agriculture (LEISA). This could take the form of: 1) establishing demonstration farms; 2) on-farm-training; 3) capacity building of local agriculture offices and extension staff. Such activities could still be delivered during a stabilisation programme allowing for the delivery of improved technical services for local farmers. These opportunities remain in the farming areas.

Solar irrigation

The river-based farming systems in Iraq provide excellent conditions to establish solar-based irrigation systems. This would involve the replacing of conventional irrigation equipment (using electricity or diesel pump supplies) with solar-powered irrigation equipment to build resilient river-based farming systems. It is strongly recommended that a pilot solar irrigation is developed in Iraq. HRF have now held meetings with solar equipment suppliers and are developing a concept note.

Result Framework Report

Intended Outcome: SRP Outcome 2: Resilience is built through improved livelihoods, specifically increased employment and access to services. SRP Indicator: 2.1: # of the most vulnerable host community and IDP families with increased access to income (Note: Each direct beneficiaries represents one family with an average size of 6 who are all indirect beneficiaries)							
INTENDED OUTPUTS	INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	INPUTS	ACHIEVEMENTS
Output 1: Preparation of agricultural lands Indicators: 3,000 CFW days completed; inputs for 70 farms given. Baseline: Targets:	Activity 1: Assessment of agricultural plots Activity 2: Prioritisation of plots Activity 3: Removal of weeds & shrubs through weeding and hoeing Activity 4: Formation of on-farm compost windrows using wastes Activity 5: Tilling and raking of top soils Activity 6: Provision of farm inputs to selected beneficiaries.	✓ ✓		✓ ✓ ✓ ✓		\$111,300.00	Total 3,000 CFW days completed Farm inputs provided to 73 farms for planting and initial application of NPK fertilizer
Output 2: Repair of irrigation systems Indicators: 300 CFW days; 6 transformer to be fixed, 35 irrigation pumps to be fixed; main network irrigation pump to be fixed Baseline:	Activity 1: Liaison with District Electricity Board Activity 2: Repairing of key transformers Activity 3: Assessment of irrigation lines and irrigation pumps	✓ ✓				\$20,000.00 (\$6,000 was transferred to Output 4).	Total 300 CFW days completed 45 on-farm irrigation pump fixed and 1 main network irrigation pump was fixed

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Targets:	Activity 4: Relaying of irrigation pipes Activity 5: Repair of irrigation pumps			✓ ✓			
Output 3: Repair of Greenhouses Indicators: 240 CFW days completed; 20 greenhouses to be repaired and replanted. Baseline: Targets:	Activity 1: Assessment of greenhouses Activity 2: Prioritisation and selection of greenhouses for repair Activity 3: Repair of greenhouses	✓ ✓		✓		\$22,000.00	Total 240 CFW days completed Total of 21 greenhouses repaired and replanted.
Output 4: Restocking of Livestock / bee keeping Indicators: 200 CFW days; 30 cows distributed; 50 poultry farms and 20 beekeepers restocked. Baseline: Targets:	Activity 1: Identification of restocking beneficiaries Activity 2: Assessment of facilities Activity 3: Repair of facilities if required Activity 4: Provision of restocking items	✓ ✓		✓ ✓		\$71,500.00 (\$6,000 was added from Output 2, but \$6,000 underspend due to lack of beehives)	Total 200 CFW days completed Total 36 cows handed over. Total of 100 poultry farms and 32 fish ponds with 8,000 fishlings restocked
Output 5: Rubble Removal Indicators: 400 CFW days completed. Baseline: Targets:	Activity 1: Assessment of rubble disposal site Activity 2: Removal and transportation of rubble to disposal site Activity 3: Recruitment and training of rubble management teams Activity 4: Processing of rubble at disposal site Activity 5: Final disposal of inert materials	✓		✓ ✓ ✓ ✓		\$18,500.00	Total 373 CFW days completed

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	Activity 6: Grouping of reusable materials for construction sector Activity 7: Processing of reusable materials for construction sector			✓ ✓			
<p>Output 6: Street cleaning and solid waste management</p> <p>Indicators: 150 CFW days completed Baseline: Targets:</p>	<p>Activity 1: Assessment of solid waste accumulation ✓</p> <p>Activity 2: Prioritisation of intervention ✓</p> <p>Activity 3: Recruitment and training of street cleaning teams ✓</p> <p>Activity 4: Implementation of street cleaning teams ✓</p> <p>Activity 5: Assessment of solid waste disposal site ✓</p> <p>Activity 6: Removal and transportation of solid waste to disposal site ✓</p>					\$3,000.00	Total 480 CFW days completed
<p>Output 7: Institutional building repairs</p> <p>Indicators: 600 CFW days completed. Baseline: Targets:</p>	<p>Activity 1: Assessment of housing / room damage ✓</p> <p>Activity 2: Costing of partial repairs ✓</p> <p>Activity 3: Prioritisation of interventions ✓</p> <p>Activity 4: Procurement of materials and allocation of repair team ✓</p>					\$22,000.00	<p>Total 600 CFW days completed</p> <p>The agricultural warehouse, governorate office and two classrooms were repaired</p>

Activity info Indicator Report

SRP/3RP Output	Indicator	Location 1: Dhuluiyah		Location 2: (Name of camp or District/Governorate)		Location 3: (Name of camp or District/Governorate)	
		Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Objective 1: Preparation of agricultural lands							
1.1. Increased employment opportunities for returnees	# of returnees benefited temporary employment activities (cash for work etc.)	330	210				
1.2. Farm enterprises supported	# farm enterprises benefited through provision of farm inputs	17	56				
Objective 2: Repair of irrigation systems							
2.1. Increased employment opportunities for returnees	# of returnees benefited temporary employment activities (cash for work etc.)		60				
2.2. Farm enterprises supported	# farm enterprises benefited through repair of irrigation pumps		45				
Objective 3: Repair of greenhouses							
3.1. Increased employment opportunities for returnees	# of returnees benefited temporary employment activities (cash for work etc.)		30				
3.2. Farm enterprises supported	# farm enterprises benefited through repair of greenhouse	2	19				
Objective 4: Restocking of livestock/bee hives/fish farms							
4.1. Increased employment opportunities for returnees	# of returnees benefited temporary employment activities (cash for work etc.)		20				
4.2. Farm enterprises supported	# farm enterprises benefited through provision of dairy cow	36					

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	# farm enterprises benefited through provision of poultry	100					
	# farm enterprises benefited through restocking of fish farms	14	18				
Objective 5: Rubble removal and							
5.1. Increased employment opportunities for returnees	# of returnees benefited temporary employment activities (cash for work etc.)		40				
Objective 6 Street cleaning and solid waste management							
6.1. Increased employment opportunities for returnees	# of returnees benefited temporary employment activities (cash for work etc.)		15				
Objective 7: Housing repairs							
7.1. Increased employment opportunities for returnees	of returnees benefited temporary employment activities (cash for work etc.)		60				

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Small Grant Scheme under "Support to Iraq Crisis Response and Resilience Programme" (ICRRP)

Financial Report Sheet (USD)

Organization Name: Human Relief Foundation

Project Title: Cash For Work for Stabilisation Agriculture Activities in Al Dhuluiyah, Salah Al-Din Governorate

Reporting Period: 1 October - 1 November 2018

Code	Line Item description	Budget				Actual						Cum. Amount Received So far	Cum. Balance (Received-Act. Expense)	Balance from Previous Report	Amount Requesting	
		No. of units	Unit Cost	No. of	UNDP Fund Budget Contribution	No. of units	Unit Cost	No. of	Actual Expenses (Up to Last Period)	Actual Expenses (This Period)	Actual Expenses (Cumulative)					
A.	Output 1 : preparation of agricultural lands				108,300.00				48,234.00	68,068.00	108,300.00					
A.1	Cash-for-work wage	3000	20.00		60,000.00	1978	20		20,440.00	39,560.00	60,000.00					
A.2	Farm inputs-NPK fertilizer (4 bags per farmer)	70	140.00		9,800.00				3,864.00	6,148.00	8,800.00					
A.3	Farm inputs-seeds (5 donum per farm)	70	200.00		14,000.00				8,796.00	7,236.00	14,000.00					
A.4	Vehicle hire-2 tractors (total-120 days)	1	16000.00		16,000.00				12,375.00	2,825.00	16,000.00					
A.5	vehicle hire-double cabin pick-up (3 months)	1	7600.00		7,600.00				5,000.00	2,600.00	7,600.00					
B.	Output 2 : Repair of irrigation systems				28,000.00				8,142.00	20,068.00	28,000.00					
B.1	Cash-for-work	300	20.00		6,000.00	0	0		5,980.00		5,980.00					
B.2	Transformer repairs/replace	6	1000.00		6,000.00					8,000.00	8,000.00					
B.3	Electric pump repairs	35	200.00		7,000.00				182.00	8,818.00	7,000.00					
B.4	Main network irrigation pump	1	7000.00		7,000.00					7,240.00	7,240.00					
C.	Output 3 : Greenhouse repairs				20,000.00				13,080.00	8,920.00	20,000.00					
C.1	Greenhouse repairs	20	1000.00		20,000.00				13,080.00	8,920.00	20,000.00					
C.	Output 4 : Restocking of livestock / bee keeping				70,000.00				13,373.00	60,367.00	68,730.00					
C.1	Cash-for-work	200	20.00		4,000.00	200	20			4,000.00	4,000.00					
C.2	Livestock grants-dairy	30	1000.00		30,000.00					30,000.00	30,000.00					
C.3	Livestock grants-poultry	50	200.00		10,000.00				8,730.00		8,730.00					
C.4	Livestock grants-beekeeping	20	300.00		6,000.00											
C.4	Farm inputs-fish farming	10	2000.00		20,000.00				3,843.00	16,367.00	20,000.00					
C.	Output 5 : Rubble Removal				16,500.00					16,500.00	16,500.00					
C.1	Cash-for-work	400	20.00		8,000.00	400	20			8,000.00	8,000.00					
C.2	Vehicle hier-mechanical shovel (30 days)	1	8000.00		8,000.00					8,000.00	8,000.00					
C.3	Vehicle hier-2 tipper trucks (total 12 days)	1	1600.00		1,600.00					1,600.00	1,600.00					
D.	Output 8 : Street cleaning				3,000.00				1,880.00	1,320.00	3,000.00					
D.1	Cash-for-work	150	20.00		3,000.00	66	20		1,880.00	1,320.00	3,000.00					
E.	Output 7 : Institutional building repairs				22,000.00				14,868.00	7,344.00	22,000.00					
E.1	Cash-for-work	600	20.00		12,000.00	206	20		7,880.00	4,120.00	12,000.00					
E.2	Repair materials	1	10000.00		10,000.00				8,778.00	3,224.00	10,000.00					
F.	Project Management				68,680.00				36,868.00	22,834.00	68,680.00					
F.1	country director	3	6000.00		18,000.00				10,000.00	6,000.00	16,000.00					
F.2	Programme manager	3	4000.00		12,000.00				8,000.00	4,000.00	12,000.00					

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F.3	Team manager	3	1400.00	4,200.00			2,800.00	1,400.00	4,200.00				
F.4	Cash-for-work coordinator	3	1000.00	3,000.00			2,000.00	1,000.00	3,000.00				
F.6	Financial officer	3	1000.00	3,000.00			2,000.00	1,000.00	3,000.00				
F.8	Team leaders (3 person)	3	2700.00	8,100.00			6,400.00	2,700.00	8,100.00				
F.7	Personal protection equipment	1	1500.00	1,500.00			-	1,500.00	1,500.00				
F.8	First aid kit	16	25.00	400.00			-	400.00	400.00				
F.9	Hand tool sets (for different Cfw)	1	1360.00	1,360.00			-	1,360.00	1,360.00				
F.10	GPS camera	1	250.00	250.00			-	250.00	250.00				
F.11	Laptop / App equipment	1	1500.00	1,500.00			-	1,500.00	1,500.00				
F.12	Visibility banners/clothing	1	2000.00	2,000.00			168.00	1,844.00	2,000.00				
F.13	Staff travel costs (Erbil-Dhuluiyah)	3	400.00	1,200.00			800.00	400.00	1,200.00				
F.14	Staff training (held in Erbil)	1	3000.00	3,000.00			3,000.00		3,000.00				
F.16	Office/storage room (Dhuluiyah)	3	500.00	1,500.00			1,500.00		1,500.00				
F.18	Bank fees	1	580.00	580.00				580.00	580.00				
Sub Total				321,386.00			132,821.00	182,498.00	315,320.00				
Administrative costs -8%				25,711.20			17,140.00	8,570.40	25,710.40				
Grand Total				347,101.20			149,961.00	191,069.40	341,030.40				

C&O Signature & Stamp



* Any change or shift between budget line items should have prior approval of project manager, and should be included in the final report package

