



TEARA AUSTRALIA



IMPACT REPORT

# LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SECURITY

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2013–2014

# SUMMARY

# LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SECURITY



This Impact Report is an analysis of food security and livelihood projects funded by TEAR Australia and implemented by TEAR's international partners across Africa, South Asia and South East Asia.

Throughout the course of the 2013-2014 year the analysis shows that 122,324 people were directly impacted by food security or livelihood projects. Given that individuals are members of households and families this represents an impact in approximately 734,000 lives.

The largest area of impact was in people's membership of Self Help Groups (63,759 people). These locally based support groups provide small scale savings and loans schemes, provide a forum for discussing community issues and they initiate community action plans or activities to bring about positive changes.

Food security activities impacted 21,515 people, enabling them to improve agricultural

techniques, obtain improved seeds and materials, and increase yields from their farms.

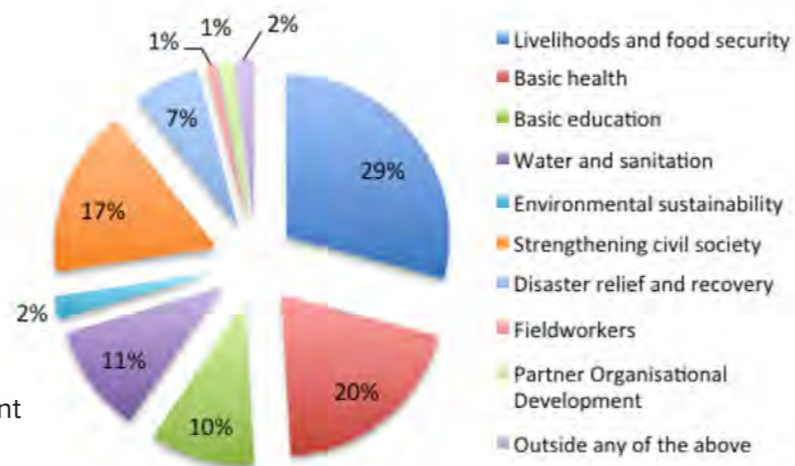
It is exciting that an area of significant impact has been in the development of small, home-based commercial enterprises, or placements into formal work. These cover a range of strategies to increase household income. Reports show that the improved finances lead to greater expenditure on education, health care, and building up family assets to provide them with greater resilience to shocks and disasters.

While small in number, it is also encouraging that there have been 128 instances of either creating business ventures that employ more than 10 people, or linkages with commercial networks. These broaden the reach of the impact beyond individual households and provide important economic benefits into the local economy.

## TEAR'S INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

In 2013/14, direct funds to TEAR's International Program totalled \$13,269,518. Our 92 partners implementing 176 projects in 24 countries, allocated these funds across ten technical sectors:

1. Livelihoods & food security
2. Basic health
3. Basic education
4. Water & sanitation
5. Environmental sustainability
6. Strengthening civil society
7. Disaster relief and recovery
8. Fieldworkers
9. Partner organisational development
10. Outside any of the above



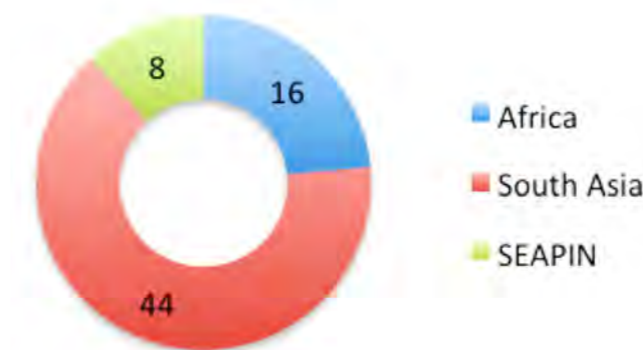
This is an analysis of all projects that were listed as having a proportionately significant element of livelihood and food security sectoral work. This could be as low as 35% food security and livelihoods related but it is more often 50% or more. It is likely that some projects that do not feature as livelihoods and food security projects also have an impact in this area<sup>1</sup>. These projects are not included in this analysis.

The analysis is based on the most recent annual or mid-year Reports, evaluations and other documentation. Data is for financial year 2013-2014 or as close as possible given the information. Many of the final reports for 2014 are not yet available so these figures represent

a conservative aggregation. Final annual figures would be expected to increase overall totals. Numbers of individuals include duplication, for instance, self-help group members are likely to also have successful enterprises. The numbers only include those who directly benefit or participate in the activities.

In total there were 68 projects that came under the food security and livelihoods criteria. Of these, five projects were newly started and had not yet shown reportable outcomes. The 68 projects represented total funding across the International Program to the food security and livelihoods sector of \$3,154,892 in 2013-2014<sup>2</sup>.

## NUMBER OF LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS - 68



<sup>1</sup> An example of this is Share & Care Nepal whose projects are categorized as "Strengthening Civil Society". The lead evaluator of the Share & Care project stated it has resulted in significant improvements in household income, many successful household businesses and several extensive community level business ventures and cooperatives.

<sup>2</sup> Many of the projects include other elements apart from food security and livelihoods. Total expenditure on livelihoods and food security was \$3,848,160. The total spent on the the 68 projects that were analysed was \$3,154,892. The remaining \$693,268 was spent on other projects that had a livelihoods or food security element but which weren't included in this analysis.

# TOTAL SCOPE OF IMPACT

# CATEGORIES OF IMPACT

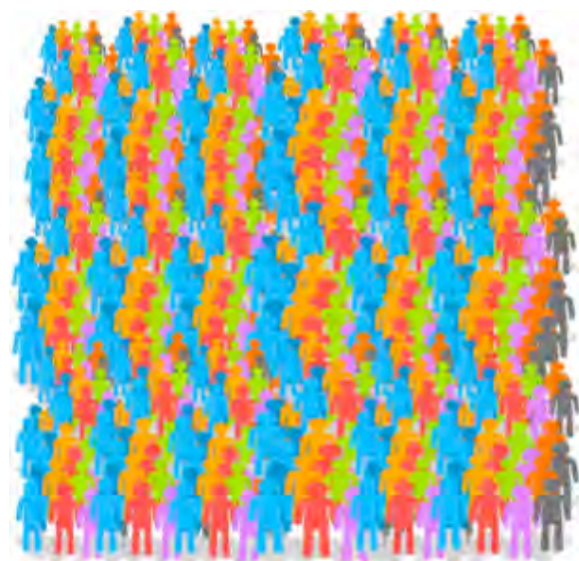


## Direct impact: 122,324 people

In total 122,342 people have been directly impacted by the projects during the course of 2013-2014. Such impact is not purely felt by individuals alone, and it also affects these people's households and other community members. It is reasonable, given household numbers across the program and the way that people network in communities, to expect that for each person impacted directly at least another six will be impacted positively as a result.

**\$31.72**

per each person directly impacted<sup>3</sup>



## Indirect impact: 734,052 people

The total number of people positively impacted by the livelihoods and food security projects funded by TEAR can therefore be estimated at 734,052.

**\$5.29**

per each person indirectly impacted

<sup>3</sup> To calculate the value of each dollar spent in development is fraught and open to debate. These figures are a measure of efficiency at its most simplistic level. For example, a household South Sudan may be "reached" through a project, but due to the complexity of relationships, possible conflict in the region, the time committed to the individuals and the extent of the family's own skills, effective impact may not always result. TEAR works closely with partners to ensure those most on the margins, people living with HIV or some other form of physical or mental health difficulty, community members who struggle to have their voice heard and who are marginalised by age, gender, ethnicity or cultural barriers are included in the development process even if that means much greater time and higher costs per person are required. We believe such considerations are an essential component of effective community development.

## NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS IMPACTED BY FOOD AND LIVELIHOODS PROJECTS, 2013-2014



The food security and livelihoods sector encompasses a broad range of activities. To enable a more detailed analysis of the work the activities and numbers of people involved in them were grouped into seven categories of impact.

### LIFESKILLS/PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

(2816 people)

A general category that includes business education, book-keeping, leadership development and group facilitation skills.

### VOCATIONAL TRAINING/ TECHNICAL SKILLS

(5342 people)

Specific technical training that is directly relevant for a work placement, household businesses, or to enhance employment prospects.

These include, among a diverse range, the following sorts of training:

- Sewing
- Mechanics
- Tailoring
- Building
- Carpentry
- Hairdressing
- Veterinary services
- Electronics/electrical
- Agricultural skills

# CATEGORIES OF IMPACT



## WORK PLACEMENTS/ SUCCESSFUL ENTERPRISES

(18,855 people)

Work placements are those who have successfully found employment as a result of their training, or through the assistance of the project, in a business or in industry.

Successful enterprises are small-scale businesses, usually at household level, or in small local groups that are producing income for the participants and improving household livelihoods at a sustainable level.

## FOOD SECURITY

(21,515 people)

Food security activities are those that have resulted in improved yields, increasing income from agricultural production, or provided greater resilience through activities such as grain banks or improving storage so that produce can be sold at a more profitable time.

### SELF-HELP GROUPS & SUCCESSFUL ENTERPRISES

## WACT – NEPAL

Ratna Chaudhary's husband worked in India and she worked as a daily wage labourer but their income was not sufficient to meet the family expenses. After joining a self help group Ratna learnt about different business opportunities. She joined her sister-in-law's snacks business and learnt to make chips, pakaudi and doughnuts. After learning the skills she started her own business and recalls she earned 35 rupees on the very first day. Her business gradually picked up and she needed additional hands to support her. She called her husband back and both of them now run their business. They also started a grocery store. She says she is able to earn about 1000 rupees per day from her business. They have closed their snacks business and are planning to start a poultry farm.

### FOOD SECURITY

## FOUNDATIONS FOR FARMING – ZIMBABWE

Foundations for Farming aims to improve both yield and production of 10,000 famers' land through an agricultural technique called "Conservation Farming". Lead trainers are taught by the project and pass on their knowledge to neighbours and other community members.

Pauline Maphosa, a lead trainer in her district, has passed on training to 264 farmers in agricultural techniques, and has personal experience in the benefits that are available from using the methods taught by Foundations for Farming. Pauline has increased her household assets by buying a cow with the use of the profits that she has made through selling maize. The improvement in Pauline's maize yields is changing her life for the better every year. Most farmers in the project have been able to plant their fields without receiving additional seeds from the project. That is a dramatic change from the previous situation in which there was chronic food and seed shortages and reliance on outside assistance.



# CATEGORIES OF IMPACT

# EXTENDING THE REACH

## SELF HELP GROUP MEMBERS

(63,759 people)

Self Help Groups engage individuals in savings and loans schemes that provide revolving credit to members to assist with household level enterprises or expenses. They have a number of benefits:

- They operate on the basis of local accountability so repayment levels are very high (normally close to 100%)
- They are efficient. Loans are accessed from the group's own savings so the required financial input from projects is low. The investment is in training and supporting the groups as they learn and mature in their group work and business skills.
- They increase the economic safety net for poor households by enabling access to credit for emergencies or for income generation.
- The regular access to loans allows for gradual increase in household enterprises. Success allows for larger loans and greater returns.
- Members no longer need to access credit from money-lenders who charge extortionate levels of interest.
- Many self help groups begin group businesses that broaden their impact across the community.

## CASH FOR WORK/ DIRECT ASSISTANCE

(2832 people)

Cash for work, or direct assistance is appropriate in areas of extreme poverty, disaster recovery, or where there is only a small money-based economy that can be leveraged for growth. Such direct assistance provides short-term livelihood benefits and can be used as a foundation for longer-term economic strengthening at a household or community level.

## ACCESSED GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

(6995 people)

In some countries, in particular India and increasingly Bangladesh, there are ongoing regular schemes that provide income support, access to micro-credit or loans, or subsidies to people living in poverty. The subsidies may be for items such as agricultural inputs or business materials. Enabling people to access such schemes provides long term benefits not just from the scheme itself, but through teaching people how to apply for them and giving them the confidence to approach government offices for these and other services.

The previous categories impact individuals. In addition to them, many projects contributed to outcomes that were broader in their reach than just bringing about individual benefits.

## BUSINESS VENTURES

(73 new business ventures)

Similar to successful enterprises, business ventures are newly formed businesses. Unlike the enterprises earlier mentioned, business ventures are sizeable concerns that employ more than 10 people and generate economic activity across a wide group of households, communities or locations. The numbers of

business ventures therefore do not represent the number of individuals involved which would be much greater. Indeed the definition would require a multiplying factor of at least 10 if the individuals were to be counted. Given the way that these are reported by partners, providing an accurate estimation of individuals is not possible.

## BUSINESS VENTURES

# OPMERCY – AFGHANISTAN

Kobra, a woman living in Kabul, never left her home before becoming a member of a self help group, and she didn't have a business. She had the skill of embroidery, but never used it for other people, she would embroider for herself. When she joined the SHG, she had the opportunity to take a loan from the SHG and start her business. When she expanded her business she was able to hire employees. Her company mainly produces different dresses with pants, blouses with embroidery, and veils with embroidery.

She now lives in a mud house and has added on two additional rooms.

She is very active, she allows Mobil clinic in her house, which CLA (Cluster Level Association) provide for community people. The CLA pays a small amount of money as rent for Kobra, she also allows the SHG literacy course in her house.



# EXTENDING THE REACH



## LINKS WITH BUSINESS GROUPS/NETWORKS

(155 new networks or links with business groups)

Individuals or groups are sometimes linked up with business networks to help them find employment or to connect home based production with larger marketing opportunities. It is important to note that these figures do not represent individuals, but the actual number of linkages made. The individuals engaged with and benefitting from these links will be much higher.

## BUSINESS VENTURES

### SAAHASEE – INDIA

India Skill (a commercial placement agency) is now directly linked with the self help group federations and is helping the youth to get jobs in multi-national corporations. The major advantage for the youth is that they don't need to pay the placement fees. Computer education and English language acquisition has helped 35 youth gain employment in multi-nationals or in shopping malls.

More than 25 community youth are enrolled in personality development training being provided through the federation linkages.

The Federation has recently been linked with Dena Bank, TAM Media Research and Whirlpool India Limited through the help of Don Bosco. These linkages are helping group members to get trained and also be placed in the company. Discussions are underway for a final partnership.





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