

LIFELINE-GEDO

Rural Livelihood and Resilience Programme · Food Systems Component

IMPACT

REPORT

Rural Livelihood and Resilience Programme

Bardhere District · Gedo Region · Jubaland State · Somalia

Reporting period March – July 2026

PROGRAMME OWNER International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH World Food Programme (WFP)

IMPLEMENTED BY Lifeline-Gedo (LLG)

Published August 2026

The Programme in Numbers

March to July 2026, Bardhere District, Gedo Region. All figures below are drawn from training attendance registers, cooperative records and the Market Functionality Index dataset.

7 FARMER COOPERATIVES ENGAGED AND TRAINED	833 COOPERATIVE MEMBERS REACHED	396 WOMEN PARTICIPANTS 47.5% OF TOTAL	40 LEAD FARMERS TRAINED AS FACILITATORS
7 TARGET LOCATIONS COVERED	48 MARKET ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED	168 TRADER INTERVIEWS RECORDED	75 AVERAGE MFI SCORE OUT OF 100
85% MARKETS IN THE HIGH- FUNCTIONALITY BAND	100% TRADERS ACCEPTING MOBILE MONEY	5 MARKET CLUSTERS PROFIED	0 PLANNED ACTIVITIES MISSED

Delivery Against Target

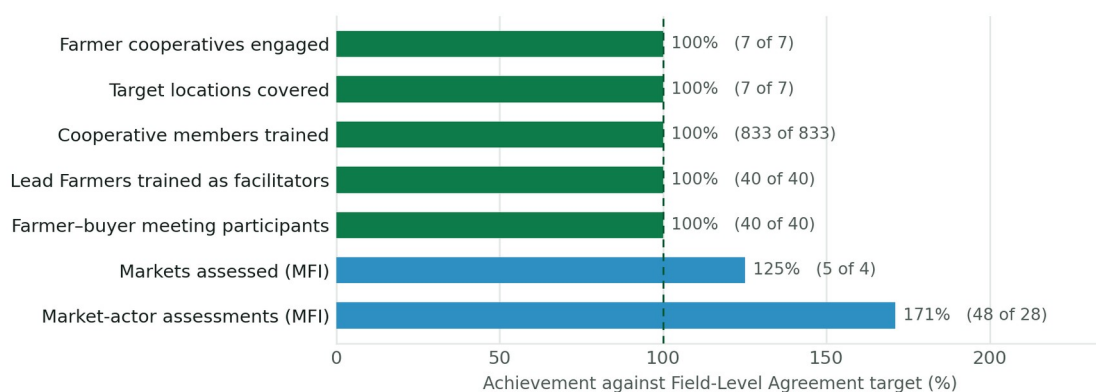


Figure 1 Achievement against Field-Level Agreement targets. Every core target was met in full; the Market Functionality Index assessment exceeded its planned scope of four markets and 28 structured interviews.

Implementation at a Glance

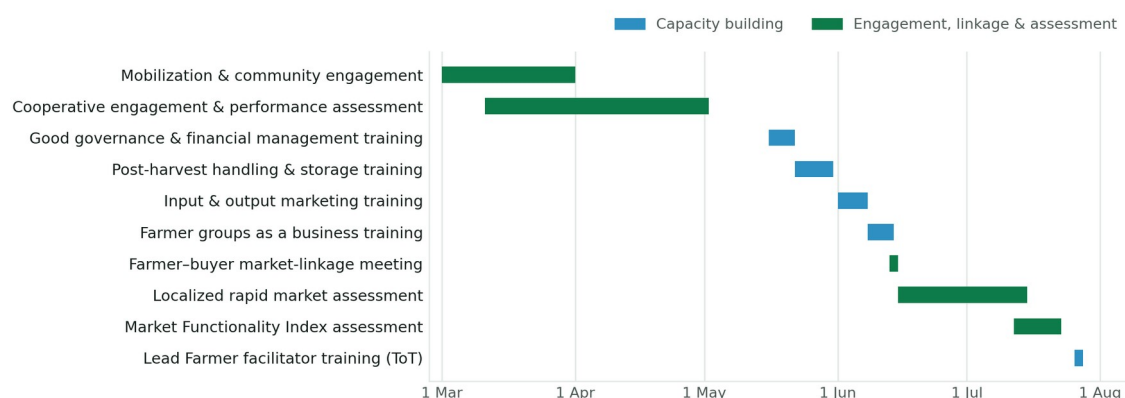


Figure 2 Implementation calendar, March to July 2026. Mobilization and cooperative assessment ran through March and April; the four training blocks ran consecutively through May and June; market assessment and the facilitator Training of Trainers closed the period in July.

The sequence was not incidental. Governance and financial management training was delivered before any market-facing activity, so that cooperatives had transparent decision-making and basic financial controls in place before they were asked to aggregate produce, negotiate prices or manage collective income. The four training blocks then ran consecutively through May and June, and the market assessments followed them, so that the evidence generated reflects a market system the cooperatives were already engaging with.

The programme's own lessons-learned record identifies this ordering — strengthening cooperative governance before providing livelihood support — as a contributor to transparency, accountability and long-term sustainability. It also records the cost of the compressed schedule: several Lead Farmers were engaged in crop production and post-harvest work during the May training block, which limited full attendance in some locations, and the one-day facilitator training in July left little room for field demonstration.

Who Took Part

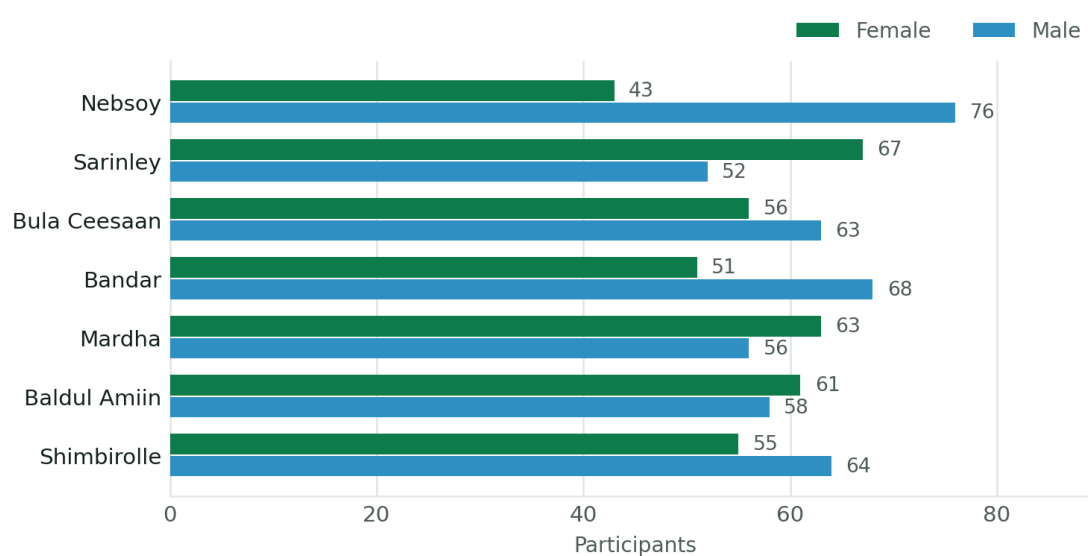


Figure 3 Participation by location and sex across the seven target cooperatives (n = 833). Each cooperative was targeted at 119 members and each met that target in full.

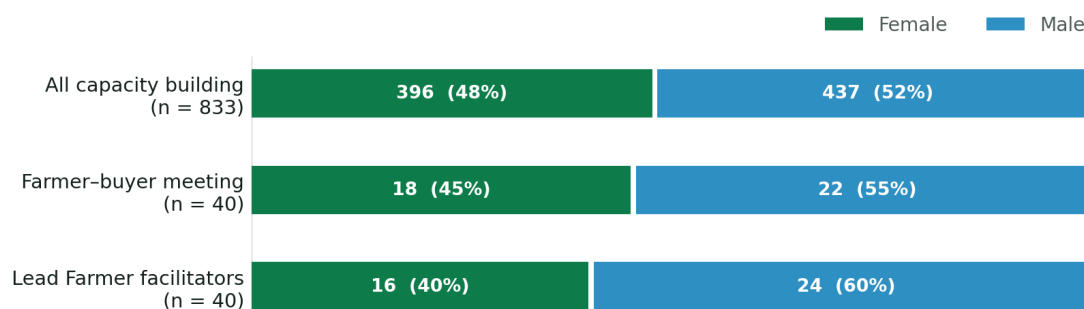


Figure 4 Gender composition across the programme. Women's participation was sustained from general capacity building into the market-facing activities, where commercial decision-making is concentrated.

The Market Evidence

Between 12 and 22 July 2026, forty-eight Market Functionality Index assessments were completed across five market clusters in Bardhere District, alongside 168 individual trader interviews. The four charts below carry the headline result.

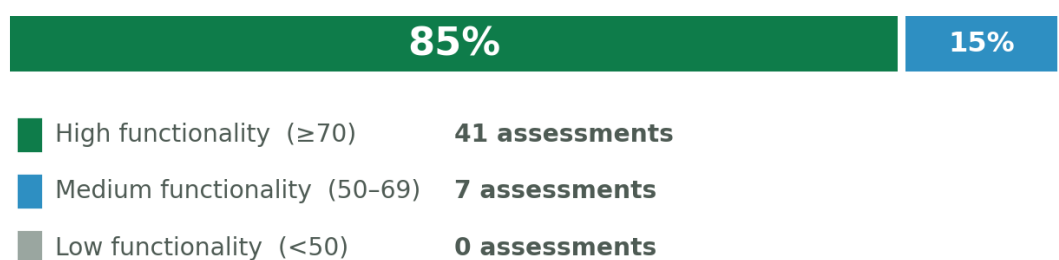


Figure 5 Market functionality classification across the 48 assessments. No market in the district fell into the Low-functionality band.

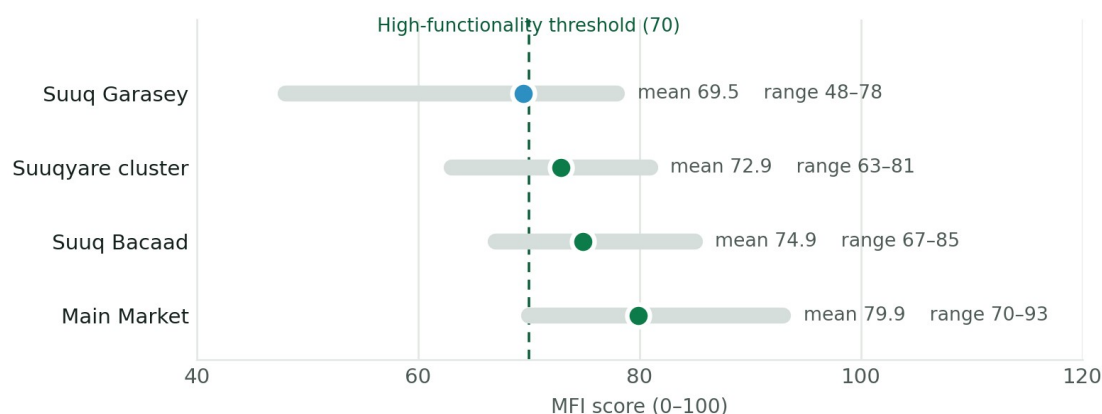


Figure 6 Average MFI score by market cluster with observed minimum-maximum range. The central Main Market cluster consistently outperforms the peripheral markets; Suuq Garasey is the single cluster below the high-functionality threshold.

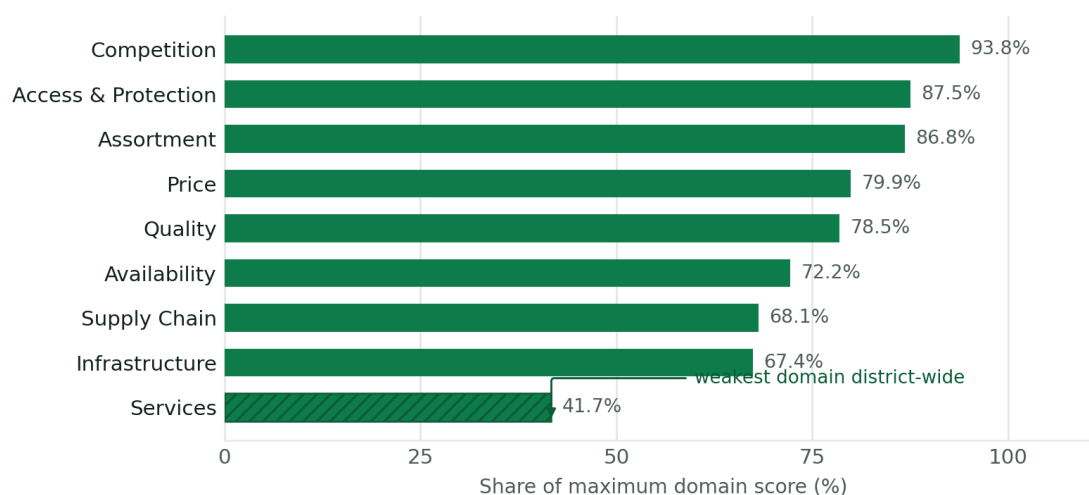


Figure 7 Average score across the nine MFI domains, as a share of the maximum of 3 points per domain. Competition, access and assortment are genuine strengths; services is the binding constraint district-wide.



168 individual trader interviews across five market clusters

Figure 8 Trader-level financial service profile across 168 individual trader interviews — the strongest single indicator that cash and voucher modalities are feasible in this market system.

What Constrains the Market

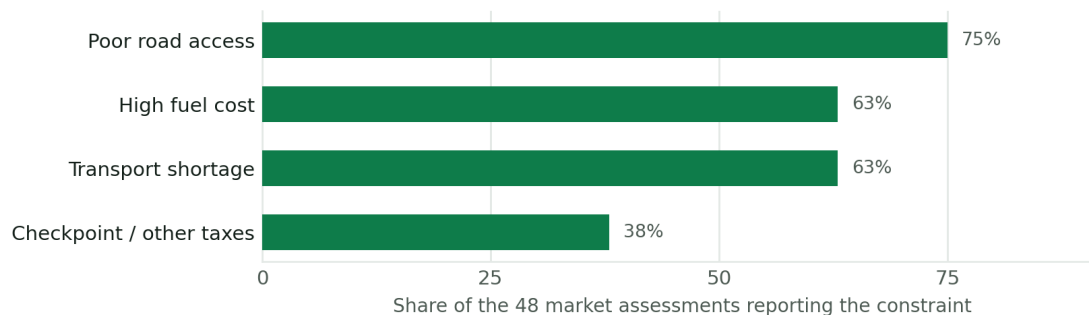


Figure 9 Supply-chain constraints reported across the 48 market assessments. Multiple constraints could be reported per assessment.

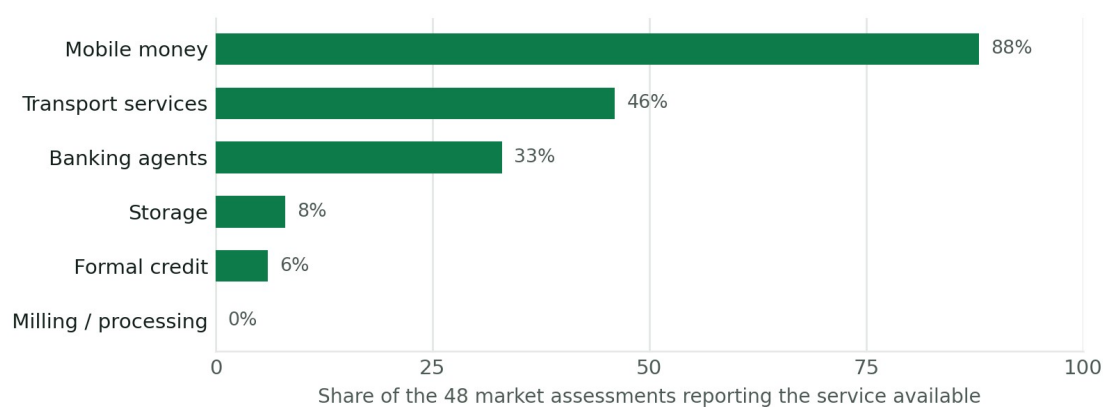


Figure 10 Market services available. Mobile money is near-universal; storage, formal credit and processing are effectively absent across the district.

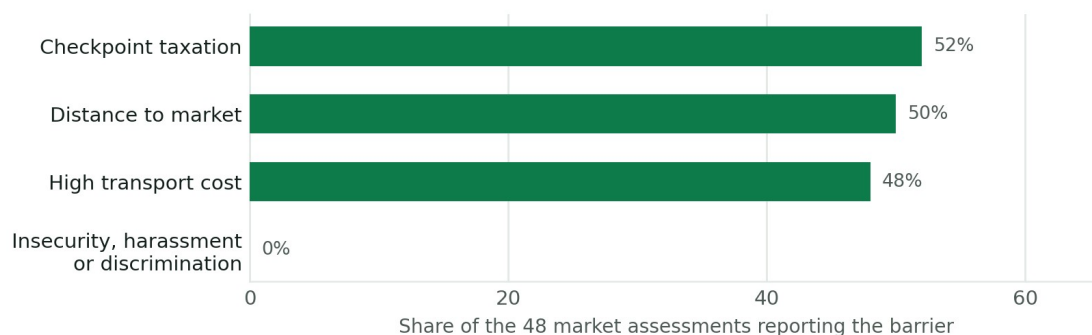


Figure 11 Access and protection barriers reported. Barriers are economic rather than security-related; no assessment reported insecurity, harassment or discrimination, and 46 per cent reported no access barrier at all.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CBT	Cash-Based Transfer	MFI	Market Functionality Index
CSA	Climate-Smart Agriculture	MODA	Mobile Operational Data Acquisition
FLA	Field-Level Agreement	ODK	Open Data Kit
GPS	Global Positioning System	RLRP	Rural Livelihood and Resilience Programme
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	ToT	Training of Trainers
LLG	Lifeline-Gedo	WFP	World Food Programme

Village names appear in several transliterations across programme documentation — Nebsoy / Neefsoy / Nobsey; Bula Ceesaan / Bulla-Cesaan; Baldul Amiin / Ballatul-Amin / Tula Amiin; Shimbirolle / Shimbirole West. The spellings used throughout this report follow the training attendance registers; each refers to a single settlement and a single cooperative.

1 Executive Summary

1.1 Scope and Reach

The component worked across seven target locations — Nebsoy, Sarinley, Bula Ceesaan, Bandar, Mardha, Baldul Amiin and Shimbirolle — with one registered farmer cooperative in each. Each cooperative was targeted at 119 members, giving a programme total of 833 participants, of whom 396 (47.5 per cent) were women and 437 (52.5 per cent) were men. Every location met its participation target in full.

1.2 Summary of Achievements

- Seven farmer cooperatives were mobilized, assessed against a structured performance framework, and supported with governance and financial management training delivered across all seven locations between 16 and 21 May 2026.
- 833 cooperative members completed capacity building on good governance, transparency, accountability, financial literacy, budgeting, record keeping and internal control.
- Lead Farmers in all seven locations were trained on post-harvest handling and storage between 22 and 30 May 2026, covering harvesting timing, cleaning, drying, sorting, grading, hermetic storage, pest control and packaging.
- Input and output marketing training (1–7 June 2026) and Farmer Groups as a Business training (8–13 June 2026) moved the cooperatives towards market-oriented, commercially planned production.
- A structured farmer-buyer market-linkage meeting was convened on 13 June 2026 with 40 participants, establishing direct commercial contact between cooperative representatives and local traders, wholesalers and retailers.
- A localized rapid market assessment and a full Market Functionality Index assessment — 48 assessments across five market clusters and 168 trader interviews, 12 to 22 July 2026 — established that Bardhere markets are broadly functional and able to support market-based programming.
- Forty Lead Farmers were trained as community facilitators on 26 July 2026, creating a farmer-to-farmer extension mechanism that continues beyond the implementation period.

1.3 Principal Conclusions

The component delivered its full planned scope and produced improvements in cooperative governance capacity, post-harvest knowledge, commercial orientation and market awareness among the target population. The market evidence confirms that the district's market system is functional enough to support cash, voucher and local-procurement modalities, with universal mobile money acceptance among traders (168 of 168 interviews) and near-universal informal trader credit (167 of 168).

Two structural constraints were identified that no single training intervention can resolve. The first is a district-wide deficit in market services — formal credit, storage and processing scored only 41.7 per cent of the maximum on the MFI Services domain, and no market anywhere in the district reported on-site milling or processing. The second is a near-uniform road-access constraint, reported in 75 per cent of market assessments. Farmers additionally reported recurring flood damage to farmland, loss of fertile topsoil and sand deposition, and limited access to quality seed, farm tools and irrigation infrastructure.

2 Introduction and Programme Background

Bardhere District lies along the Juba River in Gedo Region. Its riverine and adjacent rain-fed farmland supports maize, sorghum and sesame production, and Bardhere town functions as a trading hub connecting cross-border and national supply chains to household consumption markets across the district.

2.1 Programme Context

The Rural Livelihood and Resilience Programme is owned and funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), delivered in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), and implemented on the ground by Lifeline-Gedo. It is designed to strengthen the livelihoods and resilience of smallholder farming households through improved agricultural production, stronger and better-governed producer organizations, reduced post-harvest losses, and improved access to markets.

Farming households in Bardhere face a compound set of pressures: recurrent flooding during the harvesting season, degraded and sand-covered farmland, limited and costly access to agricultural inputs, weak storage and processing capacity, poor road infrastructure, and thin market information. Against this background, the Food Systems component concentrated on the institutional and market dimensions of the problem — the capacity of farmer cooperatives to govern themselves and manage resources transparently, the technical knowledge required to protect the value of what is produced, and the commercial relationships and market intelligence needed to convert production into household income.

2.2 Target Locations and Cooperatives

The component worked with seven registered farmer cooperatives, one in each target location. Each cooperative was targeted at 119 members, giving a total programme target of 833 participants.

Table 1 Target locations, participating cooperatives and membership

S/N	Location	Cooperative	Female	Male	Total
1	Nebsoy (Neefsoy)	Nebsoy	43	76	119
2	Sarinley	Boolimoog	67	52	119
3	Bula Ceesaan	Bula Ceesaan	56	63	119
4	Bandar	Danwadag	51	68	119
5	Mardha	Tacab-wadag	63	56	119
6	Baldul Amiin	Dalag-Bila	61	58	119
7	Shimbirolle (West)	Maandeeq	55	64	119
	Total — 7 locations	7 cooperatives	396	437	833

3 Objectives and Planned Targets

3.1 Component Objective

The overall objective was to strengthen the resilience and livelihoods of smallholder farming households in Bardhere District by building the institutional capacity of farmer cooperatives, improving agricultural and post-harvest practices, and strengthening farmers' access to and position within local markets. Specific objectives were to:

- Strengthen cooperative governance, transparency, accountability and democratic decision-making.
- Build financial literacy, budgeting, record-keeping and internal control capacity within cooperatives.
- Reduce post-harvest losses and improve the quality and marketability of agricultural produce.
- Shift farmer groups from subsistence orientation to planned, market-oriented agricultural enterprise.
- Establish direct, working commercial relationships between cooperatives and local market actors.
- Generate reliable market evidence to inform future market-based livelihood and transfer programming.
- Establish a sustainable community-level extension mechanism through trained Lead Farmers.

3.2 Planned Targets and Achievement

Table 2 Planned targets against achievement, March–July 2026

Result area	Activity	Planned target	Achieved
Cooperative strengthening	Mobilization, launch, cooperative engagement and performance assessment	7 cooperatives / 833 participants	7 cooperatives assessed; 833 participants engaged
Governance and financial capacity	Good Governance and Financial Resource Management training	833 participants	833 participants (396 F / 437 M)
Post-harvest management	Post-Harvest Handling and Storage training	7 locations	Delivered in all 7 locations
Market orientation	Input and Output Marketing training	Lead Farmers	Delivered 1–7 June 2026
Business development	Farmer Groups as a Business training	7 target locations	Delivered in all 7 locations, 8–13 June 2026
Market linkage	Cooperative / Lead Farmer meeting with local buyers	40 participants	40 participants (18 F / 22 M)
Market evidence	Localized rapid market assessment	Bardhere market system	Completed
Market functionality	MFI assessment	4 markets / 28 structured interviews	5 clusters / 48 assessments / 168 trader interviews
Sustainability	Training of Lead Farmers as community facilitators	40 Lead Farmers	40 Lead Farmers (16 F / 24 M)

4 Implementation and Activities

4.1 Preliminary Activities and Community Mobilization

Implementation opened in March 2026 with programme mobilization, community engagement and formal coordination with Bardhere District authorities and community leadership structures. A launch and endorsement meeting was held in Bandar location on 13 March 2026, followed by consultations in the remaining target locations.

These consultations clarified programme objectives, target locations, selection criteria, roles and responsibilities, and expected results. Engaging district authorities and community leaders before any activity began proved decisive for the participation rates achieved later: it established transparency around beneficiary selection, secured local endorsement of the cooperative structures, and built community ownership.

4.2 Cooperative Engagement and Performance Assessment

Seven farmer cooperatives were engaged, one in each target location. A structured cooperative performance assessment was conducted to establish a baseline and identify capacity gaps across governance, leadership, financial management, record keeping, member participation, accountability, business orientation, production practice and marketing. The completed assessment records for each of the seven cooperatives are retained in project documentation and provide the baseline against which future capacity gains can be measured.

4.3 Good Governance and Financial Resource Management Training

From 16 to 21 May 2026, the LLG technical team delivered capacity-building training on cooperative governance and financial resource management across all seven target locations. The training reached 833 participants — 396 women and 437 men — drawn from farmer cooperatives, smallholder farming households and community leadership structures.

The governance module addressed transparency, accountability, participation and fairness; the specific roles and responsibilities of Chairpersons, Secretaries, Treasurers and Committee Members; open sharing of financial information with the membership; and conflict-resolution methods including negotiation, mediation, dialogue and arbitration.

The financial management module covered income and expenditure management, savings and investment practice, budget planning and forecasting, record keeping, financial reporting, and internal control systems. Particular emphasis was placed on controls cooperatives can implement immediately — expenditure approval thresholds and dual-signatory requirements. Participants completed practical exercises preparing simple income and expenditure records.



Figure 12 Governance and financial management training in session, Sarinley, May 2026. Photo: Abdinasir Hassan, LLG.



Figure 13 Women cooperative members at the governance training, Bula Ceesaan, May 2026. Photo: Abdinasir Hassan, LLG.

A third module introduced food systems concepts and sustainable agricultural practice: food production and distribution systems, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable land management, water conservation, crop rotation and agroforestry, post-harvest handling, and market access and value chains. The concept of farming as a business was introduced here for the first time, emphasizing market-oriented production and value addition.

Training was delivered through participatory learning methods, practical demonstration, group discussion and experience sharing, allowing participants to apply the lessons directly to their own cooperative and farming activities.

Table 3 Good governance and financial resource management training schedule

S/N	Location	Training topic	Dates
1	Bula Ceesaan	Good Governance & Financial Resource Management	16–17 May 2026
2	Nebsoy	Good Governance & Financial Resource Management	16–17 May 2026
3	Bandar	Good Governance & Financial Resource Management	18–19 May 2026
4	Baldul Amiin	Good Governance & Financial Resource Management	18–19 May 2026
5	Mardha	Good Governance & Financial Resource Management	20–21 May 2026
6	Sarinley	Good Governance & Financial Resource Management	20–21 May 2026
7	Shimbirolle	Good Governance & Financial Resource Management	20–21 May 2026

4.4 Post-Harvest Handling and Storage Training



Figure 14 Lead Farmers at the post-harvest handling and storage training, Bula Ceesaan, May 2026. Photo: Abdinasir Hassan, LLG.

From 22 to 30 May 2026, the LLG technical team delivered technical training on post-harvest handling and storage for Lead Farmers across the seven target locations. The training addressed one of the most consequential and least-addressed constraints in the district: farmers invest heavily in land preparation, seed, labour, irrigation and crop management, yet lose a substantial share of that investment after harvest to poor handling, inadequate storage, pest infestation, moisture damage and poor packaging.

Delivery combined interactive presentation, participatory group discussion, question-and-answer sessions, practical demonstration of harvesting, handling and storage techniques, and field-based learning. Practical discussion focused on maize, sesame and sorghum, the dominant crops of the area.

Table 4 Post-harvest handling and storage — training modules delivered

Module	Title	Content covered
Module 1	Introduction to post-harvest management	Definition and importance; causes of post-harvest losses; quantitative and qualitative losses; biological, environmental, physical and human causes of crop damage; effects on food security and household income
Module 2	Harvesting techniques	Crop maturity indicators and correct harvesting stages; proper tools and equipment; safe harvesting methods; handling during harvest; the cost of premature harvesting
Module 3	Post-harvest handling practices	Cleaning to remove dirt and contaminants; sorting and grading against quality standards; packaging for protection in transport and storage; safe transportation to minimize physical damage
Module 4	Storage techniques	Traditional storage methods and their limitations; improved and hermetic storage technologies; pest and disease management; moisture control; store sanitation and inspection routines
Module 5	Value addition and market linkages	Value addition opportunities; basic processing; product quality improvement; collective marketing; market access and buyer relationships; pricing mechanisms

Participants were introduced to hermetic bags and airtight storage systems as accessible technologies for reducing insect infestation and maintaining grain quality. The market assessment carried out two months later found the same gap at district level, with storage services reported in only 8 per cent of assessed markets.

Farmers raised a set of constraints during these sessions that shaped the recommendations in Section 11: flooding that removes fertile topsoil and deposits sand on farmland, limited access to improved storage facilities and post-harvest equipment, poor transportation infrastructure, the risk of crossing the river in traditional wooden boats, and limited access to irrigation and flood-control structures.



Figure 15 Post-harvest training under way in Shimbirolle West, May 2026. Photo: Abdinassir Hassan, LLG.

4.5 Input and Output Marketing Training

From 1 to 7 June 2026, Lead Farmers and nominated cooperative marketing coordinators were trained on input and output marketing. The training was structured around six modules and delivered through interactive presentation, field visits to agro-dealers and local markets, role plays and group exercises.

Table 5 Input and output marketing — training modules delivered

Module	Title	Content covered
Module 1	Market landscape and value chains	Local, regional and export markets; demand and supply; seasonal trends; value chain actors from input supplier to consumer; market channels including farm gate, local market, cooperative marketing and contract buyers; market information systems
Module 2	Input sourcing and quality control	Types of agricultural input; identifying reliable suppliers; verifying licences and delivery reliability; inspecting packaging, expiry dates and certification labels; detecting counterfeit products; seed quality testing; bulk purchasing and procurement planning
Module 3	Costing, budgeting and pricing	Farm budget preparation; input, labour, transport and storage costs; cost of production per unit area; cost-plus, market-based and competitive pricing; gross income, net profit and break-even analysis
Module 4	Output marketing, pre- to post-harvest	Production planned against market demand; harvest scheduling; quality management; sorting, grading and packaging; reducing post-harvest losses; collective and direct marketing; timing of sales
Module 5	Contracting and buyer relationships	Verbal agreements and written contracts; terms and conditions; buyer expectations on quality, quantity consistency, delivery schedule and payment terms; price negotiation; building trust through reliability and consistent quality
Module 6	Record keeping, transparency and governance	Procurement, sales, cash book, attendance and stock records; how records support financial tracking, loan applications, accountability and profit analysis; preparing simple financial, procurement and sales reports

The training placed particular weight on aggregation and negotiation. Farmers were shown how pooling produce across cooperative members improves bargaining position, opens access to larger buyers that individual smallholders cannot reach, and reduces per-unit transport cost. Role-play exercises simulated price and delivery-term negotiations between farmers and buyers.

4.6 Farmer Groups as a Business Training

From 8 to 13 June 2026, Farmer Groups as a Business training was delivered in all seven target locations. The training was designed to move cooperatives from traditional subsistence orientation towards organized, profit-oriented agricultural enterprise — treating farming as a source of income and long-term economic growth rather than household consumption alone.

Practical exercises anchored each module. Groups identified crops with strong market potential in Bardhere District, prepared a simple business plan for a selected agricultural product, constructed a cash-flow statement for a farming season, conducted a mock cooperative meeting with minutes, and developed a risk matrix with mitigation measures.



Figure 16 Farmer Groups as a Business training, Nebsoy, June 2026. Photo: Abdinasir Hassan, LLG.

Table 6 Farmer Groups as a Business — training modules delivered

Module	Title	Content covered
Module 1	Farming as a business and market orientation	Farming as an enterprise generating profit, employment and long-term sustainability; characteristics of commercial farming; market-driven production; seasonal demand; entrepreneurial mindset, innovation and strategic decision-making
Module 2	Business planning and budgeting	Components of a business plan — goals, production plan, marketing strategy, operational plan and financial projections; cost estimation; income forecasting; resource allocation; seasonal budgeting; feasibility analysis
Module 3	Financial management, records and cash flow	Income management, expense tracking, savings and financial controls; cash books, sales, procurement, attendance and loan records; cash inflow and outflow; seasonal financial planning; gross margin and net profit calculation
Module 4	Value chains, market access and buyers	Identifying value chain actors; collective marketing, contract farming, market networking and quality-based selling; trust building, consistent quality and timely delivery; contract terms, delivery conditions and pricing agreements
Module 5	Governance, transparency and member engagement	Principles of good governance; board, secretary, treasurer and member roles; agenda preparation, minute taking, conflict resolution and decision-making procedures; inclusion, information sharing and feedback systems
Module 6	Risk management and contingency planning	Drought, flood, pest outbreak, price fluctuation and input shortage; crop diversification, water conservation, savings mechanisms and early planning; crop and livestock insurance awareness; contingency plans for climate shocks and market disruption



Figure 17 Cooperative members at the Farmer Groups as a Business training, Shimbirolle West, June 2026. Photo: Abdinasir Hassan, LLG.

The training was delivered in Nebsoy, Sarinley, Bula Ceesaan, Bandar, Mardha, Baldul Amiin and Shimbirolle, using facilitated group discussion, case studies of successful cooperatives, hands-on budgeting and cash-flow exercises, and role plays covering leadership meetings and buyer negotiation.

4.7 Market-Linkage Meeting Between Cooperatives and Local Buyers

On 13 June 2026, a structured market-linkage meeting was convened in Bardhere town bringing together cooperative representatives, Lead Farmers and local buyers. Forty participants attended — 22 men and 18 women — representing the seven cooperatives alongside traders, wholesalers and retailers operating in the Bardhere market system.

The agenda covered market demand and seasonal patterns; buyer quality standards and packaging requirements; buyer purchasing capacity and volumes; pricing and payment arrangements; post-harvest handling expectations; produce aggregation and delivery logistics; market information sharing; and terms for future collaboration.



Figure 18 Opening of the market-linkage meeting, Bardhere town, 13 June 2026.



Figure 19 Cooperative representatives and local buyers in discussion, 13 June 2026.

The meeting established the practical basis for the collective marketing model promoted throughout the training programme: cooperatives aggregating member produce, applying agreed quality standards, and negotiating as a single counterparty rather than as individual smallholders.

4.8 Localized Rapid Market Assessment

A localized rapid market assessment was undertaken to identify high-potential crops, products and services with existing demand in and around Bardhere; to map value chains and the actors within them; to document buyer preferences and quality expectations; to assess input availability and supplier reliability; and to identify opportunities for collective marketing and for raising farmer income. The assessment provided the evidence base on which the Market Functionality Index assessment was subsequently designed, and identified the market clusters and actor categories to be covered.

4.9 Market Functionality Index Assessment

Between 12 and 22 July 2026, a full Market Functionality Index assessment was conducted across the Bardhere market system. Data were collected using an ODK-based questionnaire connected to WFP MODA, administered face-to-face by two trained LLG field enumerators to market chairpersons, wholesalers, retailers, traders and transporters. All 48 respondents provided documented consent prior to interview. Field observations, GPS coordinates and market photographs were recorded for each visit, with median GPS precision of approximately five metres. Detailed findings are presented in Section 7.

4.10 Training of Lead Farmers as Community Facilitators

On 26 July 2026, a one-day Training of Trainers was delivered to 40 Lead Farmers selected from across the seven cooperatives — 16 women and 24 men. The purpose was to equip them to lead farmer-to-farmer learning sessions within their own communities after the close of direct implementation.

Table 7 Lead Farmer facilitator training — sessions delivered, 26 July 2026

Session	Topic	Content and practical exercise
1	Understanding the role of a Lead Farmer	Roles and responsibilities; mentoring fellow farmers; demonstrating improved practice; organizing farmer learning sessions; supporting women and youth participation; reporting progress. Exercise: identifying the qualities of an effective Lead Farmer and drafting a community action plan
2	Facilitation and communication skills	Preparing training sessions; effective communication; active listening; open-ended questioning; encouraging participation; time management; summarizing learning points; adult learning principles. Exercise: each participant facilitated a five-minute session and received peer feedback
3	Cooperative governance and leadership	Cooperative principles and values; roles of leaders and members; transparency; accountability; teamwork; conflict resolution; inclusive decision-making; regular meetings
4	Financial management	Saving; budget preparation; record keeping; income and expenditure management; financial transparency; investment planning. Exercise: preparing simple income and expenditure records
5	Farming as a business	Production planning; cost calculation; profit estimation; market opportunities; value addition; collective marketing. Exercise: estimating production costs and expected profit
6	Climate-smart agriculture	Soil and water conservation; crop rotation; compost preparation; drought-tolerant crops; pest and disease management; environmental protection. Exercise: identifying local climate risks and proposing adaptation measures

Session	Topic	Content and practical exercise
7	Post-harvest handling and storage	Harvesting at the correct time; cleaning; drying; sorting and grading; safe storage; pest control; packaging
8	Market linkages	Understanding market demand; product quality; collective marketing; negotiation; buyer relationships; market information systems. Exercise: identifying local buyers and collective sales opportunities
9	Gender, youth and social inclusion	Women's participation; youth engagement; equal opportunities; diversity; shared decision-making
10	Record keeping and reporting	Attendance sheets; training topics; demonstration activities; farmer participation; challenges; success stories; follow-up activities. Exercise: preparing a simple activity report

Participants committed to conducting follow-up training sessions within their respective cooperative groups. The full attendance record, with names and contact details, is retained in project documentation.

4.11 Market Linkage and Collective Marketing

Beyond the single linkage meeting of 13 June, market linkage was integrated as a continuous thread through the implementation period. Engagement was maintained with local buyers, traders, wholesalers, retailers and input suppliers throughout. The consistent message across all training activities was production planned against market demand, adherence to buyer quality standards, aggregation of produce at cooperative level, collective negotiation of price, and regular sharing of market information among members.

4.12 Documentation and Reporting

Project documentation was maintained throughout for community engagement records, cooperative registration and membership, training session content and attendance registers, cooperative performance assessments, market assessment datasets and market-actor records, market-linkage activity records, field observations, challenges and mitigation measures, and achievements. Monthly and activity-specific reporting supported accountability to WFP and IFAD and provides the evidence base for monitoring, evaluation, learning and audit.

4.13 Missed Implementation Targets

No major planned activity was missed during the implementation period. All core activities were delivered across all seven target locations, and the MFI assessment exceeded its planned scope.

Two practical limitations were recorded. First, the one-day format of the Lead Farmer facilitator training constrained the time available for extended field demonstrations; participants themselves requested additional practical time and refresher sessions. Second, several Lead Farmers were simultaneously engaged in crop production and post-harvest activity during the May training period, which limited full attendance across the whole training block in some locations. Both point to the same corrective measure: refresher coaching and field demonstration scheduled around the agricultural calendar.

5 Beneficiary Participation

Table 8 Participation by activity, March–July 2026

Activity	Female	Male	Total
Good Governance and Financial Resource Management training (May 2026)	396	437	833
Post-Harvest Handling and Storage training (May 2026)	396	437	833
Cooperative membership engaged and assessed	396	437	833
Farmer–buyer market-linkage meeting (13 June 2026)	18	22	40
Lead Farmer facilitator training (26 July 2026)	16	24	40

Table 9 Participation by location and sex

S/N	Location	Female	Male	Total
1	Nebsoy	43	76	119
2	Sarinley	67	52	119
3	Bula Ceesaan	56	63	119
4	Bandar	51	68	119
5	Mardha	63	56	119
6	Baldul Amiin	61	58	119
7	Shimbirolle	55	64	119
	Total	396	437	833

Women outnumbered men in three of the seven locations — Sarinley, Mardha and Baldul Amiin — and formed close to half of participants in the remainder. Their participation was sustained into the market-related activities, where decision-making influence is concentrated: 18 of 40 participants at the farmer–buyer meeting and 16 of 40 Lead Farmers trained as community facilitators were women. Gender, youth and social inclusion was delivered as a dedicated session within the facilitator training, positioning inclusion as an explicit responsibility of the community facilitators themselves.

6 Project Inputs

No farm tools, seed, irrigation equipment or other physical agricultural inputs were distributed to beneficiaries during the implementation period covered by this report. The component was designed as a capacity-building, market-evidence and institutional-strengthening intervention.

Table 10 Physical inputs planned and provided

Item	Status	Planned	Provided
Farm tools	Not distributed during reporting period	—	0
Seed	Not distributed during reporting period	—	0
Solar irrigation equipment	Not distributed during reporting period	—	0
Drip irrigation equipment	Not distributed during reporting period	—	0
Storage equipment	Not distributed during reporting period	—	0

This is material context for interpreting the outcomes reported in Section 8. Participants completed the component with substantially improved knowledge of improved harvesting, hermetic storage, drought-tolerant crop selection, water conservation and market-oriented production — but without the physical means to apply a significant part of it. Farmers cannot practise hermetic storage without hermetic bags, cannot plant drought-tolerant varieties without access to certified seed, and cannot apply improved irrigation practice without irrigation infrastructure. The recommendations in Section 11 address this gap directly.

7 Market Functionality Index Assessment: Findings

The MFI assessment is the principal piece of market evidence generated by the component. It establishes whether the Bardhere market system has sufficient capacity — in assortment, price stability, supply chain, competition, infrastructure, services, quality control and access — to absorb cash-based transfers, vouchers or local procurement without generating adverse effects such as price inflation or trader monopolization.

7.1 Methodology and Scope

Forty-eight market assessments were collected between 12 and 22 July 2026 by two field enumerators across five market clusters in Bardhere District. Structured mini-interviews were additionally recorded with up to four individual traders per market visit, yielding 168 trader-level records.

Table 11 MFI respondent profile

Respondent type	Number	Note
Market chairpersons	26	Key-informant interviews at market level
Retailers	12	Individual trader-level assessments
Wholesalers	5	Individual trader-level assessments

Respondent type	Number	Note
Traders	4	Individual trader-level assessments
Transporters	1	Single transport-actor interview
Total primary respondents	48	28 male, 19 female, 1 unspecified — all provided documented consent

The MFI scores each market visit across nine domains — assortment, availability, price, supply chain, competition, infrastructure, services, quality, and access and protection — on a 0–3 scale against a structured rubric, for a maximum raw total of 27 points. The raw score is converted to a 0–100 scale and classified as High functionality (≥ 70), Medium functionality (50–69) or Low functionality (< 50).

Table 12 Market operating characteristics

Characteristic	Finding
Trading week	Six-day trading week in 47 of 48 records
Restocking frequency	Weekly restocking reported as the norm in 37 of 48 records
Active traders — Main Market cluster	15 to 200 traders reported per assessment
Active traders — peripheral clusters	15 to 35 traders reported per assessment
GPS positioning precision	Median approximately 5 metres, supporting reliable spatial deduplication
Interview mode	All 48 interviews conducted face to face

7.2 Headline Results

Table 13 MFI headline results, Bardhere District, July 2026

Metric	Value
Total assessments	48
Average MFI score	75 / 100
Median MFI score	74 / 100
Standard deviation	7.7
Highest single score	93 — Main Market, retailer interview, 16 July 2026
Lowest single score	48 — Suuq Garasey, rural market, 19–20 July 2026
High functionality (≥ 70)	41 assessments (85%)
Medium functionality (50–69)	7 assessments (15%)
Low functionality (< 50)	0 assessments (0%)

No market in the district fell into the Low-functionality band. On this evidence, the Bardhere market system is functioning well enough on average to support market-based humanitarian and resilience programming.

7.3 Performance by Market Cluster

Submissions were grouped by settlement and GPS proximity into five market clusters. The district's central Main Market cluster consistently outperformed the smaller peripheral markets, and reported by far the highest number of active traders. Trader density correlates with better scores, principally through the competition and assortment domains.

Suuq Garasey produced the single lowest score in the dataset (48) and the widest internal spread of any cluster (48–78). It was also inconsistently classified across visits — recorded variously as a rural market, a district market and a main urban market — and it is the one location where both "poor" market access and "one dominant" trader power were reported. It should not be treated as equivalent to the other four clusters without a targeted follow-up visit.

7.4 Domain-Level Analysis

SERVICES — THE BINDING CONSTRAINT

Services is the weakest domain district-wide by a substantial margin, averaging 1.25 out of 3 (41.7 per cent of maximum). Mobile money was the only reliably available service in nearly every trader interview. Banking agents, formal credit beyond informal vendor credit, storage and milling or processing facilities were largely absent; several rural Suuq Garasey submissions scored zero on this domain. No assessment anywhere in the district reported milling or processing services available on site.

INFRASTRUCTURE — A STRUCTURAL DISTRICT-WIDE BOTTLENECK

Infrastructure averaged 2.02 out of 3 (67.4 per cent) and was strikingly uniform: road condition was recorded as "passable with difficulty" in nearly every single assessment, with recurring reports of limited storage and road damage. Because the constraint appears almost identically across all 48 assessments, it is a district-wide structural bottleneck rather than a weakness of any particular market — it cannot be avoided by selecting a different market within the district.

ACCESS AND PROTECTION — COMPARATIVELY SOLID

Access and protection averaged 2.62 out of 3 (87.5 per cent). Most markets were rated safe for all groups or as carrying only minor risks. Where barriers were reported, they were economic rather than security-related: checkpoint taxation (25 of 48 assessments, 52 per cent), distance to market (24 of 48, 50 per cent) and high transport cost (23 of 48, 48 per cent). No assessment reported direct insecurity, harassment or discrimination as an access barrier, and 22 assessments (46 per cent) reported no access barriers at all.

ASSORTMENT, QUALITY AND COMPETITION — GENUINE STRENGTHS

Competition (93.8 per cent), assortment (86.8 per cent) and quality (78.5 per cent) scored consistently mid-to-high across the large majority of assessments. Commodity variety, active trader presence and quality control are real strengths of the Bardhere market system.

ENUMERATOR AND RESPONDENT-TYPE CONSISTENCY

Chairperson-based interviews averaged 74.7 and trader, retailer and wholesaler-based interviews averaged a broadly similar range, with only the single transporter interview and the small wholesaler sub-sample showing meaningful divergence. The tool therefore produces similar results whether administered as a market chairperson key-informant interview or an individual trader survey — a good indication of data reliability.

7.5 Supply-Chain Constraints and Market Services

Poor road access was the most frequently cited supply-chain constraint, reported in 36 of 48 assessments (75 per cent), followed by high fuel cost and transport shortage (30 assessments each, 63 per cent) and checkpoint or other taxation (18 assessments, 38 per cent). These constraints feed directly into higher retail prices and periodic supply disruption across all five clusters.

Table 14 Market services available across the 48 assessments

Service	Assessments reporting	Share
Mobile money	42 of 48	88%
Transport services	22 of 48	46%
Banking agents	16 of 48	33%
Storage	4 of 48	8%
Formal credit	3 of 48	6%
Milling or processing	0 of 48	0%

7.6 Trader Profile and Modality Implications

Across the 168 individual trader interviews, mobile money acceptance was reported in every single case (168 of 168, 100 per cent), and informal credit was offered by all but one trader (167 of 168, 99 per cent) — the sole exception being a retailer in Buula Gedi. Every one of the 48 assessments carried an automated "mixed" modality recommendation. Taken together, this points to cash and voucher-based assistance being broadly feasible across the assessed markets, provided the supply-side and service gaps identified above are monitored throughout any implementation.

7.7 Data Quality Notes

Five data-quality issues were identified during analysis. None affects the functionality classification presented above, but all should be resolved before the dataset is used for price-trend or inflation analysis:

1. Commodity unit inconsistency. Rice, sorghum, maize, wheat flour, sugar and beans prices are recorded interchangeably in 25 kg sack, 50 kg sack and per-kilogram units. Unit normalization is required before any price comparison.
2. Implausible price-change outliers. Several milk powder and fresh milk entries show "price 30 days ago" values that appear to be data-entry errors — a current price of 90 against 13 thirty days earlier (+592 per cent), and 70 against 12 (+483 per cent). These should be corrected or excluded.
3. Boilerplate narrative comments. The free-text recommendation field is near-identical across most submissions from each enumerator, limiting its qualitative value. Enumerator briefing should emphasize market-specific observation.
4. One likely field-swap error. In the 20 July Suuq Bacaad submission, market days open per week is recorded as 0 while distance to main road is recorded as 6 — the reverse of the pattern in every other record.
5. Market-naming inconsistency. The free-text market-name field was used inconsistently across visits to the same physical market, requiring GPS-based deduplication for location-level reporting.

8 Outcomes Achieved

8.1 Strengthened Cooperative Institutional Capacity

All seven participating cooperatives completed structured training on governance, leadership, financial management, accountability and business management. Cooperative members and office-holders gained a clearer understanding of the distinct roles of Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Members, and of the obligation to share financial information openly with the membership. The performance assessment conducted at the outset gives each cooperative a documented baseline against which future capacity gains can be measured.

8.2 Improved Financial Literacy and Record Keeping

Participants strengthened their knowledge of budgeting, income and expenditure management, savings, financial planning and record keeping, and practised preparing simple financial records during the training itself. Cooperatives were introduced to specific internal controls — expenditure approval and dual-signatory arrangements — that can be adopted without external resources. These skills are the precondition for cooperatives managing productive assets or accessing agricultural finance in future.

8.3 Improved Agricultural and Post-Harvest Knowledge

Farmers and Lead Farmers across all seven locations improved their understanding of harvesting timing and maturity indicators, cleaning, drying, sorting, grading, safe storage, pest control and packaging, and were introduced to hermetic storage technology. Awareness of food safety and product quality standards was reported as significantly improved. These practices bear directly on reducing post-harvest losses and improving the quality and marketability of produce.

8.4 Improved Market Awareness and Commercial Orientation

The input and output marketing training, the Farmer Groups as a Business training, the market assessments and the farmer-buyer meeting collectively shifted farmers' understanding of what the market requires of them. Participants gained working knowledge of market demand and seasonality, buyer quality requirements, pricing and cost-of-production calculation, negotiation, collective marketing and the identification of market opportunities.

8.5 Stronger Farmer–Buyer Relationships

The meeting of 13 June 2026 created the first direct, structured platform for cooperative representatives and the district's buyers to interact. It improved communication in both directions and produced a shared understanding of the quality, volume and delivery-timing standards on which future commercial relationships depend.

8.6 A Substantive Market Evidence Base

The localized rapid market assessment and the MFI assessment generated a robust evidence base on the Bardhere market system: five market clusters profiled, 48 full market assessments, 168 trader-level interviews, and domain-level diagnosis identifying exactly where the market system is strong and where it is structurally weak. This evidence is directly usable for modality decisions and for the design of complementary market-side programming.

8.7 Strengthened Community-Level Extension Capacity

The training of 40 Lead Farmers as community facilitators is the component's principal sustainability achievement. It establishes a farmer-to-farmer knowledge-transfer mechanism at community level that continues to operate after direct implementation ends. Each facilitator has practised session delivery, received peer feedback, and committed to conducting follow-up training within their cooperative.

8.8 Increased Attention to Climate Resilience

Climate-smart agriculture was integrated across the training programme, covering soil and water conservation, crop rotation, drought-tolerant crops, composting, integrated pest management and environmental protection. Participants identified the specific climate risks affecting their own locations — principally flooding during the harvest season — and developed practical adaptation measures. This supports the broader RLRP objective of strengthening resilience to climate-related agricultural risk.

8.9 Gender and Social Inclusion

Women constituted 47.5 per cent of all participants and outnumbered men in three of the seven locations. Their participation was sustained into the activities where commercial decision-making is concentrated: 18 of 40 participants at the farmer–buyer meeting and 16 of 40 Lead Farmer facilitators. Gender, youth and social inclusion was delivered as a dedicated session within the facilitator training.

8.10 Strengthened Coordination and Community Ownership

Implementation strengthened working coordination among Lifeline-Gedo, WFP, IFAD, Bardhere District authorities, the seven farmer cooperatives, Lead Farmers, local buyers, traders, wholesalers and community representatives. Early and continuous engagement of district authorities and community leaders underpinned the participation rates and community ownership achieved across all seven locations.

9 Challenges and Mitigation

Challenges were recorded both as implementation constraints encountered by the programme team and as constraints raised by participants during training sessions. Both categories are reported below, since the second set defines the conditions under which any future intervention in the district must operate.

Table 15 Challenges encountered and measures taken

Challenge	Effect	Mitigation applied or required
Recurrent flooding during harvest seasons	Crop damage, removal of fertile topsoil, sand deposition on farmland, reduced productivity and threatened household food security	Flood risk and adaptation integrated into climate-smart agriculture sessions; gabion construction, river diversion and land rehabilitation identified as required investment
Limited farmer access to financial resources	Constrains cultivation, ploughing and input purchase; limits application of improved practice	Financial literacy and savings training delivered; access to agricultural finance and credit identified as required complementary support
Limited access to quality agricultural inputs	Restricts adoption of improved seed varieties and improved practice	Input sourcing and quality assessment training delivered; certified drought-tolerant seed supply identified as required investment

Challenge	Effect	Mitigation applied or required
Limited storage and post-harvest infrastructure	Continued post-harvest losses despite improved knowledge; storage available in only 8 per cent of assessed markets	Hermetic and improved storage technologies introduced in training; physical storage provision identified as required investment
Lead Farmer workload during the agricultural calendar	Limited full attendance across the whole May training block in some locations	Training scheduled across staggered dates by location; future training to be timed around the agricultural calendar
One-day format of the facilitator ToT	Insufficient time for extended field demonstration; participants requested more practical content	Refresher training, follow-up coaching and field demonstration recommended
Poor road access and high transport cost	Raises retail prices, disrupts supply, limits farmer access to markets — reported in 75 per cent of market assessments	Documented through the MFI assessment; requires coordination with local authorities and transport actors
River crossing by traditional wooden boat	Safety risk to farmers transporting produce to market	Documented and raised with district authorities; safe crossing infrastructure identified as a need
Weak market linkages and limited market information	Farmers unable to align production with demand or negotiate from an informed position	Market-linkage meeting convened; market assessments completed; continued buyer engagement recommended

10 Lessons Learned

- Early engagement of district authorities, community leaders and cooperative structures materially improved community ownership and participation. The transparency established at mobilization stage is the reason participation held at target level across all seven locations.
- Strengthening cooperative governance before providing livelihood support increases transparency, accountability and the likelihood that assets and resources provided later are managed sustainably. Sequencing governance first was the correct decision and should be retained.
- Practical, field-based training combined with demonstration produces markedly better understanding and adoption than classroom delivery alone. Where practical time was compressed — as in the one-day facilitator training — participants themselves identified the shortfall.
- Linking farmers directly with local buyers creates commercial incentives that training alone cannot. The 13 June meeting surfaced a quality-and-reliability mismatch that neither side had previously articulated, and which no amount of separate training would have revealed.
- Market assessment should precede major agricultural investment. Conducting the MFI and rapid market assessments during this phase means that any future production support can be aligned to documented demand, buyer requirements and value-chain opportunity rather than assumption.
- Knowledge without means has limited effect. Farmers completed the component knowing how to store grain hermetically, which drought-tolerant varieties to prefer and how to conserve irrigation water — without hermetic bags, certified seed or irrigation infrastructure. Capacity building and productive investment need to be delivered together.

- Gender-inclusive participation strengthens household decision-making and livelihood outcomes. Sustaining women's participation into the market-facing activities, not only the general training, is what makes inclusion consequential.
- Structural market constraints cannot be resolved at market level. The services deficit and road-access constraint appear almost uniformly across all five market clusters; they require district-level coordination and investment, not the selection of a better market.
- Regular monitoring and supportive supervision enable timely identification of implementation problems and corrective action, and generate the documentation base required for accountability and audit.

11 Conclusions and Recommendations

11.1 Conclusions

The Food Systems component of the RLRP delivered its full planned scope in Bardhere District between March and July 2026, and in the case of the MFI assessment exceeded it. Seven farmer cooperatives were assessed, trained and institutionally strengthened; 833 cooperative members completed governance, financial management and post-harvest capacity building; 40 Lead Farmers were established as community facilitators; direct commercial contact was created between cooperatives and the district's buyers; and a substantive market evidence base was generated covering five market clusters, 48 market assessments and 168 trader interviews.

The market evidence confirms that Bardhere's market system is functional and able to support cash, voucher and local-procurement modalities: 85 per cent of assessments scored in the High-functionality band, none scored Low, mobile money acceptance among traders is universal, and informal trader credit is near-universal. Two structural weaknesses qualify that conclusion — a district-wide services deficit and a near-uniform road-access constraint — neither of which can be resolved by choosing a different market within the district.

The component has established the institutional and knowledge foundations for market-oriented smallholder agriculture in the district. What it has not been able to establish — because no physical inputs were within its scope — is the productive capacity to act on that knowledge. The recommendations below address that gap.

11.2 Recommendations

PRODUCTIVE ASSETS AND AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

- Provide appropriate farm tools and agricultural equipment to the seven cooperatives to raise productivity and reduce labour requirements.
- Supply certified, improved, early-maturing and drought-tolerant seed suited to local conditions and to documented market demand.
- Provide tractor services and fuel support to rehabilitate flood-affected and sand-covered farmland.

WATER MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

- Establish solar-powered irrigation systems for suitable cooperatives to reduce dependence on fuel-powered pumps and recurring fuel costs.
- Introduce drip irrigation to improve water-use efficiency and enable dry-season production.
- Construct gabions and implement river-diversion measures to reduce flood damage to farmland during the harvest season.

- Invest in concrete irrigation channels and water-management infrastructure.
- Expand climate-smart agriculture practice — water harvesting, conservation agriculture, crop diversification and soil fertility management.

POST-HARVEST AND MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE

- Invest in improved storage, drying and packaging facilities at cooperative level, including hermetic bags and metal silos — storage was available in only 8 per cent of assessed markets and no market reported on-site milling or processing.
- Address the district-wide road-access constraint through coordination with local authorities and transport actors, since it affects all five market clusters roughly equally and drives fuel and transport costs into retail prices.

MARKETS, FINANCE AND PRIVATE SECTOR

- Prioritise a services-domain intervention — financial access, storage and credit formalisation. This is the single clearest and most consistent gap across every market in the district, and it directly affects households' ability to convert transfers and sales into productive investment.
- Strengthen access to agricultural finance and savings mechanisms for cooperatives and their members.
- Strengthen agricultural input supply systems and private-sector linkages.
- Continue regular farmer–buyer meetings and support collective marketing through the cooperatives.
- Promote crop diversification and suitable high-value crops aligned to assessed market demand.

CAPACITY, INCLUSION AND EVIDENCE

- Continue the Lead Farmer model through refresher training, structured follow-up coaching and technical support, and provide simple facilitation guides and visual training materials.
- Establish farmer demonstration plots in each of the seven target locations to enable the field-based demonstration that training time could not accommodate.
- Strengthen women's and youth participation through productive assets, entrepreneurship training and market opportunities; promote Mabegedi/Mabegaded systems where appropriate.
- Conduct a targeted follow-up assessment of the Suuq Garasey market cluster, using a standardised market-type designation, before it is treated as equivalent to the other four clusters in any modality decision.
- Clean the commodity price dataset — normalise units and remove the flagged outliers — before generating any price-trend or inflation analysis.
- Repeat the MFI assessment on a regular monitoring cycle, ideally quarterly, to distinguish genuine seasonal and trend-driven change from sampling-sequence effects.
- Develop an integrated agricultural investment package combining farm tools, climate-resilient seed, solar and drip irrigation, water harvesting, demonstration plots, post-harvest facilities, extension services, market linkage and agricultural finance, rather than delivering these elements separately.

12 Follow-Up Priorities

As this is an end-of-project completion report, the table below sets out recommended follow-up priorities rather than activities reported as completed.

Table 16 Recommended follow-up priorities

Priority area	Recommended activity	Target
Agricultural productivity	Farm tools, equipment and improved agricultural inputs	7 cooperatives / 833 members
Water efficiency	Solar-powered irrigation and drip irrigation demonstration and installation	Suitable cooperatives and locations
Climate resilience	Drought-tolerant and early-maturing certified seed support; flood mitigation works	Targeted farmers across 7 locations
Land rehabilitation	Tractor services and fuel support for flood-affected and sand-covered farmland	Flood-affected farmland in target locations
Post-harvest	Storage, drying and packaging facilities including hermetic bags and metal silos	7 cooperatives
Knowledge transfer	Refresher training, coaching and mentoring for Lead Farmers; demonstration plots	40 Lead Farmers and wider membership
Market access	Continued buyer engagement, collective marketing and market information sharing	7 cooperatives
Financial services	Agricultural finance, savings mechanisms and credit access	Cooperatives and members
Women's empowerment	Mabegedi/Mabegaded systems and productive livelihood support	Women within target cooperatives
Market monitoring	Quarterly MFI reassessment; targeted Suuq Garasey follow-up	5 market clusters, Bardhere District

Annex I • Activity Photographs

The photographs below document programme activities across the seven target locations during the implementation period. All were taken by LLG communication and field staff and are retained in project documentation.

A1.1 Good Governance and Financial Resource Management, May 2026



Figure 20 Governance and financial management training in progress. The RLRP banner identifying WFP, IFAD and LLG is displayed at each session. Photo: LLG field team.



Figure 21 Cooperative members in a governance and financial management session, May 2026. Photo: LLG field team.

A1.2 Post-Harvest Handling and Storage, May 2026



Figure 22 Post-harvest handling and storage training, Mardha location, May 2026. Photo: LLG field team.



Figure 23 Post-harvest handling and storage training, Bandar location, May 2026. Photo: LLG field team.

A1.3 Farmer Groups as a Business, June 2026



Figure 24 Farmer Groups as a Business training session with strong women's participation, June 2026. Photo: LLG field team.

A1.4 Farmer–Buyer Market-Linkage Meeting, 13 June 2026



Figure 25 Cooperative representatives, Lead Farmers and local buyers at the market-linkage meeting, Bardhere town, 13 June 2026.

Annex II • Market Functionality Index Data Tables

Table 17 A2.1 — MFI scores by market cluster

Market cluster	n	Mean	Min	Max	Band
Suuq Garasey (Celwaaq / Garasey)	8	69.5	48	78	Medium
Suuqyare cluster (Horseed / Gedawowe / Bulogaras / Celwaaq)	15	72.9	63	81	High
Other / unclassified	1	74.0	74	74	High
Suuq Bacaad (Bulo Geedi / Buula Gedi)	8	74.9	67	85	High
Main Market (Bulokulow / Masawa)	16	79.9	70	93	High

Table 18 A2.2 — Domain-level average scores

Domain	Average score (of 3)	Share of maximum
Competition	2.81	93.8%
Access & Protection	2.62	87.5%
Assortment	2.60	86.8%
Price	2.40	79.9%
Quality	2.35	78.5%
Availability	2.17	72.2%
Supply Chain	2.04	68.1%
Infrastructure	2.02	67.4%
Services	1.25	41.7%

Table 19 A2.3 — Assessment timeline

Date	Assessments	Average score	Clusters predominantly visited
15 July 2026	8	79.8	Main Market
16 July 2026	8	80.0	Main Market
18 July 2026	8	70.8	Suuqyare cluster
19 July 2026	8	75.2	Suuqyare cluster
20 July 2026	8	68.4	Suuq Garasey / Suuq Bacaad
21 July 2026	8	76.0	Suuq Bacaad / Suuq Garasey

Table 20 A2.4 — The nine MFI domains

Domain	What it measures
Assortment	Range of essential commodities and items available at the market
Availability	Frequency and duration of stockouts for essential items
Price	Recent price trend and availability of price information
Supply Chain	Restocking frequency, delay status and constraints affecting resupply
Competition	Number of active traders and market power concentration
Infrastructure	Physical condition of the market: roads, storage, shelter, utilities
Services	Availability of mobile money, banking, credit, storage and processing services
Quality	Observed food and commodity quality and quality-control issues
Access & Protection	Physical, financial and protection-related barriers to reaching and using the market

Table 21 A2.5 — Scoring framework and classification

MFI score	Category	Typical implication
≥ 70	High functionality	Market can generally support cash-based transfer, voucher or local procurement
50 – 69	Medium functionality	Market-based modality feasible with monitoring or complementary support
< 50	Low functionality	In-kind or alternative modality likely preferable

The MFI scores each market visit across nine domains on a 0–3 scale, for a maximum raw total of 27 points. The raw total is converted using $MFI\ score = (raw\ total \div 27) \times 100$; a raw total of 21 of 27 therefore converts to approximately 78 of 100.

Annex III • Implementation Calendar

Table 22 Activity calendar, March–July 2026

Period	Activity	Coverage
March 2026	Programme mobilization, community engagement and coordination with district authorities; launch and endorsement meeting, Bandar (13 March 2026)	7 target locations
March–April 2026	Cooperative engagement and cooperative performance assessment	7 cooperatives
16–21 May 2026	Good Governance and Financial Resource Management training	7 locations / 833 participants
22–30 May 2026	Technical Training on Post-Harvest Handling and Storage for Lead Farmers	7 locations
1–7 June 2026	Input and Output Marketing training	Lead Farmers and marketing coordinators
8–13 June 2026	Farmer Groups as a Business training	7 locations
13 June 2026	Market-linkage meeting between cooperatives / Lead Farmers and local buyers	40 participants
June–July 2026	Localized rapid market assessment	Bardhere market system
12–22 July 2026	Market Functionality Index assessment	5 clusters / 48 assessments / 168 trader interviews
26 July 2026	Training of Lead Farmers as community facilitators (ToT)	40 Lead Farmers

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We are grateful to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) as owner and funder of the Rural Livelihood and Resilience Programme, and to the World Food Programme (WFP) as our partner in its delivery, for the trust placed in Lifeline-Gedo to implement this component.

We thank the Bardhere District administration and community leadership, and above all the seven farmer cooperatives and their 833 members, whose participation, patience and openness made this work possible.