



BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESILIENCE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA (BORESHA)

The BORESHA consortium secured a €14 million grant to implement this cross-border resilience project in the three countries in Kenya-Ethiopia-Somalia border: Mandera (Kenya), Dolo Ado and Dolo Bay (Ethiopia) and Dollow and Belet-Xawo districts in Gedo region of Somalia

The Challenge

The lives of men, women and children in the cross-border region of Mandera (Kenya), Dolo Ado and Dolo Bay (Ethiopia) and Dollow and Belet-Xawo districts in Gedo region of Somalia are affected by the compound threats of instability, climate shocks, demographic pressure, environmental degradation, and socio-economic marginalisation. These challenges have led to a situation, both chronic and acute, of depleted resources (natural and otherwise), narrow livelihood opportunities, widespread poverty and cycles of violence, including extremist violence. These areas are, as a result, among the most economically stagnant and insecure in the region.

Recent changes in each area (including the impact of devolution in Kenya, increased interest in the potential of extractive industries and other large-scale investment, as well as the export of violent extremism from Somalia) have made these

Project name	Building Opportunities for Resilience in the Horn of Africa (BORESHA)
Commissioned by	European Union Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF)
Lead Executing Agency	Danish Refugee Council
Partner Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danish Refugee Council (Lead Agency) – Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia • CARE – Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia • WYG – Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia • World Vision – Kenya and Somalia
Duration	April 2018 - March 2021
Budget	EUR 14 million

The Response

Formation of the BORESHA consortium was finalised, through a signed Memorandum of Understanding on May 20, 2017 between the four consortium partners: Danish Refugee Council



Fatuma Mohamed, a mother of 7 children, is among the female headed households in Doolow. She was one of the beneficiaries. Doolow, Somalia. Photo | BORESHA



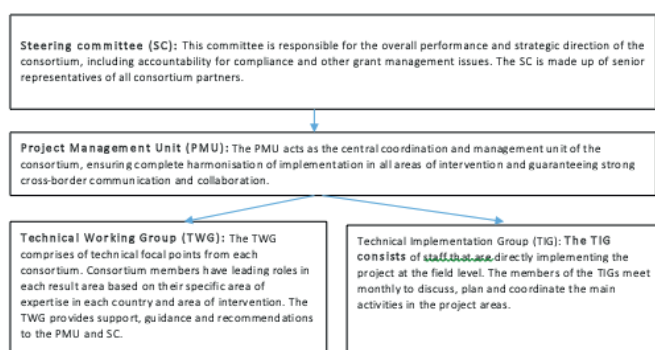
Halima Adan, one of our tailoring trainees in Banissa. This is one of the income generating activities we provide across the three areas through the TVET centers. Mandera, Kenya. Photo | BORESHA

(lead partner), CARE International, World Vision International and WYG (a private partner). The main objective of this consortium is to:

- Implement programmes that address the root causes of chronic poverty and instability through resilience programming by strengthening community-based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR);
- Develop diversified and more resilient livelihoods;
- Promote sustainable management and utilisation of natural resources.

All the three output areas have one thing in common: they largely depend on cross-border movement among communities around the Kenya-Ethiopia-Somalia border. Therefore, strengthening of these interactions for purposes of sharing, learning and knowledge management has been a key achievement of the consortium to date.

The overall governance of the consortium is through different working groups:



Progress against Intended Results

The consortium has managed to secure a €14 million grant covering to implement this cross-border resilience project in the three countries in Kenya-Ethiopia-Somalia border: Mandera (Kenya), Dolo Ado and Dolo Bay (Ethiopia) and Dollow and Belet-Xawo districts in Gedo region of Somalia.

Result 1: Community-Based DRR: Selected communities in the Mandera Triangle are more resilient and better prepared for shocks, and response is more effective.

- Results of a Community Vulnerability Assessments (CoVACA) conducted by the consortium across the three clusters are consistent with the findings of the baseline survey that was conducted in May 2018. The main threats facing communities in the Mandera Triangle are drought; floods; livestock and crop diseases; conflict and inflation. To build their resilience, community-based DRR committees have been formed and the ongoing capacity building of these committees will continue until the end of the project. In Somalia and Kenya, the project will revive and strengthen committees that had been established by a previous consortium (SomRep). Community DRR plans have been developed and some of the activities will be integrated into the components of this project.
- The implementation of the Index-Based Livestock Insurance (IBLI) scheme is progressing faster in Kenya, as compared to the other countries because the Kenya Livestock Insurance Programme (KLIP) and a vibrant private sector providing livestock insurance. In Kenya, mobilisation efforts by KLIP, WWI and Takaful insurance company are creating awareness among stakeholders (government representatives, elected leaders and community members). By end of February 2019, 195 livestock owners had insured their livestock, totalling 975 shoats, cattle and camels. In Ethiopia, the IBLI work has been going on for about 5 years and is very much a pilot learning process. The commercial insurance company involved offers a pre-drought insurance product, that means that when a drought is coming (based on vegetation index information), the insurance will pay out a feed payment to enable the insured herder to feed a set number of Tropical Livestock Units through the drought period, thereby protecting the core breeding animals for the herder. To date, uptake of this insurance package has only worked with significant subsidy



Our team in Mandera has enrolled several trainees in to Madmo Driving School. It takes several weeks to complete the course comprising of: practical lessons & theoretical. Photo |BORESHA



Auto Mechanic students in Doloow being trained on general repairs, inspection and general maintenance of motor vehicles. Doloow, Somalia. Photo |BORESHA

such as the livestock insurance programme supported by the World Food Programme.

Result 2: Improved and diversified livelihoods: Selected individuals and communities are more self-reliant through increased skills and opportunities for cross-border employment, diversified enterprise and livelihoods.

Two studies (Value Chain Analysis and Labour Market Assessment) were conducted during the inception phase and their results are being used in designing Technical and Vocational Education and Training courses and establishing business models around the identified value chains.

The Labour Market Assessment was completed during the six months of the project and the findings have been used to identify and roll out suitable courses, such as driving, beauty and salon, Information, Communication and Technology (ICT), mechanics, tailoring, electric installation and tie and dye. Trainees are selected based on criteria that has been mutually agreed by stakeholders.

By the end of the first year, the project had formed and verified 120 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) across the three project areas, with a total membership of 2,616. Out of these groups, 104 groups in Kenya and Somalia with 2,256 were trained on VSLA methodology, group dynamics, financial management and registration process with the relevant authorities. The project equipped the VSLAs with VSLA kits (including cash boxes, lockers, calculators, and pass-books) and looked into possible linkages with formal sharia compliant financial institutions present in the three areas.

Sixteen Livestock Common Interest Groups were established, with a total of 465 members. The groups were trained on pastoral field school concepts such as sustainable animal husbandry, marketing and good practices oriented to improve livestock management. They were mobilised to start fodder production in their own farm fields, with technical and material support being provided through BORESHA.

Sixty-one Community Animal Health workers in Ethiopia and Somalia and 40 Community Disease Rapporteurs in Kenya were identified and trained in collaboration with government livestock officials (Ethiopia and Kenya) and South West Livestock Professional Association in Dollow Somalia. The project worked in collaboration with the livestock departments in Kenya and Ethiopia to conduct vaccination and treatment campaigns where a total of 284,613 heads of livestock were treated and vaccinated. In Somalia a mass livestock treatment exercise was conducted across the two districts of Belet-Hawa and Dollow districts, where a total of 60,693 animals were treated. This activity complemented a vaccination campaign supported by FAO.

The composition and model of the Tri-border Business and Trade Committee was discussed and agreed in the three countries of operation. The first quarterly meeting was held in Dolo Ado.

Business Development Support Centres (BDSC) have been established and are fully operational in the three areas, with ICT equipment and BDSC assistants. A grants facility named



Crossing River Genale from DoloAdo to Dolobay Woreda in Ethiopia . The River serves as a lifeline for communities living in the Cross - Border Area. Photo| BORES HA



Providing Material Support to one of the Livestock Common Interest Groups in Dolo Ado, Ethiopia. Photo| BORES HA

the BORES HA Business Development Scheme Grant Fund was launched to boost local enterprises in selected value chains, with the amount distributed equally across the three countries. During its first call, 1,201 admissible applications were received.

Result 3: Management of Cross-border natural resources: Cross-border rangeland and other shared natural resources are more equitably and sustainably managed.

Participatory GIS mapping of cross-border natural resources was completed and the map is in use by stakeholders as a planning tool to manage natural resources. The mapping report informed the planning and selection of sites for new water sources or rehabilitation of non-operational water facilities in Mandera county and Dolo Ado-Dolo Bay woredas. The report revealed areas extensively covered by invasive plants (*Prosopis juliflora*), and provided a strong basis for selection of sites/ villages to promote alternative utilisation of the invasive plants.

Through a community consultation with 338 participants from Mandera, Dolo Ado and Dollow, the main sources of destruction of key tree species and the necessary measures to curb environmental degradation were identified. Participants agreed on key severely degraded communal grazing lands in their villages for rehabilitation.

Lessons Learned

- It is important to be prepared to effectively adapt to emergencies. In 2018 there was a massive influx of displaced persons from Dawa zone of Ethiopia to Mandera County due to inter-clan conflicts, which started in August 2018. A multi-agency assessment was conducted and BORES HA partners implemented an emergency response to provide life-saving assistance to affected households.
- Recruitment of sufficient staff early on is necessary to

fast track field activity planning and implementation, and consequently, to guarantee overall project success.

- Translation is mandatory in trainings where trainees do not understand the local language of the other members.
- All the relevant local administration should be involved and updated regularly on project progress.
- Emphasis should be placed on securing cross-border passes for implementing staff and beneficiaries in order to cross the three boundaries smoothly.
- Local authorities and community members/leaders should be sensitised to improve women representation and participation in project interventions.
- To improve uptake of livestock insurance, more effort should be made to address financial illiteracy and other cultural considerations.

Next Steps

The consortium will continue to fast track the implementation of the activities under the three result areas in order to meet our overall objective of promoting economic development and greater resilience, particularly among vulnerable groups.

Implementing Partners

- Danish Refugee Council (Lead Agency) – Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia
- CARE – Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia
- WYG - Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia
- World Vision – Kenya and Somalia

The BORES HA project is funded under the European Union Trust Fund for Africa. The European Union Emergency Trust Fund aims to foster stability and to contribute to better migration management, including by addressing the root causes of destabilisation, forced displacement and irregular migration.