



## Integrated approach for coordinated recovery of community resilience

The introduction of short maturing and high value seeds, like haricot bean, have significantly improved the income of agro-pastoralists and enhanced the seed supply system

### Introduction

The intervention is implemented in six drought affected woredas of Borena Zone in Oromia Regional State: Dilo, Dire, Dhas, Miyo, Moyale and Arero. This is a predominantly pastoral livelihood zone bordering Somali Region to the east, Guji zone to the northeast, the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples region to the west and Kenya to the south.

In normal years the zone is one of the major sources of livestock supplied to local, national and international markets. However, recurrent droughts are integral to these pastoral systems, and their frequency has increased from 20 to five years. Drought sometimes occurs after 3 years. The intervention was implemented while the worst drought in 50 years affected Ethiopia including the intervention target location Borena. It involves the use of an integrated approach for building sustainable drought resilience.



#### INTERVENTION AREA

Disaster risk management, preparedness and effective response



#### LOCATION

Six drought-affected woredas; namely, Dilo, Dire, Dhas, Miyo, Moyale and Arero Woredas of Borana Zone in Oromia Regional State



#### STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS

EU-SHARE consortium - GOAL ACF and CISP implemented the intervention 1 July 2014 to 31 March 2017





## Methodological approach

Resilience building activities were identified and implemented in an integrated manner, based on local resources and needs. Activities were appropriate to the needs of the target beneficiaries, aligned with government food security strategies and linked to partners' overall mission of addressing the needs of vulnerable communities.

Figure 1: Integrated approach to coordinated recovery of resilience



These activities are found relevant and complementing government annual plan as indicated by government partners.

## Results

External evaluation using quantitative and qualitative techniques, field assessments and consultative meetings with male and female beneficiaries have found that the practice was highly relevant and appropriate for enhancing resilience to climate change induced shocks. Some documented results include:

- Increased awareness on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) at CBO, DRM committees and government; and improved early warning information sharing and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) planning at community level.
- Improved access to water throughout the seasons as a result of rehabilitated schemes, construction of new ponds and cattle troughs. This resulted in fewer cattle deaths as compared to previous droughts.
- Increased number of functional Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) who provide better services. Interruption in drug supply was resolved through local vendors, as a result of which the number of livestock treated and vaccinated increased tremendously. This drastically reduced the use and circulation of fake drugs and consequently, the death of livestock due to preventable diseases.
- More cooperatives and Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) have promoted savings and increased access to loans, and more people have started running small businesses.
- Capacity building (training, seed, and tools provision) has enabled target beneficiaries to increase food production





photo credit: ILRI/Apollo Habtamu

and diversified their income from small business, such as petty trade, solar mobile phone charging business and fattening. Consequently, food availability rose, and the number of households reporting food gap months declined.

- The introduction of short maturing and high value seeds, like haricot bean, have significantly improved the income of agro-pastoralists and enhanced the seed supply system.
- Average income from sale of livestock and livestock-by-products increased from the baseline.
- Pasture availability through area closures and fodder preservation has minimised livestock deaths. Side by side, this has contributed to livestock productivity.

### Constraints

- Unanticipated migration of bee colonies affected the expected results on beekeeping though some remedial measures were taken; appropriate measures were taken on factors that induce fleeing of the bee colonies.
- Although pastoral dropouts were targeted, their involvement in the actual intervention was not visible.
- Irregularity of joint monitoring visits, less attention by some consortium members in attending meetings and timely reporting due to emerging priorities of each partner.

### Lessons learnt

Active engagement of community at all levels of the project cycle management has been found important for achieving and sustaining results. For example, the community members were engaged in seed variety selection. They found the local forage seed variety more productive and acceptable than the improved variety provided by the intervention for reseeding.

They also preferred Kulo (Kenyan variety) haricot bean seed, which was better in terms of fast-growing, drought resistance, market price, and length of cooking time as compared to the improved haricot bean which was provided by the intervention. Hence, the partners adjusted their plans and adopted the local forage seed variety and the Kenyan variety of the haricot bean.

Harmonising the implementation modalities, employing similar cash for work payment modalities, and community participation approach among the consortium members and with government is important for enhancing intervention efficiency and effectiveness.

A detailed study should have been conducted to determine whether beekeeping was feasible in the area; instead, it





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was recommended just based on traditional practices of beekeeping in the area.

#### Sustainability

- The design has been good in linking the interventions to the government system where the community can get support to ensure sustainability.
- Awareness creation and capacity building of community members by government officers will enable them to take over management of the interventions.
- All trainings given for woreda sector experts will contribute to sustainability. The monitoring visits conducted with government partners also could help them own the interventions.
- The constructed/rehabilitated ponds are approved by the government and they are being transferred to the community to be managed by the committees established for this purpose.

- Linking CAHWs with private drug vendors ensures sustainability of the livestock health intervention, while linking Income Generating Activity (IGA) groups to cooperatives solves the shortage of loans by individual beneficiaries on a long-term basis.

#### Upscaling

- Scaling up the good practice would require:
- Employment of integrated multiple activities approach to build community resilience.
- Identifying and implementing resilience building activities based on local resources and needs.
- Active engagement of the community at all levels of the project cycle management.
- Linking the interventions to the government system.

#### CONTACTS

TEWODROS HAILU  
PROGRAMME MANAGER  
Email: [tewodrosh@cisp-ngo.org](mailto:tewodrosh@cisp-ngo.org)  
Tel: +251-92-990 7399

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD)  
P. O. Box 2653, Djibouti City, Djibouti  
[www.igad.int](http://www.igad.int) / [www.resilience.igad.int](http://www.resilience.igad.int)



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