

BORESHA SHEKO

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IN THIS ISSUE

CONTENTS

FOREWORD

Adam Ibrahim Aw Hirsi - Minister of Planning
& International Cooperation | Jubaland

INTERVIEW

Fardowsa Dayib, Livelihood Officer

UPDATE

Key Project Achievements
Upcoming Major Activities

NEWS

TVET Trainees in Dollow Graduate after
Six Months Training

STORY

Saving Livestock, Protecting Livelihood

CULTURE

Donkey Taxi



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FOREWORD

INTRODUCTORY NOTE



I am delighted to introduce the 7th edition of the “Sheko Newsletter” for the BORESHA Consortium. It is a befitting platform for the Jubaland State of Somalia on behalf of which I am writing this as the Minister of Planning & International Cooperation to highlight and share the great work we are doing together with the BORESHA Consortium and the close working relationship that we have developed over the life cycle of its programs. BORESHA is one among many consortia that operate in the Gedo Region and mainly deals with livelihood activities, resilience building and natural resources management. It is an intervention that has a cross border element to it. We have and we shall continue to facilitate its activities for the benefit of our people.

As a government some of our main priorities include: Security, Health Care, Women Empowerment and Youth Empowerment. In fulfilling these mandates, we do not work alone but with many other partners. We appreciate the role of BORESHA and other NGOs in the area for supporting

us in addressing the need of our communities. By putting our heads and hands together in addressing the real issues that affect our people and together aligning our goals with the larger National Development Plan and other agreed-upon programs, we are contributing towards positive transformation geared towards improving the livelihood and wellbeing of our people. We are firmly committed to collaboration and are convinced of its vitality.

Development partners need to understand the key priorities of the Jubaland State of Somalia and to align their interventions with ours. The initiatives should be driven by us since we understand the needs of our people and the existing gaps. We are currently exploring strategies to encourage NGOs to work better and much more efficiently with Jubaland State. There is need for all the major stakeholders including us as State government, NGOs, donor agencies and other stakeholders to work together rather than act like separate planets orbiting the same sun but on divergent paths. I appreciate the BOESHA Consortium involvement of the local government from the beginning and we have had our say in most of its interventions in the area as well as its different approaches and target locations.

Some of the major activities the project has carried out in Gedo Region in collaboration and coordination with the Ministry of Livestock & Rangeland Management include: Supporting the pastoralist and agro pastoral communities through animal mass treatment, supporting youth through Technical and Vocational Education and Training as well as provision of scholarships for graduate students, supporting the vulnerable women groups through establishment and training of village saving and loan associations, establishment of community-based disaster risk reduction, natural resource management through promoting alternative and economically viable use of invasive species like Prosopis, establishment of a Business Development Service Centre (BDSC) to improve the business efficiency by providing advisory products & specialized technical assistance for emerging businesses in the area and provision of small grants to support new enterprises and grow existing businesses.

The need in Somalia surpasses the available resources, and there are major gaps in the area of infrastructure development, access to vocational training centers, access to livelihoods, access to clean potable water. The area is also ravaged by recurrent and severe droughts. A collective long term strategic response against this new pattern is therefore required.

As a government we are committed to build on the gains of the project in ensuring the welfare and growth of our people. We are also open to new partnerships that support expansion of access and quality of services in our State.

Adam Ibrahim Aw Hirsi
The Minister of Planning & International Cooperation
Jubaland State of Somalia
Aw Hirsi served as the Governor of Gedo Region between 2006 – 2009
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VOICES FROM THE FIELD

WITH FARDOWSA DAYIB, LIVELIHOOD OFFICER



Fardowsa Dayib - Livelihood Officer
September, 2019 | Photo | Bashir Abdifatah

About The Employee

Fardowsa Dayib is the DRC Livelihood Officer based in Dollow, Somalia.

1. Briefly Describe what you do all day

I train newly established Village Savings & Loans Associations as well as the existing ones. VSLA's provide savings and loan facilities to the community since there is lack of formal financial services in the area.

2. What's the best thing about your job?

Working in my community for my community especially with women IDPs, returnees and from the host community. It fills me with joy knowing that we are changing people's lives via BORESHA.

3. What's been one of your proudest moments working with BORESHA?

Introducing the VSLA concept in Belet Hawa, prior to BORESHA the concept was still foreign to most women. Today VSLA has been adopted and embraced by the people including men.

4. If you could change one thing about the project, what would it be?

Emphasis should be placed on the sustainability of the project, in this case there is need to link the established VSLA groups to micro finance institutions in order to sustain the groups.

5. What do you like to do when you're not at the office?

Reading books, especially on development matters. I find reading to be therapeutic for me.

6. What inspires you?

The infectious smiles and prayers I get in return for helping my community especially women in need. That is all I need to get me through any difficult moment. I may not always have much to give, but I can certainly give my time, knowledge and experience.

7. If you could learn to do anything new, what would it be?

I would like to learn a new language in addition to the three that I already know. I would also like to learn Photography and videography, there are so many stories to tell through the lens in Somalia

8. What would you do (for a career) if you weren't doing this?

Community development worker, which is more or less in line with what I am doing now.

9. What is the most challenging part of your job?

Changing the mind set of my community from relying on emergency relief which they have grown accustomed to for over 28 years to embracing resilience and self-sustainability which is the way to go.

10. What are you enjoying most about your role?

Empowering women and girls since this is the key to social transformation.

“There is need to change the mindset of our people from relying on emergency relief to embracing resilience and self sustainability.”

UPDATE

KEY PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Collaboration with ICPALD on Epidemic - Surveillance has began
2. Construction/Rehabilitation of Key water sources
3. Mass animal treatment in Somalia has kicked off
4. 90 TVET Trainees in Dollow, Somalia graduated
5. Training of Grantees in the three locations and signing of contracts has taken place
6. 2nd window of Index Based Livestock Insurance took place

UPCOMING MAJOR ACTIVITIES

1. BORESHA to host a Knowledge Management Write shop in December
2. Training of Trainers for business skills development
3. New round of TVET trainees to be identified and enrolled
4. Resilience training to take place
5. Continuation of Cash for Work activities
6. DRC Regional Knowledge Fair
7. Promotion of roof water harvesting schemes for schools

NEWS

TVET TRAINEES IN DOLLOW GRADUATE AFTER SIX - MONTHS TRAINING

Author | Maslah Mohamed

The undermining of blue collar jobs in our societies is a mentality borne out of a twisted notion of the role and importance of education in our societies. We have been programmed to prioritize the passing of examinations and continuous assessment tests over comprehensive learning of diverse disciplines. In addition to this, the perception of manual labor as dirty and low paying job as compared to white collar jobs has been sustained over time. However, this narrative is changing and TVETs are being embraced by many who have realized its importance especially in Somalia where the majority of the population is the youth who are eager to learn new things and contribute towards the rebuilding efforts of the country.

BORESHA held a graduation ceremony for 90 TVET trainees



Graduation ceremony for 90 TVET students from Prestige College in Dollow. The students completed various courses that will enable them to either seek for employment or start up their own businesses.

September 2019
Photo | Maslah

who had completed an intensive hands-on six-month Technical Vocational Education Training from Prestige College TVET Centre in Dollow, Somalia. The students had completed various courses including: Beauty and

Salon, Auto Mechanics, Tye and Die and Computer studies.

All the graduates were provided with startup kits required to set up their own small businesses and on top of this they were also provided with business skills training that

will enable them understand and have the capacity to operate a business. They will be linked up with successful businesses in the area which will further enhance their skills.

The graduation ceremony was attended by all the relevant stakeholders including: The local authority, parents, students, religious leaders, BORESHA partners and the private sector.

“The role played by TVET in imparting skills to our young people and contributing to the growth of our town and country at

large cannot be over emphasized, with our collaboration, the Dollow TVET Centre has consistently endeavored to meet the ever changing industry dynamics, training young people and equipping them with technical and entrepreneurial skills necessary for our national development,” said Mohamed Hassan, World Vision Dollow BORESHA Project Coordinator. “I want to take this opportunity to thank BORESHA, my teachers and my parents for this far I have come, I have gained practical skills that will enable me to seek employment or open my own business, however I would

like to request the Consortium to assist us with startup cash grants in addition to the startup kits,” said Mohamed, TVET graduate.

The graduation ceremony took place against a background of great expectation from the society for not only TVET centers but other higher learning institutions to provide the much needed guidance in the realization of the developmental agenda of the country . As a Consortium we take this opportunity to congratulate the graduates. There are some lessons learnt key among them being the diversification of the courses considering the ever changing industry dynamics. In collaboration with other key stakeholders we are committed to increasing practical skills and capacity for the youth to bridge the demand and supply gap in the local economy in order for them to better their lives.

We will continue to invest in TVETs since we believe it is one of the sure ways to secure the future of Somalia because it guarantees long term productivity and economic sustainably.



The graduates congratulate each other after completing an intensive hands-on six months training. September 2019
Photo | Maslah Mohamed | BORESHA

STORY

SAVING LIVESTOCK, PROTECTING LIVELIHOOD

Author | Maslah Mohamed



CAHW, Madobe vaccinating a camel against endo&ecto parasites. Wareyle, Somalia. September 2019
Photo | Maslah Mohamed | BORESHA

Keeping of livestock is the main livelihood for pastoral communities in Gedo Region of Somalia. Majority of the people in the region rely on livestock to meet their basic needs including food and health. The little money that is derived from the selling of milk and meat is what is used to sustain their lives and that of their families. Just as people rely on livestock for their wellbeing, the animals are also dependent on adequate rainfall to replenish water sources, to grow grasses and other types of animal fodder in order to keep on producing. Recurrent conflict, insecurity and drought have however led to lack of quality animal health services in the region. In addition, in recent years' rainfall in the region has been inadequate therefore leaving the livestock with insufficient food and water. Inadequate food and

water also caused the animals' immune systems to fail, leading to an increase in livestock diseases.

Community Animal Health Workers

In Dollow just like other towns, the number of qualified veterinarians often does not suffice to provide quality animal health services since they are few. Since the people in Dollow rely on livestock to meet their basic needs, inadequate animal herds can leave them with insufficient coping mechanisms to overcome the predictable extended dry season. In order to deal with this risk, community based animal health services approach was developed. Selected by the community and trained by professionals on basic veterinary clinical skills and business management. The

Community animal health workers (CAHW) provide basic services and give husbandry advice to livestock keepers. One of them is Madoobe Shide, a charismatic, cheerful and easy going 50-year-old father of ten children and area chief of Wareyle village.

Meet Madoobe

"Becoming a community animal health worker (CAHW) and working for my village is an achievement that I am very proud of, it gave me a sense of purpose and a mission in life, knowing that I have the ability to contribute towards the wellbeing of our livestock gives me immense satisfaction. I provide treatment to sick animals with basic illnesses, I also receive numerous phone calls from different towns to diagnose animals," Madoobe stated.



As a CAHW, Madoobe has been provided with the necessary training and equipment. September 2019. Photo | Maslah Mohamed | BORESHA

In an effort to build resilience among pastoralist communities through strengthening animal health services, BORESHA has been working with the local authority and the private sector in order to improve the animal health services in Dollow and Belet Hawa. Madoobe was among 8 other CAHWs that were trained on the following: Community mobiliza-

tion, livestock diseases incidence, diagnosing animal diseases, morbidity and mortality and sustainable community animal health.

According to Madoobe, pastoralists in the area and even some from the surrounding villages that take their ailing animals and receive the necessary vaccinations do not lose animals

to diseases anymore as was the case before: "As CAHWs we take our responsibility very seriously, we are not only keeping animals alive by way of vaccinations but we are also making them healthier and much more productive. Families in my community are now getting more milk, more meat and more money in their pockets and certainly my family is one of

those” says Madoobe. He continues to narrate “gone are the days where we used to lose our animals to preventable diseases, we are now more economically empowered since we can afford to sell some livestock in order to purchase fodder for the animals and also pay school fees for our children. As a community I can confidently say that we are now better prepared to weather the storm in case of drought or other emergencies,” Madoobe added.

Impact

In a normal day of a CAHW in Dollow you have to rise and shine before the goats do, Madobe, together with his colleagues work round the clock to provide animal health services, sometimes they work late in to the night. They have so far treated and report-

ed 100 cases of sheep, goat and cattle and camel diseases. The mortality rate among the animals in the village have decreased drastically.

He is now leading a group of six CAHWs implementing the mass animal treatment and deworming campaign in the area that is targeting over 100,000 animals over a period of one month. They are also supporting the local pastoralists with the Multi-vitamins and endo & ecto-parasitic drugs. Multi-vitamins are given to weak animals. The services they provide are improving the health of animals in the village, raising the average income, nutritional status and lives of households.

Gratitude

“As a pastoralist, there is nothing as painful as having no control over the

health of our animals and worst of all watching them die in front of your eyes, the pain is unbearable and heartbreaking. I have personally lost animals due to preventable diseases, I only wish that this training had come much earlier” said Madoobe. “However, all this has changed now, I am very grateful and appreciative of the opportunity to become a CAHW, going forward I can only predict good tidings for my family and my community.

Quick Facts

- BORESHA trained and established 30 CAHWs in Dollow & Belet Hawa.
- Selected by their community CAHWs provide basic services and give husbandry advice to livestock keepers. They live and work in the community.

CULTURE

DONKEY TAXI

Author | Maslah Mohamed



Mzee Ibrahim offers a ride to BORESHA staff from the Jubba River crossing point to Abores village which is 5km away. September 2019. Photo | Maslah Mohamed | BORESHA

Since time immemorial, the Horn of Africa and especially the cross border area of Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia has been defined by old modes of transport that have really stood the test of time. Meet Mzee Ibrahim, a middle aged Somali man that lives in Abore village, Gedo region. Moving around the village you instantly get the feeling that it is an area caught in a time wrap, there are no signs of vehicles or other forms of transport in the village apart from the two donkeys owned by Ibrahim. Donkeys are a prized possession in this part of the world simply because

of the amount of work they handle. Owning one is almost as equivalent to owning a small vehicle.

Abore Village which is one of our target location is about 15 km from Dollow town where our offices are located. Staff are normally dropped off at the banks of Jubba river before crossing the river using a makeshift wooden raft then walking for a distance of 5km in order to access the remote village that borders Ethiopia in order to provide critical services including construction

and rehabilitation of key water sources.

This is where Mzee Ibrahim comes, a simple man with a heartwarming smile that gets satisfaction by helping others and in this case simply by offering our team a donkey ride from the crossing point to the village hence saving them not only time but from dehydration considering at times the temperature rises to 39 degrees centigrade. The team usually appreciates him with a small token which he is always reluctant to accept reason being the project has provided clean drinking water to his village for the first time and this has led to massive decrease of outbreaks of water borne diseases. Once he gets wind that the team is on the way he is usually at the other end of the river waiting to transport them to the village, this selfless act is one that is common in nature to the residents there, always willing to share and help no matter how small.

Considering the two donkeys are the only means of transport in the village Ibrahim handles them with utmost care and love.



BORESHA staff in Dollow crossing Jubba river using a makeshift wooden raft in order to access Abore village which is a 5km walk from the other end.

September 2019

Photo | Maslah Mohamed | BORESHA

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Our Partners

