

RESILIENCE FOCUS

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**Human Capital,
Gender and Social
Development**



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FOREWORD

In September 2019, during the General Assembly of the Regional Platform of the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI), the second phase of the IDDRSI programming frameworks, made up of the IDDRSI Strategy, Regional Programming Paper and Country Programming Papers, was launched. This meeting was a colourful ceremony that served to celebrate the end of a modestly successful first phase (2013 – 2018) of the IDDRSI Strategy and mark the beginning of a promising new phase. The theme of the meeting was *Consolidating the Path to Resilience and Sustainability*.

A design feature of the IDDRSI programming frameworks is that periodic reviews are made to critically assess the status and effectiveness of implementation in each phase over a period of five years, in order to inform prescriptions for improvements in subsequent phases. Thus IDDRSI builds on past efforts to maximise the benefits of experience and lessons learnt, improve effectiveness and ensure sustained relevance to the continuous process of building drought resilience. The IDDRSI programming frameworks for the second phase (2019 – 2024) share most of the features covered in the previous phase; but, there is one marked improvement in this set of documents. An eighth priority intervention area (PIA), titled 'Human Capital, Gender and Social Development' has been included, to bring to the fore the need to invest more in specific areas that would promote the well-being of drought-prone communities in the IGAD region.

For added emphasis and affirmation, the new PIA covers aspects, such as social services, including health and nutrition; education and training; gender equality and women's empowerment; and migration and displacement. This new PIA forms the theme of the current issue of the Resilience Focus Magazine. The IDDRSI Strategy recognises that to harness the full potential of a growing population whose majority is aged under 18 years, requires building skills, creating jobs and providing equal opportunities as well as comprehensive arrangements for human capital development.

IDDRSI is a collective undertaking, and this is reflected by the variety of contributions in this edition. We received project updates, in-depth feature articles and stories of change and impact by a wide range of partners. The background article titled *'The role and significance of human capital in the implementation of IDDRSI'* discusses why access to, and application of knowledge, as well as evolved and integrated skill-sets, are required for the effective implementation of IDDRSI.

We are grateful to all the individuals and institutions that made efforts and contributions, singly or in combination that made the publishing of this edition of the Resilience Focus Magazine possible.

**John P. Kabayo, Regional Coordinator,
Drought Resilience Initiative**

KARAMOJA CLUSTER (IGAD CLUSTER I) LAUNCHES CROSS-BORDER INVESTMENT PLAN ON DROUGHT RESILIENCE

The development of the programme followed a bottom up approach, informed by a series of cross-border multi-stakeholder dialogues, fora and meetings.

by **CAROLINE KIGIRA**

Representatives of four countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda), which share a common border in the area commonly known as the IGAD Cluster I, held a meeting on 11 March 2020, in Entebbe, Uganda, to review and adopt the *'Enhanced Resilience of Communities in the IGAD Cluster 1 to Drought and Related Disasters'* programme.

The meeting was opened by Hon. Moses Kizige, Minister of State for Karamoja Affairs of the Republic of Uganda; and was attended by Hon. Eugene Wamalwa, Cabinet Secretary for Devolution and ASALs of the Republic of Kenya; H.E. Ms. Alemsehay Meseret, Ambassador of Ethiopia to Uganda; H.E. Mr. Thomas Kenneth, Department of Regional Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, Republic of South Sudan; H.E. Hon. Josphat Nanok, Governor of Turkana County, Kenya; and Mr. Micah Powon, Permanent Secretary, State Department of ASALs, Government of the Republic of Kenya; and Mr. Camlus Omogo, Director of CEWARN, representing the Executive Secretary of IGAD, H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu.

Policy officials and national experts from Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda as well as staff from the IGAD Secretariat and GIZ advisors were also in attendance.



Technical experts hold discussions during the meeting. GIZ/Caroline Kigira.

NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES WORKING TOGETHER ACROSS FOUR BORDERS

The development of the programme followed a bottom-up approach informed by a series of cross-border multi-stakeholder dialogues, fora and meetings that commenced in Lodwar, Kenya on 28 July 2018. The conversations brought together cross-border communities along the Ethiopian, Kenyan, South Sudanese and Ugandan common borders to share, talk and listen to each other's concerns following the perennial challenge of drought and famine.

Despite living in different countries, the four communities interact all year round when the weather and climate patterns change, and they are forced to move along and across the border in search of pasture and food. These cross-border interactions are sometimes friendly, but other times, competition for resources can cause tensions and even lead to violence.

IGAD REGIONAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES HIGHLIGHTS POPULATIONS AT RISK POST COVID-19

Between 2018 and 2019, the number of people in need of urgent food assistance across the IGAD region (IPC Phase 3 or above) increased by 2 percent (about 650,000 people).

Through IGAD’s facilitation, the programme was designed to align with priorities that are informed by local needs and realities.

The programme covers five interdependent pillars: sustainable management of rangeland and pasture resources; strengthening water management and development to enhance resilience; sustainable livelihoods, animal production and health; building peace and security; and access to social services including health, education, market and roads.

IGAD’S CLUSTER APPROACH TO BUILDING DROUGHT RESILIENCE

The ministerial meeting was preceded by a technical review meeting on 10 March 2020. During this meeting, national experts, and local government representatives from the four countries in the IGAD Cluster I reviewed the technical content and made recommendations of areas that needed further elaboration.

The process of developing the cross-border programme followed the steps adopted for a bottom-up resilience programming of IDDRSI in cross-border areas that is consistent with the objectives of the African Union Convention on Cross-border Cooperation (The Niamey Convention).

It was steered under the umbrella of the IGAD project ‘Strengthening the ability of IGAD to promote resilience in the Horn of Africa’, supported by the European Union’s Emergency Trust Fund (EUTF), with technical assistance provided by GIZ’s ‘Strengthening the Capacity of IGAD towards enhanced Drought Resilience in the Horn of Africa (SCIDA-II)’ Project.

Caroline Kigira is the Advisor on cross-border cooperation, GIZ-IGAD Drought Resilience Project.

Food security trends for the East Africa region are extremely concerning. Since the first publication of the Global Report on Food Crises back in 2016, we continue to see a steady increase in the number of people in Crisis or worse, and are facing worsening food insecurity each year. The recently launched Regional Focus on the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Member States of the 2020 Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) revealed that nearly 28 million people across the IGAD region were facing acute food insecurity or worse on the IPC scale in 2019. This figure represents 20 percent of the total population facing food insecurity that required urgent action across the world.

The 2020 projection indicates that around 25 million people would face acute food insecurity in the region requiring urgent action (IPC Phase 3 or above). However, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is likely to push the numbers of acutely food-insecure people well beyond these early 2020 forecasts.

Launched on 4 June 2020 by IGAD and partners, the report is the culmination of a joint analysis led by the Food Security Information Network (FSIN), under the Global Network against Food Crises, that provides a comprehensive regional context on food security.

“Our region faces multiple threats to food security. We are living in challenging times with extreme climate events and the worst Desert Locust invasion in decades. Currently, we are grappling with the severe challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and widespread flooding of arable lands. This report provides vital evidence to inform coordinated and cost-efficient strategies to tackle the root cause of the food crisis.” said IGAD Executive Secretary Workneh Gebeyehu at the launch.

“The food security outlook for 2020 was already of concern, with locust swarms before COVID-19,” said World Food Programme (WFP) Regional Director Michael Dunford. “What began as a health crisis and became a global pandemic risks broadening into a socio-economic shock multiplying the total number of hungry people in the region.”

“Our attention must now turn to what can be done to reduce the number of food insecure people in the region,” noted the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations’ (FAO) Subregional Coordinator for Eastern Africa David Phiri. “The disruptive impact of COVID-19, the Desert Locust, recurrent droughts and floods, and conflict and insecurity will continue to hamper the availability of food and people’s access to it across the subregion. Building resilient food systems is now more crucial than ever.”

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ON THE INCREASE

Acute food insecurity levels across the IGAD region have steadily increased since the Global Report on Food Crisis was launched in 2016. Between 2018 and 2019, the number of people in need of urgent food assistance (IPC Phase 3 or above) increased by 2 percent (about 650 000 people). Weather extremes, conflict/insecurity and economic shocks were the main drivers of acute food insecurity across the region in 2019.

Three East African countries were among the top 10 worst food crisis countries in the world, namely Ethiopia (8 million acutely food insecure people in need of urgent food and livelihood assistance), South Sudan (7 million), and Sudan (5.9 million). The highest prevalence of acute

food insecurity were found in South Sudan, where 61 percent of the analysed population was in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), followed by Ethiopia (27 percent), Kenya (22 percent), Somalia (17 percent) and Sudan (14 percent).

Unfortunately, the East Africa region continues to suffer from the cycle of recurrent shocks. Despite generally favourable rainfall during the first half of the year, severe flooding across parts of the region have affected about 1.3 million people. Amidst the worst Desert Locust outbreak in more than 25 years, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has caused job losses, loss of access to education and school feeding programmes for rural children, and farmers and pastoralists to lose access to inputs, extension services and markets.

The cumulative impact is expected to be especially high for informal sector workers, casual labourers, people already dependent on humanitarian aid, informal settlement dwellers and low-income government workers. These colliding challenges require immediate collective effort in order to prevent a worse food crisis from developing, in addition to risk sensitive and shock-responsive social protection programmes to protect incomes and livelihood recovery.

INFORMING EFFECTIVE PROGRAMMES AND POLICY DECISIONS

The information in the 2020 report provides agencies, stakeholders, governments and other key stakeholders with reliable data and analysis to inform coordinated and cost-efficient strategies to tackle the root cause of the food crisis. Decisions and programmes can only be effective if we have a clear understanding of the needs of affected communities. Member countries in the region are encouraged to continue working with all stakeholders (civil society, humanitarian partners, development partners etc.) to address the immediate needs of people facing severe levels of food and nutrition insecurity, while at the same time building the longer-term resilience of vulnerable households.

Original post: <http://www.fao.org/africa/news/detail-news/ar/c/1288169/>

STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE THROUGH ADDITIONAL INCOME GENERATION



Participants at a leather workshop in Sudan. Photo: GIZ/Murtada Ahmed.

Leather processing workshops for women at vocational training centre in Ad-Damazin, Blue Nile State, Sudan

by **NURIA GRIGORIADIS & MATTHIAS OESTERLE**

In order to build the resilience of women in Blue Nile State, Sudan, the Cross-border Collaboration Programme in Western Ethiopia and Eastern Sudan supports the vocational training centre in Ad-Damazin to train aspiring entrepreneurs in leather processing crafts. Through the support of the programme, women in the region learn how to produce marketable leather products, which they can sell in local markets to increase their monthly income. Alternatively, they can use their skills to find employment.

From December 2019 to February 2020 three initial short courses took place. Seventy women from different localities and social backgrounds in Blue Nile State, among them 37 youth between 15 and 24 years of age, attended the training. At the end of the training, they received certificates.

The 70 were selected from a pool of 95 applicants, in a selection process that lasted for three days. The

programme's selection criteria gave priority to young women from fragile areas outside of Ad-Damazin and other localities, Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), and women from communities with high interest in leather works and a clear plan for their future as entrepreneurs.

The 10-day short course consists of nine modules covering craft and business skills. Participants learn about safety measures at the work place, how to handle tools, how to select and measure materials and practice cutting and stitching leather. By the end of this training, all participants are able to produce simple leather works such as handbags, shoes and wallets.

Awadia, who lives in Ad-Damazin used to be a cleaner before the training. Now she makes and sells leather products in her neighbourhood.

"I am very happy with what I am doing. I earn much more money than in my cleaning job," says Awadia.

Assisted by her two daughters, Awadia makes in three months, what she made in one whole month as a cleaner.

Another participant, Nawal, lives in an IDP camp outside of Ad-Damazin. After her training, she started producing leather handbags and belts with the help of her family. She sells her products in the camp. She has overcome the financial difficulties she had and is now able to help the family. This has made her father proud.

After each of the three workshops, the women who participated filled a post-training questionnaire. According to their responses, the women appreciate the training and feel better prepared for the job market. Most women expressed the need for further training on how to run a business.

The three workshops will soon be followed by an advanced course on leather processing and further supported by training on entrepreneurship skills development on how to start a business.

The trainings are interventions by the Cross-border Collaboration Programme in Western Ethiopia and Eastern Sudan which is implemented by the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of

the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany and the European Union. Activities are implemented in cooperation with government institutions of both Ethiopia and Sudan as well as the Intergovernmental Agency on Development (IGAD).

The programme supports vocational training with a focus on young people on both sides of the border in Blue Nile State, Sudan, and in Benishangul-Gumuz, Ethiopia, so that youth can be more economically active, acquire access to employment or start their own business.

The programme develops and enhances economic opportunities in the Benishangul-Gumuz/Blue Nile State border area in order improve overall living conditions and to reduce conflicts. This includes helping communities to better withstand shocks (such as harvest failures) and increase cross-border collaboration. The goal is to strengthen the population's resilience to instability and displacement. As one of its main focuses, the programme targets the economic needs of young people and women.

For more information on the programme please follow this link: <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/73161.html>



Leather workshop in Sudan. Photo: GIZ/Murtada Ahmed.

Nuria Grigoriadis is an Advisor for Monitoring & Evaluation, Communication and Knowledge Management and **Dr. Matthias Oesterle** is the Head of the Sudan Component.

THE ROLE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF HUMAN CAPITAL IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IDDRSI



Photo: IGAD Sheikh Technical Veterinary School library. ISTVS/Apollo.

Access to, and application of knowledge, as well as the evolved and integrated skill-sets, which are critical for building resilience, are required for the effective implementation of the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI).

by **JOHN P. KABAYO**

The IGAD region has, over the past seven years, embarked upon the implementation of the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI): a comprehensive undertaking aimed at building the resilience of drought-prone communities, which is being executed in a concerted, coordinated manner throughout the region. The IDDRSI Strategy prescribes

a set of intervention and investment possibilities as a framework through which recurrent drought and various related challenges and vulnerabilities, can be analysed, understood and effectively addressed. Within the framework of its Priority Intervention Area (PIA 5) on research, knowledge management and technology transfer, the IDDRSI Strategy identifies the need to

enhance the generation, application and integrated management of research, knowledge, technology and innovations for resilience building in the IGAD region.

The IDDRSI Strategy observes that the economic and social development of the IGAD region depends on the judicious exploitation of its natural resources, including water, pasture, land, range and forest and non-wood forest products. The strategy also recognizes that the sustained development of a society depends on the quality and quantity of its skilled and knowledgeable human capital. Thus access to, and application of knowledge, as well as the evolved and integrated skill-sets, which are critical for building resilience, are required for the effective implementation of IDDRSI.

The investments in the volume of knowledge, technical skills, creativity and relevant experience, which are needed to advance the region's drought resilience agenda, should be examined under the rubric of optimising the productivity of the region's resources. Human capital describes an intangible collective resource possessed by individuals and groups within a given population. It includes all the knowledge, talents, skills, acumen, abilities, experience, intelligence, training, judgment and wisdom possessed individually and collectively, the cumulative total of which represents a form of wealth available to a nation or a region to accomplish their goals. Human capital includes the stock of habits, knowledge, social and personality attributes (such as creativity), which are embodied in the ability to perform work that

will lead to economic value. Human capital is unique and differs from any other capital; and just like any other capital, it is needed for achieving our set goals in all areas of human endeavor, enabling us to remain innovative and competitive.

Investment in human capital can be made through education and training to achieve and sustain improved levels of quality and production. A country, or a company or an organisation is often said to be as good as the people who make up its human capital that are critical for its success. Human capital is the backbone of human development and economic development in every nation. Long-term economic growth depends on improvements in human capital.

A better educated, innovative and creative workforce can help increase labour productivity and economic growth. This human resource can be transformed into human capital with effective inputs of education, health and moral values. The transformation of raw human resource into highly productive human resource with these inputs is the process of human capital formation.

The problem of scarcity of tangible capital in the labour surplus countries can be resolved by accelerating the rate of human capital formation with both private and public investment in education and health sectors of their national economies. The tangible financial capital is an effective instrument of promoting economic growth of the nation. The intangible human capital, on the other



The investments in the volume of knowledge, technical skills, creativity and relevant experience, which are needed to advance the region's drought resilience agenda, should be examined under the rubric of optimising the productivity of the region's resources.



Photo: Pastoral Field School training. IGAD/Lokeris Dominic Kathiya.

hand, is an instrument of promoting comprehensive development of the nation because human capital is directly related to human development, and when there is human development, the qualitative and quantitative progress of the nation is inevitable.

Investments in education, health and other areas relevant to knowledge and skills can help expand livelihood opportunities and cause long-term changes in cultural and gender norms, leading to more resilient households and communities. Diversifying livelihoods to reduce risk can be an important source of resilience, but may require additional education and skills training. Moving into higher-income livelihoods, in particular, usually requires increasing human capital in the form of education.

Building women's human capital can have a particularly high impact on household resilience. It is widely acknowledged that higher levels of education in women are linked to better health outcomes for women and children and generates an increased ability to diversify income beyond subsistence agriculture. Studies in Ethiopia have shown that education or training of adult household members helps build resilience and reduces the need for humanitarian assistance; and from studies in West Africa, there is evidence that girls' education and reproductive health are linked to resilience. However,

a number of barriers exist to building human capital, especially that of women, including cultural and gender norms that limit women's decision-making power, weak and fragile systems at the local level to provide education and health services, and uncertain donor funding streams for reproductive health and girls' secondary education.

Streamlining gender in the IDDRSI Strategy and related IDDRSI programming guidelines was undertaken against the background of the acknowledged importance of gender in the implementation of IDDRSI. In today's era of globalisation, greater movement of workers has enabled skilled workers to move from low-income countries to higher income countries. However, this brain drain, also often referred to as human capital flight, has had adverse effects for developing economies that lose their best human capital.

There are major inequalities in human wellbeing between the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) and the rest of the areas in IGAD Member States, which pose as obstacles to development. This is caused by the inadequacy of quality education and training institutions, leading to the chronic dependence of ASALs on skills from the rest of the country. Governments in the IGAD region are committed to addressing the causes of inequalities between the ASALs and the rest of the countries.

The IGAD region aspires to have modern human capital development facilities, staffed with trained personnel. The education sector needs to incorporate a demand driven curriculum that will enable increased access to relevant and quality education at all levels in ASALs. Affirmative action to facilitate progression from primary to secondary and tertiary education for students from ASALs is greatly needed. ASALs communities need to be strengthened and empowered through promotion of collective action in form of community groups, cooperatives and producer organisations. The limited urban employment, inadequate enforcement of labor laws and standards aggravate the ASALs human capital problem. The region is also constrained by high fertility and mortality, as well as reverse migration from the high-potential areas.

There is acute understaffing in all sectors including education because most qualified personnel avoid being posted to the ASAL areas, which are considered remote due to poor infrastructure and limited social amenities. Girls are particularly disadvantaged due to vulnerability during conflicts and cultural biases and practices. There is need to increase the participation rates in all sectors of education and training in the region as a long-term measure to address human capital challenges and support livelihood diversification. The concept of human capital has relatively more importance in labour-surplus countries. These countries are naturally endowed with more of labour due to high birth rate under the given climatic conditions. The surplus labour in these countries is the human resource available in more abundance than the tangible capital resource.

John P. Kabayo is the Regional Coordinator of the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDRSI).

Resilience is my middle name

by **JOHN P. KABAYO**

Hazards like torrent will come;
Megaton shocks will raid;
Buckets of hail will rain,
Without reason, without end;
Danger's bound to contend.

I will grit my teeth and digest the pain;
I'll invoke the spell of my inner team;
I'll mock the knell of impending doom
And meet the threat in 4-wheel drive.

No calamity will vent my steam;
No adversity will dent my brim;
No odds will flicker my flame;
No force will bend my aim.

No havoc will ruffle my hair;
No barrier will breach my path;
Or block my future tense.
Not now, not hence, not ever.

With courage and limitless endure;
I'll will huff and will the fears away
I'll turn at bay and vie for more;
More plan in a shared dream.

My spirit will rally within,
A community inspired to win;
In a village, in a nation, in a region;
Resilience is a numbers game;
Resilience is my middle name.

SAVINGS GROUPS INCREASE WOMEN'S ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT IN DROUGHT PRONE AREAS

Savings groups formalise the role of women, create gender equality and increase women's economic and financial inclusion.

by **MAIJA SANTALAHTI**

Drought has differing effects on women and men. Their roles in the households and society are traditionally different, and these gendered roles define what kind of implications drought has on them. In the drought prone areas of the IGAD region, women tend to have more responsibility over reproductive activities and drought often increases women's workload, for example by increasing the time needed to collect water. During this time, they are also expected to participate more actively in productive activities to ensure sufficient livelihood for their families when agriculture or cattle herding becomes more difficult, or when men migrate in search of employment. However, women have less access to assets and decision making and control over resources than men. This imbalance makes women vulnerable in drought disaster situations.

LOW ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES

Economic and financial inclusion is an important factor in resilience. Economically resilient households and individuals are more prepared for shocks, can mitigate the consequences and are not forced to rely on costly coping strategies that could make them heavily indebted.

Due to social norms, fewer possibilities are available for women to economically adapt to drought situations in which some income sources vanish. Women and other vulnerable groups are often least served by formal financial mechanisms and institutions because of social, legal and logistical restrictions. Loans and credit are

usually less accessible to women because land, cattle and other assets are owned and controlled by men. A savings group in the local community with low requirements for membership helps to overcome these restrictions. There is evidence from all over the world that savings groups essentially enhance women's economic resilience in situations of shock, such as drought, floods or earthquakes.

SAVINGS GROUPS ENHANCE RESILIENCE

Savings groups provide women a possibility to use micro-loans when needed. Saving through savings groups instead of in assets such as livestock creates financial security, as livestock may be susceptible to drought and other shocks. Money saved through savings groups is also easily available in shock situations, unlike savings in other assets that need to be liquidated.

Savings groups increase savings behaviour by creating a social commitment to save. This effect can be strengthened by special commitment devices: members of a savings group state goals for saving or label savings to be used for a specific purpose – such as in time of drought or for business development. Even voluntary and non-binding commitments have proved to steer the saving and spending behaviour of members. Commitments may also protect the savings of women with little bargaining power in their households from being controlled by other people.

ENGAGING MEN

To address women's economic and financial inclusion in drought prone areas, evidence shows that it is important to engage men. Because of traditional gender roles and the view of men as main breadwinners, women's participation in savings groups or business activities can

create resistance among men. Men need to be included in the processes to show them how women's economic activities benefit the whole community. For example, the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) methodology, in which men and women use visual ways to plan a future they would like to see, has been successful in placing gender equality in the focus in savings groups. It has helped families plan and save together for a future that is beneficial for all.

Participating in savings groups together with women can also benefit men. Even if men in the communities hit by drought in the IGAD region usually have more economic opportunities or access to assets than women, many of them are, nevertheless, in vulnerable positions and struggle financially; savings groups enhance poor men's economic and financial inclusion. Additionally, when men and women engage in savings groups together, it increases gender equality in households and creates an environment where men and women work as equals for a common goal. This can positively challenge not only women's role, but also men's role in the community.

WOMEN AS ACTIVE AGENTS OF CHANGE

In savings groups, women do not only save and access credit. They practice business skills, public speaking and negotiation, decision making processes and possibly become more visible in the public sphere, which empowers them to become leaders in their communities. Participating in savings groups can develop their confidence and capacity to learn, practise new ideas and plan ahead. Women's role and status are enhanced when their communities see that they are generating income which benefits the whole community. This can have long-lasting influence on gender relations in their communities.

In the drought prone areas of the IGAD region, women are already active agents who run households and businesses, coordinate relief activities and provide support for each other and their communities. This central role of women must be recognised in all resilience projects. Savings groups formalise the role of women, create gender equality and increase women's economic and financial inclusion.

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POWER A VILLAGE, LIGHT UP A NATION: WOMEN LEAD A TRANSFORMATIVE SOLAR LIGHTING PROJECT IN RURAL KASSALA, SUDAN

Through its long experience working with local communities, Practical Action succeeded in activating the role of the rural women in energy access in ten remote villages in rural Kassala, Sudan.

by SAMAH OMER

Sudan suffers from very poor electrification rate as only 32% of the total population has access to electricity. Kassala State in the Eastern part of Sudan particularly suffers from low energy access. Additionally, it is inhabited by one of the most conservative communities in the region. In this area, women are largely excluded from education systems and livelihood opportunities. Practical Action is an international development organisation that puts

ingenious ideas to work so people living in poverty can change their lives. Through its long experience working with local communities, Practical Action succeeded in penetrating this conservative communities in Kassala in order to activate the role of the rural women in energy access in ten poor and neglected remote villages.

Solar home systems allow women to start new income generating activities.

Photo: Practical Action.





The five months pilot has resulted in a quick and impressive impact. It has created a revolutionary change in the targeted communities. Women reflect that there has been significant impact on their health and wellbeing as they have been able to save an additional 4-6 hours in their day.



Women receiving their solar home system units and learning how to operate them. Photo: Practical Action.

This is achieved through a joint initiative with UNICEF for piloting an innovative model for solar market activation in rural areas of Sudan, funded by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency. The model leverages the smart nexus between humanitarian and development sectors in Sudan (represented by UNICEF and Practical Action respectively). The two partners worked together to enhance integrated development opportunities for the targeted communities through improved access to education for out-of-school young girls and boys and increased access to clean energy for learning, lighting and communication.

Practical Action formed and trained women development associations and then used these associations to distribute about 300 solar home systems to benefit 1,800 needy women, men, boys and girls.

In order to ensure a sustainable and scalable model, the project adopted a revolving fund mechanism. The solar home systems were provided on loan as in-kind seed grants to the communities. The women development associations were charged with the responsibility of collecting repayments from the first line beneficiaries through easy installments over a period of up to ten months. The associations then took the lead to purchase another set of solar home systems for a new group of beneficiaries in their communities, managing the repayment system, and maintaining clear and accurate records.

Practical Action also trained targeted women beneficiaries in business management and supported them to run other small enterprises and/or group businesses. The project facilitated the formation of small savings and loans groups as a micro-finance mechanism.

Capacitating women in these managerial aspects has opened the door for tens of women to confidently initiate new enterprises that are now actively generating income to the household and improving local markets.

The five months pilot has resulted in a quick and impressive impact as it has created a revolutionary change in the targeted communities. Women reflect that there has been significant impact on their health and wellbeing as they have been able to save an additional 4-6 hours in

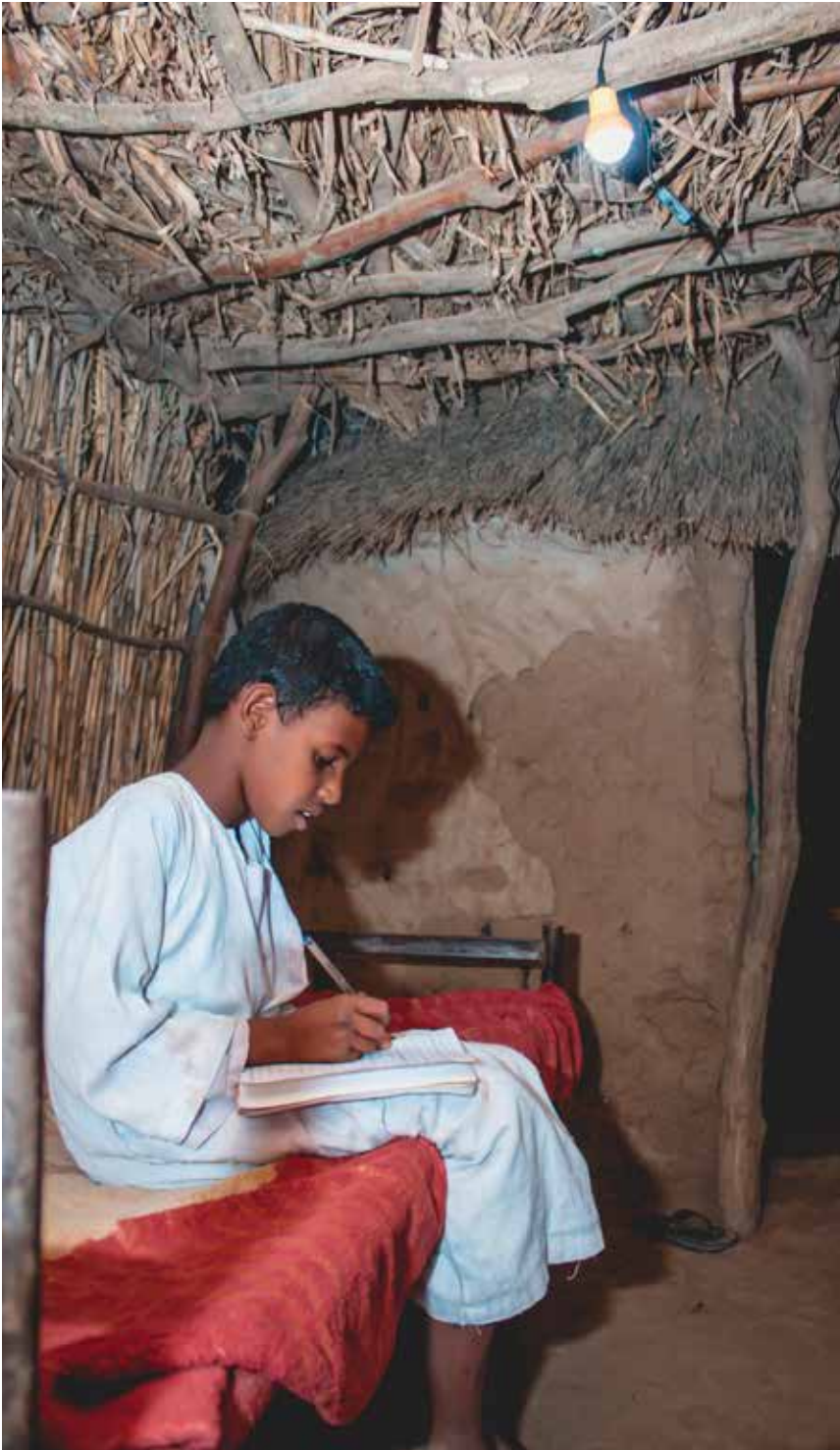
their day. Other benefits from the project include learning opportunities for the entire family, ability to charge their mobile phones to stay connected, access to radio and awareness raising materials. New income generation skills and opportunities, together with income saving (no need to purchase dry batteries for lighting and paying to charge mobiles) has increased communities' development and resilience to poverty and poor livelihood.

Market activation, which is the main strategic objective for this intervention, was worked out through improving rural supply and demand.

Establishing a successful revolving fund mechanism to increase communities' affordability in order to purchase solar home systems, along with innovative awareness raising campaigns (drama shows in the villages, community radio in local languages and TV shows) as well as intensive advocacy activities, all helped to generate great demand in the rural areas of Kassala State.

On the supply side, linkages were created between the private sector and the community based organisations to ensure continuous supply of spare parts and new systems. More than eight companies were invited for the first ever joint exhibition in Kassala town to advocate for new solar solutions. All stakeholders participated in a workshop to develop a participatory market system of the nascent solar market. The solar market's primary and secondary actors (more than 50% of them women) collectively mapped the solar market in the state, reflected the current challenges and constraints, and discussed their visions for future expansion in the adoption of renewable and sustainable energies in rural areas.

The pilot was a great success and has been the nucleus for the Sustainable Energy Network in the state. It involves and connects all interested actors in the solar market and introduces many opportunities for the future of renewable energy access for rural communities.



The solar home systems allow children to learn at home. Photo: Practical Action.

Khadiga is one of the young women elected to be members of the women development association in Dabbat village in rural Kassala locality. The solar home system has had a positive impact in her village. “Aisha, my oldest daughter is now able to practice what she learns in the UNICEF e-learning centre. When she comes home, she sketches and writes in her notebooks until late in the evening,” she says.

Knowing that she can work late into the evening, Khadiga is now more comfortable when she rests in the afternoon, and continues her domestic work in the evening, when it gets cooler.

“I style my hair, prepare meals for my family, wash our clothes and sometimes enjoy crafting work,” she says with a laugh. “After seeing my daughter practicing with her books, I’m very excited to learn and I registered for literacy class with UNICEF.”

Practical Action believes in the power of small things to change the big picture, and Khadiga’s story is a good demonstration of that. A small device that costs less than US \$ 80 has changed the life of Khadiga and her family forever.

This article is written on behalf of Practical Action. The author, **Ms. Samah Omer** is the Project Manager for the Lighting for Learning Project. She is Practical Action’s Gender focal person in Sudan.

COMMUNITIES TAKE THE LEAD TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND EDUCATION IN THE AFAR REGION OF ETHIOPIA

A community-driven approach to development has enabled communities to successfully prioritise and implement education and health interventions in Gube, Mengea and Mawuda kebeles in the Afar region.

by **ABERA ABA**

The third phase of the Pastoral Community Development Project (PCDP III) has been working to improve access to community demand-driven social and economic services for pastoralists and agro-pastoralists of Ethiopia. The project emphasises community involvement through participatory planning, community investment funds, self-monitoring and learning. In the Afar region of Ethiopia, this approach has enabled communities to successfully prioritise and implement education and health interventions.

Gube and Mengea kebele is one of the project kebeles under Aba'ala woreda. Before the PCDP project was started here, there was no standard primary school in the area. Children got their education under tree shades, in makeshift structures constructed using local materials. They had no desks, they sat on the ground or on stones, and used their laps as support to write in their exercise books. The rooms were exposed to direct sunlight, wind and dust particles.



The old school structure. Photo: PCDP III/Abera ABA.

Eighteen-year-old Deressa Abdu is a Grade 8 student in the school. This past period of his school life fills him with bad memories. He says that many students suffered from common colds, flu and trachoma. One of his closest friends still has serious problems with his sight and has not yet learnt how to read properly. Teachers were not comfortable and as a result, they frequently transferred to other schools. Children from well-to-do families moved to Aba'ala City to attend better schools. Fifteen-year-old Median Hussein, who is in Grade 7, fully agrees with Deressa. She says that the previous school was uncomfortable for the students.

During the community action preparation in 2017, the community in Gube identified construction of the school as the primary priority. Through consultations with the community and approval of the woreda cabinet members, the kebele was selected and approved as one of the first round beneficiaries of PCDP III. The community contributed 15% of the cost of construction in cash, materials and labour. The Parent-Teacher Association was reorganised so that it could make and implement the plans required to sustain the management of the school.

The newly constructed school adheres to the standards of the Ministry of Education. It has four classrooms with a capacity of 300 students and an administrative room.

Fifty-year-old Ato Mussa Ali is a member of the Parent-Teacher Association of the school and has also served as the chairman of the kebele for 28 years. According to him, the construction of the new school completely addressed the priority needs of the community. He is grateful that



Students outside the newly constructed school. Photo: PCDP III/Abera Aba.



Patients being attended to at the new health post. Photo: PCDP III/Abera Aba.

the students in the community will henceforth be able to go to school and get an education without difficulty.

Students are eager to go to school. At the time of the interview, eighteen-year-old Kedir Mussa, who is in Grade 7, could hardly wait for the schools to open so that he could start the new term in the newly constructed classrooms. He is not the only one. He says all the students in the surrounding area are filled with excitement. Even his friends, whose families had sent them to Aba’ala City, are planning to come back to the local school.

Improving health care through construction of the Mawuda sub-kebele human health post

In Mawuda sub-kebele, participatory community action planning identified construction of the human health post as the priority.

Malaria and waterborne diseases are the most common problems in the area. Before the intervention of PCDP III, the communities in the surrounding areas travelled a distance of between 45 and 105 kilometres to get medical services around Aba’ala or Mekelle cities. During health emergencies, it was difficult for the community members to get patients to hospital on time.

Mawuda health post is located 12 kilometres from the Erebti woreda in Mawuda sub-kebele of Lea’ad kebele. The total population of the kebele is estimated to be 6,470.

The community members deposited a 5% cash contribution before the construction started. They collected and transported stones, sand and water. They also provided labour for the actual construction. The health post was completed within 90 days. The works officer in charge of the construction says that the speed with which the works were completed is due to the community’s involvement.

The completed health post is directly benefitting 3,500 people who live around this area. Most of the patients are children and women. It now takes only 5-30 minutes for patients to get medical attention. This has reduced the cost and burden of seeking health care for the residents of Mawuda sub-kebele.

The PCDP is a 15-year project implemented in three phases with the support of the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. The project focuses on the implementation of effective modules of public service delivery, livelihood diversification and investment in disaster management. The project operates in the arid and semi-arid regions of Somali and Afar as well as in the pastoral areas of Oromiya and SNNPR.

Abera Aba Aenamo is the Special Support Coordination Team Leader for the Gambela Region in Ethiopia, and also advises and coordinates overall development activities in Somali, Afar, Oromia and SNNPR pastoralist areas.

INTEGRATED PASTURE, FODDER AND AGROFORESTRY IMPROVES LIVELIHOODS FOR MEN AND WOMEN IN NAROK COUNTY

The Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project (RPLRP) supported the formation of Kiribwet Pastoral Field School, with 57 members, out of which 27 are women. By ensuring that men and women have an equal opportunity to actively participate in the PFS, women's productive and financial capacity has been improved.

by **CHRISTOPHER KUNDER AND ALEX SABUNI**

Over time, agro-pastoralists in Kiribwet, Kapsasian Ward in Transmara East Sub-county of Narok County in Kenya have faced challenges as they try to generate incomes from their daily livelihood activities. The Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project (RPLRP) supported them to set up a Pastoral Field School (PFS) and identify and prioritise problems using the pairwise ranking participatory approach.

The analysis showed that the greatest problem was inadequate and poor dairy cow nutrition, which led to low milk yields. The project developed a strategy to improve dairy cow nutrition through experimentation, regular meetings and training on topics suggested by the PFS members.

The facilitators of the PFS observed that the quality of livestock feeds in the community was still low and the levels of environmental conservation among the members were not satisfactory. They realised that if an integrated approach was developed, they would achieve sustainable improvement in livestock nutrition, environmental conservation and enhanced quality of life.

RPLRP supported the formation of Kiribwet PFS, with 57 members, out of which 27 are women. The National Government Affirmative Action (NGAAF) which promoted mainstreaming of gender issues and women group from the neighbouring area of Bomet trained the PFS members on how to produce improved energy-saving stoves.



Pasture harvesting in Transmara East, Narok. Photo: RPLRP, Kenya.



PFS members learn and adopt proper animal health management. Photo: RPLRP Kenya.



Leah Soy, a member from Kiribwet, says the PFS has changed her living standards, particularly due to the increased milk production, from 2 litres per cow per day to 5 litres per cow per day.

The PFS identified three dairy farms, which they subjected to different treatments through feeding on concentrates, hay, natural pasture, strategic deworming and tick control, undertaken through weekly PFS meetings. During the meetings, the PFS members implemented participatory technology development by comparing milk yields against different feeding regimes.

Aside from the regular PFS meetings, facilitators trained the members on different types of dairy feed such as Napier grass, Sesbania, Boma Rhodes, fodder sorghum, feed conservation, artificial insemination, dairy animal breeds, agro-forestry, clean milk production and adoption of pasture and fodder preservation through construction of stores.

The project supplied various improved pasture and fodders seeds like Boma Rhodes, and sweet potato vines to the PFS members, who bulked them. Demonstrations on how to propagate the seeds of various types of pastures were done to equip the farmers with knowledge on proper establishment and maintenance of pastures and fodder. The interventions were complemented by trainings and exposure tours to model farms in Chesoen and Ololulunga in Narok County.

After 52 weeks of regular activities, the PFS members conducted a field day to showcase the skills they had acquired and held a graduation ceremony to commemorate the completion of the learning period.

Many stakeholders helped the PFS achieve its objectives. The Narok County Government donated 500 seedlings and boosted table banking activities through a grant of KES 20,000 (approximately US \$ 200). After graduation, the National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Growth Project funded one of the PFS sub-groups with KES 500,000 to establish pastures and fodders on 3.5 acres of

land. The Kenya Commercial Bank Foundation trained members on hydroponics farming, while the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Narok County provided capacity building and supplied sorghum seeds.

The PFS members are now able to undertake routine livestock husbandry practices such as castration, dehorning, monitoring and reporting of livestock pests and disease incidences. Ninety percent of the PFS members established pasture and fodder. Their milk production practices have improved. Some of the members are practicing agro-forestry, while others have adopted water harvesting technologies. They have also learnt how to manage their finances more prudently.

The results of their activities have been positive. The milk production increased from the initial average of 2 litres per cow per day to an average of 7 litres per cow per day. The members market their milk through the Kiribwet Cooperative Society, which guarantees them timely payments. Their income from milk sales has thus been significantly increased. A bale of hay is sold for KES 200, approximately US \$ 2, while 2 kilogrammes of fodder seed go for KES 100.

David Korir of Chelemei village is one of the members of the PFS. He produces and stores pasture for use during the dry season, and has constructed a small water pond for domestic use and farming. He has already started getting benefits from his investments.

“I have sold 200 bales of hay and five bags of boma Rhodes seeds earning a total of KES 60,000. I used the money to purchase a dairy cow which is giving me 8 litres per day and I have bought iron sheets to construct a hay store,” he says.

By ensuring that men and women have an equal opportunity to actively participate in the PFS, women's productive and financial capacity has been improved. Leah Soy, a member from Kiribwet, says the PFS has changed her living standards, particularly due to the increased milk production, from 2 litres per cow per day to 5 litres per cow per day.

"Milk demanded from my farm has been consistently high due to my ability to maintain a constant supply to the customers. For instance, during the festive season in December, I sell one litre of milk for as high as KES 45 per litre," she says.

Like David, Leah has established pasture and harvests water so that she can sustain production throughout the year.

The members are contributing to environmental conservation by planting different tree species in Kiribwet, which is semi-arid. To date, more than 8,000 trees have been planted by the members. Most of the members have installed energy saving stoves, which are helping to reduce the amount of fuel wood used. The regenerating vegetative cover is already changing the landscape.

Christopher Kunder is the County Project Team Leader while **Alex Sabuni** is the M&E Officer of the Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project (RPLRP), Narok County in Kenya.



Sale of hay harvested by a farmer in Chelemei village, Transmara East, Narok.
Photo: RPLRP, Kenya.

SOLAR POWERED EGG INCUBATORS HELP WOMEN TO INCREASE INCOMES FROM POULTRY FARMING

Solar powered egg incubators provide solutions for farmers to increase poultry production by 200%. The clean and cost-effective technology has helped female members of Pastoral Field Schools in Baringo County to earn more and take up leadership roles.

by LUI CHERUIYOT KIRUI

The goal of solar powered egg incubators is to provide chick-hatching solutions to poultry farmers especially in arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) where there is no electricity. The main objective is to increase farmers' income and thereby improve their livelihoods through increased production capacity and reduced cost of production.

A solar powered egg incubator is designed to increase poultry production by 200% for small scale poultry farmers, by increasing the number of eggs hatched, and hatching efficiency from 40% to 95%. The egg incubator is powered by solar energy which is clean and cost effective.

Six Pastoral Field School (PFS) groups were formed through the initiative of the Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Project (RPLRP), Baringo County as indicated below, with women making up more than half of the group membership:

Name of PFS	Male	Female
Lelmen PFS	30	23
Kapkelelwa PFS	22	16
Salabani PFS	7	10
Kipcherere PFS	11	10
Kamar PFS	17	13
Mugurin PFS	16	14

TAPPING INTO WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE AND SUCCESSES

The groups decided to increase their incomes through improved indigenous poultry production by using solar powered egg incubator technology. This decision was informed by a number of factors. Female group members who are practicing small scale indigenous poultry production had recorded good economic successes, meeting household food requirements and supplementing household income through the sale of poultry products. Members are also knowledgeable in poultry production, with women excelling in the enterprise. The market price of indigenous poultry eggs and meat is high and the demand is steady. In addition, the enterprise requires a small production area.

Thus, women in the PFS groups played a major role in picking the enterprise. The PFS group members elected women as host farmers where the incubators and the group poultry stock are housed. The host women lead in the day to day management of the group enterprise.

RPLRP supported each PFS with a 300 Watts solar power panel, 300Mph solar battery, an egg incubator with a carrying capacity of 128 eggs, a charge controller, a power inverter and assorted installation accessories. The PFS groups meet once per week for PFS classes on poultry

WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

The PFS capacity building has enhanced the knowledge of the female members on improved poultry rearing and management. With increased poultry production, the women meet their household food requirements. Women now sell more poultry products and supplement their household income, which is used to pay school fees, engage in merry-go-round and table banking saving schemes, and meet other family's financial needs. Furthermore, taking a lead in management of the enterprise has enhanced the women social and decision making status.



A female member receives the solar incubator on the behalf of the PFS.
Photo: RPLRP, Kenya.

production and deliberation on other group activities. The PFS groups also undertake pasture production, beekeeping, table banking and merry go round.

The PFS groups generate income through hatching chicks for the group and the larger community members at a fee, sale of day old chicks and mature birds and sell of eggs.

On average the laying percentage is 70% in almost all the groups, so each group collects approximately 140 eggs per day from the incubator and group members. This translates to approximately 4,200 eggs per month. The income generated and the eggs produced provide resources for the PFS groups to run the incubators and ensure group sustainability even after the exit of RPLRP.



Solar powered egg incubator. Photo: RPLRP, Kenya.

Revenue generation analysis

a) Eggs

Laying percent=70%=140 birds=140 eggs per day, for 1 month=4,200 eggs, out of this 96 eggs are hatched and the rest sold=4,104 eggs sold

Price per egg=Kes 10, Total=4,104*10=Kes 41,040 per month

For 1 year, revenue from eggs=Kes 41, 040*12= Kes 492,480 (Approx. US \$ 4,925)

b) Sale of birds

60% of chicks hatched are disposed and 40% retained. They are sold at one day old, one month old and mature birds.

60 mature birds sold @ Kes 500=Kes 30,000 per month=12*30,000=Kes 360,000 per year

50 day old chicks sold@ Kes 120, for 1 year=50*120*12=Kes 72,000

30 one-month old birds sold @ Kes 250*12=Kes 90,000 = Kes 522,000 (Approx. US \$ 5,200)

Total Annual Revenue=Kes 1, 014,480 (Approx. US \$ 10,145)



Mature birds ready for sale. Photo: RPLRP, Kenya.

Lessons learnt

Key lessons learnt from this good practice include:

- Integration of the Pastoral Field Schools (PFS) approach with a cost effective alternative livelihood and income generating activities develops beneficiaries/community members as experts in areas relevant to their interest. It ensures sustainability of these groups because as experts, they do not rely solely on extension officers for services they can offer themselves.
- The use of sustainable production technology like the solar powered egg incubator technology through PFS methodology will ensure economic sustainability of the groups even after the exit of RPLRP.

SUSTAINABILITY

To ensure project sustainability, all the groups are formally registered as a community group with by-laws to provide proper guidelines for running the group affairs. A management committee and grievance redress mechanism committee are in place to address complaints as soon as they arise. The groups also have bank accounts to save proceeds from the sale of products. Some of these proceeds are ploughed back into the management of the enterprise. The groups have been trained on business plan preparation, marketing and financial management so that the enterprise is managed in a professional manner. The design of the enterprise ensures that groups have income generating activities that will sustain their activities.

KEY PARTNERS FOR UPSCALING

The Baringo County Government through the department for livestock production support and backstop the PFS on poultry production while the provincial administration through the chiefs, assistant chiefs and community elders support continuous monitoring and evaluation at the community level. Others like Kerio Valley Development Authority (KVDA), Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) and Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) help in marketing and research.

Lui Cheruiyot Kirui is the Baringo County Project Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, RPLRP.

PUTTING COMMUNITIES BACK IN THE DRIVING SEAT OF SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN THE RANGELANDS

The successful introduction, adoption and implementation of participatory rangeland management systems

by **BEN IRWIN, ABDIKADIR ABDULSALAM, CRISPUS MUGAMBI AND THE CARE BORESHA TEAMS**

Building Opportunities for Resilience in the Horn of Africa (BORESHA) is a three-year EU-funded cross-border resilience project implemented by four international partners; a consortium of three NGOs - Danish Refugee Council, World Vision, CARE; and WYG, which is a private company.

The project is implemented in Mandera County in Kenya, Dolow and Beled Hawa districts in Somalia and Dolo Ado and Dolo Bay woredas in Ethiopia. This borderland is referred to as the Mandera Triangle.

BORESHA is one of the regional initiatives within the IGAD region focused on building sustainable livelihoods, improving natural resource management and strengthening resilience in cross-border areas within the three countries. Similar cross-border initiatives that integrate and coordinate with BORESHA include Regional Approaches for Sustainable Conflict Management and Integration (RASMI), and Support for Effective Cooperation and Coordination of Cross-border initiatives (SECCCI) projects.

CARE, working through its Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia country offices, implements one of the outcomes of the BORESHA project, which aims to enhance sustainable and equitable management of in-country and cross-border natural resources and particularly the dry rangelands and grasslands typical in the cross-border area.

The targeted cross-border rural communities comprise mainly pastoralists and agro-pastoralists who work to sustain their livelihoods from the rangelands. The key

shared natural resources in Mandera triangle include transboundary communal grazing lands and surface water resources such as the Dawa, Juba and Ganale rivers.

The dry rangeland environments in Mandera Triangle have existed for thousands of years and continue to present numerous opportunities for pasture and fodder productivity. However, sustainable utilisation in the recent past has been hindered by challenges resulting from man-made and natural change processes. These change processes include changing rangelands management structures and resource use regimes, increasing land degradation, inadequate community participation and gender equity, decision making and action on shared resources, as well as negative impacts of climate change such as recurrent and shortened drought cycles. At the community and local administrative organs, lack of appropriate frameworks for resource management and capacity gaps amongst resource actors exacerbate these challenges.

In order to support the capacity of local communities and governance structures on management and utility of local natural resources, the multi-country CARE BORESHA teams trained the borderland communities and government offices on the Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) approach. The PRM approach is new¹ to these specific BORESHA implementation areas. However, the approach has been applied successfully at scale by CARE amongst pastoralists' communities in Oromiya, Afar and Somali regions in Ethiopia. It is being piloted in different lowland sites in Kenya and Tanzania.



The Mandera North NRM Group holds a discussion on mapping of rangelands and best practices during a workshop in Rhamu Town. Photo: BORESHA

Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) is an agri-system² based approach to natural rangeland resource management that aims to strengthen and improve pastoralists' rangeland governance systems. The use of the term agri-system purposely refers to, and recognises pastoralism as a formal agricultural-based production system. The failure to recognise pastoralism as such, can be argued to be an underlying key factor in the lack of government support for pastoralists.

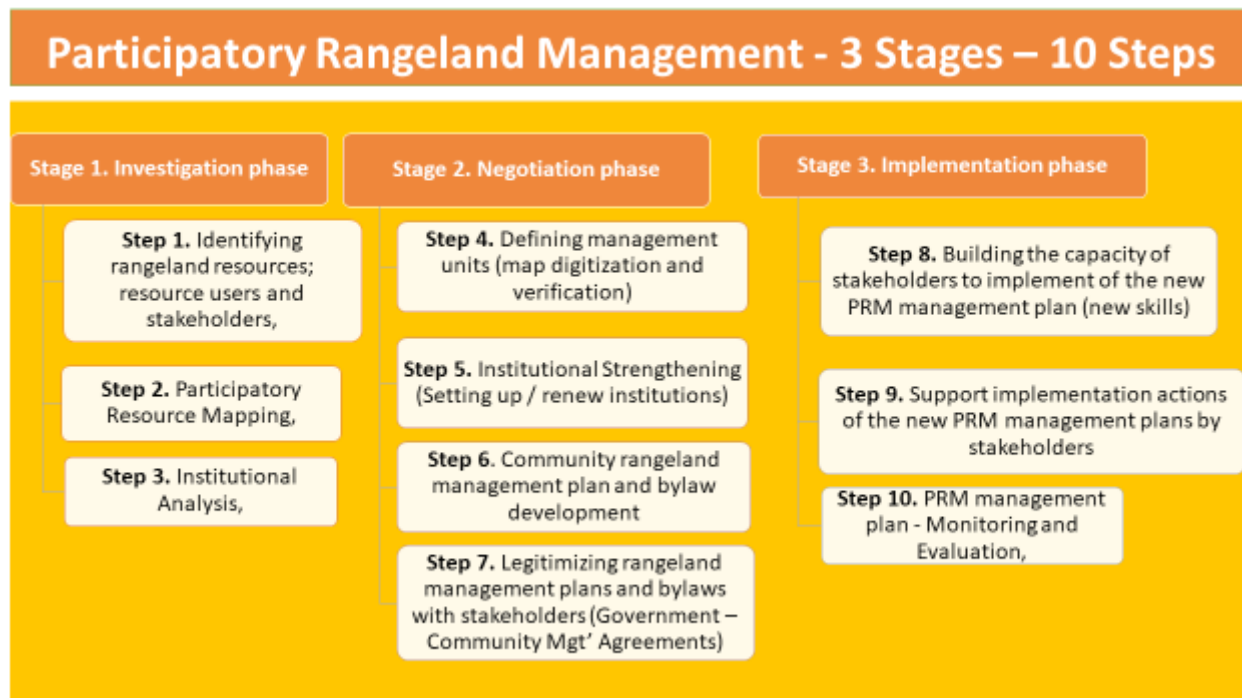
The system is established on a foundation of customary resource management and supports community-based leadership in rangeland resource land use planning and practice. It is supported by the Rangeland Management Council³ - a community-based organisation set up by the community to lead the PRM process. The Rangeland Management Council includes clan leaders and elders, and involves women and youth representatives. With the support of the Council, the PRM system enables communities, supported and facilitated by government extension services, to take back the lead roles in designing and making decisions about how to manage their local natural resources.

The PRM planning process offers opportunities for negotiations between different stakeholders, for consensus on natural resources, land and water resources use. PRM provides a suitable and legitimate process of communal land and resource tenure that fits with both the priorities of pastoralists and government decision-making institutions.

The role of the CARE BORESHA team is to support government officers to ensure inclusivity of the PRM system by taking into account the interests, positions and needs of all beneficiaries, actors and end-users in pastoral rangelands. CARE BORESHA team envisions that PRM has the potential to support planning of cross-border resource management, use and sharing between the pastoralist groups within the cross-border region. Building resource management agreements will preempt potential conflicts over resources and contribute to re-establishing resource based relationships and inter-dependencies. Such conflict aware and sensitive approaches will be essential in building sustainable and peaceful futures for the pastoralist communities living in these areas.

HOW DOES PARTICIPATORY RANGELAND MANAGEMENT WORK IN PRACTICE?

Participatory Rangeland Management is built on a 3 stage and 10 step process, as illustrated in the figure below:



After the introductory PRM Trainer of Trainers (ToT), the CARE BORESHA team and government extension services supported and facilitated community-based PRM planning workshops, involving rangeland resource users and stakeholders from the project localities. The PRM planning workshops enabled communities to negotiate and formulate PRM activity plans and PRM agreements, including resource use community bylaws. A 12-member Rangeland Management Council made up of both male and female decision-makers (local administrative and administration government personnel and traditional elders) were formed to spearhead implementation of the rangeland plans and enforcement of the new resource use bylaws.

EFFECTIVENESS AND SUCCESSFUL IMPACT OF RANGELAND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Finally, we share some early examples of the PRM plans in action and early indicators of the effectiveness and successful impact of rangeland management actions.

Effective rangeland management plans - Development of 5-year Rangeland Management Plans, covering community-led resource management actions, such as: the setup of dry season grazing reserves; the setup or rehabilitation of water resources points; identification of sites for the control the invasive plant species, such as *Prosopis sp.* plants; identification of degraded land for rehabilitation works, through land enclosures and soil and water conservation measures. The PRM plans covered cross-border grazing system in Beled Hawa and Dolo district in Somalia, Dolo Ado and Dolo bay woreda in Ethiopia, and Mandera north, Mandera east and Banisa sub-counties, in Mandera county of Kenya.

New resource management bylaws - Community PRM agreement bylaws aligned with local customary laws, supporting better governance of their natural resources for a more resilient grazing system and pastoral livelihoods. The community bylaws provided binding codes for regulating forage utilisation in grazing reserves or enclosed areas, prevention of cutting key indigenous trees for charcoal production and protection of sources of water.



PRM before and after – community land restoration works using soil bunds, check dams and area enclosure. A photograph from Gawido Village in Beled Hawa district, Somalia. In the second picture grasses and other herbaceous types of forage plants have sprouted in the areas rehabilitated through area enclosures, soil and water conservation measures, and re-planting/reseeding. Photo: BORESHA.

Community wide actions - the Rangeland Councils have mobilised their local community members for rehabilitation of severely degraded rangelands in over 31 village sites, through soil and water conservation measures. This has enabled vegetation regeneration in hitherto unproductive lands providing access to new sources of pasture for their livestock and enhanced security of communities.

Tackling priority problems - The invasive plant species *Prosopis sp.* has been cleared from prime grazing areas that had been rendered unsuitable for livestock grazing. This work has re-opened these grazing areas and allowed desirable grass and other plant species to regenerate.

Use of new technology - The Rangeland Councils, through BORESHA, have facilitated community uptake of innovative technologies for alternative utilisation of *Prosopis sp.* plants for livestock feeding and charcoal briquette production creating new livelihoods opportunities. As a result, PRM groups from 19 villages are currently utilizing the new *Prosopis sp.* technology.

Improved and climate adaptive management of scarce resources - Communities in eight villages have established new area land enclosures for improving the growth and availability of pasture for their animals. Using the PRM bylaws, the Rangeland Councils manage access to pastures in the new enclosures. The enclosures are reserved for dry-season grazing, mainly for lactating animals kept for milk, and for calves and sick animals that

cannot trek far from the village. This practice contributed to household resilience in the dry season and potentially at times of drought.

NOTES

¹ The PRM approach is new to these specific BORESHA implementation areas, however the approach has and is being implemented at scale in other regions of Ethiopia, and is being piloted in different lowland sites in Kenya and Tanzania.

² The use of the term agri-system purposely refers to, and recognises pastoralism as a formal agricultural based production system. The failure to recognise pastoralism as such, can be argued to be an underlying key factor in the lack of government support for pastoralist

³ Rangeland Management Council - is a community based organisation set up by the community to lead the PRM process. The Rangeland Management Council will include clan leaders and elders, but will also involve women and youth representatives.

Ben Irwin is the Pastoralist Program Coordinator for CARE Ethiopia. **Abdikadir Abdulsalam** is the BORESHA Programme Manager based with CARE Somalia. **Crispus Mugambi** is a senior Climate Change Adaptation Manager with CARE Kenya.



Asha Golicha, 46, lived her whole life in Moyale, a small market town across the borders of Ethiopia and Kenya. Photo: UNDP RSCA/Anna Moghilda.

VOICES OF WOMEN FROM THE HORN OF AFRICA'S BORDERLANDS

Challenges related to peace and security, economic development and climate tie most of the countries in the Greater Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda), but this is particularly true in the borderlands, where scarcity of resources, extreme poverty and environmental stress trigger conflict and violence.

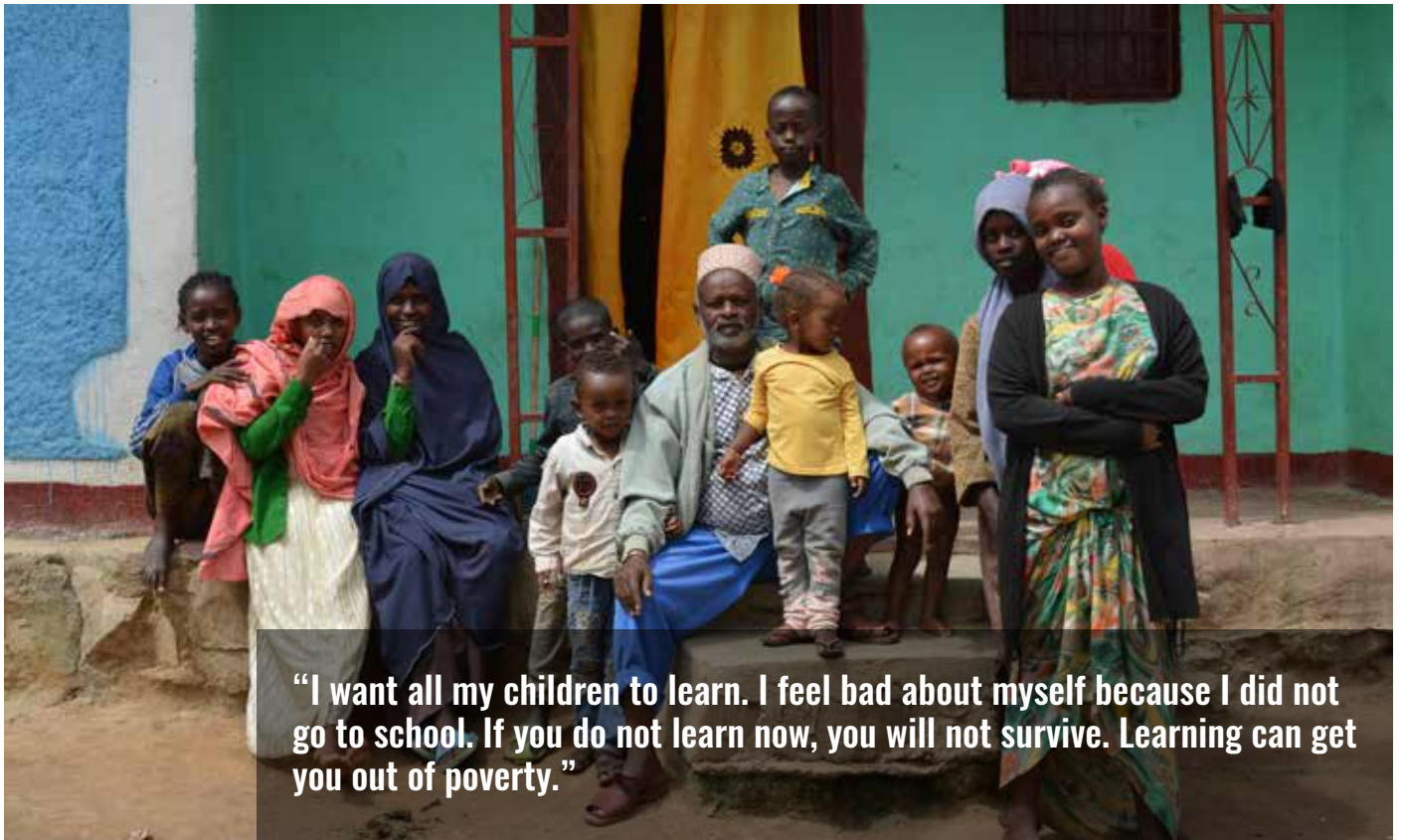
A cross-border Ethiopia-Kenya-Somalia project with the support of the European Union is helping create opportunities for vulnerable communities and expand cross-border trade.

by ANNA MOGHILDA

THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION

Asha Golicha, 46, lived her whole life in Moyale, a small market town across the borders of Ethiopia and Kenya, some 800 kilometers south of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital city. As most women and girls in the region, Asha married at 16 and did not have a chance to go to school.

That's why she sees her children's education as primordial:



“I want all my children to learn. I feel bad about myself because I did not go to school. If you do not learn now, you will not survive. Learning can get you out of poverty.”

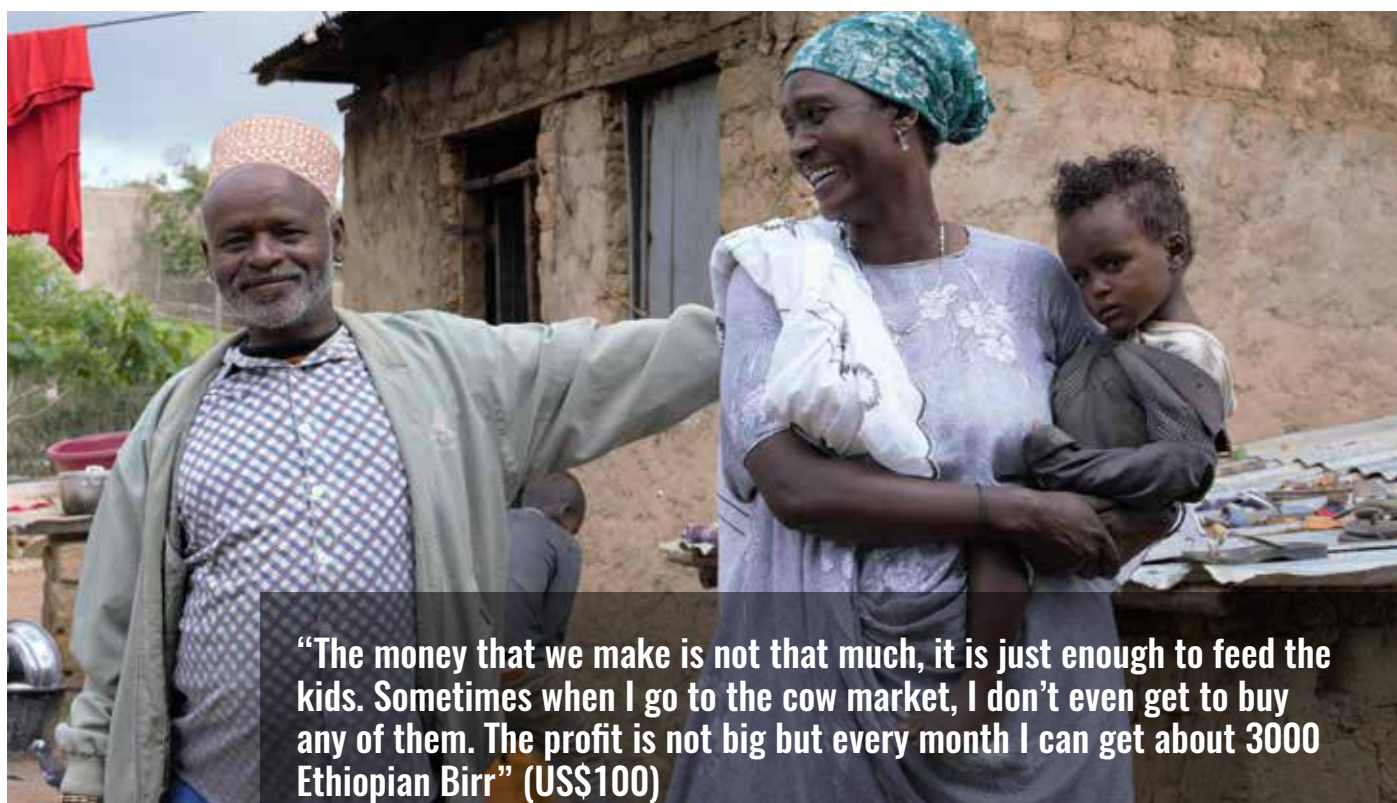
Asha's husband with their children and grandchildren at the doorstep of their house. Photo: UNDP RSCA/Anna Moghilda.

Living that close to the border means that Kenyan children go to Ethiopian schools and vice-versa. Asha's 11 children attended primary school in Kenya before returning to Ethiopia for their secondary education. Two of her sons are now studying in Addis Ababa.

A WOMAN'S BURDEN

Most of the house's and family's responsibilities fall on Asha's shoulders. But, even though the family owns farmlands, Asha is only able to grow crops once every 3 to 4 years because of the ongoing drought in the region.

So, to make a living, she travels 200 km every Sunday to a market where livestock is sold at cheaper prices, buys as many cows as she can afford and resells them at a profit in the Kenyan side of Moyale.



“The money that we make is not that much, it is just enough to feed the kids. Sometimes when I go to the cow market, I don’t even get to buy any of them. The profit is not big but every month I can get about 3000 Ethiopian Birr” (US\$100)

Asha with her husband and grandson. Photo: UNDP RSCA/Anna Moghilda.

Asha’s situation resembles that of most women in the region: They tend to work more than men, and carry greater responsibilities in taking care of the children and their household, which brings them to show greater solidarity towards each other.

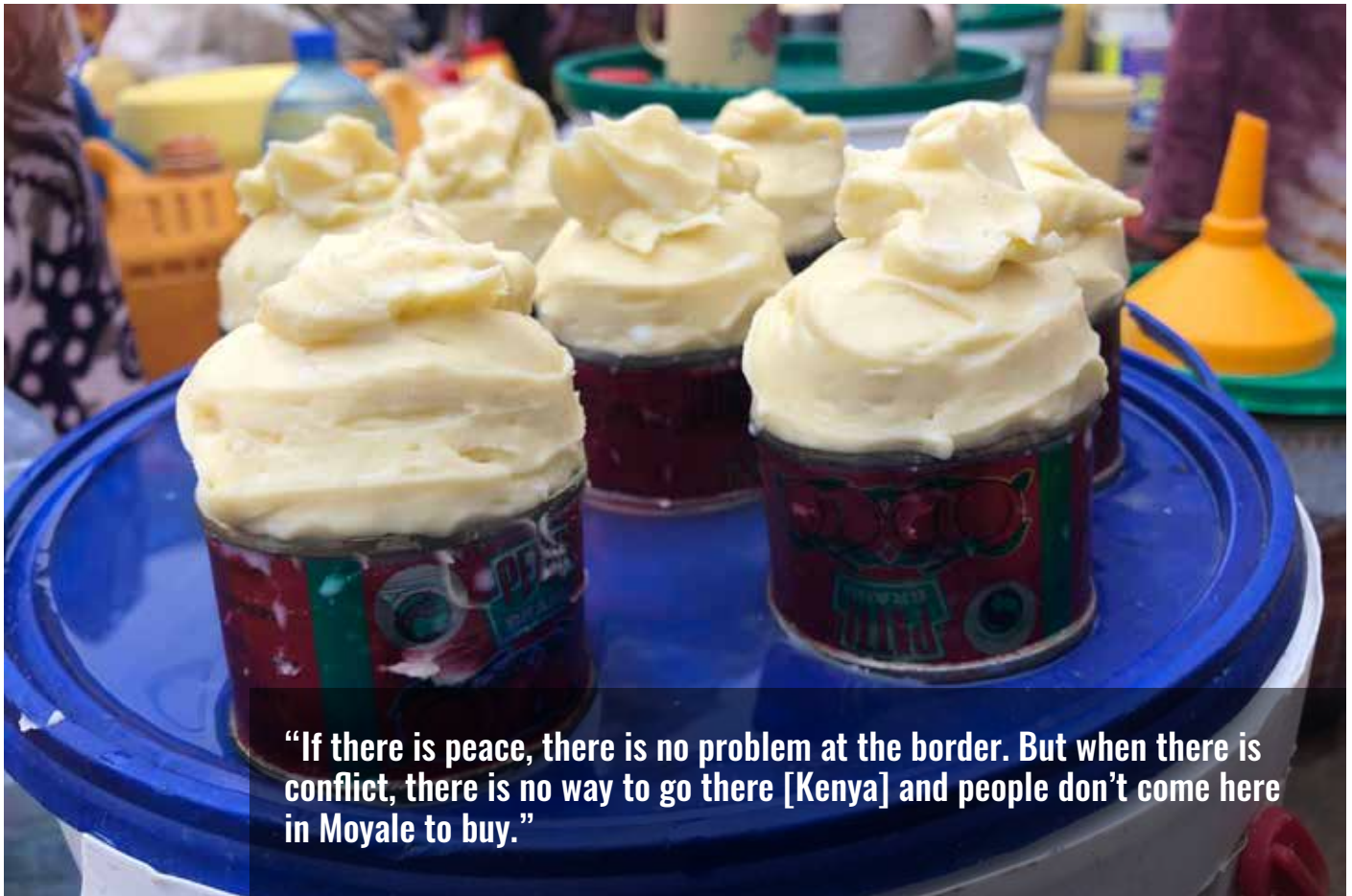
With support from the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), and together with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), UNDP cross-border programme aims to help those hard-working women become more self-sustaining.

Launched in February 2018, the initiative has created awareness and promoted cross-border trade opportunities for women, such as the One Stop Border Post, allowing free movement of livestock and persons across the border. Since women are for the most part the ones engaged in informal cross-border trade, they are expected to benefit from such opportunities.

AGENTS OF PEACE

For Asha, lack of jobs and political instability are the biggest problems in the region.

"Women play important roles in peacebuilding and are essential to creating long-term, sustainable peace. We have seen many examples of how women’s peace initiatives have transcended the boundaries of nationality, religion, class, and socioeconomic background in their work for peace. Empowering women in cross border areas has also had a positive multiplier effect on poverty reduction, economic growth, government revenues and employment creation, among other factors." noted Erik Harbers, Head of Cooperation at the European Union Delegation to Ethiopia.



“If there is peace, there is no problem at the border. But when there is conflict, there is no way to go there [Kenya] and people don’t come here in Moyale to buy.”



Butter, coffee and livestock for sale at the local market in Moyale, Ethiopia. Photo: UNDP RSCA/Anna Moghilda.

"Investment in peace is a critical piece of the durable solutions puzzle for turning cross borders from fragile areas into a 'hotbed' of opportunities. Our current strategy – focusing on local institutions - integrates technical expertise to plan, manage and deliver, as well as the 'soft' skills that promote dialogue, trust and consensus-building, with an eye on the end-game: resolve conflict and promote peace." noted Cleophas Torori, UNDP's Deputy Representative for programme in Ethiopia.

The Project is coordinated by the UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA) and is implemented in partnership with UNDP Country Offices of Ethiopia and Kenya, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and UNEP with funding from the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF). The implementation is closely coordinated with the national and local Governments of Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia.

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IDDRSI PRIORITY INTERVENTION AREAS (PIAS)



PIA 1: NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT



PIA 2: MARKET ACCESS, TRADE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES



PIA 3: ENHANCED PRODUCTION AND LIVELIHOOD DIVERSIFICATION



PIA 4: DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT



PIA 5: RESEARCH, KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER



PIA 6: PEACE BUILDING, CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION



PIA 7: INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING, COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS



PIA 8: HUMAN CAPITAL, GENDER AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



For more information on the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) please visit <https://resilience.igad.int/>