



Omo Delta Project: *Expanding the Rangeland to achieve Growth and Transformation*

Gender mainstreaming in Livelihood Resilience Building

Presented by Eunice Obala
Consortium Coordinator

VSF Germany (Consortium Lead Agency)

16th Sept, 2021, Bishoftu, Ethiopia



EU Trust Fund funding background

- ▶ EU-Africa Valletta Summit on Migration;2015.
- ▶ Concerns; increased flow of refugees, asylum seekers and irregular migrations.
- ▶ **Manage** migration flows in all their aspects; within and between continents.
- ▶ **Address root causes** of migration and forced displacements(Africa);
 - ❑ *State fragility & Insecurity,*
 - ❑ *Unfavourable - Demographic, Economic and Environmental trends).*
- ❑ **Responses to root causes:)** - *Reducing poverty, Promoting peace, Inclusive economic growth – through investment opportunities, Creation of decent jobs, Improving delivery of basic services-health, education, etc)*



OVERARCHING PROJECT GOAL:

Addressing the drivers of instability, Irregular migration and displacement in the South West Ethiopia-Northwest Kenya border.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

1. VSF-G – LEAD AGENCY
2. MERCY CORPS
3. VITA/RTI
4. EPARDA
5. CIFA
6. TUPADO



AREAS OF OPERATIONS:

Ethiopia:

- **S.Omo Zone** (*Hammer, Dassanach & Nyangatom Woreda*) and **W.Omo Zone** (*Surma & MaJi Woreda*),

Kenya:

- ▶ **Turkana** (*Turkana, Turkana North Central, South & Kibish*)
- ▶ **Marsabit** -North Horr and *Loiyangalani Sub-Counties*





Expected Results

- ▶ **Overall objective:** Increased the income of 45,000 Households by Euro 600 by the end of the project.

- ▶ **Specific objectives are to::**
 1. Increase **wealth** of **young** people in particular and especially young **women**.
 2. Accelerate **trade** and collaboration **nationally** and **cross-border**.
 3. Increased stability to promote growth and protect gains at national and Local level

- **Target :45,000 HHs** (direct beneficiaries)
- **Duration :** 46 months - **Start date:** Jan 2018 – October 2021
- **Funding budget: 12,631, 579 (EUD ETH – 12,000,000)**



General context: Turkana and Marsabit, and South Omo

- ❑ More vulnerable population with youth and women compared to men
- ❑ High Poverty – e.g. in Turkana, (79.4% of pop live below poverty line)
- ❑ Very vast land, limited infrastructure and services
- ❑ Harsh climatic conditions affecting main livelihoods (low productivity)
- ❑ 80% of the population depend on pastoralism and agro-pastoralism livelihoods.
- ❑ Strong cultural inclinations with women and girls more marginalised
- ❑ Borderlands and conflict prone
- ❑ High illiteracy and numeracy levels
- ❑ Gender based violence's (Early marriages, FGMs, family violence, displace women more at risk etc)
- ❑ Very high rates or reported GBV cases
- ❑ Discriminative cultural norms and practices
- ❑ National government neglect or un-balance socio-polical economic services



General context: Turkana and Marsabit, and South Omo

- ❑ **High school drop outs** - According to 2020 Short Rain Assessment in Turkana, 13,232 students dropped out of schools where 6,390 were boys and 6,842 girls. In the same period 338 teenage pregnancies
- ❑ **Domestic burden on women** - married and widows (loss of husbands to conflict). Gender roles bias
- ❑ **Unbalance political representation or interference** – 0.05% leadership in County of Turkana
- ❑ **Cultural perceptions** – women cant lead
- ❑ **Traditional leadership** – in NRM all Krals leaders are men





General Impact of Gender Issues and Concerns

- ❑ Traditionally women are excluded from decision making nor do they attend any decision making forums (- **ODP broke barriers for restricted voices**)
- ❑ Women restrained Participation in national/community leadership positions - **ODP empowered women/youth participation/ leadership**
- ❑ According to Turkana CIDP 2018-2022 “Gaps in County Government to address the gender dimensions of the pastoral peoples’ lives - Viewed as it is viewed as interference with cultural status quo where men dominate”
ODP Gender integration into programming and advocacy to create equitable spaces
- ❑ women are considered to be bought by the livestock (dowry) and have no right beyond her husband’s will. Men benefiting from the burden of women. - **ODP Women empowerment and gender mainstreaming**

**Cultural,
Traditional,
economic and
political barriers**



General Impact of Gender Issues and Concerns

- ❑ **Lack of women / youth ownership of productive assets** (- ODP prioritized women and youths with livelihood resilience support (Asset building, economic empowerment and capacity building)
- ❑ **Female headed households more vulnerable unless have a son**
 - ODP gender based empowerment and asset building
- ❑ **Women burden of domestic work.** - ODP introduction of less labour technology innovations in programming
- ❑ **Low education.** - According to 2020 Short Rain Assessment indicate that a total of 13,232 students dropped out of schools where 6,390 were boys and 6,842 girls. In the same period 338 teenage pregnancies were reported. - ODP Capacity Building support (e.g TVETs, VSLAs.. Non-literate models, adopted of gender sensitive approaches – grants, tailored trainings

Cultural,
Traditional ,
economic and
Political barriers



1. Gender mainstreaming in Project Implementation

- ❑ **Gender Equity in management and access to water for productive assets** – Leadership, decision making, management and access rights to water structures (Boreholes, Dams and Ponds)
- ❑ **Women lead economic empowerment and income generation** – Women and youth involved in climate smart Agriculture, VSLA, TVETs, Enterprise, fish cooperatives and BMUs, Gum Arabic
- ❑ **Livestock asset building and Ownership for generative income** – Women Targeted and supported with livestock productive assets (Cross breed Gala bucks, Rams, cattle and camels) and business dividends
- ❑ **Reduce Domestic Burdens Labour** - Women allocated time and priority in water structures design - Reduced trekking distance to water from 25KM to 1KM and waiting time from 8hours to 15minutes
- ❑ **Conflict sensitive programming** - Programing reduce conflicts and sensitive to local conflicts contex, barriers, marginalization, and cultural values..

**Gender related
Achievements**



:

GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN PROJECT PLANNING

Sensitization,
organization,
training, life skills,
financial and
Business skills,
entrepreneurship
skills, Linkage to
financial institution
cash injection and
mentorship



VSLA integration to KCB Bank Mobile (Mobi-Chama) and Agent services – Reduced operational/travel costs and maximized profits Bank Agent



Participation in Animal health services delivery in cross border areas – Private and Public institutions

6 established CDR associations of 61 members (21F strengthened and functional in Kibish-Turkana North



CDRS training in Turkana



PDS Exercise

Improved early response informed by 33 PDS in Marsabit & Turkana by trained 35 County government vets and 70 CDRS



1. Gender mainstreaming in Project Implementation

- ❑ **Promotion of Women and Youth** representation in key decision making - series of tailored capacity building activities, grants and skills transfers to marginalized groups
- ❑ **Increased capacity to generate income** – Productive livelihoods and economic empowerments - 45.5 % return on grants given to the groups,
- ❑ **Promotes savings and loan culture** - VSLA and Business savings
- ❑ **Harness science, technology, and innovation** - Reduce gender gaps and empower women and girls through distribution – Digital Reporting, E-Vouchers, E- trade, E- mobile transactions etc
- ❑ **Integration of Traditional and conventional technology** - EWS and NRM
- ❑ **Gender based models** - GIRL and YES led models, TVETs, VSLA/VICOBA etc
- ❑ **Financial Linkages** – KCB, Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, Mpesa
- ❑ **Cost Sharing approach** - to asset building and financial access.

**Gender related
Achievements**



Technical and business skills for youth and women

TVET Training to boost employment and entrepreneurship opportunities

204 youth (183 male and 21 female) trained on TVET skills in Ethiopia

Jobs created and income generated from skills on e.g metal work, block manufacturing, electricity, construction.





Sustainable and diversified Approaches for livelihood resilience, employment and economic Opportunities

VSLA Approach

- Example - VSFG - 425 VSLA members savings and loans activities – saved Ksh 4,131,550/= and gave out loan of Ksh 5,313,510/=



Financial Linkages

- 165 youth empowered through the YES (Youth Empowered for Success) strategy – **entrepreneurship and employability engaged in business saving Euro 6297 and received Euro 7,543 boosting grants**



Youth and women focused IGAs support
In Ethiopia 1,032 Youths and women focused IGA s procured 21 Oxen to fatten and 250 chickens



Sustainable diversified livelihoods and economic Opportunities

Sensitizations and awareness - Income generation from Asset ownership opportunities

IGAS – Pottery, Livestock trade, fattening, honey, energy saving stock, pottery, showers, transport, trade etc





Sustainable and diversified livelihood and economic opportunities - Business

Kenya-1040 girls (16-35 years) through the Girl Improving Resilience with Livelihood (GIRL) Approach

Generated a total of Kshs. 10,203,500 (76,545 Euros) from savings, loans and business in 34 months.

Kenya-720 women through the Rural Entrepreneurial Access Project model - REAP

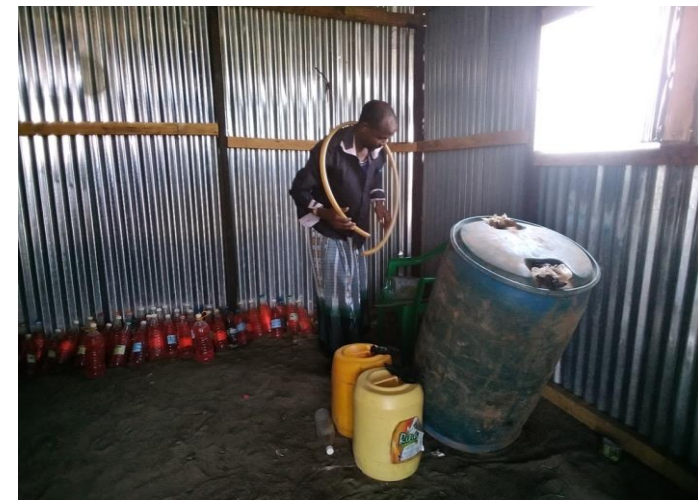
In groups of 3 established joint business –saved Euros .

(97,937.32

A girl runs a business



Mentors undertaking Loarengak community safety scanning and mapping



Beneficiaries diverse IGA - Shop trade and Motorbike fuel IGA



Gender Mainstreaming in Livestock Health



Training of CDRs in Kibish



Rhoda Apua receiving Android phone to facilitate timely reporting of livestock disease



Improved access to animal health services delivery in cross border areas – Private and ^{Omo}Public institutions

80 CAHWs trained,
issued with start
up kits actively
operate.

40 vet Assistants

**40 Veterinary Experts
trained have activated
digital disease
surveillance and
vaccination report
systems (ADNIS/DOVAR)**



*Quality responses by trained 102 vets
experts (80 CAHWS /40 Vet
Officers) in NADSS and DOVAR in
Ethiopia*

5 cross border disease surveillance
workshops and 4 cross border disease
surveillance missions conducted



**58 CAHWs linked to
established and equipped
PVPs/AHPs have access drug
supply system and generate
regular income**



❑ Private – Public Partnerships Model - Increasing access to quality Animal Livestock Health Services

- Private – Public Partnership Model – Government, Community and PVP Experts
- Women PVP Expert managing Vet pharmacy in Kibish - reduce travelling 350 km to Lodwar
- A women access drugs for treating own animals

Elizabeth Lokorio Manager of the Vet Pharmacy



A pastoralist Buying Drugs from the Pharmacy





Commercial Production of Livestock improved breed for local /export

A 100 cross
breeds (50 Ram &
50 Back)
introduced to 747
HHs trained in
Husbandry - 12
months ago



Commercial Production of Livestock improved breed for local /export

*250 HHs camel farmers and
200HH cattle farmers trained on
improved husbandry, business & cross
breeding management apply new skills
on cross breeds*

*96 camels and 200 Boreda bulls
distributed to targeted 250 HHs and
200HHs being cross breeding.*

*Camels farmers shared experiences
on camel husbandry skills,
extension services from exposure
visits to RESET*



Camel milk testing



Commercial Production of Fish for local / export e.g Turkana

*2,450 Cooperatives, vendors and
BMUs, apply acquired skills on
awareness, hygiene and
sanitation, quality assurance, food
safety and procedures, exposure
visit*





Enhanced commercial productive sectors in cross-border areas
e.g *Climate smart Irrigation farming in River Omo in Ethiopia*

❑ **Enhanced capacities on Climate Smart Agriculture - TOT /committees training, selection of suitable arable land, organization and training CSA farm groups, provision of inputs and equipment.**

❑ **Two main season harvests achieved.**

❑ **575 HHs planted assorted vegetables on 25.25 Hectares harvested 140,713Kgs generated 2,3294 Euros).**

❑ **167.5 Hectares of land used for crop production by 2154 HHs earned income and improved HH food security from harvest reserves**





Enhanced commercial productive sectors in cross-border areas e.g *Climate smart Conservation farming in Marsabit*

❑ 5 established groups of 140 HHs (69 male & 71F) engaged in shed net climate smart Conservation farming.

❑ 140HHs generate income of Euros 475 Per/month from sale of all season assorted vegetables & fruits

❑ Technology replicated by Caritas and catholic mission





Enhanced commercial productive sectors in cross-border areas e.g *Climate smart Irrigation farming in River Omo in Ethiopia*

*674HH s of crop farmers harvested
294,7 MT of cereals from 204.5Ha of
irrigated land*

*56 vegetable producer HHs earned ETB 186,110
(Eur 4,3237 income from sale of crops 10.2 MT
onions, 2MT Cabbages 9.3MT*



31 vegetable and 79 crop
producers use 110 and 790
anti-weevil bags for storage





Cushioning Vulnerable Households from Effects of COVID-19 and Desert Locust

ODP VSLA groups supported as vendors to supply food items to vulnerable HHs E-Food distribution





Unconditional E-voucher system – vulnerable households

*COVID 19
Sensitive E-
Voucher
redeeming
System Model*





E-voucher System redeeming process





Beneficiaries Queuing to Receive food items in Lokitaung



Improved Cross-border Peace between Turkana in Kenya and Nyangatom of Ethiopia



**Women Trader in Kibish Open air market
established because of cross-border peace**



Livestock cross-border market in Kibish



One of the breeding buck's beneficiaries on a wheelchair



A photo of a girls receiving phone to enable them access bank transfer



women groups empowered by the project conducting their VSLA activities



Mrs. Gullo Bolla is from Hamer Woreda Minogelti kebele. She is beneficiary of cattle bull distribution and a cashier of the cost sharing committee



☐ Rangeland Improvement through Reseeding

Increased access to income by women and youth through cash for work - clearing invader species

Example - 220 members of NRM committees (79 men and 141) earned income from 10 days at rate of Ksh 500 per day, each household earned Ksh 5,000 (Euro 40). In total Ksh 1,100,000 (Euro 8,800) injected to the local economy.

In come was used to meet HH basic needs such as food, clothes, education and others bought livestock (goats)





Mrs. Noshokon Lokuruk, fodder development beneficiary in Dasenech Woreda .
Generated 1500 birr for CFW activity and bought 1 goat and food items for her family consumption



Women inclusion in cross border trade committee formed



Access to integrated and Sustainable NRM by cross border communities Cont...

300 Gum Arabica traders and collectors organised, trained and linked to market

Total of 2,889 kg worth Kshs. 722,250 (Euro 5,418). Acacia senegal trees protection and utilization bylaws





Gender in access to Water for Domestic and livestock





Challenges

- ❑ women are still shying off from key leadership positions in the community.
- ❑ Gender sensitive Behavior change and resilience building require long-term programming
- ❑ Culture barriers result to gradual gender mainstreaming impacts.
- ❑ Limited communications, and giving the opportunities to women to exercise leadership by local leaders and government limit space
- ❑ Culture, norms and threats enforcements are male dominated.
- ❑ Conflict over scarce resources, between various ethnic groups and in neighboring/border areas.
- ❑ Poor institutions and with low outreach in development extension activities (mainly financial institutions).
- ❑ Low level of education, mainly low literacy & numeracy among women and youth.
- ❑ Recurrent disasters and hazards including frequent Cholera outbreak, Flood, Desert locust infestation, COVID-19



Lesson Learnt

- Continuous engagement to integrate gender mainstreaming in project training implementation and capacity building of key stakeholders to change the attitude of the pastoral community.
- Women empowerment contribute to reduce malnutrition level because of the food access through income generating activities
- Integration of project supported VSLA/VICOBA groups to transfer cash in community increased access to financial services, cash injection
- Linkage to financial services institution – sustainable financial services and literacy at the community level (agents)
- women role to integrated in mental health trainings/ programming.
- High personnel transition in governments



Lesson Learnt

- Women and youth best in technology adoption uptake
- Climate smart approaches promote sustainable livelihoods – agriculture, fisheries, livestock
- E-Voucher System technology integration into food distribution was COVID 19 sensitive
- TVET training improved local skills and employability / self employments while improving income



Recommendation

Continue the promotion of improved gender based integration in development activities

Reinforce Conflict resolution and peace building activities/efforts/peace dividend

Capacity building of institutions to address gender based discriminations and challenges

Promote development of Literacy and numeracy

Experience sharing to areas of same contexts with best practices

Use existing community structure to increase to educate community on gender.

Continue strengthening cross border trade and collaboration

Further domestication of cross border protocols, policies and agreements