

Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project – Ethiopia

SUCCESS STORY OF COMMON INTEREST GROUP COOPERATIVES IN BORANA ZONE, OROMIA REGION

THE CHALLENGE

Land degradation, frequent or recurrent drought, invasive bush encroachment, livestock disease and lack of diversified means of livelihood lead the pastoral society to economic and social crisis. These challenges lead some pastoral communities to pastoral drop out and some other forced to migration and others to live miserably in very vulnerable and risk full manners.

RPLRP livelihood support component (food and feed production, livestock production and health, and livestock diversification sub-components) aim to lift the target community from the fragile socio economic situation.

PROJECT INTERVENTION

- Common interest groups established in the project areas to improve the income and livelihoods of the groups along value chains.
- Those who dropped out of pastoralism were trained on different business opportunities and allowed to select their preferred businesses.
- Initial capital was provided to all to start businesses to rebuild their livelihoods.

BENEFICIARIES

- In Oromia, RPLRP organized 42 CIG groups in 42 project kebeles found in six woredas of Borana Zone.
- Each common interest group has 20 individuals with common interests.
- RPLRP provided 200,000 ETB to each group as seed money to start their business.

IMPACT AT HOUSEHOLD LEVEL - REFLECTION

Members reported the following gains from being cooperative members:

- They learnt how to fatten and sell livestock at a better price instead of keeping for social value and prestige;
- They learnt how to work together to face life's challenges collectively
- They learnt how to convert their livestock to money so that they do not lose it to drought

CHULA'S EXPERIENCE

Chula Jilo Kana is 42 years old. She is one of the members of the Kayo Dambala Abba Chana cooperative at Dikale kebele of Yabello woreda, Oromia region of Ethiopia.

She was poor when she joined the project intervention. RPLRP trained her and gave her cooperative start-up capital to start a business together with other members.

"Now we have cattle and we started to support others too," Chula says. The group fatten cattle together, but they also keep goats. Chula now has 2 extra goats and 3 sheep.



Chula with her livestock

They are accepted by people in the community, and their morale and confidence has improved. This is the greatest impact that the project has made in their lives.