

Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project – Ethiopia

SOMALI REGIONAL STATE CASE STUDY: GOAT BREEDING GROUPS

SOWDO'S CHALLENGE

in pastoral areas of Somali regional state environmental degradation, overgrazing, erratic rainfall and water scarcity, have contributed to a reduction in the quantity and quality of livestock production. Livestock production is the main source of livelihood for pastoral communities.

Sowdo Mohamed Khalif is 36 years old and a mother of six children (2 boys and 4 girls). She resides in Kore kebele of Aware woreda for the last four years. The living condition of her family was good. Depending on agro-pastoralism, the family owned small farm of 3 hectares and 60 heads of livestock which she used as source of livelihood.

On 2017 stressful and catastrophic drought overwhelmed the fragile livelihood of the pastoral community and there was a shortage and lack of pasture and water that resulted in massive livestock death. Sowdo and her family was part of this community seriously affected by the drought to which they lost about 50 heads of her livestock, and also failed to produce crops in her small farm due to the recurrent drought and erratic rain fall. Sowdo and her family were forced to join the Kore Kebele to get alternative livelihood source. All coping mechanism available was hardly working and the family's capacity to prevent and mitigate the impact of climate change has dramatically reduced.



Luckily, Sowdo was targeted as RPLRP beneficiaries in Kore Kebele of Aware Woreda. Talking about her current situation, Sowdo expressed that she has received four selected breeds of goats vaccinated and treated before 18 months as member of breeding group-1.

"The livestock I received has increased to twelve heads," she said.



Sowdo also explained that the income of the family has increased through milk production by selling a portion of the milk, which helped to buy exercise books for the children to join school.

"Three of my children have now joined the primary school in Kore Kebele," she said.

Miss. Sowdo also explained that the milk has improved the nutrition and health of their children. Sowdo expressed her appreciation of the activity, which she said it is the first of its kind ever implemented in their area.

"It is very important to introduce best local breeds in our community so as to increase the availability of milk and income sources," she said.

The introduction of breeding activity was also appreciated by the woreda cabinet, which wants to introduce it with other partners by using the experience and skills of the RPLRP.

The story of Sowdo indicated the need to enhance local good breeds among the community by supporting the vulnerable people who lost their livestock and migrated to the Kebeles.

