BORESHA SHEKO

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Snapshot



Interview: Mohamed Abdullahi Member DRR Committee| Mandera



Habiba Ibrein Kini 51 years old mother of 9 living in Tarama



The community animal health worker in Somalia-Belethawa

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BORESHA

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FOREWORD

INTRODUCTORY NOTE



On behalf of BORESHA, I would like to introduce our 15th edition of our SHEKO newsletter. The theme of this edition is to identify the effects of drought to BORESHA activities and how best we are mitigating and supporting the beneficiaries we work with.

The focus of my foreword for the SHEKO magazine will be on the drought situation in Ethiopia and specifically on the approaches employed that promote resilience in a country also experiencing other challenges. It is quite evident that the drought situation has posed great challenge to the communities in the BORESHA operation area where their livelihoods are being threatened by a prolonged drought.

The movement of pastoral communities in search of water and pasture for the livestock has had a significant impact on the activities of the BORESHA project. The beneficiaries are having competing priorities and their availability during program activities and visits may not be quite smooth. But even within the communities and possibly beneficiaries, disagreements on the utilization of resources has resulted into conflict as has happened in Dollo Bay woreda recently.

Government response to the drought situation has also been affected by the ongoing conflict and the nation-wide state of emergency. The Regional Government that is already overwhelmed has been appealing to the humanitarian organizations for intervention through provision of water, food and NFIs.

Some of the initiatives by BORESHA include strengthening and building the resilience of the communities which include the strengthening of community response and strengthening traditional coping mechanisms to different disasters in the area (climate, drought, flood, diseases, conflict). Specifically, DRC has conducted Community-based Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (COVACA) in the target Woredas. The approach of the assessment was participatory community meetings in each of the target kebeles, data gathering and discussions with the community, observation and key informant interviews among others. Appropriate tools and activities were conducted while following appropriate COVACA steps. As a result of the COVACA findings, communities and concerned government and non-government agencies were then guided to implement a combined approach to mitigate the immediate effects of the hazards and help reduce longer term vulnerability through strengthening local capacity, institutions and the community's asset base. These encompass several sectors including disaster risk reduction activities, social protection activities, food security and water and sanitation activities.

Further to strengthening community- based early warning and response systems, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Committees were formed in Dollo Ado and Dollo Bay Woredas. This DRR committees had conducted monthly meetings and discussed the main issues emerging within their localities. The Disaster Risk Management offices were also trained on installation and use of simple weather stations, linking to an online cloud platform that DRR committees and Woreda and Zone counterparts can use to identify weather trends and risks and take appropriate mitigating steps. Weather Stations were installed in both Dollo Ado and Dollo Bay Woredas in February to contribute to the same.

In addition, the groups in Kuraley and Sigalow have also received fodder production and preservation techniques training and have also received beekeeping inputs (hives and kits) as well as materials for fodder production to contribute to their resilience. DRC Livelihood team will continue follow-ups to finalize the distribution of the remaining items to enable all seven LCIGs to begin income-generating activities in phase two of the project. With the high number of animals moving across the border to look for pasture, this is the right time to improve such surveillance as it will be easy for animal disease transmission contributing the concentration of the animals in one place.

Abdinasir Hassan
DRC Ethiopia

INTERVIEW

WITH DRR CHAIRMAN AND WATER COMMITTEE



Mohamed Abdullahi,
Photo taken: November 2021
Photo by: Abdi Aziz.

Mohamed Abdullahi is 39-year-old from Mandera County . He is a member of DRR Committee .DRR committee is a group of selected members from within the community who support early warning and other DRR work at community level.

1.What is your role in the Community?

I am the chairman of the DRR committee as well as a member of the water committee.

2.What has BORESHA done in the locality?

BORESHA has constructed and fenced a rain water harvesting tank of capacity 800 cubic meters' and trained water users' committee to manage the water resources. We have also been supported with the only twin door latrine in the vicinity of the water tank as per our community priorities

3.How are the interventions helping the community?

The water tank harvests enough water to take us through the hard times. We used to go and fetch water 14km away from our home but currently we go for only 600 meters. It used to be tiresome for the women and girls and also risky for girls.
As we are facing drought, the community in Shangala have no problem with water. The tank stored enough water during the raining season that we are using. We thank BORESHA we are relieved from water trucking which previously was a big problem. Household resilience has improved since milking herds do not migrate far for water but rely on the tank hence the household will get milk without much stress. Also, the committee collects small fees to help us procure water during emergencies and maintenance of the water facility. The tank has helped the community save more than 300,000sh per season which would have gone to water trucking which is very expensive; the money is instead used for other uses such buying food stuff, medicine, livestock feeds etc.

4.Apart from the cost benefit analysis you highlighted, which other ways was the project benefiting your people economically?

BORESHA employed a Cash-for-work model where communities work in exchange for cash;
The cash has really helped the community in these hard times we are going through because of the drought, invasion of the locust which affected our crops the animals have no market value because they are too thin and we can't sell them when we need money. Through cash for work intervention the money we get has helped us buy feeds or hays for our animals, buy food medicine for our children and support other family upkeeps. It has been a difficult period to find casual work because of the COVID 19. The community business has improved with the intervention BORESHA when doing infrastructure development, they procure materials locally from community owned hardware which has improved local business.

"BORESHA has really saved us from the distress of drought and water trucking. Which previously was a big problem.

Story by: *Abdulaziz Hassan* World Vision Project Mandera

STORY

RESPONDING TO MULTIPLE SHOCKS THROUGH CASH FOR WORK



STORY BY: Salim Mohamed – CARE International MEAL officer in Mandera

Habiba Ibrein Kini is 51 years old mother of 9 living in Tarama village

Habiba Ibrein Kini is 51 years old mother of 9 living in Tarama village which is 10km travel from Banisa town, the village borders Ethiopia to the North West and has an estimated population of 600 households. In September 2021 BORESHA engaged Habiba for cash for work interventions funded by EUTF in Mandera County. Habiba and her family lived in a tough situation due to the ravaging drought that is experienced in many parts of the ASAL counties.

"I lost 10 out of 30 cattle which we depended on as a source of livelihood for my family. The remaining 20 also reduced milk productivity due to worsening drought conditions that manifested in poor vegetation conditions. My family have embarked on the mission to save the remaining livestock as the situation continues to become unbearable and moved to Ethiopia in a bid to search for water and pasture for the livestock. Myself and my 9 children remain in the village with little food and no milk now that the animals are far away. In the middle of this crisis CARE came to my village mobilizing and registering community members for cash for work activities to rehabilitate degraded rangeland areas. I was selected as one of the beneficiaries and received Ksh 15,400 which I utilized to buy food and other essential household items."

Habiba's wish to have the cash for work interventions continue for months in order for her to fully meet the current burgeoning demand of her family needs.

Like Habiba, the cash for work interventions has greatly helped many vulnerable households across Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia.

The intervention was termed as timely and communities appreciated the support extended to them by the BORESHA project, which provided income to the vulnerable community members and injected cash into the local market.

Such timely interventions help the livelihood of households in critical situation like the current drought experienced in the whole Horn of Africa. Such intervention will have high impact in saving the life of many vulnerable people dying of hunger. Having contingency funds in such situations can help address the impacts of drought and other natural disasters.

The Mandera triangle region is currently experiencing drought coupled with COVID 19 that has exacerbated the situation and put the local economy in limbo.

ACCESS TO WATER

POSITIVE STEP TOWARDS MITIGATING DROUGHT

Mandera County is one of the most water insecure counties in Kenya as indicated in the County Government's 2021 fiscal strategy paper. Located in a dry and hot area, the location has long sunny periods – with temperatures soaring to over 35 degrees centigrade on a normal day. Perennial droughts and the hot climatic conditions in the county have worsened the water situation. In a survey conducted by Rural Agency for Community Development and Assistance (RACIDA) in February 2021, only 49.3% of all households surveyed reported accessing water from safe improved, or semi-improved water points.

In Ashabito location, one of the areas hardest hit, Senior Chief Jele Ali explains, "*From the colonial days this area has always been quite dry. We used to have two dams which have since dried.*" When it rains in Mandera water would collect in water pans which led to the rise of new challenges. "*To fetch water from the water pan, we had to walk through the Mathenge shrub which surrounded it. This was dangerous because wild animals like snakes hid in there and would attack us,*" explained 52-year-old Fatuma Abdi. In the community, the responsibility of fetching water is delegated to women and girls and accessing the water source was quite a challenge.

As this was the only water point for many kilometers around, it was used by both human beings as well as animals, since the community rely on cattle for their livelihood *"Since our animals could only drink water here, we would end up getting sick from the water. Malaria was quite prevalent as well as water-borne diseases like typhoid and diarrhea which impacted our children," Fatuma says. During the drought period, the situation was even worse, "When the earth pun dries up we would be forced to walk over ten kilometers to fetch water at Guticha location or buy from water bowsers which was an extra expense to us,"* Fatuma narrated.

To tackle this issue the county government and CARE International in Kenya, through the Building Opportunities for Resilience in the Horn of Africa (BORESHA) program, collaborated to find a lasting solution. "The County government drilled a 250-meter borehole and to allow access to this water, CARE International in Kenya, set up a solarized pumping system plus water storage and access points. This has enabled the community to get access to clean drinking water" Senior Chief Jele Ali says.

"By taking advantage of the always available clean renewable energy from the sun, the pump draws water from the borehole to the tank ensuring clean water supply throughout the year to the community. At the same time, water access points for people as well as for animals were constructed in separate places to ensure that there is no contamination of the water," Salim Abdullahi CARE International Kenya M&E coordinator for BORESHA program says.

Through BORESHA Programme, CARE International has constructed and solarized 11 water access points, with underground water tanks, in Kenya and Ethiopia. In Somalia, 4 water points have been rehabilitated and equipped with Genset. These water points directly serve over 125,614 individuals across the three countries.

The ease of access to water access is having a positive impact on the community in Ashabito.

Story by*: Salim Abdullahi* CARE International Kenya

"Since the clean water access point is closer and consistent, we now have more time to do more for our personal development. We can now engage in farming as well as cattle rearing," **says Fatima.** She now sells some of the produce from her farm which increased her income enabling her to support her six children to whom she is their sole provider.

Story by: *Salim Mohamed* – ***CARE International MEAL officer in Mandera***

CASE STUDY

EFFECT OF CONFLICT AND DROUGHT ON LIVELIHOODS

The security situation in Mandera North is unique with multiple layers of security issues ranging from terrorist activities to inter clan conflicts. The proximity of Girissa location to Ethiopian border where clan militia have created an operational base, has caused major security threats during inter clan conflict to the residents.

Nuria Dube is a vulnerable mother from Girissa location, she is a herder who hails from a relatively well-off family with 12 children (8 girls and 4 boys). She keeps livestock as her main source of income. Nuria Dube Mayow was a victim of inter-clan conflict that started from a neighboring country, Ethiopia. Retaliatory attack happened in Kenya that lead to vandalization of shops, burning of houses, and stealing of livestock. Unfortunately, forty (40) of her shoats were taken by clan militia during the conflict.

Because of the closeness to the porous border as well as limited state capacity along wide stretches of the border, with no formal border crossing points, the infiltration of criminals is not controlled. There is also lack of border infrastructure and limited capacity of security providers to patrol the area.

Through her little savings from the livestock sales during rainy season, she was able to sell and save some money, she was able to buy some shoats during the dark days of conflict.
In addition to the fear of militia taking away her livestock, Nuria had another emergency to worry to about, the ravaging drought that would still take away her livestock. She was on the verge of losing her animals again. Nuria had to move from place to place in search of water and pasture. The rains failed, both seasons of the year.

When DRC's BORESHA program came with some help, Nuria was relieved. she saw some light at the end of a dark tunnel. As a female headed household, Nuria was selected as beneficiary.
"Providing for a family with no other source of income during this drought period was the most challenging thing," said Mama Nuria.
Nuria benefited from both BORESHA I and II where she was given animal feeds that helped her to get her back on her feet.

Story by: *Maryam Khalif-* ***DRC Livelihoods Assistant***



"Nuria felt relieved when she was selected as a beneficiary and supported with animal feeds by DRC"

NEWS

IMPACT OF DROUGHT

Due to the severe drought in Jubaland that has affected majority of districts which was escalated by previous consecutive below- average rain seasons resulting in limited resources.
The current situation is deteriorating leading to livestock death and increase displacement from Rural-Urban centers. Since most of the pastoral communities are affected they have migrated to urban areas for aid.
The drought and the critical water and food stress experienced by the communities in Dolow and Belet-Hawa districts as a result of the 2021 DEYR rain failure, a situation that is developing into a humanitarian crisis.
The situation is very severe, the conditions are very harsh, drought, food and water shortages have hit districts which the administrations are appealing to all humanitarian actors in the districts and declaring emergency response to save many people before the situation gets out of hand and the lives of hundreds of families mainly women and children who are in danger of dying thirst and hunger.

DRC is currently providing clean water to 1,500 pastoral households in Belet-Hawa for 22 days. Populations in the region have experienced the effects of COVID 19 pandemic, consecutive low rainfall seasons and crop/pasture failures resulting in food insecurity. This has led to minimal food supply, inflation, severe erosion and loss of productive assets. Expenditure on water, medical and food is estimated to be consuming substantial percentage of poor and middle-income households' savings. Moreover, most are compelled to trek long distances to find water, which is often contaminated and not safe for human consumption.

In response to this, DRC through BORESHA project in collaboration with Ministry of Livestock, Range and Forestry of Jubaland commenced 10 days of mass animal treatment and de-worming campaign in Dollow and Belet-Hawa district of Gedo Region.
During this time of severe drought when livestock body conditions are poor and the defense system is compromised livestock are prone to preventable diseases and this causes loss to livelihoods. BORESHA, in response to the state and community appeal and livestock disease reporters report activated livestock treatment teams to carry out this exercise which will help pastoralists and agropastoral communities in the target areas to get quality drugs, vitamins, livestock de-worming and livestock health services at their villages. This intervention aims to respond diseases like upper and lower respiratory tract infections, protozoal infections, deworming and of course endo and ecto-parasites.

Again, BORESHA implemented Cash For Work activities in 6 villages with 168 HHs to support the families with cash injection that will help be them to access basic foods at this harsh condition.

Story by: Abdullahi Mohamed- *BORESHA Somalia*



The community animal health worker in Somalia-Belethawa

DID YOU KNOW

A climate crisis has been experienced in the Horn of Africa with the rise of global temperature creating extreme weather, including severe heat waves and drought. Prolonged and frequent drought has been experienced in the Horn of Africa with patterns of rain interchanging especially in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya.

The effects of climate change are causing people to leave their homes in search of new beginnings and in most cases, people are left with no choice but to relocate in order to survive. This has triggered movement of people, displacement of women and children who are the most vulnerable people in the community.

In 2011,2016 and 2017 the worst drought has been experienced in the Horn of Africa. The drought has affected the region similarly the worst being countries who were more vulnerable because of civil war.

The HoA is one of the most drought-prone regions of the world and has experienced numerous below average or failed rainy seasons in recent years. Recurrent droughts had a negative long-term impact on livelihoods and coping capacities across the region and will likely aggravate the impact of the present drought.

The current drought has affected drastically Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya in the Northern part. Somalia being affected mostly by the drought the community have lost their livestock approximately 80% .This has affected their lives and the impact will be felt for long.

Story by *Khadija Shale- BORESHA PMU*



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