



FOREWORD

INTRODUCTORY MESSAGE



I am delighted to introduce this first edition of the Building Opportunities for Resilience in the Horn of Africa (BORESHA) newsletter. We intend to make it a regular publication and use it to keep you up to date on the BORESHA program progress and its implementation.

BORESHA is a Swahili word that means improving quality or conditions. As an implementing partner in the consortium, this word appropriately captures the aspiration of the partnership; to create greater economic and employment opportunities and strengthen resilience of vulnerable communities cross-bordering of the Mander triangle - Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia.

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Funded by the European Union Trust Fund for Africa through the Collaboration in Cross-Border Areas of the Horn of Africa Region action the consortium brings the technical capacity of DRC, WYG, World Vision International, and CARE International in solutions for preventing and mitigating the negative impact of local conflict and promoting economic development and greater resilience in these borderland areas.

After several months of engagement with diverse stakeholders, the approval of the inception report has contributed to the mutual understanding and plan of action for operationalizing the resilience-based development approach. Priority interventions for the action include investments in conflict management and resolution capacities; enhancing and diversifying livelihoods, including livestock, agriculture and fisheries; strengthening basic service delivery; natural resource management; promoting cross-border trade and private sector development.

In this edition, we will be highlighting the achievements so far and informing you of future activities. We look forward to continued learning and delivery of durable solutions to displacement issues.

Karin Sorensen, Chair of BORESHA Steering Committee
Deputy Regional Director East Africa & Great Lakes
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)

INTERVIEW

WITH MANDERA COUNTY MINISTER FOR LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES



Ms. Johara Mohamed
Minister for Livestock and Fisheries
Mandera County

1. Thank you for granting us this interview

You are welcome, I am pleased to take part in this interview and more than happy to discuss the potential synergies between Mandera County and BORESHA Project.

2. What do you hope this project will achieve for Mandera Residents?

The BORESHA project has come at a critical time since most of the activities being carried out are in line with the vision of the County, especially the activities around Livestock Vaccination and Insurance since our people are mainly pastoralists. The business activities for the youth and Women Groups as well as establishments of TVETS will uplift people's lives and equip them with lifelong skills. Therefore, it is my hope that this project will build the capacity of our people as well as create entrepreneurial skills and make sure there is tangible impact after its conclusion.

3. Do you think this project is sustainable?

If implemented accordingly and activities synced with those of the county, then there is no reason why this project cannot be sustainable even after its conclusion. There are several projects the County is carrying out in line with the Governor's plan for the County. As a County we have decided to focus on big projects instead of many small projects that have no meaningful impact. Both BORESHA and the County cannot work in isolation, therefore we need each other in order to maximize the impact.

4. What is one challenge you foresee the project facing and how can it be mitigated?

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The hand over process of this project is a challenge I foresee and if not well handled it could end up impacting the overall success of the project as well as its sustainability. From experience working in this region and others if the beneficiaries are not included in project design and implementation and made to feel like they own it in its entirety then its doomed to fail. Therefore, I suggest that the main stakeholders and beneficiaries be included in the project implementation from the get go in order to instill the element of ownership in them.

5. Is there anything in specific you would like done different?

I would like to request for another meeting with the Governor so that we can also have the Governor take ownership of this project since it is his County. There are no much changes I would recommend because the BORESHA Mandera leadership team have involved the County in every step of the way and we feel part of it. If in future, there are challenges or issues we will sit down with your team the discuss. Considering the BORESHA leadership is from this County I believe they have the best intentions at heart.

UPDATE

KEY PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

1. BORESHA Project Launch in Mandera, Dolo Ado and Doloow has been completed
2. Community entry and engagement for all programme activities has been completed
3. Key project studies are in the final phase
4. COVACA training for community facilitators
5. Participatory NRM training has been done
6. VSLA and LCIG identification and establishment initiated
7. Business Development Centre premises identified
8. Assessment of TVET centers
9. RVF awareness campaign supported
10. Communication and visibility package developed
11. Inception Report has been approved

UPCOMING MAJOR ACTIVITIES

1. IBLI awareness Mission to Mandera
2. Identification of schools for water harvesting structure
3. Community consultation meetings for establishing VSLA and LCIG
4. CAHWs training preparation
5. Field monitoring and verification process to commence
6. Formation of Livestock Common Interest Groups (LCIG)

STORY

LOST IN MALKAMARI NATIONAL PARK

Author | Maslah Mohamed

Imagine you are lost in a former National Park that wild animals still roam, vehicle fuel is running out, there is no phone signal, you have no idea whether you are in Kenya or Ethiopia, its two hours to total darkness in a forest near a village that was abandoned 7 years ago and there is no sign of human life. What would you do? How would you react? What next? Those were the questions that kept on lingering in my mind when together with Ali Issack, DRC Livelihood Manager, Mohamud Ali, World Vision, Shug Shugo a great driver whose story I will tell another day took a wrong turn. It was a surreal moment that had threatened to spoil what had so far been a great trip.

Ok, so here is the context. I travelled to Manderla on the 18th of June 2018 to visit our BORESHA team and to also take part in their activities. Little did I know that the trip that had started so well in an Echo flight where I was served a cup of hot coffee with two biscuits, cruising in the Kenyan sky, viewing and admiring the beautiful landscape would turn out to be one of the more forgettable journeys. Once I arrived in the office in Manderla I met the competent and wonderful colleagues based there who I was very eager to meet and interact with.

We set off for a four-day field trip on Thursday the 18th of July to introduce the BORESHA project to the communities living in the targeted locations. The road trip from one ward to the other was very eventful and I can confidently say I have made lifelong friends in that trip with the three gentlemen. Somalis say



A herd of camels graze in Banisa Sub County, Manderla. June 2018

Photo | Ali Issack | BORESHA

'Waad ogaan kartaa qof ka wanaagsan marka aad la nooshahay ama aad la safartay' meaning you will truly get to know someone better when you have either lived with them or travelled together.

While on the road travelling from Manderla North to Banisa sub county is when I truly appreciated the beauty of the land, this wasn't the Sahara like desert full of sand dunes as many people think, there were sporadic patches of it if any. There were continuous lush green tufts of trees, acacia and baobab and on-again off again grasses and shrubs as far as the eye could see. Manderla county is truly majestic, it is still a virgin land that has not yet been exploited to its full potential. We came along some ever smiling pastoralists herding the kings of the desert (camels) after every few kilo meters. Every village we stopped at we were welcomed with warm smiles and of course tea. I got to witness firsthand the hospitality of our people to not only guests but strangers too. This gave us the motivation to double our efforts and make sure we improve the

lives of our people through the BORESHA project.

23rd June is the fateful day when one wrong turn led to a stalemate between us and the Malkamari jungle. So here is the context, we drove from Banis town in Banisa headed for a town called Malkamari. We took one wrong turn that led us to a dilapidated run down road that has not been used for the past 8 years due to a devastating inter clan conflict that took place 8 years ago. At one point we were relying on a truck trail to lead us out of the woods and this this led to a dead end, then we had to disembark from the vehicle and walk for a distance of almost 1 kilometer so as to get a better view of any road that could lead us out. At this time mind you it is almost 5pm, darkness is about to set in and the fuel alarm is blinking. "We need to take a minute and pray" said our driver Shug Shugo. After the prayer we drove for about 1 kilometer and that is when we when we saw a donkey, I have never been happier to see a donkey in my life than that day since it signified the presence of man and considering we were lost close to 3 hours and



Maslah Mohamed (PMU), Shug Shugo (Driver), Mohamed Ali (WV) take a brief rest after arriving at the dead-end en-route to Malkamari Town in Mandera.

June 2018

Photo | Ali Issack | BORESHA

had not seen a single human being nor livestock this was a welcome relief.

After this we met a young pastoralist in the outskirts of Malkamari town which is at the

border of Ethiopia. I will never forget the smile of the young man who told us that the town is a few minutes away and it turned out to be an hour away. We finally managed to get to the town where we were welcomed with tea of course and swiftly made our way to Rhamu town where we spent the night. Turns out we were not in any immediate danger and the area was as peaceful as the morning according to the residents. It was all in the mind, now I realize why Ali Issack was very calm and the driver reassuring.

NEWS

WATCH OUT! RIFT VALLEY FEVER IN MANDERA

The Rift Valley Fever has reached Mandera! This is indeed very worrying since it is a virus that if not contained can spread rapidly and cause immense damage to man and livestock. What is worrying is that there has not been coordinated efforts in containing it or preventing it in the first place. So far no deaths in Mandera have been reported however in Wajir County where it first started three people have so far succumbed to the disease.



Mandera BORESHA Team conduct RVF sensitization campaign during the project community entry.

June 2018

Photo | Maslah Mohamed | BORESHA

The dreaded confirmation of RVF in Mandera came after both human and livestock blood samples were taken from Mandera South due to its common border with Wajir and sent to The Central Veterinary Laboratories in Kabete. The Acting Director of Veterinary Services in Mandera Mr. Claudio Sortum confirmed two cases of a sheep and goat to have the RVF on the 28th of July after analysis of the samples.

"Immediately after the confirmation we took several measures to contain its spread, we closed all the slaughter houses and markets in Mandera South for two weeks," said Mr. Sortum. According to Mr. Sortum there is a serious need to roll out a sensitization campaign to inform people on signs and symptoms to look out for, how to handle livestock meat as well as to conduct more RVF tests.

The areas that are of great risk are Mandera West, Kotulo and Elwak since they border Wajir and livestock normally migrate there in search of pasture and water.

It is with this backdrop that BORESHA team in Mandera carried out a sensitization campaign while doing the community entry for the BORESHA project in each target location from the 21st to 24th

FACTS ABOUT RVF

Rift Valley fever (RVF) is a viral zoonosis that primarily affects animals but can also infect humans.

The majority of human infections result from contact with the blood or organs of infected animals.

Human infections have also resulted from the bites of infected mosquitoes

To date, no human-to-human transmission of RVF virus has been documented.

The incubation period (the interval from infection to onset of symptoms) for RVF varies from 2 to 6 days.

Outbreaks of RVF in animals can be prevented by a sustained programme of animal vaccination.

Source: World Health Organization, 2018

June. The team mainly sensitized the community on how to handle livestock meat, signs and symptoms of an infected animal and how to dispose of it among other crucial information. The BORESHA team made sure each target location they visited during

the community entry were aware of the disease and how to avoid coming in contact with it.

Mr. Sortum said the national government has provided 100,000 doses of the RVF vaccine and the BORESHA team in Mandera

will provide logistical support in terms of transportation and dispensation of the vaccines to target locations, he has lauded this collaboration between BORESHA and the County Government. As BORESHA this is one way of responding to some emergencies.

CULTURE

ENKUTATASH (ETHIOPIA NEWYEAR)

Enkutatash is the first day of the New Year in Ethiopia. It occurs on Meskerem 1 on the Ethiopian calendar (which was fixed to the Julian calendar), which is 11 September according to the Gregorian calendar.

Ethiopians will be celebrating the new year in September 11th 2011. For most people outside this might sound strange but Ethiopia is literally behind time, it is seven years behind the Gregorian Calendar.

This is an interesting fact that when understood better will be appreciated due to its deep historical meaning and the fact that Ethiopians have stuck with this calendar even though the rest of the world has adopted the Gregorian Calendar.

This use of a different calendar and time has often confused many foreigners especially when it comes to setting up appointments. Therefore, for



Enkutatash: A Flowery Ethiopian New Year.
Photo | Onlineethiopia.net

those setting up appointments with our BORESHA colleagues in Ethiopia please specify what time you are referring to either Ethiopian time or Western time otherwise you might book an appointment and find yourself attending it alone.

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