



FOREWORD

END OF YEAR MESSAGE



Dear BORESHA Colleagues,

We are coming to the end of 2018 and also marking the end of the first year of BORESHA Consortium. Let's be honest, it was not an easy year!

BORESHA as a project and as a Consortium has been a long pathway with plenty of challenges, however I am

confidently saying we can see ourselves much stronger and closer now than one year ago.

We all knew it would not be easy to take this path but we were also well aware how important it is to work in the borderlands with a different approach. To bring expertise, knowledge and skills across the borders, to exchange information among neighboring areas, to learn how communities interconnect and deal with

IN THIS ISSUE

CONTENTS

FOREWORD

End of Year Message

OPINION

Beyond #MeToo: We Should all Press for Change

UPDATE

Key Project Achievements

Upcoming Major Activities

NEWS

Putting on the Conflict Sensitive Lenses

in Resilience Programming

Rhamu Celebrates Peace

STORY

A Strategy to Save Key Tree Species

CULTURE

Crossword Puzzle

life in the borderlands. This approach often brought our frontline colleagues into not-exactly easy and straightforward situations.

From the start we also all knew we had great differences among ourselves, both as agencies, partners of the Consortium, and as countries of intervention. However, we have managed to turn our diversity into richness, to get closer and listen to each other and to create a common ground for collaboration.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your efforts throughout the year and for being part of this great Cross Border Initiative which is one of a kind. The many successes we have enjoyed this year are all thanks to you. I appreciate your work, commitment and dedication which have been integral to the successful implementation of the project activities for this year.

Each person in the team matters, each task, each job plays a part in the bigger picture to bring the intervention to successfully achieve its objective. We have worked a lot on communication and coordination, we have set up offices, teams, systems and structure to deliver activities and to link teams across borders. We are not done, a lot still has to be done to improve our cross border work together and we will continue to work as a team, to learn from this new way of working to better work with the communities in the cross border areas.

We should be proud of what has been achieved so far, including the Rapid Needs Assessment we conducted jointly in Mandera West and Banisa sub-counties in order to gain a better understanding of the displacement situation arising from inter-ethnic violence in southern Ethiopia's Somali region. We are currently putting together an effective response mechanism to share with donors. The good news is that some donors have indicated their willingness to provide support, we are confident others will come on board. In one way or another you have all played a critical role in broadening BORESHA's capacity.

There is still plenty to be achieved in the upcoming year and I believe 2019 will be a defining year for the BORESHA family where we are looking forward to achieving our set out goals that will propel us towards the final year of the project.

I wish you and your families happiness, success, good health and peace. Working with all of you this year has been a pleasure and I look forward to a successful and productive 2019.

Nicoletta Buono
Head of BORESHA Consortium

OPINION

BEYOND #METOO: WE SHOULD ALL PRESS FOR CHANGE



Edith Wandera
Regional Coordinator
DRC East Africa and Great Lakes

Global anti-sexual abuse campaigns such as #MeToo and #TimesUp exploded in 2017 and 2018 forcing the world to acknowledge the obstacles that women and men face in their professional and personal lives. With this, the prevalence of workplace sexual harassment came to the fore highlighting the power imbalances that lead to inequality and discrimination. According to the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, one in four women experience sexual harassment in the workplace. Although even more widely underreported, men too experience work place harassment with one in seven reporting being sexually harassed.

To commemorate the annual 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV) campaign, this year's theme focused on Ending GBV in the World of Work, looking specifically at sexual harassment in the work place. As I reflected on the theme for this year, I found myself feeling 'lucky' for not having experienced 'extreme' sexual harassment. And it made me sick

to my stomach. That one should feel 'lucky' for not having experienced sexual harassment is despicable. Women and men shouldn't have to feel grateful for being safe. Sexual harassment no matter how 'mild' or 'extreme' is unacceptable. Any case of sexual harassment is one case too many.

We live in a world where sexual harassment is so normalized that speaking against it is the exception rather than the norm. Calling out offensive and inappropriate sexual behavior is often met with trivialization and/or resistance. This is especially so in work places where bureaucracies exist and there is a real fear of retaliation. Most organizations do not have a clear mechanism for addressing complaints of sexual harassment leaving even those who are willing to report with little recourse.

I remember calling out a male colleague on the inappropriateness of his sexual banter in one of my previous assignments. We ended up not speaking for months. Not only did he think I was an angry feminist who took things too seriously, one of my female colleagues felt that I had overreacted. The irony! That one individual's toxic masculinity was more defensible than my comfort, safety and overall well-being.

Sexual harassment in the work place can take two forms: hostile work environment (frequent, distracting, unwanted, and inappropriate sexual touching, behaviors, comments, jokes, etc.) and quid pro quo (demanding sexual favours directly or indirectly, in exchange of something desirable). Sexual harassment remains prevalent because of unequal power relations - and our refusal to acknowledge the same. Because gender roles and perceptions are heavily rooted in socialization, sexual harassment, especially in its more covert and subtle forms, is often considered to be culturally ingrained. This has an impact on how people in the said context perceive sexual harassment especially around issues of consent and appropriate behavior.

As we conclude this year's 16 Days of Activism campaign, we must bear in mind that living in a safe world, free from violence, is a right that every single human being should enjoy - both in the private and public domain. We must end the culture of silence in our organizations and communities. We must continuously check ourselves to ensure that our behavior does not place others in positions where they feel unsafe and uncomfortable. We must continue to hold open and honest discussions with one another about gender and power dynamics. We must support those who experience harassment and encourage them to report the same and take all other requisite measures. Only then, will we create spaces for women, girls, men and boys that are safe and free from harassment.

UPDATE

KEY PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Rift Valley Fever (RVF) Vaccination campaign was launched on 24th October 2018 in Mandera
2. Grant Facility Guidelines and Application forms have been shared with the EU and Grant Facility advertisements have also been completed
3. Participation at SECCI workshop for coordination in the EUTF funded cross border programme
4. Community Consultations on underlying causes of destruction of key tree species and land degradation was conducted in Dollow and Bula Hawa district in Gedo region of Somalia

UPCOMING MAJOR ACTIVITIES

1. School water harvesting (roof catchments) and storage and training of NRM committees
2. Dissemination of CoVACA assessment findings in Mandera
3. Massive livestock vaccination and treatment in Dollow
4. Opening of the Business Development Centers in the three areas
5. Launching of a rapid response in Mandera

NEWS

PUTTING ON THE CONFLICT SENSITIVE LENSES IN RESILIENCE PROGRAMMING

The first Conflict Sensitivity Training conducted by Danish Demining Group took place in Mandera, Kenya from the 13th to 14th of November 2018. This training was as a result of a request made by the Project Management Unit (PMU) to DDG having realized its importance to current and future programming. The PMU has identified the training of BORESHA staff on Conflict Sensitive Approaches to Development as one of the factors that will contribute towards the successful implementation of the Cross Border Project. The two-day workshop was organized jointly by DRC/DDG Field Office in Mandera which played host to the event.

Considering that BORESHA is a Cross Border Project, one of the main challenges encountered was getting the implementing staff from Doloow and Dolo Ado to cross the border in to Mandera where the workshop was scheduled to take place. To give a picture of the proximity between Dolo Ado, Mandera and Dollow it is 210 square kilometers hence the reason staff opted to cross the border as opposed to traveling to Nairobi then Mandera. However, it



End of Workshop Photo of all the participants from Mandera, Doloow and Dolo Ado. November 2018
Photo | MASLAH | PMU

is important to note that there are cross border security challenges involved when it comes to crossing the border by road. PMU notified the immigration department based in Mandera and the County Commissioner who facilitated the safe entry of staff from Doloow and Dolo Ado.

The workshop brought together senior implementing staff from CARE, World Vision, WYG, PMU and DRC from Mandera, Doloow and Dolo Ado. It provided a good opportunity for staff to meet and to also get to know each other since that was the first time most of them were meeting in

one location. It was also a good platform for some of them to discuss how to better implement common cross cutting project activities.

The objectives of the two-day workshop were to: Enhance staff's capacity in understanding Conflict, Conflict Sensitivity and its link to project cycle, conflict sensitive approaches and tools for conflict analysis. The sessions that also dwelt on practical applications of the concept of Conflict Sensitivity were facilitated by Pilly Martin, the DDG Somalia Conflict Analysis and Policy Advisor and Edward Barasa-Mang'eni, Armed Violence (AVR) Coordinator-DDG Kenya.

It was a productive and important workshop which was well appreciated by BORESHA staff since it was hands on and practical.

"This is the first time I have attended such a workshop and it has really opened my eyes about certain issues that I used to take for granted especially when it came to project design and implementation, I would however request for the organizers to also conduct more sessions for staff



Pilly Martin (standing left) and Edward Barasa (seated right) facilitated the workshop. November 2018
Photo | Maslah | PMU



BORESHA Staff from Dolo Ado in a group work discussion.
November 2018
Photo | Maslah | PMU

back in Doloow and Dolo Ado who have not had the opportunity to be here today” said Mohamed Abdi, from World Vision Doloow.

“I appreciated the opportunity to take part in the training, due to

the important issues we discussed at the workshop it is now my job to pass on this knowledge and skills to colleagues back in Dolo Ado since the concept is practical and important to our day to day implementation of

project activities” added Abdiwali Muhamed, from DRC Dolo Ado.

The workshop ended on the 13th of November and the BORESHA staff have vowed to implement the lessons they learnt from the workshop while implementing their project and importantly when they are also designing new interventions.

“All development agencies especially those operating in conflict affected contexts owe the adoption of conflict sensitive approaches to programming to their beneficiaries and donors as well. It is the best path towards social cohesion, and sustainability” says Edwin Barasa-Mang’eni.

RHAMU CELEBRATES PEACE

Mandera County Government organized a one-day peace celebration in Mandera North Constituency, Rhamu Town. Various stakeholders were invited to take part in the celebrations and some of them included: National Government, County Leaders, BORESHA, community leaders and members from Doloow and Wajir County, NGO’s and the private sector. The celebrations were held in October 21st 2018 and the theme was Celebrating Peace, Cohesion and Building Resilience. The event was held to celebrate the three years of peaceful coexistence between the



The event was well planned and attended.
Participants were drawn from neighboring Counties, Gedo Region of Somalia and the host County
November 2018
Photo | Mandera County

communities living in the County and specifically Mandera North Constituency.

The backdrop to this is that the run uptothe2013generalelectionssaw stiff competition between main communities living in Mandera North for the Mandera North parliamentary. Post elections violence erupted across the Sub –

County after the 2013 elections. Rhamu, a strategic town for all communities living in Mandera, was one of the most affected areas; properties were looted, houses were burnt and thousands of people displaced from their homes. In 2015, a ceasefire brokered by National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) with support from Elected

leaders from Northern Kenya and several engagements by the County Government and Peace Actors returned normalcy to the town. The chaos led to the Closure of the Rhamu Market in 2015 after it was looted and some parts vandalized.

Since 2015 each community opened their own open-air

market making their reintegration process an elusive affair. The tension renewed in the wake of 2017 elections with the fear of a possible violence. However, the 2017 elections marked a turning point for Mander North politics and there was a resultant peaceful poll contrary to the expectations of many analysts. Through persistent dialogue and negotiations several actors including the communities themselves, National Government, Mander County Government, local leaders, National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), Inter Peace, Danish Demining Group (DDG) and Mander Mediation Council have played a significant role in the reopening of the Rhamu Market after 5 years.

The integrated market was refurbished by the County



County Governor, H.E Ali Roba together with National and County Leaders sample some of the products from the area which will be sold at the market. October 2018
Photo | Mander County

Government to the tune of Kshs. 37,657,000. The market has sections offering goods and services including textile,

eateries, vegetables, Saloons, Mpesa, household utensils, grains and cereals, milk, Firewood and fodder. Rhamu being a border town, the market also serves traders from Ethiopia.



An aerial view of the Rhamu Integrated Market. October 2018
Photo | Mander County

In light of the above, the communities, Mander County leadership and relevant stakeholders gathered in Rhamu to celebrate the existing peace which included the official opening of the Rhamu integrated market.

BORESHA facilitated this celebration by collaborating with the County Government in terms of providing visibility for the celebrations as well as providing logistical support for some of the participants especially those coming from across the border.

STORY

A STRATEGY TO SAVE KEY TREE SPECIES

Kenya's forests and expansive natural resources have been destroyed or degraded by human activities like illegal logging of trees thus leading to global and

climate change. Among the root causes of climate change is destruction of key tree species in Mander County. For instance, local trees such as 'Mader /Marer'

scientifically referred as cordia sinensis and acacia are becoming extinct! Mader produces edible fruits, source of medicine (roots, bark), bee forage and also used



A Photo of Prosopis Juliflora
Photo | Forest & Kim Starr, USGS

as veterinary medicine for the pastoralists' cattle.

These trees are among the natural resource valuable to both animals and human. However, the community here haven't thought of sustainable way to harvest the trees leading to adverse environmental changes.

Abdurrahman Samow is an elderly man from Tarama location, Banisa Sub-county in Mandera County. He is a member of a natural resource management committee from Tarama location. While attending a consultative forum held in Banisa organised by CARE, Samow stated that trees are a major source of livelihood for the people of Tarama location. Despite the fact that they are getting environmental, medicinal and economical benefit, destruction of trees and land degradation are caused by the local themselves. Charcoal burning is one of the



Abdurrahman Samow, an elder from Tarama location, Banisa Sub-county in Mandera County.
September 2018
Photo | Salim | CARE

lucrative business where most of the local community members living across the border with low income earnings have resorted to in supplying households in Mandera County for use as a source of energy for cooking/ preparing food.

The community trainings and environmental assessments form part of community sensitizations meetings organized in three targeted sub-counties in Mandera County to change perceptions



Site identified by CARE Mandera for intervention
November 2018
Photo | Maslah | PMU

on the importance of trees and general environmental protection and management. Community members drawn from different locations deliberate on the causes of destruction of key tree species and land degradation.

We interviewed a charcoal dealer (he preferred anonymity) from Neboi location in Mandera town who has survived by cutting Acacia trees for burning charcoal to earn a living. "I have a ready market I supply to and this business has provided me with a sustainable and predictable income," he disclosed to us.

The trader has been doing this business for 20 years and has enabled him provide food for his family. However he is not aware

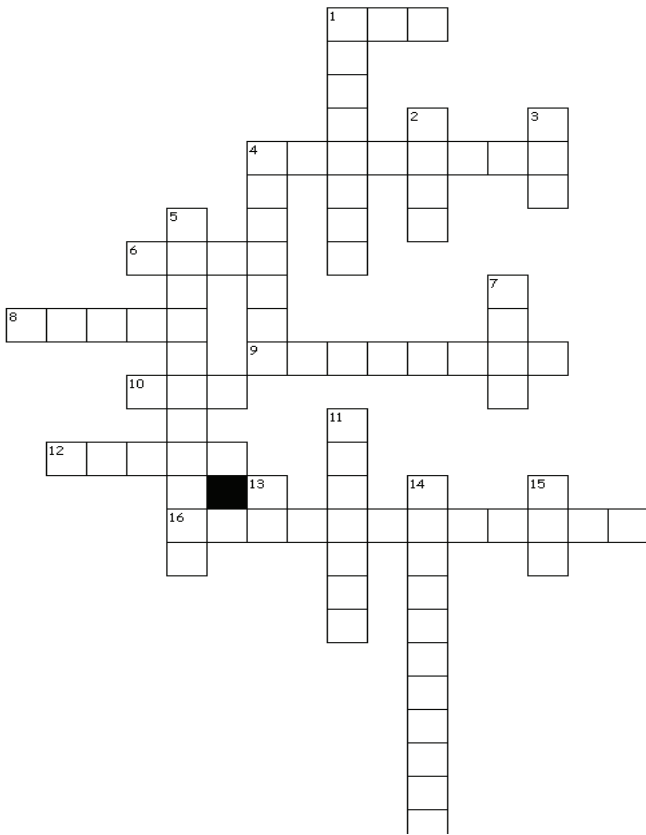
or neglects the destruction he is causing to the environment. After lengthy discussion on the environmental degradation and challenges caused by such destructive means and existing alternative uses of Prosopis commonly known as mathenge which would help him continue earning his livelihood and contribute to environmental conservation. It is important to provide alternatives to traders like him and other If we are to successfully dissuade him from

cutting the acacia trees and this is what we are doing through our information sessions and sensitization.

The trader positively changed to using Prosopis trees which are invasive species and abundant in his Neboi location instead of the acacia trees. He has been listed to be among the target beneficiaries generating income through alternative uses of invasive species. We will continue to follow his story and document it further in order to assess the impact our intervention will have on his livelihood.

CULTURE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Up

1. BORESHA Lead Agency
4. Village in Doloow
6. Number of PMU Staff
8. Number of years project will run
9. A ward in Mandera
10. Group composed of Implementing staff
12. A kebele in Dolo Ado
16. Number of partners

Down

1. English meaning of WOREDA
2. Monitoring group initials
3. One of the partners
4. Project initials
5. One of the main components
7. The Donor
11. One of the countries BORESHA is being implemented
13. Group composed of Country Directors
14. Recipient of money or other benefits
15. Group composed of managers

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