



FOREWORD

INTRODUCTORY NOTE



It is a pleasure, and indeed a privilege, to be invited to write the forward of the 5th Edition of the SHEKO Magazine for the BORESHA Consortium. It is particularly a welcome idea for me, given the close, strong, and effective bond of cooperation that IGAD has forged with the BORESHA team through the EUTF Cross Border Project. Furthermore, my

privileged position is further deepened given, as the IGAD Manderla Cluster Coordinator, BORESHA is our primary Implementing Partner(IP). Whereas, BORESHA executes

Key livelihood activities, IGAD focuses on coordination and cooperation of government agencies as well as other Non State Actors(NSA) and Development Partners(DPs) at local-regional-national levels.

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At this juncture, some background and context review may be helpful. It can be asserted that ecosystems, livelihoods, and socio-economic activities of pastoral communities in the Horn of Africa are regional in nature. They are, therefore, significantly influenced by cross-border processes. Contributions of cross-border activities to local, national and regional economies are often colored by negative perceptions and counterproductive national policies. However, distinct opportunities that allows hundreds of thousands to be lifted out of poverty in these areas exist. The Cross Border regions are largely occupied by Pastoral communities known for their regular movements in search of forage and water resources for the multiple species of livestock whose energy extraction patterns they so efficiently utilize. The production system is viable, resilient, and sustainable under existing ecological and economic conditions and, to the extent that the contours of their sustainability is pegged on subsistence.

In the recent past, the HoA region experienced severe and recurrent cycles of drought associated with climate change and increasingly degrading land and land-based resources. Following the 2010/2011 seminal drought in the region that affected millions of households, the Heads of States of IGAD and East African Community met in Sept, 2011 at the Nairobi UN Complex and declared "Never again shall droughts become famine". The Summit, in partnership with very high level DPs and Civil Society, resolved that IGAD should lead in coordination efforts of all actors across sectors. In this regard, the Summit directed, inter alia, that IGAD creates a Platform Coordination for Drought Disaster Sustainability Initiative(DDRSI), which should, among other things, help to harmonize plans, develop joint actions, shared information and reporting, with the aim of linking humanitarian and development efforts; the ultimate goal is to build resilience and sustainability.

In the foregoing context, IGAD together with the UNEP and UNDP, with funding from the European Union, are currently implementing a project called "Support for Effective Cooperation and Coordination of Cross-border initiatives(SECCCI)" in Southwest Ethiopia-Northwest Kenya, Marsabit-Borana and Dawa, and Kenya-Somalia-Ethiopia. The aim of the project is to address cooperation and coordination approaches to management and utilization of cross-border resources to enhance ecosystem and community resilience as well create wealth and employment opportunities in the cross-border areas of the three Member States (Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia).

In the Mendera Cluster, we are pleased to be primary partners with the BORESHA Consortium with whom we have highly complementary and collaborative roles and partnership. We believe this is the direction to go in future development attempts at our highly "challenged" cross border communities.

Prof. Kassim Farah, Ph.D; EP.

IGAD Cluster Coordinator, Mendera Cluster and Senior Rangeland, Livestock, Pastoral Resilience Expert.

IGAD Climate Prediction & Application Centre (IGAD)

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

WITH CARE DOLO ADO NRM ADVISOR



Ahmed Omer
NRM Advisor

10 Questions with Ahmed Mohamed Omer

About The Employee

Ahmed Mohamed Omer is the CARE Natural Resource Management Advisor based in Dolo Ado, Ethiopia. He has worked in this field before with several INGOs and has expertise in this sector with a focus on sustainable management of natural resources and water bodies.

1. Briefly Describe what you do all day

I carry out the BORESHA project NRM Component activities as per my plan of the year. The most important activity is participatory rangeland

management plan. It is a 5-year plan that is bottom - up approach and very inclusive. It involves all the relevant stakeholders.

2. What's the best thing about your job?

The PRM planning, because it will exist beyond the project life, in my opinion it is best design for the exit strategy of the project because it creates a state of ownership.

3. What's been one of your proudest moments working with BORESHA?

It fills me with joy to know that I am working for my community and in my field of study. It is amazing how much one can learn and develop as a person just by interacting with them. My proudest moment has to be when I convinced my supervisor that water supply system in school is more reliable and sustainable than promotion of roof water harvesting in school.

4. If you could change one thing about working here, what would it be?

I would relook at the project design so as to better fit some of the activities in to the local context. I would also look at increasing the number of staff for effective and timely implementation.

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It fills me with joy and pride knowing that I am working for my community in my field of study to bring about change in their lives'

5. What is the most challenging part of your job?

The lack of supporting department in the field has been a challenge especially logistics & finance. There is also lack of a permanent vehicle since the intervention area is large and I am always determined to implement my activities as per the plan.

6. What do you like to do when you're not at the office?

I am an avid reader, especially on climate change, global warming and general world news. I also like watching football in my spare time.

7. What motivates you?

Working with my team to achieve the set objectives of the project, especially the TIG team which has enabled me to gain experience from different staff in different countries with different work experiences. To be honest this is what makes the BORESHA project quite unique, everyday there is something new to learn.

8. If you could learn anything new, what would it be?

I would like to learn more about climate change and global warming. This is a topic I would like to delve in to deeply. I developed an interest in it when I was an undergraduate in University.

9. What would you do (for a career) if you weren't doing this?

I would be a lecturer in either Ethiopian Civil Service University or Jigjiga University.

10. What is one thing that most people do not know about you?

As a young boy I used to be a camel herder. Who would have thought, from a proud camel herder to a Master of Science in Environmental & Climate Change management graduate and now I am here working for my community. I have gone through several challenges in life to be where I am now and for this I say Alhamdulillah.



UPDATE

KEY PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

1. TVET graduation ceremony was held for trainees in Ethiopia and Somalia
2. Training and awareness session by Takaful on IBLI scheme in Kenya
3. Training and Introduction of relevant technologies for alternative utilization of prosopis Juliflora in Somalia.
4. Technical evaluation and grant assessment of the applications for the grant facility for the three countries
5. PRM training in Mandera for County Officials

UPCOMING MAJOR ACTIVITIES

1. Participatory Learning Action in collaboration with RASMI along the Kenya Ethiopia border
2. Expanding the technology and skills for alternative use of prosopis juliflora
3. Stakeholder sensitization on IBLI by ILRI
4. Livestock mass vaccination in Kenya and mass treatment in Somalia
5. Grants awarding

STORY

A DREAM COME TRUE FOR SUBAN ABDI



Suban is one of the 42 TVET trainees enrolled by DRC in technical and vocational skills training in January 2019. Malkamari, Mandera| Photo| BORESHA

Harvey Mackay, a renowned author once said, "When you have a dream that you can't let go of, trust your instincts and pursue it. But remember: Real dreams take work, they take patience, and sometimes they require you to dig down very deep. Be sure you're willing to do that." His sentiments were captured well when a young lady from the far corner of Malkamari, Mandera who decided to

pursue her dream and ambition of seeking education and one that will empower her.

Suban Abdi Muhumed is a 27-year-old mother of 2 children living in Malkamari location of Banisa Sub county with her husband. She was brought up in a family of four. Both of her parents are deceased. She is uneducated and her household's only source of livelihood is pastoralism. Suban and her husband sell livestock once in a while to buy grains and other commodities for the family as well as sell milk in the local market with an estimated monthly income of KES 6,000.



Suban (Right) together with her classmates, Mandera, Kenya. Photo|BORESHA

asked what had changed in her life as a result of the BORESHA project, she replied, “Before I was selected as a TVET trainee I didn’t have any knowledge or skills to do anything in life, but now after only one and a half months in this tailoring course I have gained knowledge and skills to make shirts, trousers and shopping bags in different designs. More lessons are yet to come but believe me this project has brought light to my life. I am now just counting months to finish my course and start my own tailoring shop in my home town.”

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This is a great opportunity that will enable me to fend for my family.’

She hopes that the BORESHA project will provide her with start-up support after she graduates from her course so that she can jumpstart her dream career in tailoring. She is determined to finish her course and go back home to earn a living for herself and her family. She really serves as an inspiration to other girls in her location.

Like many young women in Northern Kenya, Suban spent her childhood undertaking household chores including fetching water and firewood. Getting education was only a dream for her, however she had high hopes that one day she would gain skills and be able to provide for her family with better means of livelihood. “DRC was the first to advertise sponsored TVET courses in our location and I was lucky to be selected as one of the beneficiaries to take a tailoring course. Thanks to DRC for giving me this opportunity,” Suban narrated in an interview after she was selected.

Under the EUTF-funded BORESHA project, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) seeks to provide vulnerable women, youth and pastoral drop-outs who are vulnerable to food insecurity and negative coping mechanisms with technical and vocational skills training opportunities for alternative livelihoods activities.

Suban is one of the 42 TVET trainees enrolled by DRC in technical and vocational skills training in January 2019. She is now pursuing tailoring as her dream course in Mandera Vocational Training Center. When Suban was

THE BEEKEEPER OF DOLO ADO



Bee keeping site in Dolo Ado, it was constructed by DRC Ethiopia as a source empowering the local communities in the area. March 2019. Photo|BORESHA

Bees are one of the most interesting insects to keep. Bee keeping is a great hobby for people at the same time very rewarding and inexpensive. It is a good value and very economical. It is a great way to venture in to livestock farming and still earn a decent income from the business while at the same time have enough supply of local honey for your family as we found out from Omar Dahir, a beekeeper from Dolo Ado Ethiopia and a father of 10 children.

Omar Dahir is one of the beneficiaries involved in beekeeping business which is organized by Regional Development Protection Program (RDPP) as one of the livelihood interventions. Dressed in his full body bee suit and armed with his hive tool and bee smoker, Omar

Dahir leans back in his chair with his arms wide. He is in an empty room at Shambel Kebele in Dolo Ado but his mind is elsewhere. It is at his bee keeping station which has more or less become his sanctuary. "I feel at home with my bees, I have invested my time and energy and have no other alternative other than to make it successful for the social and economic benefit of my family" Omar said. "I never thought that one day this activity will have such an impact in my life, I am grateful to DRC for having introduced me to this income generating venture, take the bees away and there goes my livelihood" he added. Omar's attachment to this activity is very remarkable and it goes to the heart of what we as a project want to achieve and make

a meaningful impact in the lives of our beneficiaries.

"If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would have only four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man" Einstein famously stated, this quote could not have been any more relevant than to Omar's story.

Beekeeping is one of the world's oldest occupations and it is an activity that was introduced by DRC Ethiopia under RDPP project in Dolo Ado in order to improve the livelihoods of the beneficiaries. It is a relatively easy activity, inexpensive after the initial



Omar Dahir at his very best doing is full bee suit. He took us to the bee keeping site which he calls it his sanctuary. Dolo Ado, Ethiopia. Photo|BORESHA

investments of supplies which include the kits and it is a vastly rewarding since one can be able to enjoy their own locally made honey as well as selling for profit. Bees, apart from honey, they give other products like wax, propolis and royal jelly, besides pollinating crops.

Omar was provided with the required start up kits which include: a hive, protective clothing, a smoker, supplies, extracting equipment and bees! He was also trained on beehive management, lifecycle of bees, how to handle a bee sting as well as managing expectations and this is very important since

the activity requires patience because it is difficult to harvest in the first year. "I will never forget the first bee sting, the pain was unbearable, however it comes with the territory, if you love the gains be ready to be stung by a busy bee" Omar said.

He took us to the bee keeping site where he felt at home and brought us to his world, it was very evident to see his happiness, finally there was an income generating activity that filled him with pride. The ability to feed his children and cater for their needs with his own hands and sweat of his brow is a source of great satisfaction. His confidence in this activity comes from the easy availability of a market for his honey. Not many residents in the area are able to access natural bee products hence the promise to supply quality honeycombs and honey will be something that can fetch him good money. The demand for honey in Dolo Ado alone cannot

be exhausted. If he plays his cards right and with some support from DRC, then there is no reason for him not to make a good profit from this activity and even find a market in the cross border towns of Mander and Doolow Somalia.

From our discussion with Omar Dahir, beekeeping is not activity for the faint of heart or one that can be ventured in to easily without the right training and mentality. It is a practice that is set in motion by the ebbs and flows of nature, it demands a great deal of energy, patience, understanding and above all adequate knowledge from the keeper. It is truly for those with the passion and a quest

for love and knowledge that can succeed in this business, we are happy to note that Omar has all these qualities.

Beekeeping is an activity this newsletter is advocating for it to be replicated in the viable BORESHA sites. It is a low maintenance activity and above all very rewarding and self-sustaining. We are in the resilience business and this activity will contribute towards meeting our objective of ensuring individuals and communities are more self-reliant through increased skills and opportunities.

NEWS

MALKAMARI - MUBARAK – Inter-Communal Conflict Resolution through Sharing Peace Dividend Projects



Ali Issack our Livelihoods Manager took part in the meeting. Residents from the two locations were very active in the deliberations. May 2019| Photo| BORESHA

Malkamari Kenya – and Mubarak Ethiopia residents took part in a Participatory Learning Action meeting organized by RASMI & BORESHA with several objectives key among them being to develop community action plan for the identified projects that can be shared and co-managed by the cross-border communities.

Malka Mari Kenya and Ethiopia were the epicenter of Garre and Degodia conflict in the past. The inter-clan

conflicts in this region was mainly triggered by the land ownership and unequal sharing of the resources that led to strained cross-border relationships. During the PLA exercise in Malka Mari both Garre and Degodia communities discussed the conflict drivers and mechanisms that the local peace committees have employed in managing these conflicts, and the role that a peace dividend project co-shared by

the communities would play in enhancing interactions and trust. The participants however decried the vast distance between the two MalkaMari locations and suggested that the Ethiopian settlement should be moved closer to the border to enhance sharing of social amenities, resources, trade and increase interactions.

The PLA exercise was conducted on Kenyan side with 44 participants, including representatives from the national and county governments, RASMI and BORESHA staff and local communities from MalkaMari (Kenya) and Mubarak(Ethiopia). A transect walk across Malkamari was done where the participants walked around the village and recorded all that they observed, which was later transferred to flip charts in form of community maps. The participants were divided into four groups and asked to draw the map of the locations indicating all the resources, infrastructure and livelihoods that they had observed. A comparison of the maps by the various groups was done and this was a good opportunity to discuss about communal resources and how they could be shared to minimize resource conflicts. After the resource mapping, the participants shared some of the conflict triggers and sequences of events in the past and how the emerging issues were managed.

Building on the community maps and the identified resources, the participants identified some of the most pressing issues in the community and proposed possible solutions. The issues of adequate access to water for domestic and livestock use featured prominently in this community and was ranked as their first priority closely followed by issues of human health and access to education. The ranking was through a system of voting across the list of solutions proposed, where each

of the community members were asked to vote for their preferred first, second and third priority interventions.

In MalkaMari Kenya, the community prioritized the desilting of their existing pan, lining of the same to avoid excessive loss of water through percolation and construction of associated infrastructure including fencing, watering troughs and a generator to pump water from the water pan to the troughs. BORESHA

team pledged to fund this project partly through cash-for-work mechanism. Mubarak community similarly prioritized the excavation of a new water pan to address the huge water demand for their livestock.

This exercise will be extended to other cross border areas in the region. It is a great way of making sure the communities are involved in the decision making process since they have a big say.

CULTURE

RAMADHAN MUBARAK!



Photo|Islamiccenter.com

The holy month of Ramadhan is here with us where Muslims are given a chance to repent their sins. The Holy month is one of the five pillars of Islam and it is a great opportunity for all Muslims to take advantage of, it offers them a chance to purify their mind, body, heart and soul by fasting from dawn till dusk and praying to Allah.

Ramadhan is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar. Healthy adult Muslims fast from dawn until dusk. This includes abstaining from drinking, eating, engaging in immoral acts and anger. Other

acts of worship such as prayer, reading the Quran and charity are also encouraged during the holy month. The month lasts for 29–30 days based on the visual sightings of the crescent moon.

During this month Muslims around the world break their fast in the evening with a meal referred to as iftar which is taken after the maghrib call to prayer which is around sunset and they wake up early in the morning to eat a pre-dawn meal called suhoor. After Iftar there are nightly prayers called Tarawih held in mosques.

The Eid al – Fitr celebrations mark the end of Ramadhan when Muslims all over the world celebrate a successful Ramadhan of fasting and worship.

We take this opportunity to wish all our Muslim brothers and sisters in BORESHA and around the world Ramadhan Kareem and Saum Maqbul. May Allah give you the strength and courage to fast and may all your wishes and dreams be fulfilled in this blessed month of Ramadhan.

May this Ramadan enlighten you all and clear your understanding and judgment between the right and wrong, between the truths and false.

Wishing you all Ramadhan Mubarak!

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