

# BORESHA SHEKO

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Meet the Plant Operator from Mandera

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# FOREWORD

## INTRODUCTORY NOTE



Dear BORESHA Colleagues, the end of a year is a good time to look back, reflecting on achievements, and to look forward, to see what we still need to accomplish. First, I trust that you all are safe and healthy wherever you are at the moment. We are coming to the end of 2020 as well as marking the end of the 1st phase of the project. This has been a challenging year for all of us, and our hearts go out to everyone affected by the Covid-19 outbreak. We have been monitoring this situation closely, while also ensuring compliance to the guidance and protocols from government and public health authorities. The global nature of this pandemic has underlined the fact that we are all in this together: no country, community and race is immune from its effects. This is the time for us to show solidarity and great level of resilience in order to get through this situation. In order to ensure the well-being of the communities we work with, staff and our partners, are accorded with the highest priority, we have taken several precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 including sensitizing our

staff and beneficiaries. Our primary aim has been and will be to reduce the risk of exposure to our staff and beneficiaries. We are grateful that we all are safe and healthy.

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 truly one of a kind. The many successes that have been achieved since the beginning of this project in late 2017 are evident and all thanks go to you. Your work, commitment and dedication which have been integral to the successful implementation of the project activities for this year are appreciated. We have had quite a number of monumental achievements since the beginning of the year and some of them include: Completion of and equipping of several waterpoints, COVID19 activities mainstreaming, graduation of TVET trainees, provision of start-up kits to TVET graduates, the launch of cross-border mobile market platform, grants disbursement among others. We should be proud of what has been achieved so far, including the successful dissemination of ten radio programmes where we had the opportunity to engage most of our stakeholders in the three areas.

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 are currently in the process of concluding on the much-awaited project video documentary which will go a long way in showcasing our project and disseminating it as widely as possible. We are also in the process of finalizing discussions with our donor on the modalities of the next phase of the project. The good news is that our donor has indicated willingness to provide more support and we are confident others will also come on board.

This year has been filled with a multitude of both challenges and victories. Every year is different but this one has been filled with more challenges including: insecurity in the cross-border area, desert locust, outbreak of camel disease and COVID19 which limited our movement and led to the closure of TVET institutions, lockdowns as well as reduced cross border trade and disruption of income for beneficiaries. However, it has been reassuring to see how our colleagues have risen to meet every expectation, while always looking out for our most important stakeholders, our beneficiaries.

2021 will be a defining year for BORESHA and therefore we can look ahead into the new year with confidence, hope and resilience. We know that there are vast problems ahead, but we also know that we have the right resources to meet those challenges and the most important resource we have is you, our staff. Thank you for all your hard work. I wish you all the very best for the new year ahead. Working together this past year has been a pleasure and we are proud to have you all with us. Best wishes and happiness to you and your families over the festive season. We look forward to a successful 2021 working together!

Abdi Mohamed  
PMU Senior Coordinator

# INTERVIEW

## WITH POULTRY FARMING BENEFICIARY



Abdiyo Farah | Poultry Farming Beneficiary.  
November, 2020  
Photo | Bashir Abdifatah

Abdiyo Farah is a 56-year-old mother of 7 (5 boys and 2 girls) from Dollow, Somalia. She is also a widow, her husband passed away late 2019. She is an active member of the BORESHA Livestock Common Interest Group, village water committee and Village health committee. She recently benefited from poultry farming training and was provided with poultry farming inputs including the broilers.

### 1. How did you get involved in poultry farming?

I was part of the livestock common interest groups which were established in UNA village in the late 2018 by BORESHA. We are pastoralists and our way of life revolves around livestock keeping, however due to recurrent droughts, there was need for us to diversify our livelihoods hence poultry farming. We proposed the idea to BORESHA and they readily supported us.

### 2. What made you interested in poultry farming

I was motivated by the need to diversify my livelihood, things cannot remain the same, I cannot continue to rely on livestock alone hence my venture in to this activity. I am an agro-pastoralist, I therefore still keep livestock but this has really opened my mind to a lot of possibilities and a new way of life.

### 3. Is chicken farming profitable in Dollow?

Yes, because egg demand is high now due to the decrease in availability of other livestock products like camel meat and milk. Whichever way, layers in poultry farming in Dollow is considered as a lucrative venture because two things are achieved from this business, the production of eggs which fetch good money in the market, and are equally sold for the meat.

### 4. What are some of the main challenges of poultry farming in Dollow

Lack of knowledge, because it is new to our community and people give less care to chickens. Poultry immunity, health, and production are several factors that also challenge the future growth of the poultry industry not only in Dollow but Gedo region as well.

### 5. What would you like improved in order to make this activity more efficient

If possible, continuous training on poultry farming and the provision on poultry farming inputs will help to make the activity efficient. One of the main reasons I have decided to fully get in to this business is for the purpose of producing eggs, meat and generating high revenue from these products, it is therefore imperative to have the right tools and training in order to be successful in this business of which I intend it to be in the long run.

### 6. How would you encourage a poultry farmer starting out? What advice would you give them?

The best advice I can give is that they should enter the business well prepared by considering all of its aspects. Right from setting up some basic equipment to raising the birds and marketing their business, they have to take every step wisely. If they conduct their business carefully, chances are that it will grow fast. The demand for poultry products is increasing by each day. The return on investment will be quick.

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*I was motivated by the need to diversify my livelihood, things cannot remain the same, I cannot continue to rely on livestock alone hence my venture in to poultry farming*

# NEWS

## MAKING MONEY FROM HONEY

Author | Mohamed Abdi



Beekeeping has been traditionally looked down upon in Somalia, however this is changing slowly due to the good return on investment. Photo | Courtesy

Bee keeping (Apiculture) is a livestock subsector with great potential of contributing to Somalia's food basket as well as foreign earnings. It is an easy task to venture in as it is cheap, and it also enhances the environment through pollination. Bee keeping is a great way to venture into 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 Mohamed Abdillahi.

Mohamed Abdillahi, who is a 36 years old beekeeping trainee from Dollow, Somalia has a good reason to smile. He used to work in farms as a share cropping farmer as is the practice in the region where the harvested crops will be shared with the farm owners after deduction of all expenses incurred including fuel, ploughing, pesticides and other costs. In this kind of arrangement what they take home is very little and doesn't cover the basic needs of the household.

Originally Mohamed came from Hamare village 38km away from East of Dollow town where he lived with his old father and wife with 7 children, 3 boys and 4 girls. His eldest child is 13years old while the youngest is one year and three months old. Mohamed started his journey into beekeeping when he attended a beekeeping training conducted by World Vision under the BORESHA project funded by the European Union (EU) through the Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) Programme. "That training really changed my

life," said Mohamed, "not only was I trained, I was also provided with one modern hive and a complete beekeeping start-up kits, with a beekeeping suit, smokers, knives and brushes."

The results have been amazing to say the least. In the first four months of the training he was able to produce over 20 kilograms of honey. Importantly, although the recurrent droughts in the area had the potential to disrupt his activities, Mohamed managed to sufficiently maintain his honey production. He has demonstrated by word and deed that beekeeping can be profitable and has the potential to provide a sustainable livelihood.

"Beekeeping has been traditionally looked down upon in Somalia, mostly due to the lack of knowledge in the context of a strong nomadic, livestock culture. A good percent of the population relies directly or indirectly on livestock activities. However, most people are unaware that beekeeping and processing of hive products can be just as lucrative. People perceive beekeeping as an unprofitable business but I know as a matter of fact that beekeeping is profitable," said Mohamed.

Mohamed's success has allowed him to hire two employees with the main responsibility of marketing the honey and selling it in the local town. Moreover, Mohamed has opened a small shop in Belet Hawa which is run by his father together with two other employees. His hope is to market and sell his honey in the border towns of Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia.



Mohamed Abdullahi together with his father who runs his small shop in Belet Hawa. Photo | Mohamed Abdi

“Beekeeping is not activity for the faint hearted 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, I believe I have these qualities and I am destined to succeed no matter the challenges ahead” says Mohamed.

In addition to keeping bees, Mohamed has put his skills to best use by constructing hives for profit and expanding his production through stocking of many hives, “Initially making beehives was difficult for us, but I am currently constructing all the hives and selling them to other beekeepers” said Mohamed. He is now able to support his father and his family covering the basic needs of his family including paying school fees for his children and medicine. He is very determined to make sure he succeeds and he has his eyes on the ball.

# UPDATE

## KEY PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Ongoing implementation and monitoring of VSLA, DRR, IBLI, CFW, NRM, LCIG, TVET, grants and other project activities
2. End of project evaluation data collection completed
3. Closure Phase Preparation
4. Project Radio awareness campaign
5. Ongoing COVID 19 response support

## UPCOMING MAJOR ACTIVITIES

1. Completion and dissemination of final project evaluation report
2. Closeout of BORESHA phase 1 and launch of Phase 2
3. Documentation of BORESHA legacy including videography and intervention profiles
4. BORESHA cross border stakeholders forum in Mandera
5. Reflection and learning workshop for Phase 1 of BORESHA
6. Study on relationship between resilience and conflict sensitivity (conflict/resilience nexus in the Mandera triangle)

# STORY

Author | Abdulaziz Hassan

## INCHING TOWARDS SELF-SUFFICIENCY



Women fetching water from the newly established water source. Water is a basic need and without it, life becomes very difficult. Photo | Abdulaziz Hassan

Shangala community in Mandera North, Kenya faces acute water shortage challenges during the dry season. Distance to water sources involves long treks that exceeds 14km, this is not only risky but also time consuming. Fetching water for livestock and domestic use is an uphill task to the community. Other methods of getting this precious commodity like water trucking is very expensive and unsustainable. World Vision implements Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) component of the BORESHA project to mitigate some of these challenges.

To mitigate the effects of future disasters, World Vision supports the targeted communities to come up with DRR action plans for the common disasters in the region so as to mitigate the effects of these disasters in the event that they happen. The action plans with key intervention measures were developed and the DRR committees kept copies of the action plans for implementation of what was within communities' capacity to lobby for external support.

World vision supported implementation of some of these actions for the extremely poor and vulnerable communities including: a 400M<sup>3</sup> underground water tank in Kukub location; 800M<sup>3</sup> underground wa-

ter tank in Doday location; 800M<sup>3</sup> underground water tank in Khotkhot location; 400M<sup>3</sup> underground water tank in Quracmadow location; elevated steel tank in Hullo location; piping and construction of water kiosks for communities in Shirshir and Hullo locations; rehabilitation of 4 shallow wells in Tarama and Shantoley locations; construction of hay store in Neboi location and desilting and lining of Malkamari earth pan with heavy duty waterproof materials.

A team from World Vision Kenya visited some of the areas where the above activities were implemented. Among the areas visited was Shangala which is about 15KM south of Rhamu town, Northeastern Kenya. The location falls within pastoral livelihood zone and is one of the areas that is normally hit hard during times of droughts. It is for this reason that the community members prioritized water related interventions in their DRR action plan.

The team met with Lidoy Abdullahi Farah, a mother of 7, who is also a member of the DRR committee in her community, to discuss some of the interventions. The formation of the DRR

committee to handle problems stemming from common shocks and the subsequent capacity building for the committee, was an eye opener for this community. The members appreciated the facilitation of DRR action planning and the guidance given throughout the process.

“We have learnt how to plan for effective mitigation measures and we now appreciate that when the little community owned resources are pooled together, the community can successfully address problems affecting them and this is how we were able to construct a dispensary that is now at final stages. For works that need resources or expertise that is outside the capacity of the community, we seek for external support from our partners and we are really grateful for the response we got from World Vision and BORESHA,” says Lidoy. When asked about the support given by World Vision and what

difference it has made in their lives, she said that the construction of underground water tank was a priority to the community. Water is a basic need and without it, life becomes very difficult.

The surface run-off water during rainy seasons used to cause problems but now they are trapped in a tank, the water will no longer be considered as a problem but a precious resource. Before construction of the tank, women used to trek many kilometers to get this very essential commodity. The nearest water point was 15KM away.

“Even after seeking for water trucking support from government and other external partners, we would not benefit from the water trucking exercises because we did not have water reservoir where the trucked water could be kept. But as you can see, we have water in the tank and people are using it.



Improved access to Water for domestic and commercial use including agriculture is critical to fully exploit livelihood opportunities. Photo | Abdulaziz Hassan

We fetch the water for household use and we are also able to water our livestock,” she explains. “Now we are less dependent on external support because we collect funds from within the community to hire a water bowser to truck water which is then kept in the underground water tank constructed for us by World Vision and BORESHA,” Lidoy adds.

A total of 220 households and approximately 250 livestock benefits from this water reservoir. “The water tank has also helped us improve the hygiene and sanitation of the beneficiaries as they are now able to clean more often. The time that used to be wasted in search of water is also being put into a better use and this is really a remarkable change. Women who were burdened with fetching water

from a long distance suffered headache and other related problems but now they look healthy and energetic,” she concludes.

### Quick Roundup

Access to safe water, adequate sanitation and hygiene promotion are all equally important; a combination of these elements is required to maintain and improve health and dignity. BORESHA is working on rebuilding and rehabilitating water sources in the Mandera Triangle. We are doing so by combining the provision of infrastructure with the promotion of local capacities and community ownership to build the resilience of communities and ensure sustainable development gains.

# DID YOU KNOW

## THE PLANT OPERATOR FROM MANDERA

Author | Maslah Mumin



Hussein Hassan operating the motor grader at Sensei Institute in Nairobi where he is undergoing a practical plant operation course. Photo | Courtesy

Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) is the most practical avenue for acquiring readily employable skills for the world of work. Kenya and in particular Mandera needs skilled workers. It is with this backdrop that we bring you the story of Hussein Hassan, a 24-year-old Plant Operator trainee from Mandera, Kenya.

“It has always been my desire to learn how to operate the motor grader, mobile crane and the truck shovel, these are heavy machines that if I master them well have the potential of turning my life around” says Hussein. Hussein is one among several trainees from Mandera that we have supported and continue to support with skills training. We flew them from Mandera to Nairobi, paid their school fees and enrolled them at Sensei Institute of Technology which is the leading institution for technical skills training in Nairobi. It offers access to an industry-based training program, professionally de-

livered, that will not only equip you with practical skills, but also gives you the theory behind the skill.

The course Hussein is undertaking is driven by market demands, today there are a lot of infrastructure projects ongoing in Mandera, thanks in large part to devolution, there is therefore need for skilled plant operators like Hussein that can be able to take up the locally available jobs. “This training will go a long way in helping me access quite a number of job opportunities not only in Mandera County but throughout the country and beyond.”

Hussein looks forward to being a certified Plant Operator after successfully passing all his exams come January where he will be able to fully operate the vehicles. Indeed, the journey of a thousand miles starts with one step, his one step started when he decided to leave his family, friends and relatives back in Mandera for Nairobi where he hopes his life will take a turn for the best.

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