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Building Opportunities for Resilience
in the Horn of Africa BORESHA

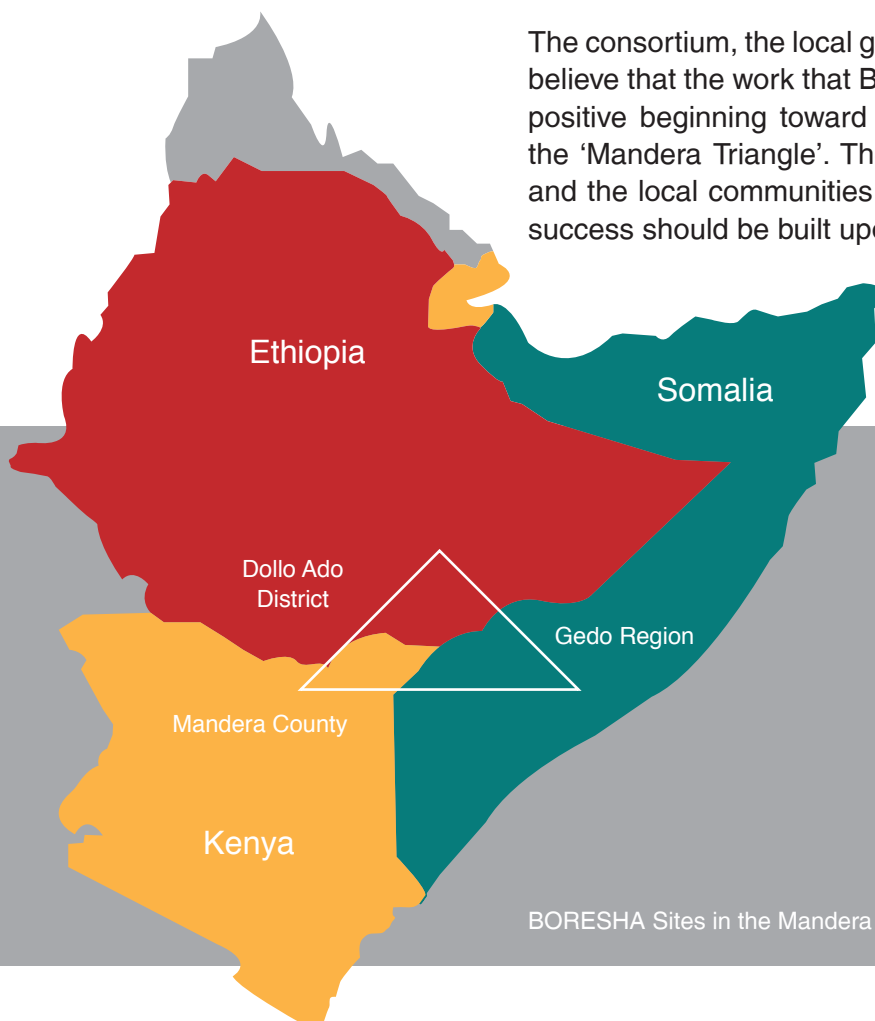
**A CROSS BORDER MULTI SECTORAL &
MULTI AGENCY INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE
SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, GREATER AND
PEACEFUL RESILIENCE IN
BORDERLAND AREAS**



PEACEFUL RESILIENCE IN BORDERLAND AREAS

The Cross-border region encompassing north-eastern Kenya, south-eastern Ethiopia and south-western Somalia, also known as the 'Mandera Triangle', is a critical intersectional area for the stability, peace and economic integration within the Horn of Africa. The 'Mandera Triangle' region, as a point of convergence, is known for its instability, influx of refugees and many IDPs, recurrent conflicts and climate shocks, as well as being the home for one of the most underprivileged and marginalized populations within Africa. Since December 2017 the cross border EUTF funded BORESHA has been implementing activities related to Disaster Risk Management (DRM), Livelihoods and Private Sector (L-PS) development and Natural Resource Management (NRM) in partnership with local communities and public authorities. In less than 3 years, BORESHA has established transformative processes to enhance the cross border socio-economic integration in the area and to promote local businesses development in order to support resilience in the region. A remarkable achievement made possible by the commitment of a dynamic consortium of development, humanitarian and private sector actors; Danish Refugee Council; World Vision International; CARE International and WYG.

The first phase of the initiative run for 3 years; 2017-2020 and in 2021 Danish Refugee Council; World Vision International; CARE International embarked on an extension of the EUTF funded initiative running up to end of 2021.



The consortium, the local government and the local communities believe that the work that BORESHA has begun to establish is a positive beginning toward improved resilience and stability for the 'Mandera Triangle'. The consortium, the local government and the local communities believe that this investment and this success should be built upon.

BORESHA Sites in the Mandera Triangle: Source: <https://boreshahoa.org/pim/>

BORESHA I OUTCOME LEVEL ACHIEVEMENTS

Below are the project outcomes after about 39 months of implementation

OUTCOMES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Outcome 1: Communities in the Mander Triangle are more resilient and better prepared for shocks, and response is more effective.	# of community associations (especially farmers and pastoralists) who know early warning signs and knows what to do in case of an emergency or disaster.	Floods: 70% of respondents Drought: 87% of respondents Livestock diseases: 70% of respondents Conflict: 65% of respondents
	Proportion of shocks “well managed” by the target communities during the project	56%
	Number of livestock-dependent households protected by insurance	33%
Outcome 2: Individuals and communities are more self-reliant through increased skills and opportunities for cross-border employment, diversified enterprise and livelihoods	% Increase in number of livelihood resources being used by households compared to baseline	End-line: 87% Baseline: Not available
	% increase in revenues of the target HHs compared to baseline	End-line: 87% Baseline: Not available
	% of individuals describing better health and lower rates of attrition amongst their herds compared to baseline	End-line: 94% Baseline: Not available
	% of VSLA members self-reporting an increase in household income	92%
	Number of women and youth who are able to access jobs and/or business opportunities within 12 months of graduating	47%
Outcome 3: Cross border natural resources are more equitably and sustainably managed	% change in land area rehabilitated and managed for communal use	73%
	# of natural resource management committees reporting increased productivity due to land management practices	831 members
	# of households generating income through alternative uses of invasive species	78% of the HH targeted
	# of households accessing water for domestic and livelihood activities from rehabilitated / developed water sources.	17,285 Households
	Number of schools making use of water collected from water harvesting schemes.	28

BORESHA II OUTPUT LEVEL TARGETS

This phase is ongoing from March to november 2021

OUTCOME 1: COMMUNITIES IN THE MANDERA TRIANGLE ARE MORE RESILIENT AND BETTER PREPARED FOR SHOCKS, AND RESPONSE IS MORE EFFECTIVE.

cDRRM committees trained and supported	40
Wash and livelihoods structures supported from the cDRR action plans	18
Education structures supported from the cDRR action plans	12
Farmers sensitised on index-based livestock insurance model in 2021	183,198
Farmers buying IBLI insurance	420

OUTCOME 2: SELECTED INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES ARE MORE SELF-RELIANT THROUGH INCREASED SKILLS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR CROSS-BORDER EMPLOYMENT, DIVERSIFIED ENTERPRISE AND LIVELIHOODS.

LCIG members trained on improved husbandry and marketing	401
HH supported to improve their fodder availability during times of stress/drought	330
Restraints/treatment facilities installed	2
CDRs trained and supported/equipped with the necessary kits or equipment	40
Livestock treated and dewormed	170,000
CBTs provided with refresher training	7
VSLAs groups trained on and provided with seed capital/revolving funds	52
Exchange Learning events for District Bank Committee for VSLA revolving loans	2
Women and youth accessing technical and vocational educational opportunities (TVET)	100
Women and youth accessing technical and vocational educational opportunities (scholarships)	21
Infrastructure projects delivered through CfW	36
Households /individuals engaged in Cash for Work	1,140
People trained on business skills	269
Tri-border committee meetings held	3
Traders Monthly reach through the Market information mobile platform.	800
Studies conducted and shared for learning	3

OUTCOME 3: CROSS-BORDER RANGELAND AND OTHER SHARED NATURAL RESOURCES ARE MORE EQUITABLY AND SUSTAINABLY MANAGED

Degraded rangelands sites rehabilitated through CfW initiatives.	14
Groups supported through Promotion of alternative utilisation of invasive species (prosopis) for livestock feed and as charcoal.	13
Meetings/trainings held to assess & strengthen existing indigenous NRM Knowledge, NRM groups and local institutions on range practices and shared resources	20(500 people)
Key water sources such as borehole and dams constructed/rehabilitated	4
Community Water Committees established/ trained on operation, maintenance and cost recovery mechanisms	10
People reached through Radio awareness raising Campaign	464,448
Vulnerable HHs supported with COVID -19 WASH materials including those supported through distribution of hygiene kits.	3,714HH

ADDED VALUE OF BORESHA

1. BORESHA is a functional, well-known consortium accepted by local authorities. This is a clear advantage given the challenging political and security context of the Mandera Triangle. In this sense, continuation of the initiative is clearly good value for money.
2. Good Value for Money in building on all the relationships and initiatives that are now in place. And avoiding the high costs of closing and then (re)starting activities, in these remote and insecure locations.
3. BORESHA has put functional cross border systems in place, which has been a significant challenge from project start because of security context. These linkages are critical for building stability in the area.
4. Lessons learnt and knowledge generated from the two phases to build on. Upscaling of the working practices in the current phase and establishing the resilience of the community supporting conflict management efforts.
5. Demonstrated ability to mobilize emergency resources in the event of humanitarian crisis.

Chart showing the progress of the BORESHA initiative



BEYOND 2021: EXPLORING BORESHA PHASE III

This concept note proposes another 5-year intervention (2022-2026) at a cost of 20M EUR to consolidate and scale up the achievements attained so far. BORESHA Phase III would focus on:

- (1) Strengthened DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT** by (a) implementing key elements of the DRM contingency plans already developed that can enhance resilience and stability at community level; (b) integrating the DRM plans into county and sub-county plans for better coordination and bigger impact; (c) expanding IBLI (Index based livestock insurance) access given the increasing rate of climatic shocks experienced in the area; (d) strengthen provision and access of weather and climate information forecasts; (e) introduce and establish a government / community managed Crisis Modifier fund mechanism
- (2) Sustainable LIVELIHOODS AND PRIVATE SECTOR:** deeper support to income generating capability through; (a) expansion of business skills and apprenticeship/internship opportunities; (b) enhancing financial skills and inclusion of Village and Saving Loan Associations and Livestock Commercial Interest Groups through market linkages and promotion of agribusiness activities; (c) further demonstration of the growth potential of local entrepreneurs through innovative financing, targeted towards value addition in value chains dominant in the region (e) introduction of a peace dividend approach promoting community led initiatives to reinforce resilience and conflict management;
- (3) System based NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT** with focus on (a) expanding Participatory Rangeland Management systems in a one system approach to NRM; (b) promoting landscape re-greening including agroforestry, perennial fruit tree crops, improved gum and incense production and efficient use of invasive species, (c) scaling up of water harvesting capacity, river basin and flood water management and access to water; (d) linkages to pastoralist field and business schools (PFBS) (e) Post harvest pasture management and conservation (f) Energy Smart Irrigation of traditional drought resistant crops;
- (4) Secured RESILIENCE AND CONFLICT TRASFORMATION:** resilience efforts will deliberately aim at increase peace and stability in this very volatile area through (a) peace dividends activities, (b) coordination and joint planning with conflict management actors, (c) conflict sensitive mainstreaming



"I have used a fraction of the money (from the insurance) to buy fodder for my goats. I have stored the fodder in the village fodder store and I give it to my goats in portions. I don't spend money on water because with the fodder, the goats are able to walk to river Dauwa which I am told comes from Ethiopian highlands. I have also bought some food stuff for my children using the money. This was not possible in the last drought just about 2 years ago. I still have some money left and I will think of what to do with it, may be buy some drugs for the goats if they get sick."
Mama Nima Hassan- IBLI beneficiary,

IDEAS FOR A SCALE UP

Community structures: across all areas and sectors of intervention BORESHA has been supporting the establishment and operation of numerous community structures and their linkages with government institutions with the vision to strengthen the governance of this fragile areas through a whole society approach. These groups represent an opportunity to scale up technologies, capacities and to creating networks to enhance cross border disaster risk management, cross border trade, sustainable and peaceful utilization of natural resources and many more opportunities.

Resilience effort can tangibly contribute to **Conflict management** if appropriately designed and implemented by delivering peace dividends and supporting peace and stability efforts and conflict mitigation measure in coordination with conflict management actors. To do that a gender sensitive conflict analysis shall be conducted and conflict sensitivity shall be embedded in the monitoring plan. In addition, BORESHA III will also introduce a Social Analysis and Action approach that will facilitate community level dialogue and actions around **gender**, women and girl's empowerment, social norms barriers and address traditional harmful practices.

Livestock as major livelihoods can be improved with more efficient management system techniques



"...I have been doing this business for some years but only at a small scale. Getting one modern beehive would require a lot of savings which would take some time. But with this grant, I was able to get equipment very conveniently and take my business to the next level. I now have more than 60 modern hives and when conditions are favorable, I ship the honey even to Nairobi..." **KII Grantee, Kenya**

and technologies, promoting private sector investment in the livestock sector, continue supporting cross border coordination of veterinary systems (through ICPALD/IGAD) aiming at setting up a tri-border epidemio-surveillance system. BORESHA intends to works also on value adding to key livestock products value chain. Value addition of livestock products such as meat, dairy, hides and skins have vast potential of improving livelihoods and spurring cross border trade. Moreover, BORESHA has been deliberately promoting goat rearing, a women-preferred value chain that supplements household income and nutrition within cross border communities.

Livestock Insurance: livestock insurance is a ground breaker approach in terms of risk management in drought prone arid area. IBLI requires a PPP approach with engagement of government, private sector and ILRI to provide communities with options to manage drought. In Kenya and Ethiopia, the environment has been more conducive although different locations are at different stage in the process of using IBLI. Somalia fell behind on IBLI but recently the Somali Government has officially expressed interest in it. IBLI component shall continue with cross learning not only at grass root level but also at private sector and government level. Financial inclusion and livestock value chain shall be strengthened and linked to create a more conducive environment.

Business and trade: in order to catalyze market growth in the cross-border areas, it is important to scale up and diversify financing options (grant facility, ethical investment, etc) to encourage entrepreneurship. The grant facility process conducted in Phase I resulted in creating a database of about 2000 local entrepreneurs that can be used for scaling up purposes such as: consultation on business environment, investing in local businesses, capacity building on technical and administrative aspects, creation of trading groups. In addition, BORESHA set up business centres shall be strengthened by delivering services to the business community: business skills training, links with and between Women's cross border traders Association, increasing utilization and services of the already established mobile market platform.

Vocational training – training for a working future: with a population growth in excess of 2% every year the large percentage of young people requires investment to increase their opportunities to work and make a living, beyond the traditional livelihoods system. The Value Chain Analysis and Labor Market Assessment conducted in 2018 have identified economic sector with high potential however local technical knowledge and capacity is very limited resulting in skills not being there. A comprehensive approach to enhance capacity in the identified key areas shall include support to TVET providers to expand their course options, enhance Youth access to TVET training and be further supported with apprenticeship, internship, and scholarship opportunities. The including of youth at risk in TVET has been tested with very positive results and this type of peace dividends shall be scaled up in future programming. Innovative training ways like working with private sector to train for the companies' specific skills needs shall also be explored. In addition, TVET training shall be followed by strengthening of youth led entrepreneurship structures through business incubation and coaching. A number of Staff in BORESHA are already trained on business development skills as TOTs and they can provide coaching support to the youth. In Somalia there is also dire need for training curriculum standardization and certification.



"...BORESHA just provided guidance and told us this is what we want to do and this is how we want it done. The process of identifying where to do the work, for example which road required bush clearance was left to us in the committees, the chief and other leaders here based on what we saw would benefit the community. Of course, BORESHA were involved all through but since we are the people who live here, we also had opinion. The selection of beneficiaries was also community driven as we know who should get priority.."

FGD NRM Committee, Kenya

VSLA and VESA: Use of Digital platforms to add value to VSLAs and VESA and rebranding them to suit the needs of, and involve the youth. From its current phase, a significant number of VSLAs have been established, but limited follow on capacity support has been offered after that: Scaling up would work on linking VSLAs and VESAs with financial institution, supporting them to move beyond the saving system into enterprise development and investment (business and technical skills) including undertake competitive grants from foundations, engage in competitive granting for commodity and service provision.

Natural Resources are scarce in the area and with the Participatory Rangeland Management systems established, the project will focus on community implementation of investment in improved management of water points and rangelands, and growing agroforestry products sectors such and gum, resins, fruit and honey. The alternative use of invasive species (*Prosopis juliflora*) will also be scaled up following successful piloting in BORESHA. In addition, Natural resource committees have been engaged in conflict management process over scarce resources and agreements have been reached. Continue dialogue between the parties and revision of the agreements is necessary to contribute to peaceful coexistence.

Crop farming, integrating crop livestock enterprises shall be explored especially around the Dawa and Juba rivers. Improved fodder and pasture production can be enhanced not only to cushion pastoralists against drought, as demonstrated in the previous phases of the intervention fodder production is a promising value chain which can absorb many pastoral households, especially the youth, if linked to the beef /livestock value chains and marketing. Diversification into the lucrative fodder, fruit and vegetable farming and the use of traditional orphan crops such as sorghum and simsim will ensure maximizing the best out of the scarce natural resources and improve household nutrition and community resilience. Value chains to be supported include fruit trees and vegetables that are exported across the three countries and even beyond. Additionally, energy efficient irrigation approaches to support crop production will be explored including shade nets and solar generators. Value Addition of current crop (horticulture, tree and orphan crops) shall be explored to prevent post-harvest losses. These includes strategies on drying, product manipulations, packaging and storage.



“The fodder storage facility provides proper storage for the hay that community members produce. Like I told you, we used to keep the hay on top of our huts. It was directly exposed to sun and other elements of weather like wind that sometimes scattered them in the compound and when the compound is littered with leaves and stalks of the hay, it made the whole hay storage thing a dirty and a cumbersome endeavor. Because of the manner and the places, we were keeping the hay, it also attracted termites that did not only feed on the hay but also our huts. While we always wanted to have hay to help mitigate the effects of forage scarcity, the lack of proper storage facility dispirited the community members and unfortunately, droughts always caught us ill-prepared”. He continues, “But with this facility we will produce hay with renewed verve and it will go a long way in managing and mitigating droughts and their effects”

Mr. Mohamed Gaab, chairman Neboi community DRR committee chairman

Crisis Modifier and nexus programming. CFW shall be used as a tool for strengthen resilience and mitigating conflict management working within PRM systems and linking with existing resilience processes (DRR plans, PRM plan, Conflict management plans,) especially during “early stage crisis time” (protracted dry season, increase of prices due to border closing between Kenya-Somalia). Elements of the PRM plans identified by the various community based PRM and PSNP planning processes shall be implemented through CFW targeting mainly youth but also ensuring marginalized groups are accessing this tool to allow progression of the plans and cash injection in the most vulnerable times of the year. In addition, it is important exploring linking up EW weather station with VSLA and other groups so that communities have community owned funding and mechanism to act when climate risk is identified

Area of intervention: the Mandera triangle represents a crucial intersection area in the region however there are other clusters along the Kenya -Somalia -Ethiopia borderland where there could be opportunity to expand the coverage of the programme by transferring the developed know-how and systems through direct intervention and strategic partnership.

Innovation: in this uncertain time, we can learn from the pastoral system and its capacity to deal and thrive in highly variable areas. We intend to work with local innovators to craft solutions to difficult problems by capturing and sharing knowledge with beneficiaries to transform their own ecosystems. In order to support Localization technical assistance will be delivered to Local partners from the civil society, private sector and local administration, to build their capacity and mechanisms to involve them in the decision making of programme implementation in order to build ownership and sustainability. Building on Cross border lessons learned we plan to work both with country and cross border interventions. A number of gaps and obstacles are present for cross border work and there is need support evidenced based argument to advocate for appropriate cross border policies to regulate movement of people, livestock and goods. An important Knowledge Management component need to be embedded in the project to strengthen the political engagement.

BORESHA has been adapting programming to support COVID 19 response and it envisages to provide support in creating awareness on vaccination as we continue maintaining prevention messaging.



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