

**REPORT FOR THE END-LINE EVALUATION OF
BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES
FOR RESILIENCE IN
THE HORN OF AFRICA
BORESHA PROJECT**

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REPORT



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PREPARED BY:



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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ABBREVIATION	FULL NAME
AMISOM	The African Union Mission in Somalia
ASALs	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
BORESHA	Building Opportunities for Resilience in the Horn of Africa
BDCs	Business Development Centres
CAHWs	Community Animal Health Workers
CAPI	Computer-Assisted Phone Interviews
CDRs	Community Disease Reporters
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
CSI	Coping Strategy Index
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
EUTF	European Union Trust Fund
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
GPS	Global Positioning System
IBLI	Index-Based Livestock Insurance
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Agency for Development
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
KLIP	Kenya Livestock Insurance Programme
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
LCIGs	Livestock Common Interest Groups
MSC	Most Significant Change
ODK	Open Data Kit
OECD-DAC	The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development/ Development Assistance Committee
PARS	Pan African Research Services
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
RASMI	Regional Approaches for Sustainable Conflict Management and Integration
SALM	Sustainable Agricultural Land Management
SECCCI	Support for Effective Cooperation and Coordination of Cross-border Initiatives
SPs	Sampled Places
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
TLU	Tropical Livestock Unit
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education Training
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Associations
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

Building opportunities for resilience in the Horn of Africa BORESHA was a project implemented by a consortium of 4 partners; DRC, World Vision, CARE International and WYG (TETRATECH). The program was implemented in borderland areas between Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia (the Mendera Triangle) between November 2017 and February 2021 targeting 350,000 beneficiaries, with the aim of promoting economic development and greater resilience particularly among vulnerable groups. The end of project evaluation therefore aimed at measuring the overall performance of the project against the set goals.

SUMMARY OF EVALUATION FINDINGS

Project relevance

The survey found BORESHA project relevant to the area context, as its activities addressed the most pressing needs of the community. The community is affected by many shocks, key among them floods, drought, livestock diseases, conflict among others. The project activities were aimed at helping the beneficiaries anticipate and manage these shocks through early warning system training, stimulate income generating activities through livelihood activities and finally introducing better ways of managing natural resources. The project was thus guided by the needs of the community and cooperated with other humanitarian organizations in the area to learn from each other and enhance efficiency. Additionally, BORESHA partners relied on data from surveys done to inform on the implementation approach. These included the baseline survey done at the beginning of the project and also regular monitoring and evaluation reports that helped inform on the progress and any adjustments needed in the approach.

Project Effectiveness and efficiency

The project was effective in enhancing knowledge on early warning signs, with 70% of the respondents knowledgeable on EWS for floods, 87% knowledgeable on EWS for drought, while 70% are knowledgeable on EWS for livestock diseases. Overall, awareness on EWS for common shocks was found to be high amongst the beneficiaries. The project was also effective in enhancing capacity to manage shocks, as 56% of the shocks in the last 1 year preceding the survey were well managed. This was as a result of project activities aimed at building resilience. Part of these activities included IBLI, where 80% of the respondents indicated awareness about IBLI and 33% of the respondents had taken it up. Livestock health was enhanced through mass vaccination and treatment, with 94% of those who benefitted from the activity indicating that animal health had become better compared to 3 years ago.

In terms of economic empowerment, the project was effective in improving the livelihoods of various beneficiary groups through the different interventions. VSLAs were a great success in the economic empowerment of the beneficiaries, with 92% of VSLA respondents indicating an increase in their overall HH income since joining the VSLA. The project was also effective in engaging the youth, through TVET training programs. 78% of TVET trainees who participated in the survey indicated that the training had helped improve their income.

The evaluation also found the project effective in assisting both grantees and TVET trainees to start and run businesses, by offering business skill training through BDSCs located in the 3 countries. The Cash for Work activity which was integrated with other project components, was effective in providing alternative source of income to meet immediate household needs.

The NRM component of the project was also found to be effective in addressing issues related to environmental conservation, with reclamation of rangelands and rehabilitation of public assets among key activities. 30 schools were equipped with water harvesting facilities, to enhance water availability. Water availability at community level was also enhanced through rehabilitation of shallow wells, which was used for small scale irrigation and other activities. Environmental awareness campaigns, were also done, reaching 64,448 beneficiaries.

Most of the project activities were implemented according to schedule. However, the project faced several challenges in the course of implementation, especially at setup level which necessitated adjustments to the programming. Additionally, other challenges especially in cross boarder activities and disruptions from Covid-19 in the last year of implementation necessitated a 3-month non-cost extension to the initial project time.

Project Impact & sustainability

The project had a direct and indirect impact on the beneficiaries and community in general. The livelihood activities e.g. VSLAs, TVET training, CfW and grants also had an indirect impact on the community in general, through creation of opportunities for other community members and provision of goods and services closer to the people.

Training on fodder production also had a ripple effect amongst other community members taking up the activity for commercial and domestic use. This activity was seen as likely to continue beyond the project life, as it is skill based. Adoption of the modern beehives was also seen to have an impact on the environment, as it reduced deforestation. With modern beehives seen to have more production of honey, the beekeepers who benefited from this activity will likely continue with the use of modern ways of honey production.

Alternative utilization of invasive species led to an increase in the uptake of briquettes which are considered more efficient than charcoal. With the project having provided machines and skill for the production of briquettes, the only limitation to sustainability is maintenance of the machines, as this was mentioned as one of the limitations.

Despite unfavorable weather in the area, the construction and rehabilitation of water points helped farmers establish small scale irrigation initiatives in some areas, which had a positive impact on food security and availability of alternative foods.

Overall, linkages between the relevant government departments and the different beneficiary categories was found to be a plus on the sustainability of the project.

The project programming was also conflict sensitive, with staff receiving training on the same. Project activities were also found to contribute to addressing the major causes of conflict in the area which are mainly tied to resources among other causes. Peace committees formed by the project also helped in ensuring the community addressed their differences and promoted peaceful coexistence.

BACKGROUND

The Kenya-Ethiopia-Somali cross-border area, typically known as the Mandera Triangle, is an area with a fluid security situation. Insecurity in the region is majorly due to Al-Shabaab – a terrorist organization and inter-clan conflicts. The security uncertainty negatively affects the area in terms of investment and development, which exacerbates the already deteriorated living conditions of the Triangle's inhabitants. Despite being a livestock rich area, people do not gain correspondingly due to limited access to markets, veterinary services, conflicts, degraded rangelands and frequent droughts. These challenges collectively necessitated the need for interventions to address them and improve vulnerable groups' resilience to shocks.

The borderlands in the Mandera Triangle are also closely inter-linked, sharing a similar local language (Somali), though other languages are also spoken. They also share a similar religion, culture and weather, meaning their livelihood activities are also similar. As such, there are strong socio-economic ties between the 3 borderlands.

Building Opportunities for Resilience in the Horn of Africa BORESHA is a cross-border program in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia. It was a 3-year project funded by the European Union Trust Fund for Africa. The program was being implemented by a consortium of partners, namely: Danish Refugee Council (DRC), which is the lead partner, CARE International, World Vision International, and WYG (then Tetrattech). BORESHA implementation commenced in December 2017, and it was envisioned to run up to November 2020. However, due to a battery of reasons, the project got an extension of 3 months, spilling to Quarter 1 of 2021. These reasons included initial set up challenges due to the complexity of the project area, delays resulting from cross-border aspects and also the interruptions caused by COVID-19. The project's overall objective was to promote economic development and greater resilience, particularly among vulnerable groups in the Cross-Border area between Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia. To achieve this goal, the project adopted a community-driven approach to address the shared nature of this border area's risks and opportunities.

BORESHA targeted 350,000 individual beneficiaries utilizing a community-driven approach to address the nature of the risk and opportunities in the border area. The program engaged local and national government authorities, community leaders, young people, women, youth groups, women's associations, local communities, private sector, and local business leadership in Mandera, Gedo, and Dolo Ado/Dolo Bay. The program targeted communities and individuals identified as vulnerable or at risk of migration or displacement.

BORESHA anticipated to accomplish the following results:

- Communities in the Mandera Triangle are more resilient and better prepared for shocks, and response is more effective;
- Individuals and communities are more self-reliant through increased skills and opportunities for cross-border employment, diversified enterprise, and livelihoods;
- Cross-border rangeland and other shared natural resources are more equitably and sustainably managed.

The overall objective of BORESHA was to promote economic development and greater resilience, particularly among vulnerable groups, including youth, women, displaced persons, and persons living with disabilities.

EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

This evaluation sought to:

- Document the project's overall performance against set goals, objectives, and the project interventions as defined in the project theory of change and results framework.
- Document any lessons learned, expected, and unexpected results or changes within and outside the project that impacted project delivery and impact.

The main focus of the evaluation: To evaluate the results, context, changes, and processes and their impact on results delivery and sustainability of benefits from the project.

- Assess the documented project results/reports, the roles of the four implementing partners (DRC, WYG/TT, World Vision International and CARE International), beneficiaries in the 3 borderlands areas in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia.

SCOPE OF THE WORK

The geographical areas covered in this evaluation were **Dollow & Beled Hawo – Somalia, Mandera – Kenya, and Dolo Ado & Dolo Bay – Ethiopia**. The thematic areas included Resilience, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Index-Based Livestock Insurance (IBLI), Livelihoods, Private sector and Natural Resources Management.

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The Mandera Triangle (Kenya-Ethiopia-Somalia border), is a critical area of pastoralism and natural resources within the Horn of Africa. It includes the traditional rangelands of both the Somali and Oromo ethnic communities. Despite its strategic location, the productivity of the region is relatively low due to fundamental changes in climatic conditions and rising commodity prices – complicated by insecurity, the degradation of rangelands, limitation of movements, land fragmentation, insecure land tenure, poor infrastructure, minimal investment, and political marginalization. These factors undermine the ability of pastoralist communities to respond, leading to increasing levels of poverty and further marginalization in the region.¹

The area is usually faced with recurrent droughts and floods, which affects the pastoralists' livelihood systems. Shortage of water in the region, especially during droughts, leads to massive deaths of livestock and unusual movement of human and livestock across the borders. The reception of the communities by others during these migrations is usually not warm as the incumbents pose a threat to the existing resources, such as water and rangelands. In most cases, conflicts emerge as the incoming pastoralists are treated as invaders of the other ethnic group/communities' resources (Nicholson & Desta, 2010).

Mandera Triangle has a complicated political framework. Many years of political instability in Somalia led to displacement of people and an influx of refugees into neighboring countries including Ethiopia and Kenya, thus disruption of livelihoods. Besides, it resulted in the emergence of insurgency groups e.g. Al-Shabaab, which present a security threat in Somalia and the Mandera Triangle in general. This led to the deployment of an African Union-led force (AMISOM), with troop contributing states being Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi and Djibouti. BORESHA baseline study also found out that instability in the Triangle is also caused by frequent clan conflicts, politically motivated conflicts and also conflict over the limited natural resources.²

Regardless, there is still a considerable amount of informal trade done in the Mandera Triangle, partly due to local demand and supply of goods and services in the area and partly due to distance and accessibility issues for people living in Mandera and Dolo Ado, who are not able to access some goods from towns within their country. They thus rely on Somalia. On the other hand, the people in Mandera provide skilled labour and other services e.g. financial services, while other goods and services also come from Ethiopia to the borderlands.³

The communities in either sides of the triangle migrate in search for pastures – locally referred to as transhumance (seasonal movement of people with their livestock between dry and wet season for pastures), labour migration, irregular migration, forced migration, displacement, migration for education and health purposes, family reunification, politically motivated migration, migration for flood retreat agriculture and community resettlement. The drivers for migration encompass resource scarcity, development projects, conflict, natural disaster, coercion, unemployment, a lack of basic services, culture of migration and political participation, among others.⁴ It is evident that migration from one country to another in Mandera Triangle is mainly for basic survival.

1 Nicholson, N. & Desta, S. Enhanced Livelihoods in Mandera Triangle (ELMT) and Enhanced Livelihoods in Southern Ethiopia (ELSE) Program 2007-2009, 2010.

2 BORESHA Baseline Study, 2018.

3 Ibid., 13.

4 BORESHA Baseline Study, 2018.

Livelihood Systems

There are at least four livelihood systems in the Mandera Triangle. However, the four do not give a clear cut distinction. Pastoralism/livestock production is the dominant economic activity in the Mandera Triangle. The other economic activities are agro-pastoralism, formal and informal employment, and trading. Agro-pastoralists pursue a mixed livelihood of livestock rearing and crop farming; farmers live in settled communities and cultivate crops for food and cash income; urban residents earn their living from formal or informal employment. Mostly trading commodities are consumables and livestock (SOAS, 2016). Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees rely on relief food.

Mandera Triangle Natural Resources Management

Rangeland degradation is a major driver of poverty and vulnerability across the arid and semi-arid lands in the Horn of Africa and is linked to conflict over the scarce resources. Increasing pressures due to impacts of population growth, climate change, overexploitation, mismanagement, invasive species and limitation of mobility, destabilizes once productive socio-ecological systems, eroding resilience, and undermining sustainable development initiatives. Sustainable natural resource management is crucial in reducing poverty (SDG 1) while rangeland rehabilitation and water management will attain food security (SDG 2) in the Mandera Triangle.

Healthy rangeland supports livestock production while water from rivers Dawa and Genale supports many economic activities in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia, including hydro-power generation, agricultural irrigation, watering points for livestock, water-based industry, and is a means of transport. This creates the need for an improved understanding of rangeland and water degradation dynamics at multiple spatial and temporal scales, and across different ecological and socio-political contexts. This will help in identifying appropriate and effective interventions to mitigate degradation and enhance restoration and rehabilitation of these shared natural resources in the cross-border region.

There has been a rise in initiatives in the recent past to enable equitable sharing of cross-border resources, and maintain the mutual co-existence of communities in the region. Most notable of these initiatives, according to SOAS (2016), is the Transition Initiative for Somalia (TIS) program by Development Alternatives Inc., PACT – through various initiatives, and IGAD has facilitated regional government meetings to agree on the sustainable usage of River Dawa. Representation from Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia is essential for successful implementation of these initiatives.

Conflicts

The Mandera triangle has diverse Somali clans. These clans have a long history of conflicts that still emerge. For instance, the Marehan and Murule clans have, over the years, had a fluid relationship characterized by continuous conflicts (Digital, 2019). Additionally, a CARE International (2018) study pointed out that most of the pastoralist land conflicts were caused by customary raiding for cattle, competition over natural resources such as pasture and watering-points, and the proliferation of small arms. The main drivers of conflict include extreme weather condition such as frequent and prolonged drought, which force affected communities to move into areas that are not traditionally occupied by their clans; the prevalence of diseases due to limited/lack of veterinary services; mushrooming settlements in Mandera from IDPs and other community members who have lost their livestock (pastoral dropouts) especially in the peri-urban centers, and instigation of local politicians. During the dry seasons, conflict rises between the farming communities along River Dawa and pastoralists because they share the same water source.

There are also cases of cross-border conflicts related to natural resources management. The other factors that lead to insecurity include the segmented nature of the Somali social fabric, constituencies that benefit from armed conflict, ill-informed donor assistance, and foreign policy agendas (CARE, 2018). As of 2016, the Triangle had only informal security management arrangements by the locally-based government officials (SOAS, 2016). The fragility of the region has impaired development, exacerbating the already worse economic conditions of the locals.

Several conflict mitigation mechanisms have been done in the Mandera Triangle so far. These include disarmament and use of inter-clan peace initiatives, employment of traditional conflict mitigation systems through the councils of elders, and implementation of programs geared towards attaining peaceful co-existence, such as RASMI. This program utilized trust-building dialogues to ease tensions and minimize communities' displacement when a conflict incident happens (Digital, 2019).

ECONOMIC SOURCES OF LIVELIHOOD VULNERABILITIES

The vulnerabilities in the region can be classified into various forms depending on their impact's direction:

Pastoralism Vulnerabilities

The main livestock reared for food and trade are camels, cattle, goats, sheep, and donkeys. Pastoralism is affected by frequent droughts, livestock diseases, religious or social contributions of animals as zakat or dowry payment, or to assist more impoverished relatives (SOAS, 2016). The pastoralists in the region have inadequate veterinary services. Adulteration of livestock drugs is a significant challenge in the area (such drugs find their way through the porous borders). Vaccination of livestock in the Triangle is irregular, and disease surveillance is impartially done. The residents also suffer from the lack of knowledge of insurance services and the unavailability of such services, further worsening their situation. Depending on the livestock given, the above-associated uncertainties present a vulnerability.

Farming Vulnerabilities

Farming in the Mandera Triangle is concentrated at the riverbanks of River Dawa, Ganale, and Juba. Farmers get low yields from farming as they do not invest much in farming inputs. Besides, periodic droughts affect the yield substantially. Frequent floods – sometimes unanticipated, also cause disruptions and huge losses to farmers in the area. Farmers also suffer from price seasonality, whereby during the harvesting season, the prices are meager. During this period, most farmers sell because they require income to tend to other needs. Off-harvest season, farmers again buy the same farm produce at very high prices. Additionally, there are inadequate crop extension services, low usage of farm inputs, little access to irrigation equipment, and few input credit services. These, together with lack of a reliable flood forecast and limited knowledge on early warning systems make the farming community vulnerable.

Employment Vulnerabilities

The vulnerabilities of employment are skewed towards the low education of the inhabitants of the region. In Kenya, Mandera county is among the counties with low literacy levels. The unemployment rate in the County stands at 69% (Mandera County CIDP 2018-2022). This can be attributed to the earlier mentioned low literacy levels, limited employment opportunities, and financial credit facilities that are Sharia-compliant, dependency on aid, porous border, and frequent conflicts among the communities. All these disrupt the normal functioning of society. The situation is not different in the other two countries in the Triangle, Somalia and Ethiopia. The region's population comprises the youth who have little training, and most do not have vocational skills (SOAS, 2016). The area is affected by the unequal enrollment of girls and boys in learning institutions, with boys' enrollment being high compared to girls'. According to Mandera County CIDP 2018-2022, The secondary net enrollment rate for Mandera county stood at 5.2 per cent (7.6 percent boys and 2.2 per cent girls) compared to the national rate of 24.0 per cent (22.2 percent boys and 25.9 percent girls).

Somalia has one of the world's lowest gross enrolment rates for primary school aged children with only 30 per cent children at primary education level and 26 per cent for secondary education (Somalia Education Cluster: Annual Report 2016). The Gross Enrollment Rate for tertiary levels of education in Gedo was 0.3 per cent in 2016 (UNFPA, 2016). While, the gender parity of primary, secondary, and tertiary education in Gedo stood at 0.887, 0.675, and 0.125 respectively. As of 2016, only 20,606 out of 61,753 individuals aged 6-24 years were enrolled in the three levels of education (UNFPA, 2016).⁵

In the 2019's education statistics, Dollo Ado, Ethiopia had the lowest gross enrollment rate of primary education at 40.46 per cent (male - 46.70% and female - 34.03%). Its net enrollment rate was around 35 per cent (Ministry of Education – Ethiopia, 2019). The low enrollment rates imply there is low number of students pursuing secondary education and the later joining tertiary institutions/colleges. Consequently, in the three countries, low literacy levels and the lack of technical skills, makes youth vulnerable, and whenever an avenue of prosperity emerges, they grasp it without the consideration of the consequences.

5 UNICEF/UNFPA Somalia Education Cluster: Annual Report 2016

STUDY APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The end line evaluation used an approach that included outcome mapping and participatory evaluation approaches, to evaluate the performance of the project against the set outcomes/goals. Tools such as the OECD DAC evaluation criteria were used, to measure the Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Coherence, Impact, Sustainability, Lessons Learned and Accountability of implementing partners to beneficiaries, donor and partners. As such, the evaluation spoke to different stakeholders involved in the project including project staff, local stakeholders (administration, government departments, local leadership), implementing partners and the beneficiaries to gather feedback about the project.

METHODOLOGY

The design of the survey was founded upon the principles of: systematic inquiry; competency; integrity and honesty; participation; and respecting the interests of stakeholders, partners and the public. In line with this, the consultants employed a participatory and consultative approach ensuring close engagement with DRC, Partners and other relevant stakeholders. Triangulation, was done through mixed methods of data collection which allowed for building in strategies to verify or cross-check data using several pieces of evidence rather than relying only on one approach. This ensured that credible, relevant, reliable and useful information was obtained. As such secondary and primary data collection methods were utilized.

The evaluation was implemented in three main phases: An inception phase, a field investigation phase and a synthesis and feedback phase.

Inception Phase

The evaluation commenced with consultative meetings between DRC and PARS teams to clarify any issues regarding the evaluation and prepare a workable plan for the data collection process. DRC shared the baseline report and projects documents to aid in the development of an inception report and tools. After approval of the inception report and tools, the PARS team undertook the field mission applying the plan developed during the inception phase. The plan was applied in a way that was flexible enough to accommodate any last-minute challenges in the field.

Field Investigation Phase

This phase employed both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection to gather feedback from beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

Qualitative methods

To acquire valuable insights regarding people's subjective perceptions; their deep-rooted beliefs and feelings, Key informant interviews, Focus group discussions and observations were done. The respondents were purposively selected in collaboration with implementing partners based on their interaction with the project.

Key Informant Interviews

This is a qualitative research technique that involves conducting intensive one to one individual interviews with experts/stakeholders in a said subject to explore their perspective on specific topics. KIs are useful when you want detailed information about a person's thoughts and opinion or want to explore new issues in-depth. For this assessment, an unstructured discussion guide was used to guide the discussion, where KIs were conducted with various stakeholders including project staff, implementing partners, stakeholders and representatives from beneficiary groups. Questions on the discussion guides were formulated based on a respondent's involvement in the project. The language used in conducting the KIs was dependent on the respondent category, with English being used mainly in KIs with project staff and stakeholders while local languages were used in beneficiary representative KIs. In total, 53 KIs were conducted as shown in the table below;

Table 1: Number of KIIs achieved

RESPONDENT CATEGORY	# of KIIs
DRC Project Staff	5
Implementing Partners (WYG, World Vision & CARE International)	6
Government ministries (agriculture, livestock, education)	8
Local administration	6
DRRM committees representatives	3
Natural resource management committees representatives	3
VSLA representatives/ leaders	3
TVET Graduates	7
Leaders of Livestock common interest groups	3
Grantees	4
Other NGOs	4
Animal health professionals	1
TOTAL	53

Focus Group Discussions

This is a qualitative research method in which a group of participants are invited to a central location to discuss a subject matter. In focus groups, expression of people's perceptions and beliefs can bring about a collective response that is extremely valuable and which provides detailed information on the intangible and often ambiguous habits and attitudes which cannot be obtained through standard quantitative interviews. FGDs were conducted with different categories of beneficiaries and moderated by a trained facilitator. Local moderators/facilitators were used to address the issue of language barrier thus allowing the respondents to express themselves freely. Covid-19 protocols were observed during the FGDs, where social distance and wearing of masks were emphasized. Additionally, we ensured only a maximum of 6 participants were in the group, to avoid crowding. As such, for the different beneficiary groups that participated in the FGDs, we mainly interacted with the officials to represent the opinions of other members. In total, 25 FGDs were conducted, with each category represented in each of the 3 borderlands. Some categories like LCIG and NRM had more FGDs due to the different activities they benefitted from. This is as shown in the table below;

Table 2: Number of FGDs achieved

RESPONDENT CATEGORY	# of FGDs
Livestock vaccination and treatment beneficiaries	3
LCIG members	5
Index Based Livestock Insurance beneficiaries	3
DRR committee members	3
Members of natural resource management committees	5
Cash for work Beneficiaries	3
VSLA members	3
TOTAL	25

Observation

This is a data collection method where the researcher gathers information through direct observation/interaction of the research phenomena and taking notes in the areas of interest. Observations in this evaluation were made on the different interventions including water points, rehabilitated rangelands, fodder storage facilities, school facilities, TVET trainees and grantees' businesses among other developments arising from the program. Information collected through observations was captured using relevant photographs.

Quantitative Research

These are one on one interviews, conducted using a structured questionnaire to generate statistical data. The questions are formulated based on the objectives of the survey and results are analyzed to produce percentages and figures, which are often presented in form of charts and tables.

Quantitative face-to-face interviews with beneficiaries were conducted in the program implementation sites, Dollow & Beled Hawo – Somalia, Mandera – Kenya, and Dolo Ado & Dolo Bay – Ethiopia. The specific project sites were chosen in collaboration with project staff, based on accessibility and security. Once in the identified sites, the project staff together with their local partners mobilized the beneficiary groups – who would often be in the same area. The data collection team would then randomly select the beneficiary households, guided by the beneficiary list provided by the consortium members.

The total sample size achieved was 693, distributed as shown in the table below;

Table 3: Sample per country

COUNTRY	SAMPLE ACHIEVED
Kenya	232
Ethiopia	239
Somalia	222
Total	693

Distribution by the different interventions is as shown below. It is important to note that the respondents may have benefitted from more than one intervention, thus the total number will not add up to the sample size above. Cash for Work for example, cut across many other categories as seen below;

Table 4: Sample per intervention

INTERVENTION	SAMPLE
Cash for Work	440
VSLA membership and support	379
Livestock Common Interest Group (LCIG) membership and support	241
Vaccination of livestock	224
Early Warning System training	209
Disaster Risk Reduction training	197
Vocational Training & Apprenticeship (e.g. TVET/EBTVET)	139
Livestock Insurance Awareness sensitization	71
Business advisory, training and/or support through BDCs	62
Rangeland rehabilitation: Alternative utilization of Prosopis	55
Rehabilitation of water-points	35

Data Analysis

Qualitative data collected (KIs & FGDs) was transcribed word for word and then analysed using NVIVO software. Interviews conducted in the local languages were transcribed and back-translated to English for analysis.

Quantitative data was cleaned and analysed using SPSS and Excel and presented in charts and tables for interpretation.

LIMITATIONS TO THE STUDY

- Considering the expansiveness of the project area and the timeframe of end of project evaluation, it was not possible to reach all corners of the project areas and hence certain villages were selected randomly, with the guidance of the implementing partners. This thus did not enable the field teams to see all the project sites or interact with all the beneficiary groups.
- Language barrier: The main language spoken in the project areas is Somali. This necessitated the use of local teams to capture both qualitative and quantitative data. The teams were well trained and captured the data well, but the transcribing and back translation of qualitative interviews done in Somali to English took longer than expected.
- Insecurity is a major challenge in the Mandera triangle and attacks happen often. This limited the movement to all the project sites and necessitated change of movement plans based on advice from the security teams. However, the DRC team offered guidance to the field team on where and when to visit the different areas and took all necessary caution to ensure security of the teams.
- Some stakeholders especially in government had been shifted to other areas, thus not available for comment. This was resolved by replacing them with other key informants within the same departments who were equally informed about the project.

All in all, the evaluation went on without any major challenges and all field activities were completed on time.

MAIN FINDINGS

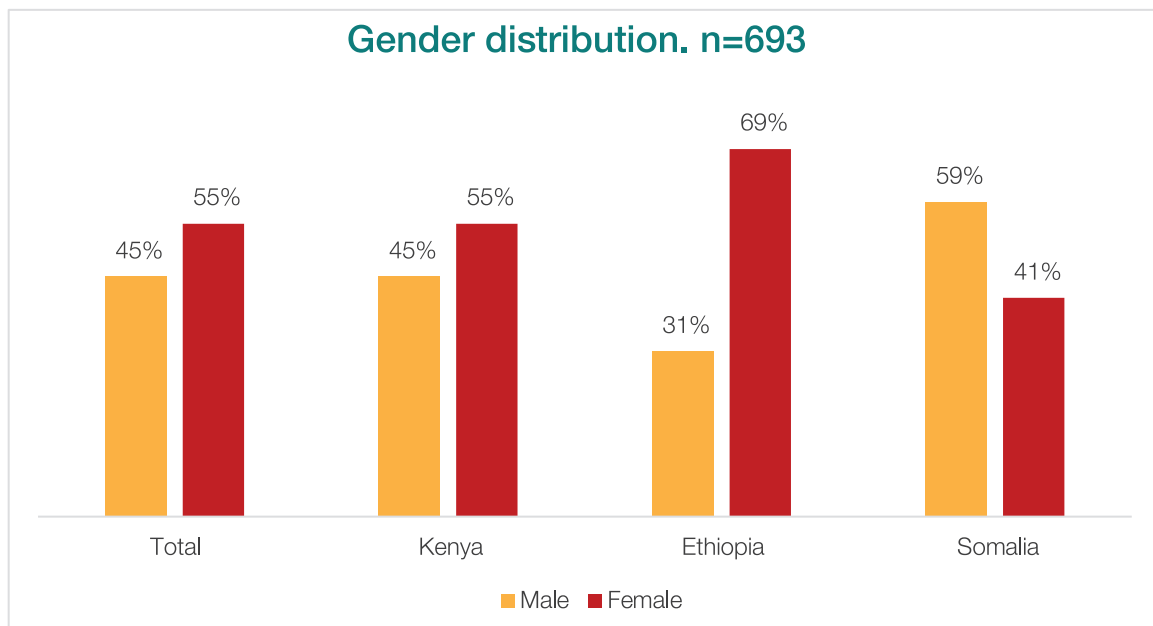
It is important to note that since the evaluation was conducted in November-December 2020, with about 3 months remaining to the end of the program, some figures reported in the report could slightly change as project implementation was still ongoing.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender

Overall, 55% of the sample was female, while 45% was male. The distribution was similar to the Baseline survey, where 55.2% were female and 44.8% male. The distribution across each country is as shown below;

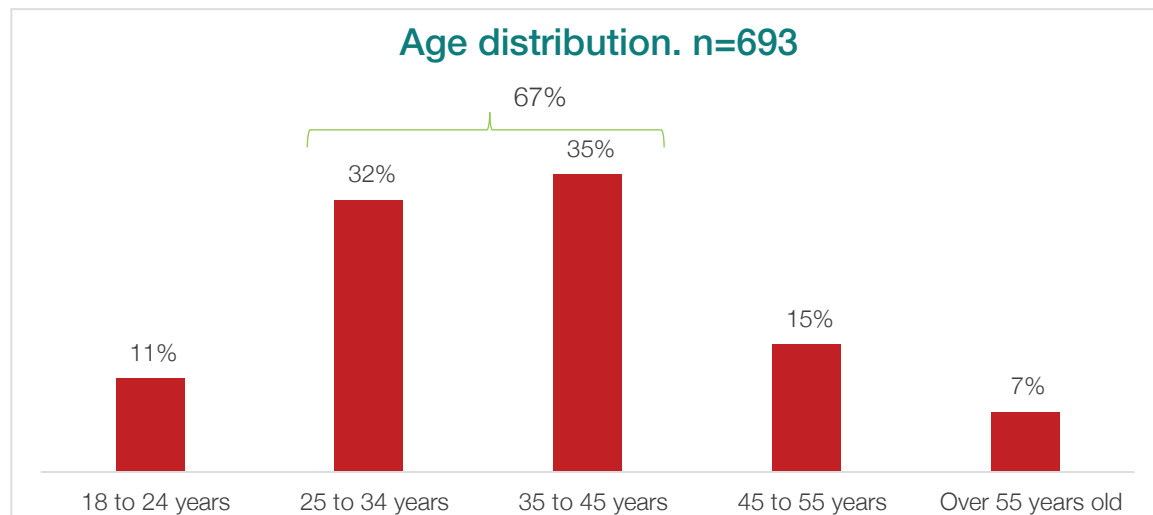
Figure 1: Gender distribution



Age

The bulk of the respondents fell between the ages 25-45 years, which formed about two thirds of the respondents (67%). Only 7% were above 55 years old. The age distribution compares with what was there in the Baseline survey, where 15-30 year olds formed 15%, 31-40 formed 47%, 41-50 formed 27% while those above 50 years formed 11%.

Figure 2: Age distribution



Marital status

Overall, 90% of the respondents were married, which was replicated across the 3 countries. A similar trend was observed at Baseline, where 86% of the respondents indicated they were married. In comparison to the age distribution above, it is clear that the median age at marriage is low, with statistical surveys across the 3 countries putting it below 25 years.

Table 5: Marital status. n=693

	TOTAL	KENYA	ETHIOPIA	SOMALIA
Married	90%	90%	95%	85%
Divorced/Separated	2%	2%	0%	3%
Widowed	3%	5%	3%	1%
Single	5%	3%	1%	11%

Household size

The average household size was 6.8, with Kenya (Mandera) having an average household size of 7.1, Ethiopia 6.9 and Somalia 6.5. This compares with the official figures, with the average household size in Mandera county as per the Kenya 2019 census⁶ being 6.9, while the average household size of the Somali region of Ethiopia is 6.6 according to the 2007 Population Census.⁷ The average household size in Somalia is 6.2 according to the Somalia Health and Demographic survey of 2020.⁸

Table 6: Household size. n=693

	TOTAL	KENYA	ETHIOPIA	SOMALIA
Household size (survey)	6.8	7.1	6.9	6.5
Official figures	–	6.9	6.6	6.2

Sources of livelihood

On the question of sources of livelihood for the respondents, the evaluation sought to know the different sources of livelihood for the household and also asked the respondents to identify the main source from those mentioned.

Different sources of livelihood

Overall, crop farming, unskilled casual labour and livestock keeping were identified as the main sources of livelihood across the three countries as shown in the table below. Other sources of livelihood for households were small scale business, which was mainly in Kenya. A point to note is that generally, livestock keeping is the main livelihood activity in the Mandera triangle, with the Mandera County CIDP indicating it contributes up to 72% of the household income in the county. Crop farming comes second. However, the areas sampled for the evaluation were selected based on accessibility due to security and other limitations, thus may not give the actual picture of the livelihood sources in the entire Mandera triangle. Proximity of the areas selected to urban centres may have boosted the numbers for casual labour and small scale businesses, while selection of areas near River Dauwa may also have boosted the numbers for crop farming.

6 Kenya Population and Housing Census 2019.

7 Ethiopia Population and Housing Census 2007.

8 Somalia HDS 2020

Table 7: Sources of livelihood. n=693

	TOTAL	KENYA	ETHIOPIA	SOMALIA
Crop farming	73%	65%	94%	59%
Casual labor (Unskilled)	57%	46%	54%	73%
Livestock keeping i.e. cattle, goats, chicken etc.	56%	79%	56%	33%
Small scale business/petty trade e.g. kiosk, hawking, sidewalk, market vending etc.	25%	56%	6%	14%
Natural resources (e.g. forestry, logging, firewood/charcoal sales etc.)	9%	11%	12%	3%
Self-employed skilled artisan	8%	4%	2%	17%
Remittance/Cash transfer	2%	6%	0%	1%
Employed skilled artisan	1%	0%	0%	1%
Formal/salaried employment	1%	1%	0%	1%

Main source of livelihood

From the livelihood sources mentioned, the evaluation also sought to know what was the main source of livelihood for households in the target areas. Overall, 47% of the households interviewed mentioned crop farming as the main source of livelihood, followed by 21% who mentioned unskilled casual labour, 14% mentioned small scale businesses/petty trading while 12% mentioned livestock keeping. This is as shown in the chart below. Caution however is given above, that the percentages may not give the actual picture of livelihood sources in the entire Mendera triangle.

Table 8: Main source of livelihood

	TOTAL	KENYA	ETHIOPIA	SOMALIA
Crop farming	47%	31%	63%	45%
Casual labor (Unskilled)	21%	13%	17%	35%
Small scale business/petty trade e.g. kiosk, hawking, sidewalk, market vending etc.	14%	33%	3%	8%
Livestock keeping i.e. cattle, goats, chicken etc.	12%	15%	14%	6%
Self-employed skilled artisan	2%	3%	0%	3%
Natural resources (e.g. forestry, logging, firewood/charcoal sales etc.)	1%	2%	2%	0%
Formal/salaried employment	1%	0%	0%	1%

PROJECT RELEVANCE**Extent to which BORESHA responses were relevant to the context and ability to address the community, households' and individual beneficiaries' needs identified**

Stakeholder and beneficiaries' feedback indicated that the project's activities were relevant to the context of the beneficiaries and well suited to the immediate needs of the community at the time of intervention. The survey sought to understand the area context by asking respondents about the most common hazards/shocks, where natural disasters appeared to be the most common. Overall, 81% mentioned floods as the most frequent disaster, followed by drought (79%). At baseline, similar feedback was given regarding the shocks, with floods being mentioned by 82.5% of the respondents and drought mentioned by 78.4%.

Livestock disease at baseline was highly mentioned as a common shock, as stated by 83.2% of the respondents. However, at end-line this was mentioned by 48%, with a significant drop in the shock in Somalia and Kenya. This can be attributed to mass vaccination and treatment of livestock which was one of the components of BORESHA program. The risk of livestock disease however still remains high in Ethiopia, which needs to be explored further.

32% also mentioned human diseases as a shock in the end-line evaluation, but it had not been mentioned at Baseline. This was mainly due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which has had an impact on livelihoods. The pandemic started in the year 2020 and as such was not in the initial project design. However, the project integrated activities to educate the community on containment measures, and also on mitigation of the effects of Covid-19.

Respondents in Kenya felt the risk of conflict is still high, where a similar trend was observed at Baseline. This may be attributable to the nature of politics on the Kenyan side which is more aggressive compared to the other 2 countries, coupled by the Al-Shabaab threat.

Table 9: Hazards/shocks at End-line. n=272

HAZARDS/SOCKS (END-LINE)				
	Total	Kenya	Ethiopia	Somalia
Floods	81%	66%	91%	84%
Drought	79%	90%	84%	64%
Livestock diseases	48%	41%	80%	23%
Human diseases (Covid-19)	32%	30%	53%	11%
Water shortage	29%	25%	40%	22%
Conflict	24%	70%	5%	4%

Table 10: Hazards/shocks at Baseline

HAZARDS/SOCKS (BASELINE)				
	Total	Kenya	Ethiopia	Somalia
Drought	78.4%	67.2%	67.9%	74.4%
Floods	82.5%	94.1%	74.6%	78.8%
Livestock disease	83.2%	93.0%	79.5%	77.0%
Rising food prices	80.3%	94.3%	69.0%	77.8%
Conflict	23.8%	51.7%	3.3%	16.5%

The BORESHA project was thus relevant to the area context, as its activities targeted the most pressing needs of the community. These included activities to anticipate and manage natural disasters, livelihood activities to stimulate income generating activities and provide alternative sources of income and natural resource management activities that aimed at creating more land for pasture and farming and address the issues of water shortage.

The Mandera triangle, being an area with limited resources also harbors the issue of unemployment especially among the youths. As such, training (TVET & EBTVET) and other forms of training equipped the beneficiaries with skills they can use to improve their livelihoods. Provision of start-up kits at the end of training helped some of the graduates to start their own businesses, guiding them to self-employment and potential job creation.

According to various stakeholders in the project area, the area also has a challenge of limited financial credit facilities that are Sharia compliant. As such, access to capital to start or grow businesses is a challenge. Support of businesses or groups through grants was thus a component that was seen as relevant considering the area context.

Integration with other existing programmes both (country & other donor programmes)

BORESHA worked with many organizations in their implementation of the project, across the 3 countries. At the beginning of the project, a stakeholder mapping was conducted to understand the mandate of the different organizations & private sectors operating in the areas and potential areas of collaboration. In course of the project, BORESHA held meetings with peer organizations in the area to share experiences and create synergies. This ensured project activities were in sync with activities by other organizations. An example is the RASMI program implemented by PACT, which was mainly focused on peace building. Several youths from the RASMI program were referred to BORESHA and benefitted from livelihood interventions, despite this not being part of the initial program design. BORESHA also worked with ILRI, SECCCI, UNDP among other organizations working in the project areas.

“...We worked very well with BORESHA. For us as peace builders, we know for sure that you cannot really sustain or have what we call sustainable peace if you are not giving people alternatives and giving them a chance to make money or earn a livelihood. That is what in many ways BORESHA has been doing in terms of those opportunities for young people that were referred to them from RASMI...” KII RASMI

Coordination with other consortiums including SECCCI, Omo Delta initiative among others funded under the EUTF created harmonization of the project activities creating synergies rather than competition. Working with private sector players already having a presence in the project areas e.g. Takaful in Mandera – Kenya, also ensured the integration of already existing structures.

The project also worked closely with national and local government departments, thus syncing program activities with those of the government departments. This was highlighted by stakeholders from the departments of education, livestock health, environment and local administration. In the vaccination of livestock, BORESHA worked with livestock departments where veterinarians from the government participated in the actual vaccination of livestock. BORESHA also worked with the livestock department in the coordination of CDRs’ training and facilitation and also in disease surveillance. The program also worked with local governments in the preparation and harmonization of DRR plans and also in activities related to Natural resource management. This involved working with KEFRI – who are experts in forestry and natural resources research, in coming up with ways of managing the *Prosopis Juliflora* plant. BORESHA involved the stakeholders through interactive meetings, laying out their plans and seeking cooperation with the stakeholders.

“...One of the things I liked about BORESHA is following procedures. You know there are structures at government level and there are regular meetings with different departments where things are brought up and discussed. BORESHA was very formal in these things. They could come, sit with us and say this is what we have and this is where we want to do it. This ensured the involvement of professionals in the respective fields at government level, collaboration and everyone ends up playing their role...” KII Government official, Kenya

Involvement of local, national and international bodies was also key, given the region’s volatility and security situation. As such, local administration was involved in all project activities from selection of beneficiaries to the actual implementation of activities. This ensured goodwill from the government’s side and also the community. At cross boarder level, BORESHA engaged IGAD, which is the regional body promoting peace, prosperity and regional integration. Working with IGAD was important to promote buy-in from the three countries and assist in lobbying the governments where this was necessary. In particular, BORESHA worked with IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) in developing a cross boarder disease surveillance protocol as well as trying to harmonize the vaccination of animals across the three borders, to avoid the spread of livestock diseases from one side of the boarder to the other.

“...All the activities by BORESHA, be it selection of beneficiaries, be it the project activities were done in consultation with the government representatives in this area. In this country, it is very important to have government involvement and approval due to the volatility of the area. They did that and there is nothing that was done without our approval and consultation...” KII Local administration, Ethiopia

Were the right people, living in the right area targeted at the right time?

To ensure selection of the beneficiaries was open, a participatory approach was used, involving the local leadership and community in general. An example is beneficiaries for TVET training, who were selected through a panel at the

local level, who reviewed applications together with the BORESHA team and identified the neediest individuals who would benefit from the training.

“...The selection criteria for TVET training was the work of DRC. They came and advertised that they want a certain number of people, and gave an end date for applications. Applicants then brought the applications to my office, after which the DRC team came and we sat with a panel from the community and opened the applications one by one. We applied the agreed criteria, and the locals in the panel were able to verify whether what the applicant had written is actually true since we knew the people. From there we were able to pick the most suitable. We considered gender, age and vulnerability too...”

KII Local administration, Somalia

This was also the case for the grantees, who made applications that were reviewed by a committee at the national level, which identified the most suitable individuals or groups. This level of transparency ensured the right people were selected for the different interventions, at the same time giving all the people a fair chance to be selected.

“...I was running my small business then I saw an advertisement on a wall inviting people to apply for grants. Many people submitted applications. They took my application, stamped it, gave me a receipt and told me to wait for a response. Later someone from Mandera came to verify the existence of my business and I was lucky to be selected. That selection process was fair. There was no mistreatment, they did not ask for money, I did not know anyone in that office. I was just lucky...” KII Grantee, Kenya

COHERENCE

Linkages between resilience and conflict management

Conflict is a common challenge affecting areas in the Mandera triangle. The potential of conflict is also high within the areas. Conflict is mainly tied to resources, as the communities in the area fight over control of key resources e.g. water points, pasture among others. Unfavorable weather conditions in the area lead to shortage of these resources, leading to competition for the few available. Low literacy levels and lack of livelihood opportunities especially among the youths lead to unemployment and subsequent poverty among this vulnerable section of the population. This leads to desperation and risk of engaging in vices such as drug abuse, crime and risk of radicalization by terrorist groups.

BORESHA project aimed at building resilience, build livelihood opportunities and enhance better management of natural resources. Activities such as the introduction and enhancement of fodder production gave the community an alternative source of feed for their livestock, ensuring availability of animal feed even during the dry seasons.

Figure 4: Fodder in store. Mandera, Kenya. Nov 2020, PARS



©Boresha

Providing opportunities for training of youths through TVET or EBTVET and subsequent provision of start-up kits provided the youth beneficiaries with a source of livelihood and thus removing them from the risk of engaging in negative social behaviors. For some, utilization of their skills led to provision of casual jobs for other youths, e.g. as assistants, which is a positive outcome.

Training on better ways of managing natural resources and formation of peace committees were suitable ways of ensuring peaceful coexistence of community members in the project areas. The peace committees were responsible for faster resolution of conflicts arising in the community through dialogue and ensuring equitable sharing of natural resources.

BORESHA staff were also trained on conflict sensitivity by DDG – a branch of DRC specialized in peace building and conflict management. The training was aimed at enabling staff to be conflict sensitive in programming and this helped in maintaining a conflict sensitive lens in project activities.

PROJECT EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

Building Resilience within the communities

Common disasters in the community

The survey sought to know the most common disasters in the community, with floods and drought highly mentioned by 81% and 79% of the respondents respectively. Livestock diseases was mentioned as a common disaster by close to half of the respondents (48%), mainly on the Ethiopian side. Other common disasters were human diseases (including Covid-19), water shortage and conflict, with conflict having a big skew on the Kenyan side. The aggressive nature of politics on the Kenyan side may be attributed to the high risk of conflict. This is as shown in the table below;

Table 11: Common disasters/shocks. n=272

	TOTAL	KENYA	ETHIOPIA	SOMALIA
Floods	81%	66%	91%	84%
Drought	79%	90%	84%	64%
Livestock diseases	48%	41%	80%	23%
Human diseases	32%	30%	53%	11%
Water shortage	29%	25%	40%	22%
Conflict	24%	70%	5%	4%
Human-wildlife conflict	4%	9%	3%	0%

Awareness of early warning signs

Outcome: Number of community associations (especially farmers and pastoralists) who know early warning signs and know what to do in case of an emergency or disaster.

The survey sought to know the percentage of the respondents who were aware of early warning signs of the common disasters/shocks mentioned.

Floods

Overall, 70% of the respondents indicated they are aware of early warning signs of floods, with most mentioning that rising waters on the river is an indication that floods could occur. Heavy rainfall was mentioned as a caution. However, with floods being a natural disaster, sometimes access to early warning information in good time is a challenge. This was mainly mentioned on the Kenyan side, where there could be light to moderate rainfall but still flooding occurs due to heavy rainfall upstream. As such, the community uses time estimates from the previous years to estimate when the floods may occur. Respondents also indicated that they get advisories from different sources to expect floods. However, there is limited access to information from professional sources i.e. meteorological departments.

“...Heavy rainfall is always a sign that there could be flooding. However, sometimes there could be light showers and still flooding will occur like last year. This is mainly caused by heavy rainfall from the Ethiopian highlands and the flooding can be instant and unexpected...” FGD, DRR Committee, Kenya

Drought

Most of the respondents indicated they are aware of the early warning signs of drought, as indicated by 87% of the respondents. The warning signs mentioned include less than average rainfall, drying of tree leaves and vegetation and migration of birds and animals. Some of the mitigation measures against drought of animals include growing and storing fodder for their animals, to use during the dry season.

Water shortage

This is also a common stress in the area, which results to community members walking for long distances in search of water for drinking, livestock and domestic use. 87% of the respondents indicated they are aware of early warning signs of water shortage, which coincides with drought. Some of the early warning signs include prolonged periods without rainfall, shallow waters in the rivers and weather predictions predicting prolonged dry season. Some of the mitigation measures against this is water harvesting and storage facilities as done by World Vision, sinking of boreholes among others.

Figure 5: Underground storage facility, Mandera Kenya. PARS 2020



Livestock Diseases

Livestock diseases were also mentioned as a common disaster, and 70% of the respondents indicated they are aware of the early warning signs. The common signs include poor feeding, lower than average production of milk, physical signs such as swollen jaws or other parts among other signs. Other signs include receiving information about outbreaks in the areas from different sources. Mitigation measures include vaccination of livestock and reporting symptoms to CDRs for quick action by relevant authorities.

Conflict

Conflict was also mentioned as a common shock in the area, mainly occurring between communities and clans living in the area. The main causes of conflict are competition over resources, inter-clan rivalry, revenge attacks over killing of community members and occasionally politics. About a third of the respondents (65%) indicated they are aware of early warning signs of conflict, which include inadequacy of resources, community members talking about impending attacks, migration of people from the area, people arming themselves and rising political tensions. Conflicts are resolved by community dialogue and reconciliation and where necessary, involvement of law enforcement agencies.

Source of information on early warning signs

There are different sources of information on early warning signs of disasters/shocks at community level. Overall, community barazas, local leadership and media outlets were mentioned as key sources of information. However, traditional ways of sensing disasters e.g. migration of birds, presence of many frogs among other ways are also commonly used to predict upcoming natural events. This is as shown in the table below;

Table 12: Source of information on EWS. n=272

	TOTAL	KENYA	ETHIOPIA	SOMALIA
Community barazas	57%	53%	79%	37%
Traditional ways e.g. migration of birds	53%	66%	61%	34%
Local media	51%	58%	53%	43%
Local leadership	51%	59%	50%	46%
Family/friends	35%	47%	32%	27%
Self (From training/experience)	33%	42%	40%	19%
Mosques/churches	25%	16%	29%	28%

Management of shocks

Outcome: Proportion of shocks “well managed” by the target communities during the project

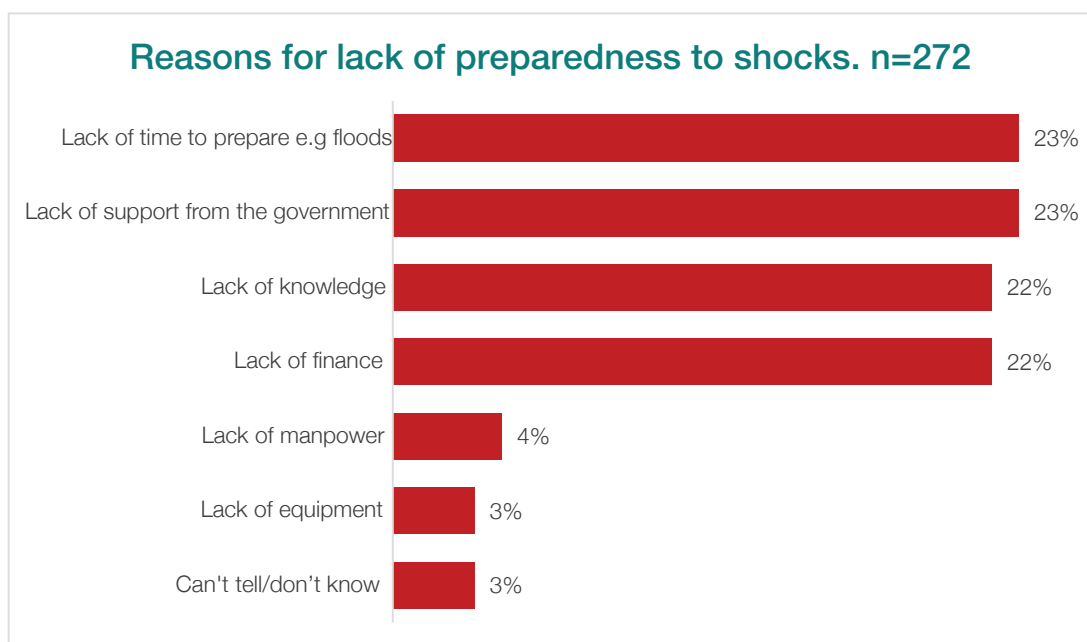
In the last one year, the survey sought to know how many disasters/shocks have occurred in the community, in a bid to know the percentage of shocks that were well managed and those that weren't. On average, there were 1.8~2 shocks in the last year, with Kenya the highest with 2.4 and Somalia the lowest with 1.4. On average, 56% were handled well or the community was well prepared for them as shown in the table below;

Table 13: Shocks well managed. n=272

	TOTAL	KENYA	ETHIOPIA	SOMALIA
No. of shocks in the last one year	1.8	2.4	1.9	1.4
No. of shocks well handled	1	1.3	1.1	0.8
Proportion well handled	56%	54%	58%	57%

For the disasters that were not well handled/the community was not well prepared for, the survey sought to understand the reason for lack of preparedness. Lack of time to prepare for the disaster e.g. in the case of unexpected floods and lack of government support to combat disasters were mentioned as some of the key reasons for lack of proper management of the disasters/shocks. Lack of knowledge and also lack of finances to combat the disasters were also highlighted as some of the reasons for the disasters that were not well managed. This is as shown in the chart below;

Figure 6: Reasons for lack of preparedness to shocks



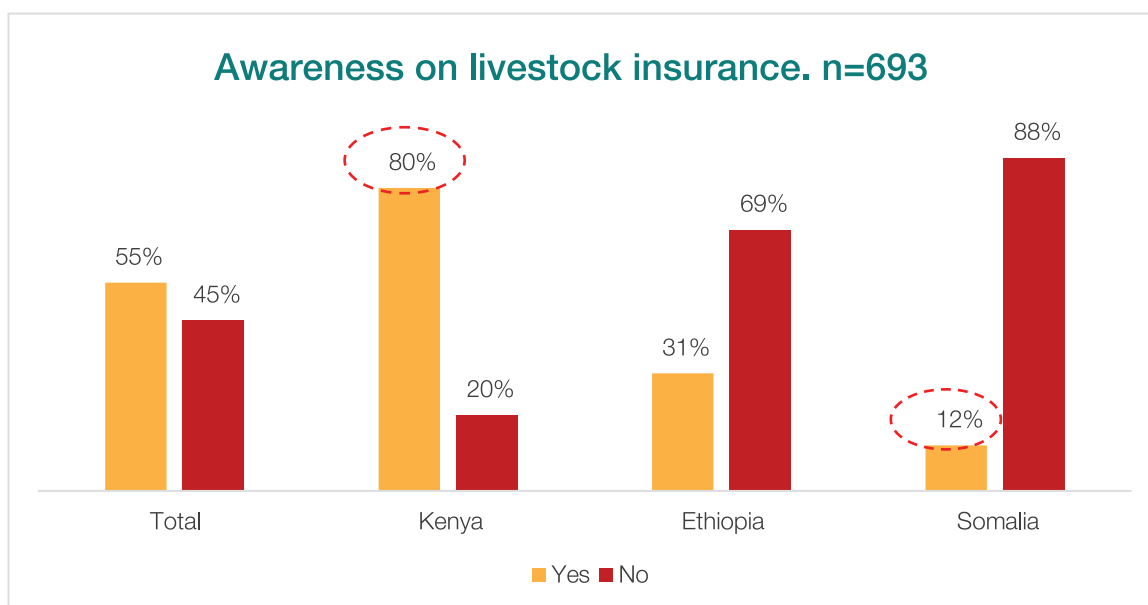
Livestock Insurance

Outcome: Number of livestock-dependent households protected by insurance

Awareness on livestock insurance

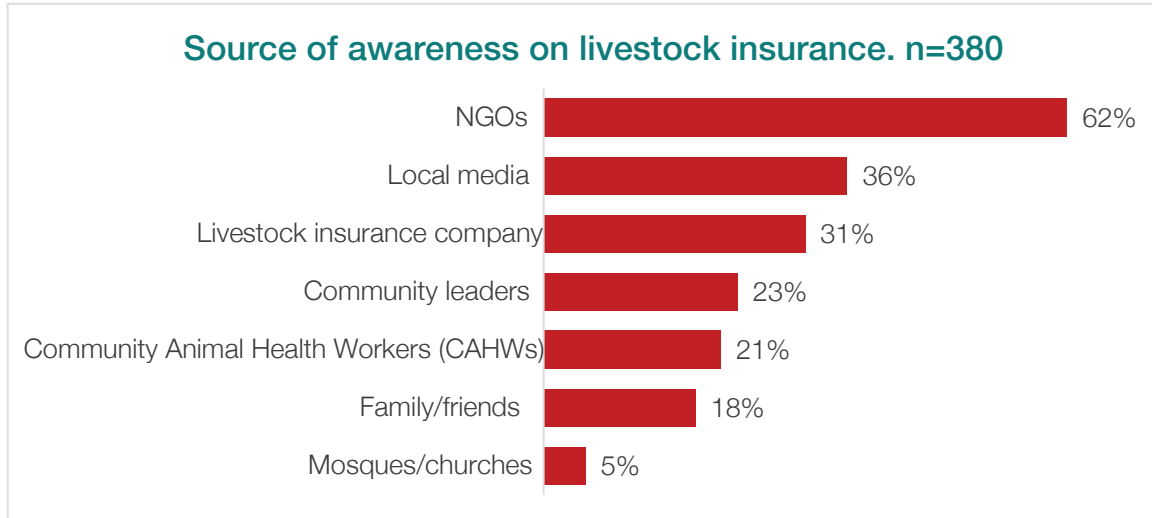
IBLI was specifically in Kenya, but awareness was also observed in Ethiopia and Somalia, which can be attributed to a spillover of awareness to the two countries. Overall, 55% of the respondents indicated they are aware of livestock insurance, with a strong skew in Kenya (Mandera) where 80% of the respondents indicated they were aware of livestock insurance. Awareness about livestock insurance in Ethiopia was 31%, while it was lowest in Somalia with only 12% aware of it. At Baseline, the overall awareness on IBLI was at 30.7%, with Kenya having the highest awareness at 51.7%, followed by Somalia at 20.5% and Ethiopia at 18.5%. As such, there was about a 25% increase in awareness overall, with the highest increase in the Kenyan cluster with a 28% increase.

Figure 7: Awareness on livestock insurance



For those who indicated awareness on livestock insurance, the survey sought to know the source of awareness about livestock insurance. There were multiple sources of awareness, with majority indicating they had heard about livestock insurance from NGOs, as stated by 62%. Local media sources were also a source of awareness, as community leaders, Community Animal Health Workers and social circles such as friends and family. This is as shown in the chart below;

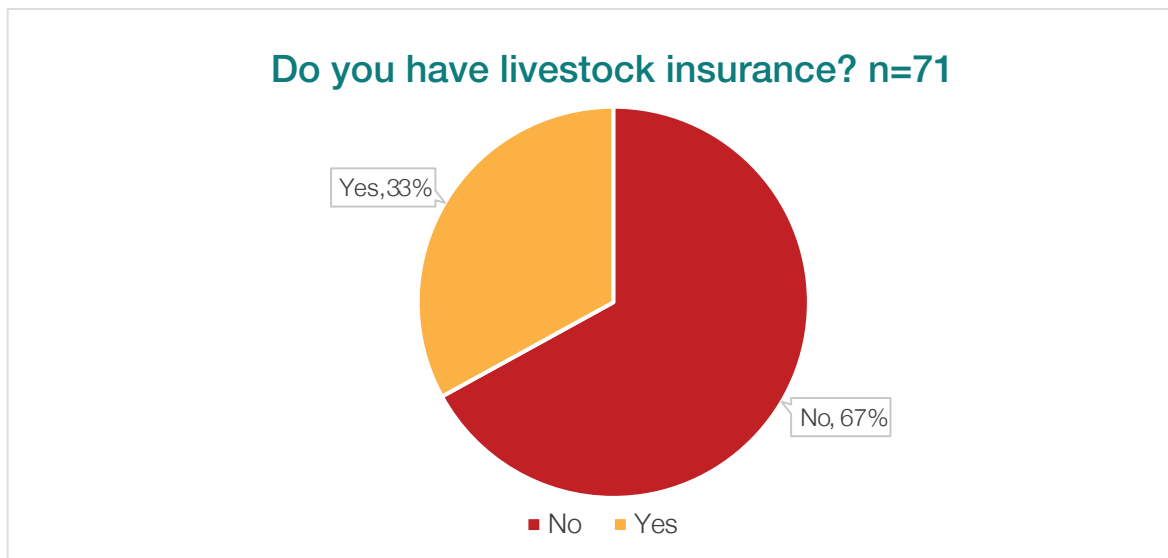
Figure 8: Source of awareness on IBLI



Do you have livestock insurance?

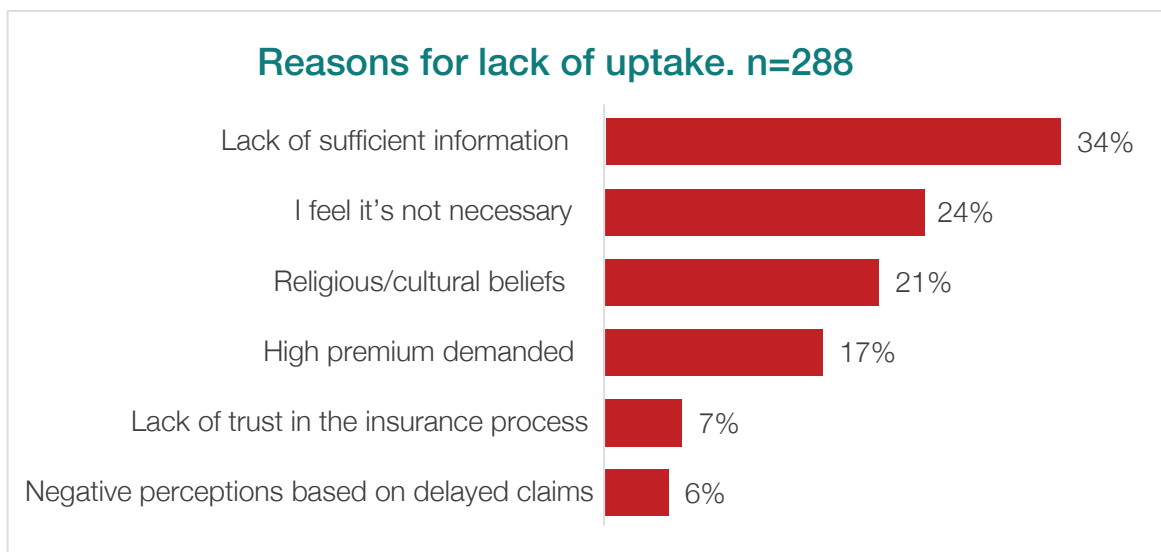
Uptake of IBLI was assessed in the Kenyan cluster, where 33% of those aware of it indicated they currently have the insurance for their livestock. This shows low uptake of the facility among the community members.

Figure 9: Do you have livestock insurance



Some of the reasons given for lack of uptake of livestock insurance include lack of sufficient information as indicated by a third (34%), while 24% felt it's not necessary. Another 21% indicated it is against their religious/cultural beliefs as shown below.

Figure 10: Reasons for lack of uptake



For those who had taken up livestock insurance, the survey sought to know the likelihood of them recommending it to other people to take it up too. Only less than a third indicated they would recommend livestock insurance to other livestock keepers, with 35% indicating they were unlikely to recommend while 36% indicated they would neither recommend nor discourage uptake (neutral). This means that in total, 71% would *not recommend* the initiative.

Figure 11: Likelihood to recommend. n=90

31%	36%	35%
Likely	Neutral	Unlikely

Likely to recommend – reasons

- Helps prevent losses during drought
- Suitable if one has a big herd
- Is value for money

Unlikely to recommend - reasons

- Lack of sufficient information about it and how it operates
- Lack of trust in them
- They take time to issue money
- Not necessary for small scale herders

From the feedback (qualitative & quantitative) on the reasons why the respondents would not recommend livestock insurance, most lean toward lack of enough information or proper understanding on how it works, how premiums are arrived at and expectations on the pay outs. More education on IBLI is required to enhance adoption.

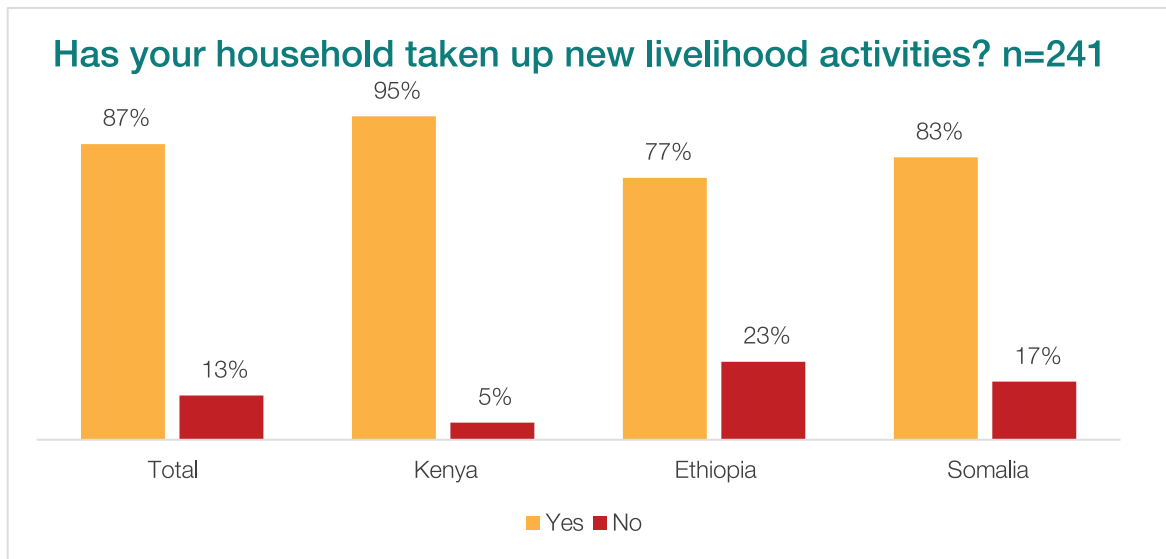
Livelihoods & Economic Improvement

Household Resource Utilization

Indicator: Increase in Number of Livelihood resources being used by the Households

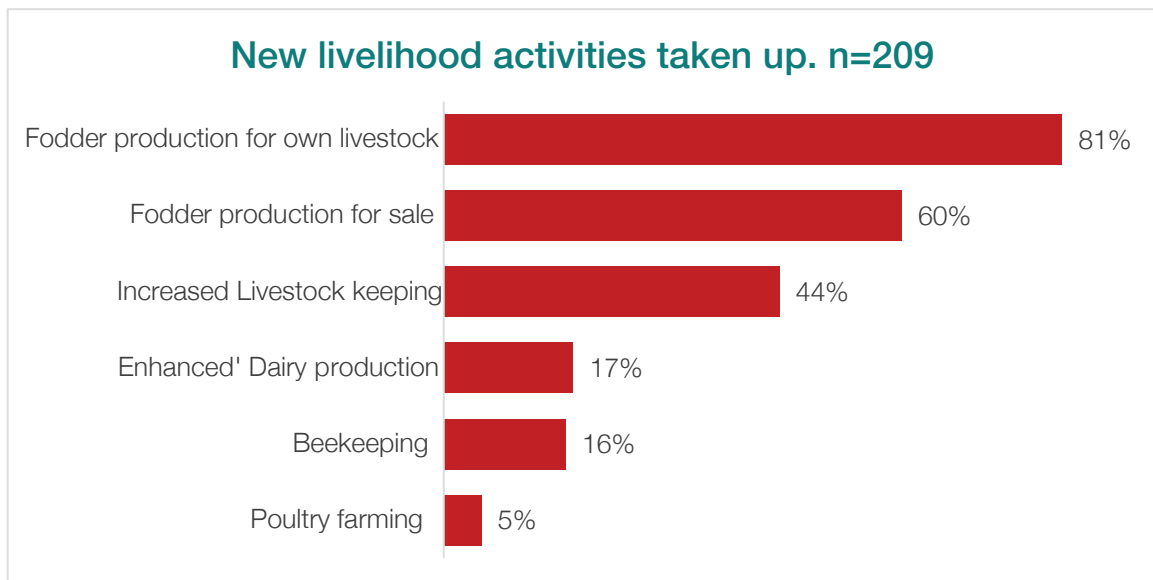
The survey sought to understand whether households targeted with livelihood interventions had taken up any new livelihood activities as a result of the project intervention. Overall, 87% of the households surveyed indicated their households had taken up a new activity, with the highest number being in Kenya at 95%, followed by Somalia at 83% and 77% in Ethiopia.

Figure 12: New livelihood activities



The livelihood activities cut across many aspects depending on location, with fodder production for own livestock and for sale being mentioned by 81% and 60% of the respondents respectively. This includes those making fodder from the invasive species e.g. *prosopis*. This has changed from the baseline survey, where only 46.6% indicated they were producing fodder. In addition, during Baseline it had been noted that animals were no longer kept in large numbers due to recurrent droughts and animal diseases. However, availability of fodder and vaccinations enhanced livestock keeping, with 44% reporting 'increased livestock' keeping as a livelihood activity. 'Enhanced' Dairy production was also mentioned by 17% as an activity that has come up as a result of the project, which is mainly linked to the availability of animal feed and improved livestock health for the beneficiaries. Beekeeping and poultry farming were also mentioned as shown in the chart below;

Figure 13: Livelihood activities taken up



Increase in the number of livelihood sources to rely on or switch to is critical in building resilience because of shocks or disasters.

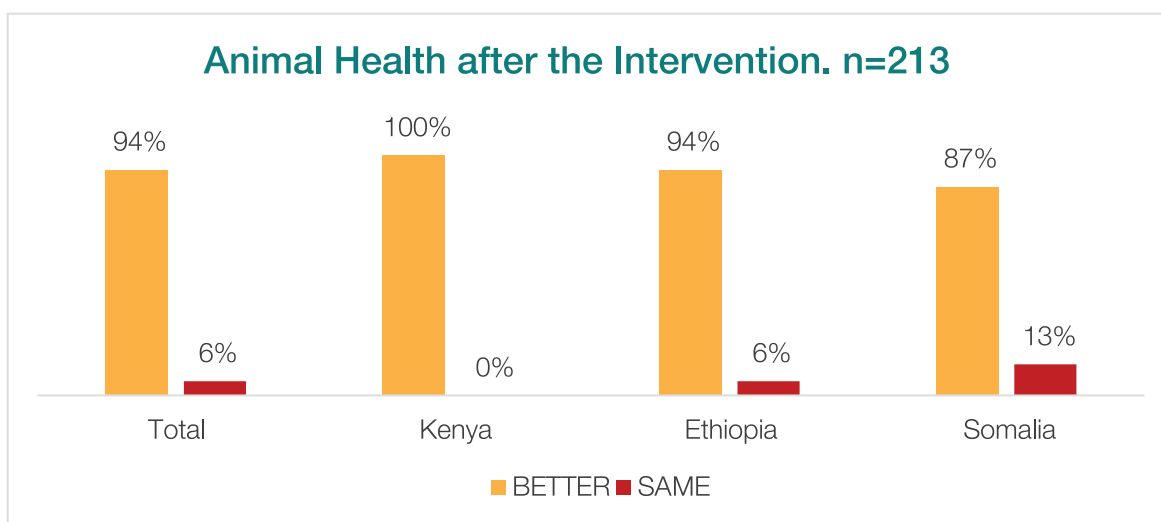
Improved livestock health

Indicator: Proportion of Individuals Describing Better Health and Lower Attrition Amongst their Herds

Livestock diseases contribute to a set of problems within livestock production systems. These include animal welfare, productivity losses, uncertain food security, loss of income and negative impacts on human health. Livestock diseases management can reduce losses. Through reduced attrition among livestock herds, livestock would contribute to poverty reduction as they are important assets for meeting household needs.

The study revealed that the project was very effective in improving animal health. The respondents who had benefitted from mass vaccination were asked to indicate whether the project interventions had made herd health better, worse or the situation had remained the same. According to the overall results, 94% of the respondents indicated that animal health had gotten better with the intervention. All 100% of the respondents in Kenya indicated that the mass vaccination intervention had improved animal health status. In Ethiopia, 94% of the respondents indicated that the vaccination exercise was effective in improving animal health, while 87% of the respondents in Somalia reported improvement in animal health with the mass treatment. This is as shown below;

Figure 14: Animal health status



Why Better?

- Vaccination and treatment programmes were effective and key tool in maintaining animal health
- Significant reduction of animal deaths
- Higher chances of survival for younger animals
- Acquisition of practical experience gained by households in management of livestock diseases
- Improved livestock production
- Overall reduction of common animal diseases in the areas

CDRs and CAHWs played a significant role in improvement of animal health, as they were the link between the project, government stakeholders and the community. Training given to the CDRs and CAHWs improved their capacity to diagnose and report on animal diseases, where action was taken before the diseases became a major problem. Equipping the CDRs and CAHWs with kits meant that they were also able to handle minor health issues at community level and also participate in mass vaccination and treatment of the livestock.

VSLA development

Indicator: Proportion of Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) Members Self Reporting an Increase in Household Income

One of the expected outcomes of the project was to increase household incomes of VSLA members. Members of the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) were asked to assess the situation of the overall household income since joining the VSLA.

The study revealed that the project has been very effective in increasing household incomes among members of VSLAs. Overall, 92% of the respondents indicated an increase in household incomes. Looking at the participating countries, 97% of the Kenyan respondents indicated an increase in household incomes. In Ethiopia, 91% of the respondents indicated an increase in incomes, while 85% of the households in Somalia reported the same.

Table 14: HH income status since joining VSLA. n=339

STATUS	OVERALL	KENYA	ETHIOPIA	SOMALIA
Increased	92%	97%	91%	85%
Decreased	1%	0%	2%	2%
Stayed the same	6%	3%	6%	10%
Don't know	1%	0%	1%	3%

Promotion of VSLA groups was also effective in improvement of financial management. The findings indicated an increase in total financial savings per member, with the average monthly savings in Kenya increasing from USD 9 to USD 20 per member as a result of project interventions. In Ethiopia, the average monthly savings increased from USD 8 to USD 17. In Somalia, the monthly savings increased from USD 4 to USD 10.

Table 15: Average Monthly Savings in USD. n=339

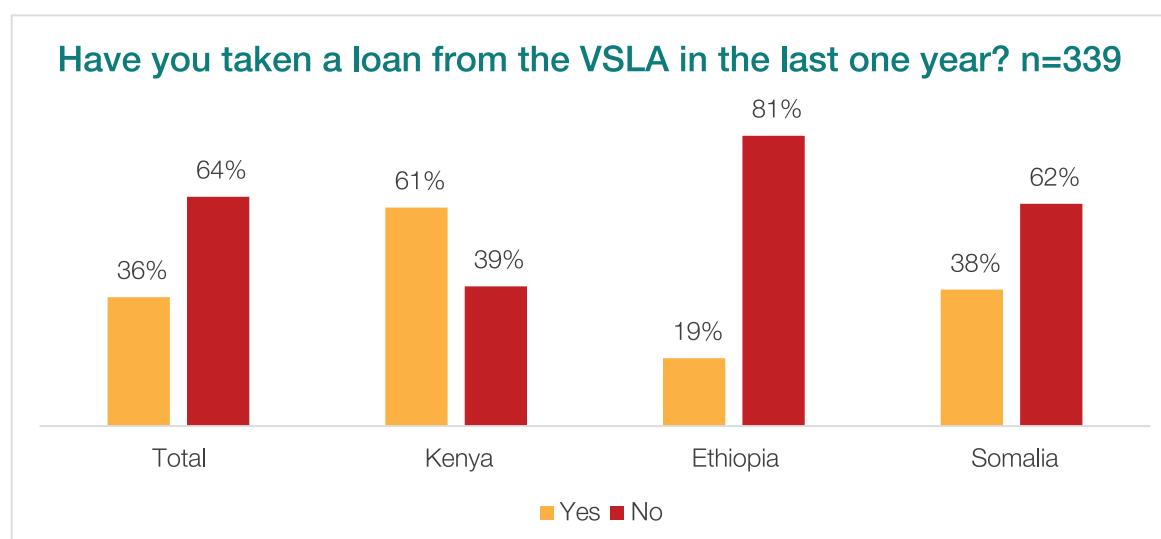
	TOTAL	KENYA	ETHIOPIA	SOMALIA
Baseline	7	9	8	4
End-line	16	20	17	10

However, it is important to note that the savings are not consistent all year. The savings increase and decrease depending on the existing economic situation. During dry seasons, the savings reduce due to minimized production of resources, while during the wet season the savings increase due to more productivity of resources.

In addition, the project was effective in promoting take up of savings and loan schemes. In total, 36% of the members indicated they had taken up a loan with their VSLAs in the last 1 year preceding the survey, with the highest being in Kenya where 61% indicated they had taken up a loan, followed by Somalia (38%) and lastly Ethiopia (19%). Effects of Covid-19 could have contributed to the low uptake of loans overall, especially in Ethiopia and Somalia.

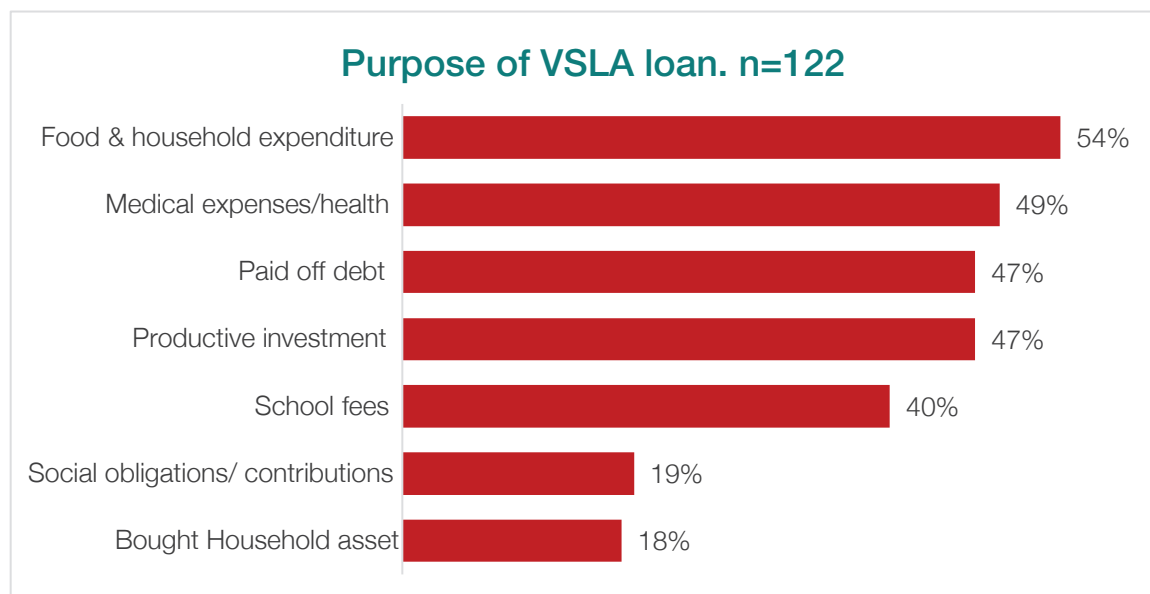
It is important to note that the loan uptake figures would have been different, had the question been asked in reference to loan take up during the entire project period.

Figure 15: Taken loan from VSLA in the last 1 year?



The survey sought to know the purpose of the loans taken up, with more than half indicating the loans were used for food and household expenditure (54%). About half (49%) indicated the loans were used for medical/health related purposes at household level. Other uses were paying off debts, productive investment, school fees among others as shown in the chart below;

Figure 16: Purpose of loan



Cash for Work

The project's Cash for Work interventions were effective in creating earning opportunities to the needy and vulnerable populations, to enable them meet their essential needs, prevent negative coping mechanisms, while at the same time building or rehabilitating productive assets. Cash for Work approach empowers individuals, since direct cash transfers provide a flexible resource to affected households and enables them to spend money according to their needs and priorities.

Activities undertaken in cash for work mainly involved clearing of bushes, to pave way for roads or reclamation of land for use. Other activities included soil and water conservation, repairing of community assets and digging/repairing water points.

Table 16: CfW Activities Undertaken. n=401

ACTIVITY	COUNTRY			
	Total	Kenya	Ethiopia	Somalia
Bush Clearance (bush thinning)	82%	78%	91%	72%
Access Roads Clearance	81%	85%	90%	59%
Soil & Water Conservation (Soil Bunds)	27%	10%	40%	23%
Repairing of Community Buildings: Schools, Hospitals	29%	9%	44%	23%
Digging Water Pans/Repairing of Water Points	15%	2%	25%	13%

Effectiveness in Promoting Stakeholder Engagement

Cash for Work Interventions were also effective in promoting stakeholder engagement. Stakeholder engagement is the process by which an organization involves people who may be affected by the decisions it makes or by its implementation. It tends to bring on board views, needs and interests of stakeholders leading to effective decision making and better project outcomes.

In the selection of cash for work activities and beneficiaries, the project involved the community in the process. CfW was also integrated with other components of the project, so as to realize their objectives. Examples is where NRM plans on reclamation of rangelands through bush clearance were implemented through CfW, benefitting the same community. Rehabilitation of water sources and other community assets was also done through CfW, again benefitting the same community.

According to the respondents, community leaders, committees, local administration and BORESHA staff were all involved in identifying priority activities and the members of the community who would benefit from the activities. This came out from all the engagements with stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project.

“...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

The cash for work activities helped create temporary sources of income that improved household income for beneficiaries. Most of the beneficiaries were selected based on vulnerability and need, e.g. the unemployed, those with pressing household obligations among others. For most beneficiaries, most of the money from the CfW activities went into food for household consumption, as stated by 85% of the respondents. This was replicated across the three countries. Repayment of debts owed including to VSLAs was mentioned by 68%, while other household needs and medical/health related costs were also met with the money. This is as shown in the table below;

Table 17: Benefits to HHs. n=401

BENEFITS TO HOUSEHOLDS	COUNTRY			
	Total	Kenya	Ethiopia	Somalia
Bought food for HH consumption	85%	95%	76%	89%
Debt payment	68%	71%	74%	55%
Household needs e.g. clothing, shoes	48%	61%	48%	32%
Medical/health related	34%	47%	35%	15%
Bought farm input/seeds	32%	31%	38%	21%
Pay school fees	31%	29%	34%	27%
Bought livestock	24%	21%	18%	38%
Built or repair shelter	13%	10%	13%	16%
Started a business	6%	8%	5%	8%

Complaints about Cash for Work

There were few complaints from the beneficiaries, especially on delays in the disbursement of the cash. This was mentioned by about 10% of the respondents, who indicted the amount had taken longer than promised. This mainly affected the Kenyan side. Feedback from project staff however indicated that the delays had been caused by the recipient verification process, as the amounts were disbursed through mobile money. As such, there were few instances where the recipient name could not match with the person who did the work. This was mainly due to situations where the phone number provided belonged to a relative or spouse, where the beneficiary did not own a phone. The number could also have been registered using a relative's name thus the discrepancies. These issues were however ironed out and amounts disbursed after verification.

Training and Capacity Building (TVET Training)

Overall, the programme was effective in building technical skills and human capital. The study assessed the effectiveness of Institute Based Vocational Education and Training (IBTVET) and Enterprise Based Technical Vocational Education and Training (EBTVET). Enterprise Based Technical Vocational Education and Training (EBTVET) is anchored on the premise that skills acquisition takes place in two locations, that is, institutions and on the job. Institution-based training takes place in TVET institutions or schools and dedicated training centres.

Of the TVET beneficiaries interviewed, 78% indicated that the training helped improve their incomes (82% in Kenya, 97% in Ethiopia and 58% in Somalia). 47 % confirmed that the training helped them in starting new businesses (36% in Kenya, 68% in Ethiopia and 38% in Somalia). 31% of the respondents (45% in Kenya, 32% in Ethiopia and 18% in Somalia) indicated that the training enabled them to support their household needs. This is as shown in the table below;

Table 18: TVET training and start-up kits

BENEFITS OF TRAINING	COUNTRY			
	Total	Kenya	Ethiopia	Somalia
Improved My Income	78%	82%	97%	58%
Helped Me Start New Business	47%	36%	68%	38%
Expanded My Business	39%	33%	71%	18%
Help to Support My Household Needs	31%	45%	32%	18%
Linked me with Other People in the Sector	11%	9%	6%	18%
Improved My business Management Skills	24%	42%	18%	15%

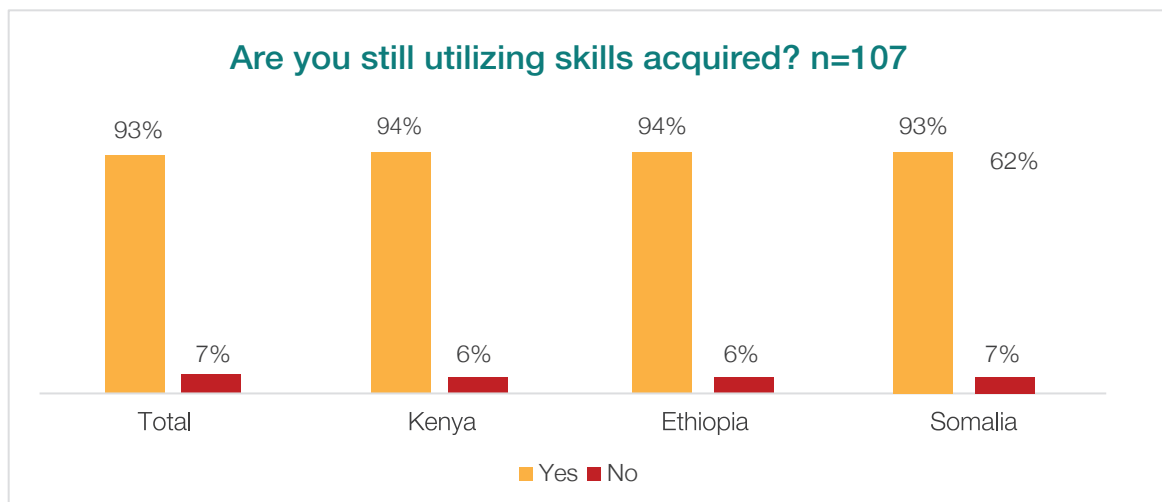
As seen above, Somalia appeared to have lower percentages in terms of those reporting improved income. This was interrogated further as seen in the table below, where the evaluation found that the TVET beneficiaries from Beled Hawa were less satisfied with the training and post-training process when compared to other areas. 31% of the respondents from Beled Hawa indicated they had not received start-up kits. When asked about the relevance or suitability of the start-up kits provided, 18% of the respondents from Beled Hawa indicated that the start-up kits were not relevant, which is lower compared to other areas which mainly had 100% acceptance. Some of the reasons given for this was that in some instances, the kits were provided to a group, rather than individuals. When asked to rate the importance of start-up kits in the utilization of their skills, Beled Hawa respondents gave a lower rating compared to other areas (64%), an indication that they were less satisfied generally. This may have contributed to the overall lower numbers reflected above for Somalia.

Table 19: TVET training

QUESTION		MANDERA	DOLO ADO	DOLO BAY	DOLLOW	BELED HAWA
Did you receive any start-up kits at the end of the training?	Yes	88%	96%	83%	96%	69%
	No	12%	4%	17%	4%	31%
Would you say the start-up kit was relevant/suitable for the skills acquired in training?	Yes	100%	100%	100%	91%	82%
How would you rate the importance of the start-up kits in utilization of your skills to earn a livelihood?		80%	90%	96%	82%	64%

Of great significance is the fact that 93% of the individual interviews confirmed that they were using the skills they obtained in their jobs, including management of their businesses. When disaggregated by country, 94% of those interviewed in Kenya and Ethiopia were using the skills, while 93% of those in Somalia were using the skills.

Figure 17: Skills utilization



Barriers to utilization of skills included;

- Lack of employment
- Lack of capital
- Limited opportunities to utilize course in current location
- Business challenges caused by Covid-19

Grants

The grant facility was availed to 78 grantees from the three countries, with the aim of encouraging local economic development, job and wealth creation and growth & diversification of the local economy. Feedback from the direct & indirect beneficiaries of the grants indicated the facility was an effective component in growing livelihoods of the beneficiaries and the ripple effect of business growth spread to those who benefitted from employment opportunities and provision of goods and services from the businesses.

“...We like to look at the grant as a benefit to everyone in this area. We received it as a CBO, but the activities that we rolled out had to involve other community members and that’s how we have been able to hire casuals from time to time to help in farm activities. And the products we produce e.g. onions are consumed in the local market therefore making them readily available and affordable...” KII Grantee, Kenya

The grantees who participated in the survey indicated positive business growth, diversification of business, access to new markets and other positive outcomes. The ‘comfort’ of not thinking about a repayment plan of the money also gave the businesses a chance to plan and venture into activities that would have taken them years to reach. The training that accompanied the grants was also effective in the management of the grant and businesses in general.

“...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

Business Development Support Centres (BDSC)

At the beginning of the project, BORESHA set up Business Development Support Centres – one in each country (Kenya - Mandera, Somalia - Dollow and Ethiopia - Dolo Ado). The aim of the BDSCs was to support grantees and TVET graduates with business/entrepreneurship skills and market information to help them grow. All the grantees who participated in the evaluation indicated they received training on financial management and business skills which aided in better management of their businesses. In cases where the grantee was a group, the officials received the training.

The TVET graduates also received business skills training upon completion of their courses, to equip them with basic skills required to start and ran a business. These included record keeping, market research, customer acquisition, financial management among others. In total, 259 people were trained on business skills.

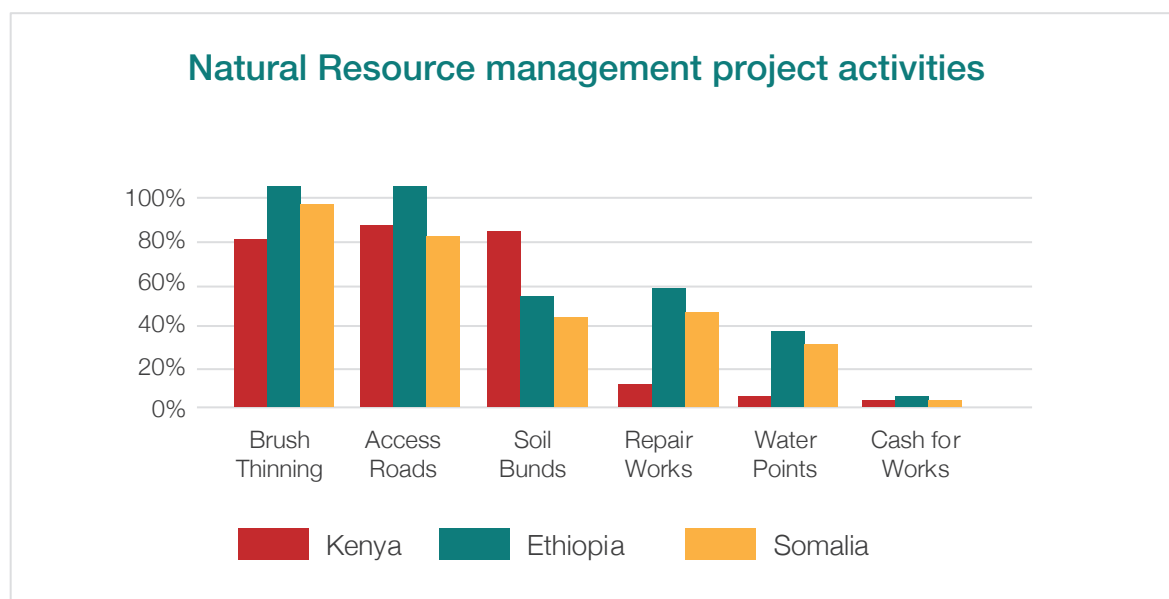
The BDSCs are also responsible for the management of a mobile-based market platform, aimed at offering market information to consumers and traders across the 3 borderlands. This included commodity prices across the borders and exchange rates. The platform was effective at improving the trade quality across the borders, even with restricted movement. In total, the platform had 1,029 users accessing information.

Natural Resource Management – Participatory Range Land Management.

CARE Somalia commissioned Converge Data Catalysts to develop a baseline assessment of the Mandera Triangle and develop a map of the shared natural resources. The intention was to link the assessment data to community priority needs. Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) system were introduced as the common approach to natural resource management. CARE staff members facilitated several PRM and NRM trainings. Each woreda/kebele/village developed their NRM Community Action Plan. One map of shared natural resources was produced. There were no cross-border agreements achieved during the project cycle. 10 NRM committee trainings were carried out (4 in Kenya, 3 in Ethiopia and 3 in Somalia) with 506 participants in total.

From 2018 to 2020, several consultative workshops were held and 831 NRM government officials trained on PRM and NRM management approaches. 2,149 CfW beneficiaries rehabilitated 33 degraded rangeland sites using methods such as soil and water conservation techniques, reseeding grasses, replanting indigenous trees and establishing enclosures for dry season pasture conservation. Other community infrastructures were also equipped and rehabilitated through CfW, drawn from the CAAPs, DRRM plans, NRM plans, water rehabilitation activities, and health and education facilities mapping. In total, 133 sites were rehabilitated, engaging 3,993 CfW beneficiaries.

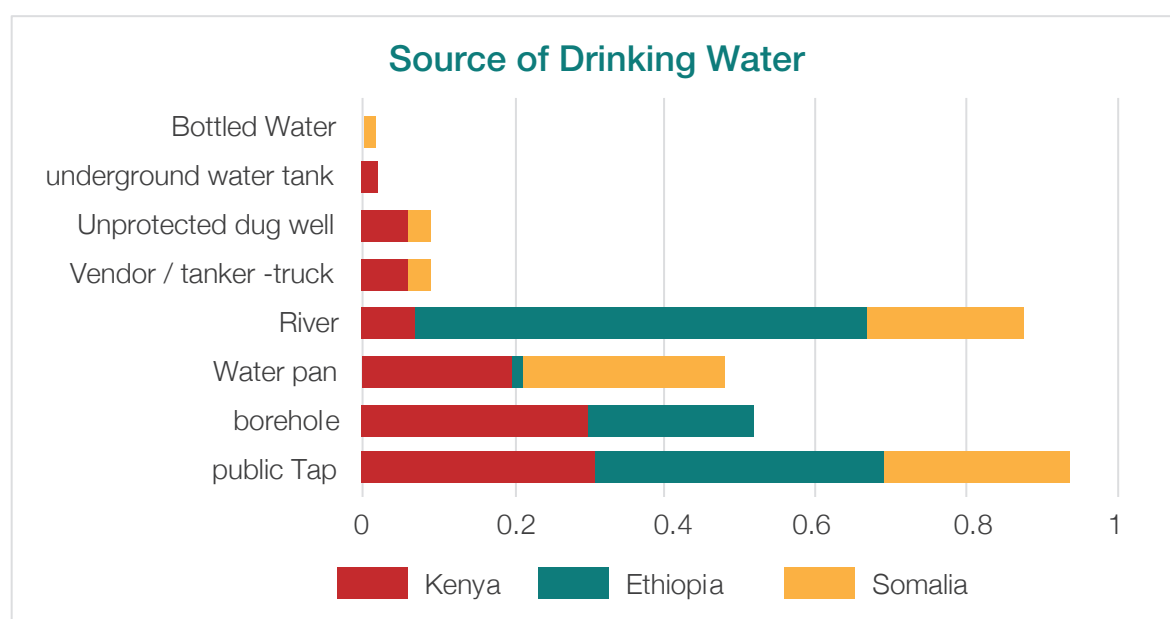
Figure 18: NRM activities



12 environmental awareness campaigns were carried out throughout the target sites, through radio media, moving theatre, public campaigns & workshops. The number of participants and beneficiaries of environmental campaigns were 464,448. 21 schools were involved in implementing environmental conservation activities, which included planting trees through environmental clubs at school level, awareness creation on environmental conservation and training of teachers on hygiene, health and nutrition.

12 water points for were rehabilitated/constructed, benefitting a total of 103,713 beneficiaries. In Dollow District, Somalia, Abore village, a new infiltration water well, 20m3 concrete elevated water storage tank 6m high was constructed, and animals drinking troughs, water kiosk, pump sets, generator house and pipeline system installed. In Beled-Hawa village, Somalia, a 100m3 masonry ground water tank and 18km pipeline distribution system was installed. In Mandera North Sub-County, Chabi village, rehabilitation of 1 underground water tank for runoff water harvesting and installation of solar pumping system was carried out. In Yabicho village, Banisa Sub-county, Kenya an infiltration gully was rehabilitated and in Qatis village, an underground water tank with solar pumping system was constructed. In Ethiopia, Dolo Ado District, Rhamu village benefited from the installation of solar pumping system on existing borehole, and a 2km piping system to Didin village. Suftu village benefited from the installation of a solar pump-set to an existing water well and a 3KM piping system to an existing bore hole. 10 Community water committees with 166 beneficiaries (112 males and 54 females) were trained on water management and conservation.

Figure 19: Source of drinking water. n=693



30 schools (10 in Kenya, 10 in Ethiopia, 10 in Somalia) benefited from water harvesting schemes through roof gutters, water storage tanks and connection pipes from main water points, reaching 13,327 beneficiaries. Information from the field shows that the community benefits from the water points rehabilitation and construction as many people access water from public taps, boreholes, water pans and the river.

Community leaders and NRM government extension officers were facilitated by CARE staff to formulate customary by-laws that will govern the protection of key tree species from overexploitation, communal grazing land, and dry-season enclosures.

Regional peace meetings were not done due to cross-border conflicts and political disagreements. However, in collaboration with other NGOs, such as RASMI, 2 peace building meetings were held with 69 male and 9 female participants. The project failed to develop the 3 targeted regional agreements due to COVID-19 border closures and political and cross border conflicts in the project countries. Collaboration with other projects working in the project site including RASMI and SECCCI enabled effective implementation of the project with more beneficiaries reached.

The project provided training and demonstrations and necessary machines to transform different parts of the invasive *Prosopis* plants into livestock feed and charcoal briquettes. Beneficiaries are now taking part in controlling spread of the invasive plants in their villages as a drought resilience strategy and promoting household food security. The charts below show the beneficiaries in Mandera Kenya, Dollow Somalia and Dolo Ado and Dolo Bay in Ethiopia project site, taking part in the various alternative uses of *Prosopis juliflora*.

Figure 20: Use of Prosopis in Kenya

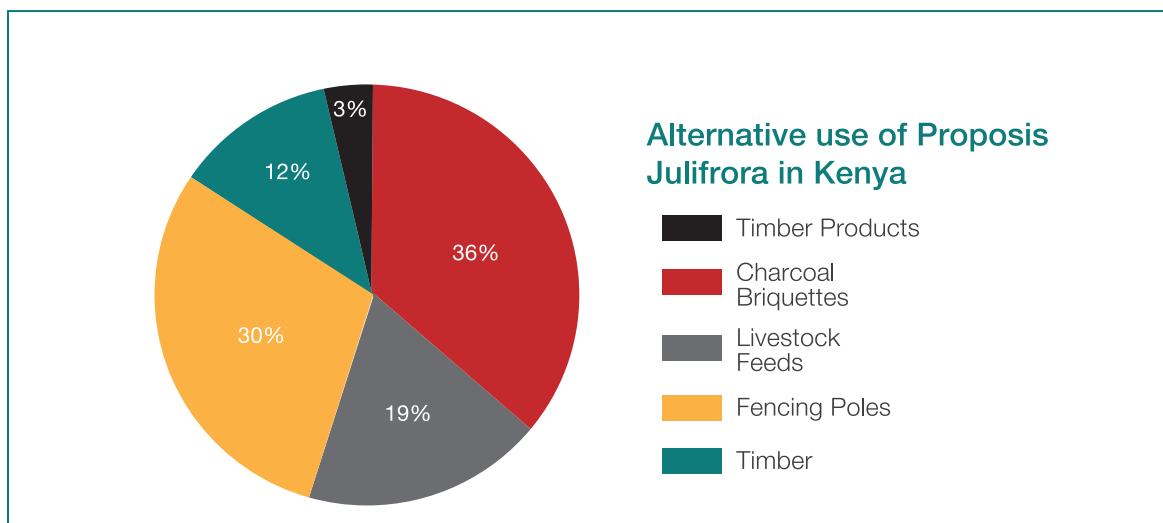


Figure 21: Use of Prosopis in Ethiopia

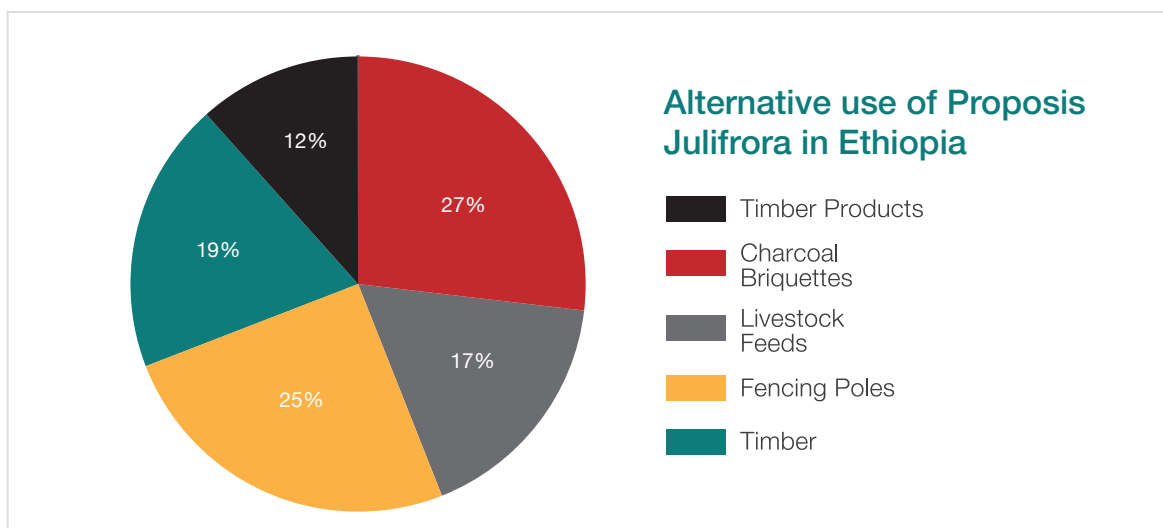
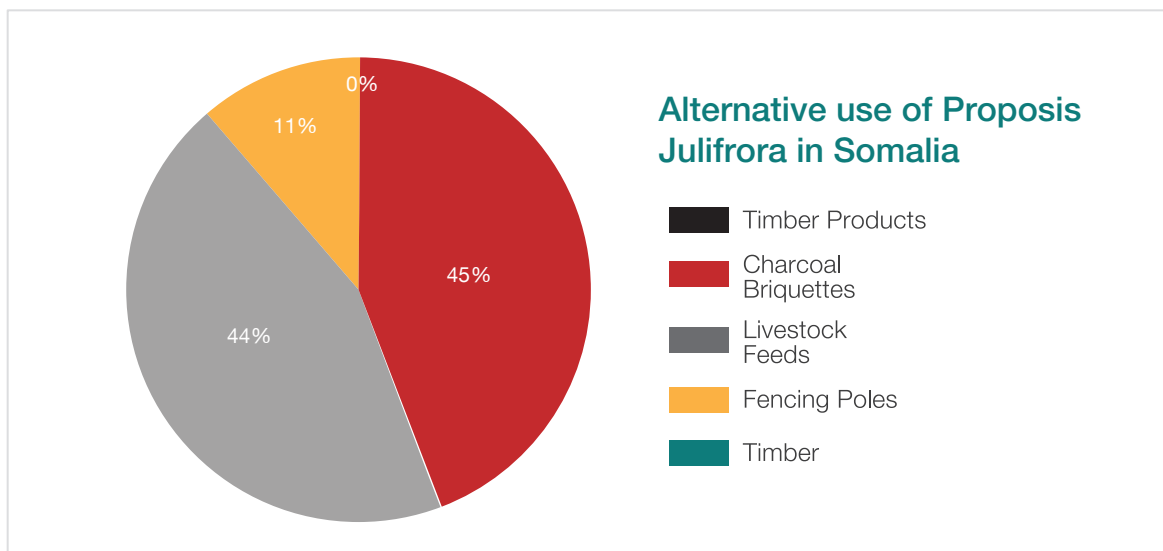


Figure 22: Use of Prosopis in Somalia



As seen above, Prosopis was put into alternative use to produce many products, with the main one being charcoal briquettes, which were found to have been adopted by some community members as a better alternative to charcoal. Prosopis was also utilized in the production of animal feeds through a specialized processing introduced by the project.

Adaptive programming

The evaluation found the project adaptive to the political and social environment situation in the project areas. This ensured the project remained on course and relevant to the area context. Some examples that demonstrated this were adaptive measures taken by the project, when Covid-19 struck and caused disruptions.

Due to its adverse effects, Covid-19 was included as one of the project outputs and an amendment led to a re-alignment and inclusion of new indicators, where resources were mobilized towards related activities. Beneficiaries were also enabled to come up with ways to respond to the pandemic, e.g. TVET tailoring graduates who were engaged in the production of face mask and the private sector in the development of hand washing facilities.

Since learning institutions remained closed during the period, the students who were on scholarship could not continue with their learning. This was one of the reasons the project requested and was granted a 3-month no-cost extension from European Union. There were also challenges in linking trade committees in the three borderlands, due to policy issues and movement restrictions. The project therefore changed the approach by bringing on board Sauti Africa, who developed an SMS platform for sharing trade/market information across the borders. As such, the traders were able to receive information without much movement and physical interactions across the borders as initially planned.

In course of the project intervention, there were shocks that affected the community, including drought, floods and conflict. The project managed to activate some contingency plans to scale up livelihood intervention during the drought, which helped the beneficiaries cope with the negative effects of the shock.

Interactions with the BORESHA team also indicated that the team had adopted measures geared towards adhering to Covid-19 measures in their line of work. Key among these was conducting the coordination meetings virtually which ensured social distancing.

Table 20: Summary of outcome level findings against the log frame outcome indicators

OUTCOMES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Outcome 1: Building resilience within the communities.	# 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; Livelihoods & Economic Improvement	% 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: Natural Resource Management – Participatory Range Land Management.	% 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.	30

PROJECT IMPACT

The project was found to have an impact on both the beneficiaries and stakeholders involved in the project.

VSLAs

The project has had a big impact on VSLA members, as they have improved on their saving habits and also providing a source of financing when in need. Some VSLAs have also grown and opened new businesses managed and owned by the groups, which provides an avenue for economic empowerment of members. 91% of the VSLA members who participated in the survey indicated that the overall status of their household savings had increased since joining the VSLAs. Similarly, their overall household income status had also improved since joining the VSLAs. This shows that the groups have had a big positive impact on the households of members.

Figure 23: Status of HH Savings

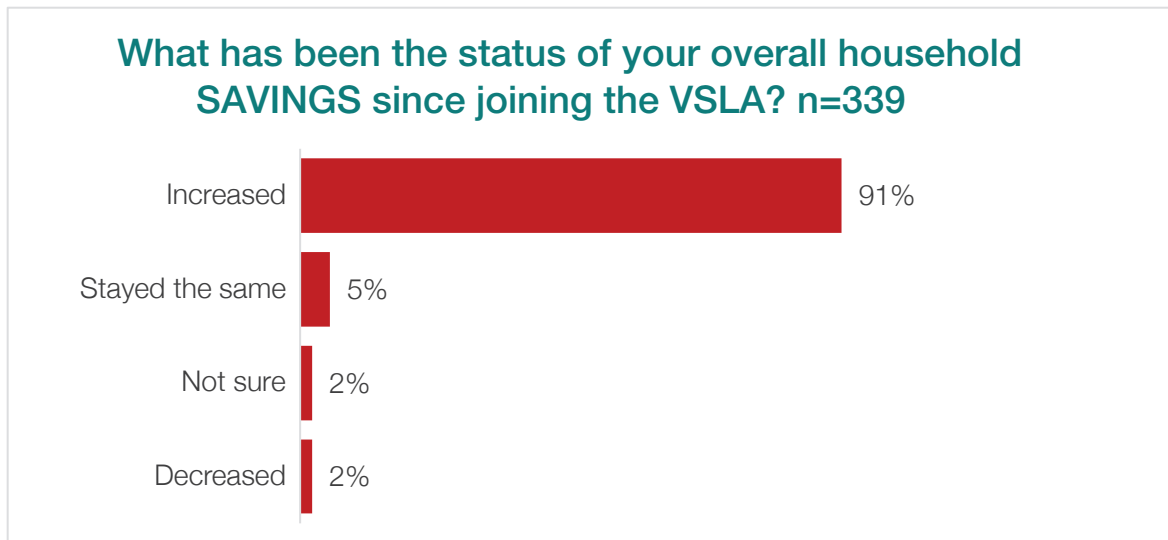
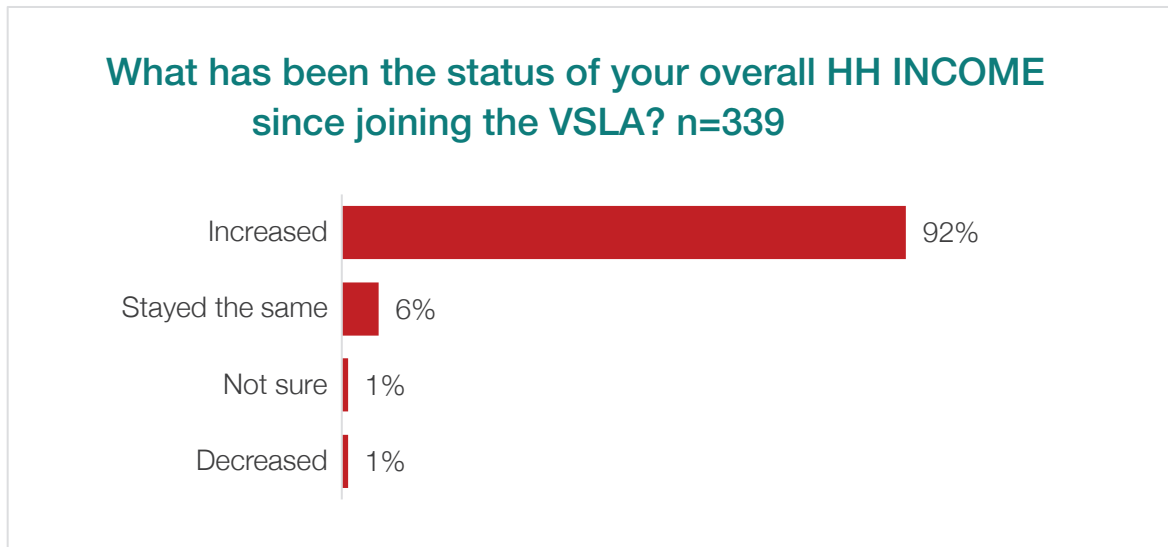


Figure 24: Status of HH Income



For the VSLAs that have been able to set up businesses, they reported positive growth in their businesses, with some having plans to expand. They have also provided employment to other community members through employing shop attendants and other casual labourers. An example is a VSLA group in Mandera which had set up a shop and employed 2 attendants. The group also owned 2 motorcycles (bodabodas) which had also employed 2 people.

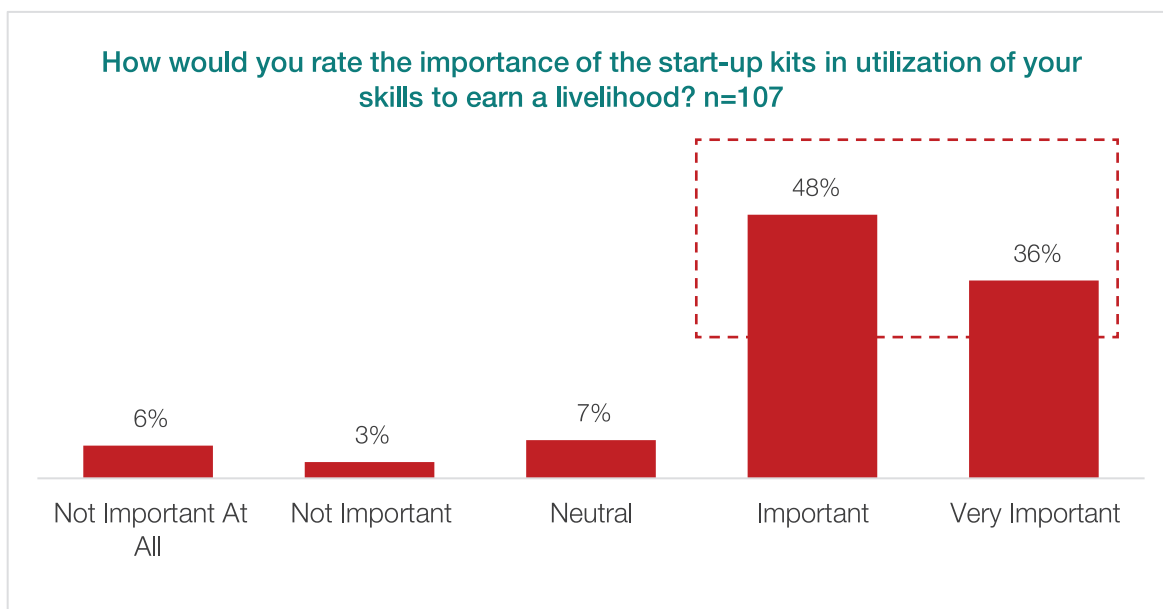


Figure 25: Kiosk belonging to a VSLA group. Rhamu Manderu, Kenya. PARS 2020

TVET

Trainees from TVET institutions graduated with skills that have helped some acquire meaningful income generating ways. From both institution and enterprise based training, some of the youth trained have gone ahead to set up their own businesses, with some employing assistants in their businesses. The importance of the start-up kits was also highlighted, with 84% of the beneficiaries rating the start-up kits as an important addition to the training as shown below;

Figure 26: Importance of start-up kits



The few who felt the start-up kits were not important in the utilization of their skills either felt the kits were insufficient or mentioned that the start-up kits were not relevant to the utilization of their skills. Majority of the beneficiaries indicated that the skills acquired had improved their income as stated by 78%, while a big number highlighted that they had been able to start or expand their businesses as a result of the training received. This is as shown in the chart below;

Figure 27: Benefits of the training to HH

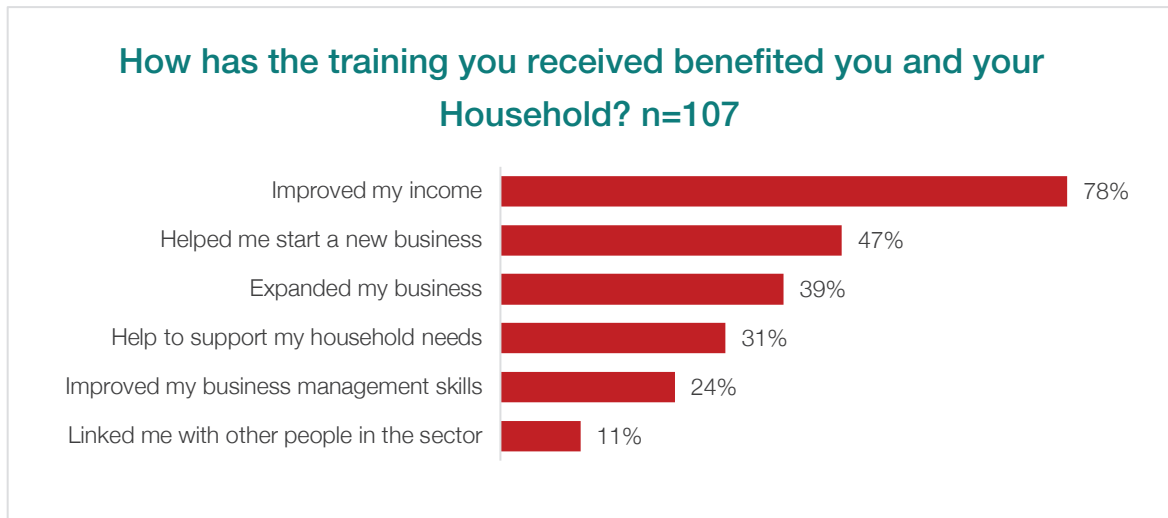


Figure 28: Motorcycle repair centre (set-up by TVET graduate). Mandera, Kenya. PARS 2020



Figure 29: Tailoring graduate making face masks. Mandera, Kenya. PARS 2020



LCIGs

The training and support given to LCIGs also had a huge impact on the livelihoods of the beneficiaries. Those trained on fodder production reported increased options for their livestock, even during the dry seasons. LCIG members trained on fodder production also reported increased earnings from the sale of fodder. Bee keeping groups were also trained on modern methods of bee keeping, where they were provided with modern beehives and harvesting kits and also equipped with technical and business skills. Feedback from the beneficiaries indicated that the introduction of modern beehives had increased honey production but also helped reduce deforestation where beehive makers used to cut down big trees to make beehives.

“...We used to cut down specific tree species to make beehives. This led to deforestation and you may not even find some tree species in some areas. The modern beehives helped prevent this and since they are durable, I don’t think we will have this problem again...” FGD LCIG, Kenya

Figure 30: Traditional Beehive. Banisa, Mandera Kenya. PARS 2020



Figure 31: Modern Beehive. Banisa, Mandera Kenya. PARS 2020

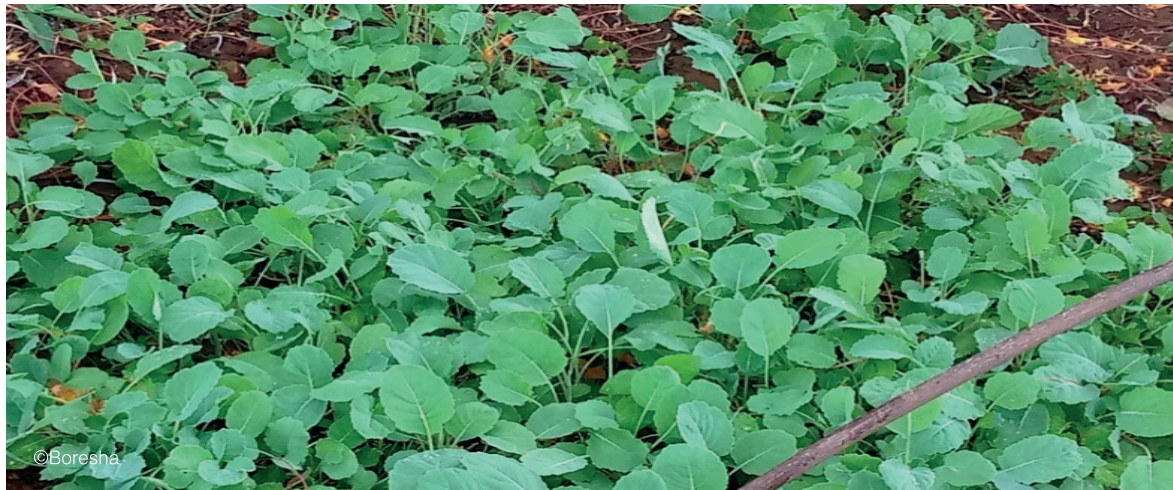


Rehabilitation of shallow wells has also enabled the beneficiaries to start initiatives geared towards food sufficiency. Farmer groups were able to start farming using water from the wells, thereby having different types of crops all through the year. Farming of crops that would otherwise not have been supported by the weather was also noted, with crops such as kales, cabbages and other crops that require constant water supply being supported by the rehabilitated shallow wells.

Figure 32: Rehabilitated shallow well. Mandera, Kenya. PARS, 2020



Figure 33: Kales nursery watered by shallow well. Mandera, Kenya. PARS, 2020



Grantees

Grantees also indicated the grant had a huge impact on their businesses, helping them grow and achieve new levels. The grantees also indicated that the grants had helped them diversify their economic activities and even provide employment to other people.

“...A lot of people got jobs - casual jobs including hiring specialized skills like ploughing using tractors. We have also provided casual jobs like bush clearing and disposal, harvesting, watering and in the preparation of seedlings in the nursery among other jobs...” Grantee, farming group.

NRM

NRM committees/ Range Councils (RCs) were established in 42 targeted cross border villages, to support sustainable management, protection, and reclamation of rangelands. Government natural resource management officials, NRM committees, village elders, village extension workers, and community representatives were trained extensively on PRM, NRM, soil and water conservation practice such semi-circular soil bunds, farmer/pastoralist managed natural regeneration (FMNR), and management of invasive plants, and Community-by-laws.

PRM approach was introduced for rangeland rehabilitation, and the activities were carried out through Cash for Work (CFW) mechanism. This activated various benefits to the community including earning a source of income, the establishment of a 4kilometre enclosure/reserve, easier access to water points, access routes to water points for people and livestock, improved livelihood from production of charcoal briquettes and controlled soil erosion.

Alternative use of invasive species also helped create employment for community members, with the species being used to make animal feed, charcoal, briquettes among other products. Interaction with NRM committees showed that there was uptake of briquettes which are more efficient to charcoal.

Capacity building initiatives through creation of NRM committees and Range Councils, water management committees, PRM and NRM trainings, government officials training, formulation of customary by-laws and strengthening of customary leadership, and rangeland rehabilitation activities through CfW were significant achievements in the project. It was reported that Mandera North NRM committees succeeded to halt the establishment of new settlements in Rhamu conservancy and create a 4km enclosure/reserves for dry season grazing. The initial target was to implement the project through a cross-border collaboration. The lack of agreements such as MoUs to facilitate this, the COVID-19 pandemic, AS attacks and political unrest hindered the achievement of the target.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

The sustainability of the project can be pegged on the successful formation and support of groups which have established a strong foundation. According to the beneficiaries and different stakeholders, the livelihood components of the project especially those involving groups/committees will continue with their activities beyond the project. This is because the groups have become well established, whereby some have started their own initiatives such as VSLAs starting businesses, LCIG groups engaged in production of fodder, NRM groups engaged in alternative use of invasive species to generate income among other activities. The advantage of these components is that they are skill based and the capacity building given to these groups will last beyond the project life.

Additionally, the project design was matched with the needs of the community, as seen in the relevance aspect of the evaluation. All the project activities also involved the community adequately, from the selection of the beneficiaries and also the implementation. This ensured ownership of the project activities by the community members, which is a plus for sustainability.

Linkages between the community and the relevant government departments e.g. in the case of livestock health, will ensure the sustainability of the project. In this case, the CDRs were capacity built so as to aid in disease reporting on the ground, thus enabling the relevant livestock departments to mitigate diseases early enough. This is likely to continue beyond the life of the project, as the CDRs are still living in the community with the skills acquired from the training.

The local authorities and other community leaders were also in full support of the project initiatives, having been engaged from the beginning of the project. This offers good will and potential linkages of beneficiary groups with other projects in the areas to continue strengthening them.

Some project components however need more strengthening beyond the project life. Grantees have grown and established their activities as groups and individuals, but new levels of growth also present new challenges. According to some grantees we spoke to, sustaining the momentum acquired as a result of the grants requires more funding, which presents a challenge. Our assessment of the grantees' businesses showed that most meet the criteria for financing from other financial organizations, but cultural and religious restrictions against loans curtail them from getting the financing from interest taking organizations.

“...One of the challenges I can foresee could be finances. I think finance will be a problem because even if we have grown, there are still challenges at this level...We can get loans because we have a guarantee of land, but the funny thing is that our people don't like taking loans because our religion doesn't allow us to take loans. They will instead seek soft loans. But we can take, and the banks can give us. We have the ability...” KII Grantee, Ethiopia

NRM groups provided with machines e.g. briquette making machines and livestock feed processing machines from invasive species e.g. prosopis also indicated that sometimes the machines get mechanical issues and it takes time to get them repaired. As such, this may impact on the long term use of the machines. An example of this was in Nemboi Mandera, where during the time of the evaluation, 2 of the machines provided were not functioning due to mechanical issues.

Various knowledge resources were developed during the project period that will be used for reference in the future. These include PRM plans and Map⁹, Customary by-laws formulated, BORESHA website¹⁰. The NRM outcome aims at the restoration of pastoral production system through strengthening the planning and management of cross-border natural resources by building the capacity of all stakeholders, protection and reclamation of rangelands, strengthening integrated water resource management, improvement and installation of school water schemes, environmental awareness, and education and promoting alternative use of invasive species through fodder and charcoal production.

Aspects such as Index Based Livestock Insurance are also reliant on the private sector working with other organizations for it to be sustainable. The private sector determines the premiums, claims repayment time and other aspects of the insurance, which directly determine the uptake and attitude of the beneficiaries towards the insurance. As such, despite uptake of insurance, the sustainability aspect of it is reliant on the service providers and market forces. More education however is needed to help the community understand the IBLI component better.

The sustainability of tri-border trade and other cross-border components of the project are also reliant on the policy environment between the 3 countries. Currently, there are diplomatic tensions between Kenya and Somalia which have spread to many aspects of the two country's relations. Despite the citizens having peaceful relations across the border, the diplomatic tiff may affect the formal relations that involve government departments across the two borders. As such, activities requiring the two country's approvals may take longer than expected or not materialize. This may affect the sustainability of the component.

In conclusion, to further ensure sustainability of the project activities, project beneficiaries and various stakeholders felt that with the complex nature of the project, it needed more time, in order to strengthen the already introduced and existing initiatives to make them more sustainable and make the impact stronger.

“...On implementation, I would recommend that for future similar consortium resilience projects, it may be valuable to have projects that go a little bit longer than three years. Reason being, the first year is used in inception activities and then by the time you are in the second year, the time is almost midway and you are starting to think about midline activities...before long you are into the last half and you are thinking of close out. One would need a little bit more time to see outcomes in resilience projects. It takes time, effort and resources to build resilience...” KII Project Staff

9 BORESHA, & converge. (n.d.). Mapping of Key Natural Resources in the Cross-Border Areas of Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. November, 2018.

10 CARE | BORESHA. (n.d.). Retrieved 17 December 2020, from <https://boreshahoa.org/care/>

LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE PROJECT

- The integration of different project components in the same areas was good, as it increased the chances of a beneficiary benefitting from more than one intervention e.g., a VSLA member would also benefit from cash for work and livestock vaccination. This increased the impact of the project among the beneficiaries.
- The idea of the consortium member organizations operating in different countries independent of each other i.e., country offices operating separately but coordinating with each other was good, as this minimized the risks and challenges that would have been there if an organization was implementing project activities across borders.
- The initial baseline mapping or context analysis of the project areas was key in identifying the actual needs and gaps that could be filled with project interventions. This ensured the project remained relevant to the needs of the community.
- Government relations between the three countries are not easy, thus delays are likely to occur where inter-governmental cooperation is required. As such, future programming needs to factor this in the design of the program.
- Working together with other humanitarian organizations in the project areas brought synergy to the whole program and harmonization of activities. This increased the efficiency and effectiveness of the project.
- The participation of the community in general in all aspects of the project enhanced a sense of ownership of the project by the community. This included selection of beneficiaries, formation of committees among other activities. It also helped reduce conflict amongst the direct and indirect beneficiaries.
- The overall approach was inclusive, with national governments and local authorities involved in project activities. This enhanced a good working relationship and goodwill from the administration, which is key in any project.
- Involvement of the relevant government departments e.g., livestock departments, education departments, environment departments among others, and linking them to the project beneficiaries enhanced sustainability of the project, as the linkages are likely to continue existing beyond the life of the project.
- Focusing more on groups and committees rather than individuals brought more impact as the community is able to achieve more when working together.
- Engaging the private sector in the project areas was also a good practice, as this empowered the private sector within the community thus enhancing sustainability of the project activities involving them.
- In the case of grants, the approach was made transparent and participatory, which avoided conflict among the potential beneficiaries. Though complaints are expected from those who did not benefit, there was general consensus that the process was fair and transparent.
- Distribution of grant money in phases was also considered a good approach, as it allowed self-evaluation on the changes after one phase and picking learnings which guided the next phase. This would not have been possible if the amount was issued in one phase.
- Inclusion of start-up kits for TVET beneficiaries was good, as this gave the graduates a starting point in the utilization of the skills acquired. The business development support given to them was also key to aiding them kick start their businesses.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the End-line evaluation found that the project was successful in meeting its objectives of resilience building, economic empowerment and enhancing more equitable and sustainable management of natural resources. This was mainly because of the project's overall approach to the implementation, which first ensured the project's activities were relevant to the needs of the area at the time of intervention. Surveys conducted during the design and implementation stages guided the project on the areas of intervention, by identifying the immediate needs of the community. The project was also flexible in adapting to changes that came about during implementation, e.g. Covid-19 disruptions. A stakeholder mapping conducted at the beginning of the project also helped BORESHA identify potential areas of collaboration with different organizations & private sector in the areas. The evaluation found that the project had a participatory approach, ensuring the involvement of different stakeholders including government and local leadership in its activities. This led to goodwill from the stakeholders and hence success in planned project activities. The linkages established between these stakeholders and beneficiaries were also found to contribute to sustainability of the project beyond its project life. There were many learnings from the design and implementation phases (highlighted above) that can be used to guide on similar interventions in the future, so as to have a stronger impact in the community. Below are also some recommendations that can be considered in future programming;

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The project was largely able to achieve its objectives in the 3-year period as planned. However, to achieve more impact especially on building resilience and building economic sustainability, there is need to look at a longer period of time for the project, mainly because the area is prone to many setbacks from time to time. As such, a solid foundation is required to attain more impact which needs more time, resources and effort.
- The participatory approach adopted by the project was commendable, as it enhanced good relations with stakeholders on the ground. Feedback from the stakeholders about BORESHA was very positive and a similar approach would be highly recommended in future to enhance the goodwill of stakeholders and the community, which is a plus given the complex context of the area in terms of security.
- Grantees were found to have benefitted from the grants provided and made strides in their businesses. The selection process and fund disbursement was also found to be satisfactory. However, new levels of business growth come with new challenges, where challenges of market for produce, need for further financing to sustain growth and better management skills met the grantees. These need to be considered in future programming to equip the grantees with necessary knowhow to tackle the challenges and enhance sustainability of the businesses.
- Index Based Livestock Insurance (IBLI) is a good idea to mitigate loss of livestock due to harsh conditions. However, the uptake was found to be low, mainly faced with negative perceptions by the community. More education is needed to help the community understand how the service works which would also help manage expectations.
- BORESHA cooperated with other humanitarian organizations working in the area, creating synergy and improving efficiency. Feedback from various project stakeholders showed that the cooperation was not fully part of the project design but came along the way. In future, mapping of other organizations and their activities in the project locations can include potential ways of cooperation, where options can be explored and incorporated in the design. This can have a bigger impact and organizations can learn from each other early enough.
- The aspect of cross-border cooperation between the three countries faced many challenges due to policy environment between states and the bureaucracy involved in bringing the different stakeholders together. With diplomatic relations getting worse, especially between Kenya and Somalia, there is need to re-evaluate the component based on the current situation and from lessons learnt and see how better it can be approached.

- Covid-19 interrupted many aspects of life including businesses, jobs, education, health and livelihoods. This also had an impact on many aspects of the project and beneficiaries too. In case there is an extension of the project beyond its current period, there is need to consider support for those affected to avoid long term negative effects of the pandemic on already achieved milestones.
- The coordination between the four consortium partners was found to be good, with the few internal challenges sorted to enhance efficiency. The approach of different country teams taking charge of their respective countries was also good, as it each team was best suited to deal with the context of the country. This would be recommended in future programming.



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