BORESHA SHEKO

Snapshot

1. Interview –Ahmed Mohamed Alio IBLI Beneficiary / Banisa
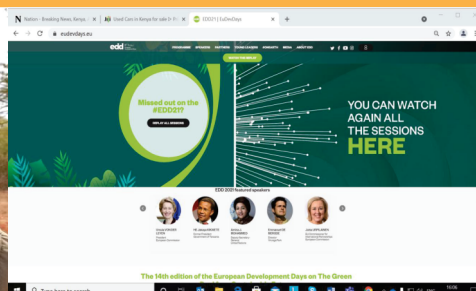
2. News - European Development Day

3. Image of how the mobile platform works

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BORESHA

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1. FOREWORD

On behalf of the entire fraternity of BORESHA, I am excited to introduce the 14th edition of SHEKO newsletter for Sayid Mohamed Technical Education College in Jubaland state of Somalia which I represent as center manager, to highlight some of the achievements we have recorded together with BORESHA.

I can proudly confirm that BORESHA program has impacted the lives of many youths in Gedo region through the provision of scholarship who are enrolled in vocational skills training which enabled them to generate income for their families. The youth acquired free access to quality education and skills and got empowered through education instead of the risky action of illegal migration. BORESHA program have therefore touched lives of many youth who could have no dream or alternative to access basic professional education and skills training.

COVID - 19 pandemic has affected the education sector globally and SaMTEC College was not an exception. We had to close the institution to respond to the directives by the authorities in Gedo Region of Somalia who also identified SaMTEC College as one of the isolation sites for Beledhawa District and its environs. The college gladly approved the request as a gesture to contribute towards the local community.

Prolonged period of college shutdown interfered with the college's term and yearly work plans forcing the administration to come up with a strategy to continue supporting the learners. Then came the idea of online classes using a new technology, Zoom. We, as one of the first steps, focused on migration to E-learning (virtual) for all academic courses, and to achieve desired outcome, the college administration put in place a few formulations and operation procedures and guidelines as a way to promote safety of the students and the teaching fraternity during this period of the pandemic.

SaMTEC team then on-boarded all the students in the SaMTEC E-learning portal for the easy access of the resources and to ensure wide coverage of the modules within the intended period despite the disruption of the COVID - 19 pandemic. The college was also favored by the location which is within triangle border area allowing the institution to benefit from the different alternatives of 4G network available in the area including Safaricom, Hormud and SOMNET that were available. In addition, all the learners have personal smart phones that enabled every one of them to access the link and benefit from the online class.

ZOOM has really helped the college to cover the coursework while the management ensured appropriate knowledge and skills were imparted to the learners by ensuring close monitoring of the online classes and liaising closely with BORESHA, that was sponsoring the students, by providing weekly and monthly updates on the progress of the online to DRC office.

I would like to thank BORESHA for changing the lives of many youths who have today acquired skills and can contribute to the development of local market and I believe BORESHA has something to be proud of it in this part of the Gedo region, Jubaland state of Somalia.

Hussein Osman Adan
Manager, SaMEC College
Beledhawa, Jubaland State, Somalia.

2. INTERVIEW

Introduction

IBLI is Index based Livestock insurance insures pastoralists in arid and semi-arid regions of northern Kenya and southern Ethiopia against the livestock mortality that often follows severe or catastrophic drought. During drought, widespread livestock mortality is caused primarily by forage scarcity, so IBLI tracks local forage conditions using real-time, publicly available satellite data ("greenness maps") to determine the severity of drought , predict area-average livestock losses, and calculate policyholders' indemnity payments. IBLI APP is an interactive multilingual (currently supporting Oromo and Swahili) android application that provides assessment and video tutorial on Index Based Livestock Insurance. It contains Pre, Post and Post Post assessment on IBLI.

Ahmed Mohamed is a 35ys -year-old from Derkale location, Banisa Sub-County. He is among the beneficiaries of IBLI and livestock keeper. We caught up with him and asked the following questions;

1. Have you heard about IBLI

- Yes, I have heard about IBLI, a livestock insurance model that protects pastoralists from drought and its resultant vegetation deficit.

2. How have you benefitted from IBLI? is it profitable?

- Yes, I have benefited from IBLI in the last major drought where I brought policy for 10 camels, of each 1700 KSH premium. I was compensated 14,4000KSH for each of my camels which I used to purchase fodder, livestock drugs and other households needs. This has cushioned me against the adverse impact of the drought.

3. What do you think are some of the major advantage of being IBLI mamber?

IBLI has great benefit to the pastoralists;

- It mitigates the impacts of the drought by compensating the livestock farmer for loss of livestockdue to vegetation deficit.
- It enhances resilience of pastoral households since they have some assurance of fall back
- IBLI promotes quick recovery from drought as opposed to previous times when it was difficulttorecover from severe drought
- IBLI contributes to asset protection; farmers are paid for forage deficit and have purchasing power to keep their livestock alive

IBLI gives the pastoralists the confidence that they have a partner who cares what they treasure

4. How are clients Paid by IBLI?

- During drought period , satellite images captures poor vegetation cover (based on predetermined index), and this triggers payout. Livestock herders are paid through Mpesa mobile platform and access the money in remotes village of mandera.

5. What would you like to be improved in order to make IBLI more efficient?

- IBLI is limited to vegetation deficit, I would like IBLI to cover risks such as cattle rustling, diseases and eildlife attacks.

6. How would you encourage livestock keepers to join IBLI? What advice would you give them?

- I urge my fellow livestock keepers to buy IBLI policies for their livestock to safeguard against drought risk and give themselves a peace of mind. Policies can be brought twice a year; January and August and hence livestock keepers can prepare two window periods

BORESHA Participated in the marking of European Development Day 14th Edition that took place on 15th and 16th June 2021 held in Brussels virtually. The event was organized by European Union with the *Theme The Green Deal for a Sustainable Future.* BORESHA had a stand under Rural Transformation and food system lining with our key objective promoting economic development and greater resilience for communities living in the cross-border area between Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

The event was attend by youths, NGOS, Policy Changers, Leaders and EU officials. The discussion was more on climate change, Natural Resources, food and mobility COVID 19 and how we can do things differently to ensure we contribute to the climate change advocacy. Other areas including how to ensure green growth for economic transformation, elevating nature-based enterprises, indigenous foods focus including moringa, baobab etc, and linking farmers to markets for locally available organic foods like honey, moringa, etc

BORESHA showcased our work through video documentary, technical briefs and recently produced portfolios. BORESHA raised the Visibility by asking people to check BORESHA stand as well shared our link at the global village. Our presence was recognised by CARE, European External action services, and EU diplomatic services who shared their compliments about BORESHA in the Mandera Triangle
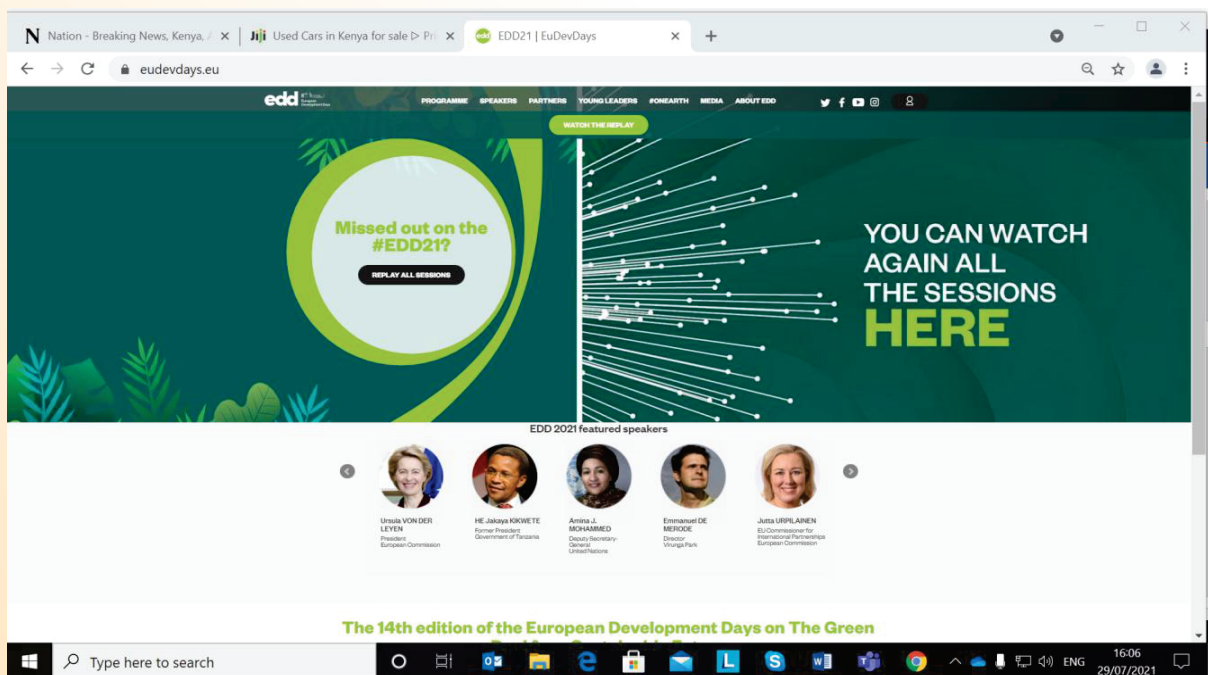
4. STORY - *Community- based weather monitoring system*

BORESHA established a **community-based weather-monitoring network (Early Warning System)** through the use of manual weather stations and near-real-time recording of weather data adapted to the context of Dollo Ado and Dollo Bay Woredas in the Somali Region, Ethiopia.

The main objective of the initiative was to allow local communities to better understand climatic patterns, identify risk scenarios and plan appropriate preparedness and response actions. BORESHA through a collaboration with TriM, installed community-based manual weather stations with weather teams tasked with recording and transmitting data in real-time including values of rainfall, max/min temperature and additional information about traditional indicators or weather impacts.

In particular, **3Map mobile application, web-application and spatial database** were configured and adapted to provide a complete and flexible system for the collection, management, analysis, visualization and sharing of different types of data on the ground.

Through the use of the *web-application* it is possible to overlay the data coming from the weather stations in Dollo Ado and Dollo Bay with existing secondary data including open source weather and climate information at a global scale such as the *Global Forecast System* (NOAA-GFS) and the *Global Precipitation Measurement satellite rainfall estimates* (NASA-GPM).

With continuous monitoring, the data collected from the weather stations can be integrated with the historical data and monthly rainfall values and used as key to support early warning and prevention of future disaster. Through this system, the programme generates **Monthly bulletins** with a summary of accumulated rainfall, average max and minimum temperature, and maps showing the deviation of monthly accumulated rainfall compared with normal values calculated using GPM data.

To facilitate timely and efficient information sharing among the weather teams as **Telegram Chat Group** was created where technical and non-technical member are engaged in receiving feedbacks on collected data such as real-time information and in exchanging observation

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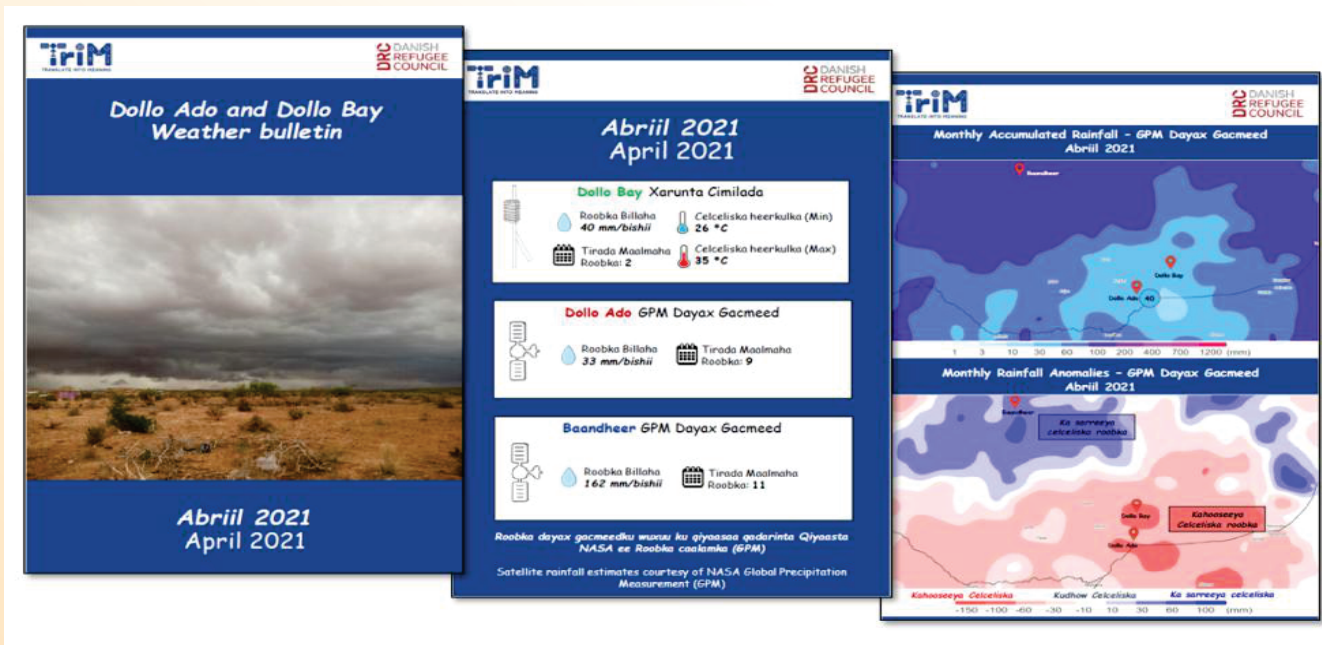
5. MOBILE PLATFORM FOR MARKET INFORMATION

In the effort of providing market information and other critical information to the community members in the Mandera triangle so as to make informed decisions, BORESHA went into an agreement with Sauti Africa, a private company that offers mobile-based trade information and social accountability platform for East Africa's cross-border traders and SMEs. The company is based in Nairobi and delivers technology and data solutions that empower business to trade legally, safely and profitably across borders.

The agreement pertained the introduction of USSD platform that can help provide important information that the businesses may need.
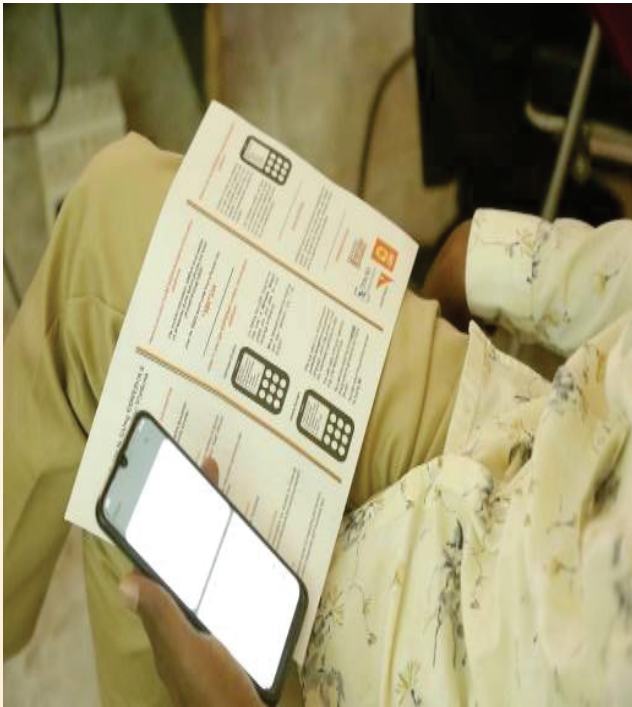
The launch of the platform

The USSD platform for daily information on prices of the most traded commodities across borders, exchange rates etc was launched on 23rd July 2020 in Mandera town. The platform is accessed on USSD and SMS with no need for internet access and offers information in English, Somali and Kiswahili. The code being used to provide the information is *716*55#

Outcome of survey

The platform offers COVID-19, Market Prices, Exchange Rates, Weather, Finance information. After a survey conducted over the phone, it was

realised 40% of the respondents find market price information the most useful, noting that it helps them identify new markets and diversify their product offering while 63% of respondents said the platform made a difference to their business activities most commonly attributed to an improved ability to plan business activities. High frequency users surveyed also confirmed it was their second mos t used information source about COVID -19. 83% of users surveyed via mobile affirmed that the platform helped support their business during the pandemic.

Plans for increasing uptake

With the outcome from the survey showing the platform is quite beneficial to the communities, BORESHA is determined to support initiatives to improve the uptake to allow more members can benefit from the initiative. The program has started publishing info cards that will be distributed to the community members so they can access the information they require. Other approaches are also being considered by the program including the use of ongoing BORESHA radio talk show to publicize the platform as well as bulk messaging the members will be informed of the USSD platform.

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	BORESHA MOBILE PLATFORM Provides information on: Market Prices, Exchange rate, Weather Forecast, Finance opportunity, COVID 19 information Dial *716*55#

6. USE OF VIRTUAL TECHNOLOGY IN DELIVERING RESILIENCE TRAINING

The COVID-19 pandemic is the most significant health crisis that the world has faced in the past 100 years. It has disrupted our way of living with unprecedented consequences for our daily lives, including how we work and learn.

In order to keep work running and achieve Project results, BORESHA International through BORESHA Project has decided to facilitate and deliver the long-awaited **capacity building training on resilience** by use of virtual technology. In the light of the crisis, CARE International in Kenya & Somalia

facilitated joint resilience training for Kenya and Somalia local government and BORESHA partners in September 2020, from 23rd to 30th

The training was delivered through a blended approach; online facilitation by lead trainers at Care Netherlands combined with face-to-face support by local facilitators.

Participants issued with certificate of participation after the conclusion of resilience training

"Given the severe disruption by COVID 19, it was of crucial importance for CARE partners to re-design the training manual and model into an online platform as an innovative solution to respond to this crisis but at the same time deliver the training."

Under normal circumstances, the resilience training was to be delivered in March 2020 in a face to face Workshop where the participants and the core facilitator were to be together. Given the

severe disruption by COVID 19, it was of crucial importance for CARE to re-design the training manual and model into an online platform as an innovative solution to respond to this crisis but at the same deliver the training. The remote learning modalities used by CARE can help or mitigate access issues within countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The training provided an opportunity for the participants to learn and practice different tools for resilience action planning in the cross-border context. 24 people attended the training, 9 persons from Somalia and 15 from Kenya. Disaggregated by gender, 22 were male and two were female. Technology is the best solution embraced by all Organisations during this pandemic and it has really confirmed to all that nothing is impossible and the World is a global village facilitated by the modern technology.

Resilient communities are very mindful about the impact hazards will have on their assets and are determined to mitigate potential damages. Rhamu residents of Mandera county are ensuring the damages of floods are mitigated

7. DID YOU KNOW

- The Eastern African Region has seen governments and telecommunication companies investing heavily in improving access to communication by the citizens of the region. These were through better policies and infrastructure improvement by the governments and the companies.
- Kenya is leading the continent in terms of smart phone penetration and internet usage in the region with a population of about 51.58 million where a total of 43.3 million Kenyans having access to the internet in the country.
- Social media penetration has also contributed to high smartphone buys as 8.3 million Kenyans are active on social media. Kenyan users spend close to 3 hours a day on social media, with the most used platforms identified as Whatsapp (74%) and Facebook (70%).
- Somalia provides the cheapest internet bundles in Africa according to Mobile Data Pricing 2020 and is the only country with free mobile money transactions through Hormuud's EVC Plus.
- Somali's Hormuud telecommunication company launched Somalia's first mobile money application that will give the citizens access to a range of digital services across a singular platform for the first time.
- Ethiopia has seen spike in mobile subscription with 44.86 million Ethiopians translating to 38.5% mobile subscribers by January 2021.
- In Ethiopia, consortium of telecommunication giants led by Kenya's Safaricom were recently licensed to provide telecommunication services which will potentially see a sharp spike in mobile subscriptions.

8 CULTURE

On 26 June 2021 and 1 July 2021 the streets in Somalia and the color was blue and white resembling the color of the flag. This has been a key cultural event every year where Independence Day is celebrated. Somali celebrated the 61st Independence Day on Thursday July, 1st 2021 commemorating the independence from Italy.

For more than two decades, Mogadishu residents have marked Somali Independence Day under the threat of chaos and violence, but this year was different with security gains and the return of stability to the Somali capital allowing the citizens to finally have something to celebrate.

"Poem and culture dances were also used to mark the important day although was slightly dampened by the corona virus pandemic and related restrictions".

On 26th June, 1960, British Somaliland was granted independence while the Somaliland secured their independence only five days later on 1st July 1960. This was followed by a unity decision by the two independent regions and the birth of a united Somalia.

The 2021 independence Day commemorations were celebrated by the political leaders, the citizens the law makers, religious leaders and other stake holder who converged in one of the historical sites Daljirka Dahsoon (Tombo of the unkown soldier) which is one of the city's famous landscapes with songs including the National Anthem.

Poem and culture dances were also used to mark the important day although was slightly dampened by the corona virus pandemic and related restrictions.

This year's the celebration comes at a time when Somalia is preparing to conduct elections for the senators and members of parliament who will then elect the president

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