Case study

The Impact of disaster/climate change to the lives and livelihoods of the most marginalized and vulnerable pastoral and agro pastoral of Borena and their adaptation mechanism.

ACF
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Testimonial on: The impact of disaster/climate change to the lives and livelihoods of the most marginalized and vulnerable Pastoral and Agro pastoral Communities of Borena and their adaptation mechanism

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Hawa Kider is living in Huda Chala village of Aregana kebele, Moyale district. She is 30 years old, married and has 2 daughters. Agro-pastoralism is the major sources of income and livelihoods which she is entirely relay on for living. She is practicing both livestock herding and opportunist farming as sources of food and income. However, drought has become a major challenge for her livelihoods and the communities as well. It has been happening once every 5-6 years in the past but now it is happening every year and also unpredictable. She indicated that the climate change due to natural resources degradation is the contributing factor. In addition to this, high livestock and population pressure are causes for natural resources depletion and subjected to environmental degradation. As the result of these, she has been experiencing poor in production of dry land crop farming practices year after year. These in turn is affecting adversely the income sources of her household. As the result, incidence of food shortage and high workload in search for water and pasture for the livestock has become the regular phenomenon in her life. As her livelihoods assets are deteriorating time to time due the recurrent drought, she is unable to afford basic necessity require for her families like food, health facilities, school fee for her daughter and so on. Hence, she used to poor quality and low quantity of food, sell off assets during very critical period and reduce number of meal per day as a means to adapt and cope up with the adverse impact of the recurrent drought.

A Community Managed Disaster Risk Management (CMDRM) has been implemented by ACF, which is ECHO funded program in Moyale, Miyo and Dhas districts of Borena zone, Ethiopia since 2012. This program has taken into account the village where Hawa Kider is living as one of its intervention kebeles in Moyale district. The program introduces drought resistant, early maturing and multipurpose crops as one of intervention to reduce the risk associated with the climate change. Hence, she is become one of beneficiaries for this intervention. Among the drought resistant crops, ACF introduced and provided cassava, sweet potatoes and white bean for beneficiaries. In addition to this, farms tools and capacity building training on production, management and consumption provided for target beneficiaries including her. Having all this, she has cultivated these crops in her 0.5 farm field and harvested 4 quintal of cassava root and 1.5 quintal of sweet potatoes despite rainfall distribution was not even and sufficient during that time of production. If she was cultivated and used the regular cropping pattern and varieties, she would end up with no thing during the same period. As the result, food availability, access and number of meal consumption in the households increased to 3 food types as of she used to before the ACF intervention and also it protected her from sell off assets for purchase of basic needs for households. In addition to this, her adaption and coping strategies has been changed from that of she used for as means of escaping the adverse impact of shocks. currently, she has been intensifying cassava and sweet potatoes production, shift of the existing assets to other business (petty trade), proper income management, and engage in daily wage labor as long term and short term adaptation respectively. Hence, her livelihoods and resilience capacity to shock enhanced since she has been become ACF beneficiaries under this program as cassava and sweet potatoes produced reduce market purchase and increased households dietary diversity as well as nutritional requirement.
Sheka Dida is lived in Sillala village of Melbana kebele, Miyo district. She is women headed and 46 years old, married and has 2 daughters and 2 sons. Pastoralism is the way of life system and livestock is major sources of income and livelihoods for her families. However, she mentioned that drought has become a major challenge for her livelihoods and the communities as well. According to her, it has been happening once every 5-6 years in the past but now it is happening every year and also unpredictable. She indicated that the climate change due to natural resources degradation is the contributing factor. In addition to this, high livestock and population pressure combined with bush encroachment of the rangeland have been caused natural resources depletion and subjected to environmental degradation. As the result of these, she has been experiencing reduction of livestock production year after year. These in turn affecting adversely her food access and the income sources. As the result, incidence of food shortage and high workload in search for water and pasture for the livestock has become the regular phenomenon in her life. As her livelihoods assets (livestock) are deteriorating time to time due the recurrent drought, she is unable to afford basic necessity require for her families like food, health facilities, school fee for her children and so on. Hence, she used to hay making, migration to better off place in search of water and pasture, poor quality and low quantity, sell off assets during very critical period and reduce number of meal per day as a means to adapt and cope up with the adverse impact of the recurrent drought.

ACF has been implemented Community Managed Disaster Risk Management (CMDRR) which is ECHO funded program in Moyale, Miyo and Dhas districts of Borena zone, Ethiopia since 2012. This program has also taken into account the village where Sheka Dida is living as one of its intervention kebeles in Miyo district. The program has been implemented rangeland bush thinning to promote and improve rangeland production and management through strategic and selective bush thinning technical so as to enhance pasture availability during critical drought time. Hence, ACF has been done bush thinning in the selected site in her village through Cash for Work (CFW) to improve rangeland production and inject cash in the community to protect assets such a way increase the resilience for shocks. She is become one of beneficiaries for this intervention and benefited from Cash for work and earned a total of 2700ETB. In addition to this, farms tools and capacity building training on rangeland management provided for target beneficiaries including her. Hence, being the beneficiary of this intervention she has benefited from earned cash for cash for work (CFW) and access for pasture during critical dry period for livestock particularly lactating cow, calf and emaciated livestock. As the result of this intervention, she is able to purchase grain which could cover 3 month households food ratio with the cash earned 2 breeding goats each with 500ETB and paid the children school fee with the cash earned through the cash for work and avoid migration to better off areas in search of water and pasture. If this program was not there, she had been subjected to sell off assets to get basic services and needs for her households. Hence, food availability, access and number of meal consumption in the households increased and also it protected her from sell off assets for purchase of basic needs for households. In addition to this, her adaption and coping strategies has been changed from that of she used for as means of escaping the adverse impact of shocks. Currently, she has been practicing and intensifying hay making, engaged in petty trading and saving some amount of money in the bank, reduce luxury items, sell of some livestock during critical drought period and reduce number of meals as long term and short term adaptation respectively. Hence, her livelihoods and resilience capacity to shock enhanced since she has been become ACF beneficiaries under this program as rangeland bush thinning through cash for work reduce market purchase and increased households dietary diversity as well as nutritional requirement.
Ahedo Osman is lived in Giella village of Dhas kebele, Dhas district. She is 38 years old, married but divorced at moment and has 2 daughters and 4 sons living together with her. She used to be Pastoralism as the way of life system while she was living with her husband. She had 15 head of cattle and 20 shoat before she got divorce. During the subsequent drought, she has been lost 8 cattle and 6 shoat of her livestock. Following the divorcement, she is become without livestock as she doesn’t have the right to share these resources upon divorce as per the traditional law. As the result, she is become pastoral drop out and practicing some petty trading as means for living. Hence, she has emphasized that drought has become a major challenge for her livelihoods and the communities as well. It has been happening once every 2-3 years in the past but now it is happening every year and also unpredictable. She indicated that the climate change due to natural resources degradation is the contributing factors. In addition to this, high livestock and population pressure combined with bush encroachment of the rangeland have been caused natural resources depletion and subjected to environmental degradation. These in turn affecting adversely her food access and the income sources through market purchase and petty trading respectively. As the result, incidence of food shortage and high workload in search for water and pasture for the livestock has become the regular phenomenon in her life. As her livelihoods assets (livestock) are entirely confiscated with her husband after divorce she is unable to afford basic necessity require for her families like food, health facilities, school fee for her children and so on. Hence, she used to petty trading (tea, coffee, soft drink, etc.), diversification of business (livestock reselling, grain selling, etc.) and reduce number of meal per day as a means to adapt and cope up with the adverse impact of the recurrent drought.

ACF has been implemented Community Managed Disaster Risk Management (CMDRR) which is ECHO funded program in Moyale, Miyo and Dhas districts of Borena zone, Ethiopia since 2012. This program has also taken into account the village where Ahedo Osman is living as one of its intervention kebeles in Dhas district. The program has been intervened in asset building through shoat restocking so as to recover the livestock assets which lost during the subsequent severe drought. Hence, ACF has been done livestock restocking (shoat) in the selected site in her village so as to restore the livestock assets for most vulnerable and destitute pastoral, agro-pastoral and pastoral drop out such a way increase the resilience for shocks. She is become one of beneficiaries for this intervention and received 12 shoats (1 male and 11 female goat). Currently, she has a total 16 shoats (12 received from ACF, 2 kids from support shoat and 2 goats before support of ACF) and no shoats sold so far for purchase of basic necessities. Hence, being the beneficiary of this intervention she has benefited from restoring her livestock and getting back to the precedent pastoral way of life. In addition to this, she is also beneficiaries of water resources as ACF has constructed and developed water sources for both human and livestock around her vicinity. As the result of this intervention, she is able to build assets (livestock) and getting goat milk as sources of food and income, increase hope, plan to receive credit & loan as she do have assets (livestock) which is usually asked with the financial intuitions as guarantee, increase social confidence & acceptance, increase access for clean water and reduce workload in search for water and pasture during peak dry period. If this program was not there, she had been subjected economic and social crises and unable to get basic services and needs for her households. Hence, food availability, access and number of meal consumption in the households increased from 0/1 type to 3/4 types food and also it protected her from social disaggregation and discrimination to get and access for basic services like credit facilities. In addition to this, her adaption and coping strategies has been changed from that of she used for as means of escaping the adverse impact of shocks. Currently, she has been practicing and intensifying petty trading, saving money and engaged in livestock reselling and reduce expenses on some items as long term and short term adaptation respectively. Hence, her livelihoods and resilience capacity to shock enhanced since she has been become ACF beneficiaries under this program as the livestock restocking increased access for income from sell off goat milk, food purchase, credit facilities to engage in other business like petty trade to generate income and also increased confidence and hope of bright future.
EXISTING GOVERNMENT POLICY ON DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (DRM)

The discussion with the two districts (Moyale and Miyo) on the DRR policy and how far it is aligned with the current situation and demand of the communities, the two district DRR focal person (Mohammed Abaoda – Miyo district pastoral development head and Edin warriyo –moyal district pastoral development head) said that the drought is become recurrent and its adverse impact on pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods is very devastating and needs policy measure and strategy to the tackle and reverse its adverse impact in sustainable way. Hence, Federal government of Ethiopia designed and endorsed DRM policy that could be compatible with the context and each regional and respective districts and zone are starting to implement this policy and strategies. As per the policy measure and strategy, the Borena zone has been implementing the following interventions in all the districts;

- Integrated range land /watershed development and management which includes area closure, bush thinning, water and soil conservation, and water sources development and rehabilitation.
- Promotion of hay making as preserve for dry period
- Capacity building training for pastoral and agro-pastoral
- Creating jobs opportunities through promotion of public work

Despite this effort, the recurrent drought due to climate change and variability undermining the current effort as the drought has been diluting the existing assets particularly the livestock. however, the government has been intensify its engagement on promotion of hay making, use of good livestock breeds, promotion of short maturing and drought resistant varieties, forage development, water sources development and ensure and strengthen sustainable market information dissemination system.

In the other hand, ACF has been implementing water development, restocking, livestock health, bush thinning and capacity building training on Community Managed disaster Risk Reduction for concerned government staffs and established Kebele disaster risk management committees in the two districts. The government official said that ACF intervention is complimentary with the government policy and strategies to build the resilience of the communities. Hence, visible change on the livelihoods of the target communities has been observing since ACF has been implementing Disaster risk management program. Among many changes, early warning information data collection and dissemination between the kebele and districts active and strong, and operational district capacity to updating their contingency planning regularly improved and communities attitude and skill on the relevance disaster risk reduction plan improved as they have been practicing hay making, bush thinning and water sources rehabilitation as means for preparedness, prevention and mitigation measures.