



Contribution of NRM-Borana Project to Food Security of Pastoralist Women



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The SDC-funded NRM-Borana project has implemented in Oromia region, Borana zone, 16 operational kebeles in five districts (Dire, Dillo, Miyo, Dhas and Wachile) from September 2016 to December 2021. The project was implemented through a consortium of HELVETAS and Welthungerhilfe with local implementing partners (CIFA, PDC and government sector offices)

One of the major objectives of the NRM-Borana project is to increase pastoralist women's incomes through diversifying their livelihood sources that could contribute to attitudinal change of wider community members towards the women and their empowerment at household level. To materialize this, the project has engaged about 877 pastoralist women in different income gaining activities (6 women farming groups with livestock fattening as embedded services, 7 bee keeping, 4 milk marketing, 2 poultry production, 2 vegetables, 8 saving & credit and 2 multi-purpose cooperatives). Various tailor made technical trainings and supports have been provided to these women groups both by the project staff and government experts on the spot. Through engaging in these various activities, women's incomes are increased.



To equip women in literacy and numeracy skills, about 465 pastoralist women have attended the literacy courses through flexible schedules at 27 sites in 14 operational kebeles. Among these women, 194 of them have attended the 3rd level and could join the 5th grade of formal school. The literacy courses have contributed to practice and attitudinal changes of the women in terms of operating the cellphone, recoding individuals & group transactions, increasing their confidence within the household & among community members, eagerness to continue their studies and sending more girls to formal school.



Improving the access to rangeland and water sources reduced the drudgery of women of travelling long distances and of labor required, and gave them extra time to engage in other productive activities including literacy classes.



Further efforts have been made to open up the space for pastoralist women on natural resource management and governance. The efforts made to increase the participation of pastoralist women in local meetings enhanced women's participation in NRM system at committee level and their voice being heard mainly related to water and pasture management issues.

The project also acknowledges the role of women in local peace building and conflict resolution that mainly emanated from competition of resources and other factors. Efforts have been made to build the capacity of pastoralist women in providing capacity building trainings and actively engaging them in intra-group peace dialogues.