

RESULTS SUMMARY

Pastoralist communities increase livelihood opportunities

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PROJECT	<i>Title:</i>	Building Opportunities for Livelihoods Development and Enhanced Resilience (BOLDER)
	<i>Partner:</i>	ADRA Ethiopia
	<i>Country:</i>	Ethiopia
	<i>Period:</i>	January 2022 - ongoing

CHANGE	<p>In 2023, more than a thousand women and men from pastoralist communities in Shebelle zone, Ethiopia, experienced increased livelihood opportunities through implementation of climate adaptation techniques and improved production methods. Many of them managed to invest in their production in addition to sustaining their families, either individually or through cost sharing in groups, e.g. purchasing shared water pumps, buying cattle for fattening, and selling improved varieties of fruit tree seedlings apart from to growing and selling the fruits.</p>
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CONTEXT	<p>Shebelle zone is known to be highly susceptible to disasters, with floods, droughts, and disease outbreaks affecting large numbers of people and livestock every year. 2023 brought both intense drought after five failing rainy seasons, and severe flooding when too much rain came at once. People living in the area are highly dependent on cattle and agriculture, hence the need for finding climate resilient solutions and broadening income generating opportunities is critical.</p>
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CONTRIBUTION	<p>Of the people engaged in the BOLDER project in 2023, 311 (m73, f238) practiced climate-smart agriculture; 215 (m40, f175) took loans through the 46 existing Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLA); 129 (m41, f88) increased their income from selling agricultural produce; and small-scale businesses established by 402 people (m68, f334) engaged in various sectors were still profitable throughout 2023. All these people are members of 176 CBGs who were organised and have received training by ADRA Ethiopia and their partner, VSF-S.</p>
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IMAGES	 <p>Photo: Maria Lykke Andersen, ADRA Denmark</p>	 <p>Photo: ADRA Ethiopia</p>
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[See next page for more details](#) →

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

ADRA Ethiopia and VSF-S have worked in the Shebelle zone for years, organising and training pastoralist and farmer communities in groups of VSLA, Pastoralist and Farmer Field Schools, Farmer Market Schools, Climate Smart Agriculture, Milk Value Chain, Non-Timber Forest Products, Nursery sites, as well as Innovative Feed and Improved Crop Production. They also support functional adult literacy and numeracy skills. Some of the methods introduced are the use of improved drought and disease tolerant crops, growing plants that absorb carbon, intercropping of different species in the same farm ensuring pest management and soil fertility, using livestock manure for crops cultivation rather than chemical fertilizers, and crops like Sudan Grass and green maize grown to secure forage for livestock at drought time, among others. People gain knowledge and support as part of the groups, leading to results that are felt immediately in the form of better living conditions in their households. In addition, working together in groups increases opportunities for scaling their activities.

LESSONS

Being member of a community group like VSLA opens the eyes of many and create opportunities for business activities which are further enhanced through additional training. Most VSLA members are women, hence women empowerment is one of the additional benefits of this way of working. They share household expenses, gain income, and invest in various income generating activities with the savings they accumulate. Hence, women's access to and control over resources increase over time, reducing dependence on their husbands' financial directory. The innovative food solution initiatives play a crucial role in encouraging the adoption of new technologies by showcasing the benefits of improved fruit tree seedlings compared to local varieties grown in the same agro-ecological conditions. The project has emphasised the use of community-based facilitators (CBFs) in every organised group. The CBFs are the main project exit strategy, since they will remain after projects end.

EVIDENCE

The organising of community members and training in immediately applicable tools, relevant to people's everyday life and livelihood, have proven effective in terms of seeing the above-mentioned results. When people see that climate smart agriculture and innovative feed and food solutions provide better yield and production, they are immediately motivated for implementing these approaches. They have also seen proof of the advantages and opportunities of working in groups. Apart from giving access to larger, joint investments, which can help scale production, the mere fact of working together paves the way for conflict prevention and resolution. Hence, this has become an integral part of the way people work, and they know which local structures to engage if conflicts arise to avoid escalation. The processes leading to the results as well as the approaches applied have been followed closely by ADRA Denmark and are documented in reports.

DOMAINS

<i>Development strategy priorities:</i>	<i>Insert strategy priority</i>
<i>Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	x
<i>Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	x
<i>Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work</i>	x