



“Emergency livelihood support to drought-affected pastoral, agropastoral and smallholder farming communities in Afar and Somali Regions”

Project code: OSRO/ETH/601/USA

Donor: United States of America

Contribution: USD 700 000

Implementation: 01/01/16 – 31/03/17

Target areas: Afar and Somali Regions



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Objective:	To protect the livelihoods of pastoralists, agropastoralists and smallholder farmers affected by the El Niño-induced drought in Afar and Somali Regions of Ethiopia.
Key partners:	Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR), Disaster Risk Management Agriculture Task Force (DRM-ATF) members, the Somali Region Livestock Crop and Rural Development Bureau and the Afar Region Pastoral and Agricultural Development Bureau.
Beneficiaries reached:	4 229 households.
Activities implemented:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brought together key stakeholders for regular DRM-ATF meetings, including government actors, UN agencies, NGOs and donor agencies engaged in humanitarian agricultural assistance to share information, coordinate activities, conduct joint assessments, etc. • Assisted ATF partners to prepare for and respond to El Niño-induced drought impacts, as well as acted as a mechanism for coordinating and harmonizing approaches. • Identified and prioritized the types of interventions required where they were most needed together with Government partners, with the main aim of protecting agricultural livelihoods. • Established specialized emergency working groups under the DRM-ATF focusing on emergency seed and livestock response, respectively, as well as a Strategic Advisory Group. • Produced technical guidance notes and presented information on good practices and challenges to develop and share replicable solutions and recommendations for the overall response. • Organized regular response review sessions, closely following partners' progress through “who is doing what where” exercises to ensure gaps were filled and complementarity enhanced. • Supported the conducting of countrywide seasonal assessments (post-<i>belg</i> and -<i>meher</i>) that fed into the development of humanitarian response planning in the agriculture sector. • Established a cooperative in Erer <i>woreda</i> of Somali Region to produce multivitamin blocks (MNBs), providing the equipment, tools and ingredients necessary for immediate start-up. • Distributed 64 400 MNBs produced by the new cooperative and existing ones through a voucher system to 4 079 households, benefiting about 2 500 cattle and 28 790 small ruminants. • Provided 150 agropastoral households with fodder seed to promote local feed cultivation.
Results:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened coordination of stakeholders' response activities for the protection of agricultural livelihoods throughout Ethiopia. • Provided results necessary for evidence-based planning through countrywide assessments. • Enhanced the livelihood security of vulnerable livestock-dependent households, potentially helping to resume milk production and thereby alleviate malnutrition levels. • Improved sustainability through the promotion of fodder production, thereby reducing reliance on local markets to supply feed. • Benefited the local economy by injecting a total of USD 93 230 into local markets through the implementation of the voucher system. • Linked new producer cooperative with end users through voucher-based MNB feed support, increasing its acceptance among beneficiaries.