



**Pastoralist Areas Resilience Improvement through Market Expansion (PRIME) Project**  
Funded by the United States Agency for International Development

Quarter 9 Report  
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Submitted to:  
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## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PRIME is a five-year, USAID-funded initiative designed to support resilience among pastoralist communities in Ethiopia, and thus enhance prospects for long-term development in Ethiopia's dryland landscape where the pastoralist livelihood system prevails. Financed through Feed the Future (FTF) and Global Climate Change (GCC) facilities, PRIME is designed to be transformative, innovative and achieve scale through market-driven approaches to livestock production and livelihood diversification that simultaneously support dryland communities to adapt to a changing climate. In order to achieve its overall goal of **Increasing Household Incomes and Enhancing Resilience to Climate Change through Market Linkages**, the program works to meet the following five major objectives (intermediate results):

- 1) Improved productivity and competitiveness of livestock and livestock products;
- 2) Enhanced pastoralists' adaptation to climate change;
- 3) Strengthened alternative livelihoods for households transitioning out of pastoralism;
- 4) Ensure enhanced innovation, learning and knowledge management; and
- 5) Improved nutritional status of targeted households improved through targeted, sustained and evidence-based interventions.

### **Highlights from the Quarter**

This report summarizes the key activities implemented, and the associated accomplishments for PRIME over the period of 1 October to 31 December 2014, which is the ninth quarter (first quarter, third year) of implementation. Major accomplishments for Quarter 9 include:

#### Highlights from IR1: *Improved productivity and competitiveness of livestock and livestock products*

PRIME continued its work in developing livestock market systems through B2B events, exposure visits, business expansion grants, trainings, and technical assistance.

**Training activities:** Capacity and knowledge improvement efforts were conducted through 15 trainings including: the promotion of fodder production, preservation and utilization; milk quality preservation and sanitation; weight based livestock trading; and basic business skills training for livestock traders and milk collectors.

**Business Expansion Grants:** To date a total of 48 Business Expansion Grants have been provided to expand Private Vet Pharmacies, Livestock Holding/Fattening grounds, expansion of Milk Collection services, and Feed Production across PRIME areas. An additional 20 businesses are being considered for support. The process includes an initial call for proposals, business plan reviews, due diligence and field verification, milestone development and negotiations. Ten businesses have completed all milestones under the agreement, and significant results are already being seen, for example: as a result of the increase in PVP locations, an additional 259,840 ETB of vet drug sales have been made and 16,330 pastoralists have accessed the service. The expansions also created 20 jobs for qualified unemployed TOPs/Youth.

**Scale-up of women's shooat fattening businesses:** Eighteen women groups affiliated with RUSACCOs were identified and qualified for grant support and technical assistance. The primary challenges faced by these groups are the lack of legal trade registration and licenses, very informal ways of doing business, and the remote location of groups. One hundred and twenty five (125) women are expected to benefit from this sub-activity and 2,397,500 ETB is expected to be invested as a result of this activity.

**Business to Business (B2B) Events:** Several events were held to gather export abattoirs, live animal exporters and local traders from across the country. For example, the National Livestock Supply workshop, done in coordination with LMD, included a series of B2B meetings between the livestock traders and the abattoirs and exporters of live animals, during which 45 livestock supply business deals were concluded.

**Emergency Feed and Fodder:** PRIME completed the emergency provision of feed and fodder for supplemental feeding of productive (dairy and reproductive) animals, targeting the most vulnerable households in Afar Zone 3, Borena and Liben zones. The activity was implemented through the Crisis Modifier and a stand-alone proposal to OFDA. As Crisis Modifier activities are designed to protect the development gains of the PRIME project activities, the work was largely implemented through local and national animal feed/fodder producers and retailers in order to build the market linkages between rural retailers and wholesalers of feed/fodder. The response supported over 25,000 reproductive and productive animals, in order to protect the milk supply in 12,693 vulnerable households.

#### Highlights from IR2: *Enhanced pastoralists' adaptation to climate change (IR2)*

During the reporting period, PRIME supported regular quarterly dialogues of the Rangeland Councils; organized multi-stakeholder consultation workshops with USAID's LAND project on communal land registration and certification, and arranged field visits for the federal and regional level higher government officials to Borena and Guji zones. In addition, PRIME supported communities' natural resource rehabilitation activities including selective bush thinning on 31ha of land in Borena and 60ha of Prosopis clearing in Afar. The community rehabilitation activities also included a micro-dam rehabilitation in Borena and a new pond excavation in Siti zone (Somali Region), as well as rehabilitation of 3 birkads in Fafen & Jerar zones (Somali Region). To address social and behavioral constraints, sensitization workshops on the SAA approach were followed with the establishment of core and sub-SAA groups. Further highlights of our interventions are described below:

**Haro-bake micro-dam rehabilitation** will increase the reservoir's capacity by 3.7 ha. PRIME is strengthening the weak sections of the embankments, constructing the spill ways at the two ends of the embankments of the dam, and constructing flood protection dykes from the tail side of the dam to improve its safety and water holding capacity. The construction of the two spillways has been going on during the reporting period and over 65% of the physical works of the two spill ways has been completed while the reservoir expansion is expected to start at the beginning of next quarter and completed by the end of next quarter. Overall about 55% of the work has been finalized by the end of the quarter and the whole work is anticipated to be completed by the end of Q11.

***PRIME-LAND joint initiative for securing pastoralists' land use rights:*** PRIME and the USAID-funded Land Nurturing for Development (LAND) project organized field visits for the Regional Oromia Pastoral Advisory Committees (ROPACs) to both Borena and Guji zones from October 27<sup>th</sup> to November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The purpose of the visits were to bring together the regional and zonal OPAC members to discuss the terms of reference of the two committees and how they work together to achieve their common goals and to create a common understanding among all the stakeholders on the objectives and activities of the LAND and PRIME projects. The field visit was successful in achieving its objectives and reaching consensus among the stakeholders on the need to implement pastoral land certification in the two zones. The Field reports have been prepared and shared with the committee members and the next step is a discussion forum in January 2015 in Hawassa to reach consensus on the level (e.g., rangeland system, woreda, kebele) in which certification should take place.

Highlights from IR3: ***Strengthened alternative livelihoods for households transitioning out of pastoralism***

The end of the quarter brought exciting news to PRIME as a long-awaited pilot activity on mobile banking was given GoE permission to begin. Details on this activity and other job creation and alternative livelihoods activities include:

***Mobile and Agent Banking pilot approval from NBE***

The mobile and agent banking pilot received approval from the National Bank of Ethiopia and started in January 2015, with over 200 clients registering in the first two weeks of the pilot. Last year, PRIME signed an agreement with the Somali Microfinance Institution to fund the Financial Inclusion for the People of Somali Region in Ethiopia (FIPSRE) project through PRIME's Innovation and Investment Fund (IIF) mechanism. The FIPSRE project is a 3-year initiative that will be implemented jointly by Somali MFI and a private sector partner BelCash Technology Solutions PLC with the technical and financial assistance under the IR3 and IIF of PRIME project. Following the approval granted from the National Bank of Ethiopia, it is expected that this activity will create more than 2,000 jobs and benefit 42,000 households by creating access to different financial services through their mobile phone and the nearby agents of SMFI.

***TOPs are enrolled in TVETs through PRIME's Short-term vocational scholarship program:***

Earlier in the project PRIME used a Labor Market Survey to identify skills in demand by local businesses. Subsequently, short-term trainings were identified that could open up job opportunities and make TOPs more employable in their local area. During the reporting period, in Eastern, Southern and Afar clusters the enrollment process for these trainings is underway, and 656 TOPs have been awarded scholarships for these in-demand trainings. More than 135 TOPs have started their training, while 20 completed it, and 499 are registering in the TVETs.

***VSLA formation through the Provider Service Provider model***

During the quarter, PRIME continued to form and expand VSLAs through the PSP model, a more cost effective and sustainable method to expand outreach in target communities and provide the service. PSPs train VSLAs, for a fee paid by the VSLAs, eliminating the need for long-term external technical support. The main advantage of this approach is that new VSLAs continue to be created (and supported) after a project has ended. During the quarter, 126 VSLAs

with 2240 members (1356 female) were established; bringing the total VSLAs formed over the last six months to 197, with 3705 members (70% women). Mercy Corps, CARE, SOS Sahel, ACPA are leading this activity in their respective areas.

***Hellojobs Job-Matching Service:*** PRIME has a custom indicator “Jobs Obtained” within its M&E because measuring employment (whether the jobs are created by the USG support or not) is an important indicator of resilience and economic development, especially for TOPs and youth. The system is particularly useful to low-skilled and semi-skilled workers, who may not be able to access job opportunities via the internet – companies can now call them directly if they are a match for an open position. During the quarter, a total of 824 job seekers in PRIME areas registered their CVs via phone with HelloJob Agents (project began August 2014). Their data is now available to over 3,700 registered employers nationwide through the [hellosera.com/hellogebeya.com](http://hellosera.com/hellogebeya.com) website. In the next quarter plans will be rolled out to specifically register employers present in Somali, Afar, and Borena/Guji areas.

***MIS development for One Stop Centers (OSC) in Eastern cluster:*** MIS development for Jigjiga and Degahbure OSCs was completed, tested, and installed in OSCs and 13 desktop computers and 3 printers were handed over to Jigjiga and Degahbur MSEs/OSCs. Seven OSCs will migrate their existing manual system of registering unemployed youth, businesses and record keeping schemes into computer based management information system. These OSCs will work in close supervision and consultation with professional consultant hired by PRIME for a six month period, who is also giving on-the-job training to OSC staff.

#### Highlights from IR4: ***Ensure enhanced innovation, learning and knowledge management***

The Learning and Knowledge Management (LKM) Team organized an After Action Review of the Emergency Intervention in Liben, Afar Zone 3, and Borena, with the participation of field staff engaged in the activity, emergency focal points for PRIME, as well as consortium partner leadership. The review’s objective is to understand the lessons learned of the intervention, including the identification of problem points and future solutions to similar interventions.

The LKM team was also busy supporting the questions and visits of the Mid-Term Evaluation team. The MTE team visited Jigjiga, Yabello, Negelle, Moyale, and Gewane field offices.

To promote two-way communication on PRIME, field LKM teams prioritized communication with regional, zonal and woreda authorities through a review meeting (Afar) and joint monitoring of key activities on the ground (Afar and Southern cluster). PRIME believes these exchanges will show local government officials the project’s achievements, while giving authorities a space to share their concerns and recommendations. In addition, CARE led a ToT on their forward accountability mechanism (Community Scorecard) to PRIME’s LKM team and each cluster has drafted plans to take the scorecard forward and pilot it accordingly in their areas.

#### Highlights from IR5: ***Improved nutritional status of targeted households improved through targeted, sustained and evidence-based interventions***

***Training activities:*** In partnership with GoE Health Offices, PRIME provided a Training of Trainers (TOT) for 236 (*112 men and 124 women*) health workers at health center level. The objective of the training was to equip frontline health workers with skills and knowledge to improve maternal and child health nutrition counseling and services at health facility and community level. The trainings were facilitated through the Regional Health Bureaus and Zonal Health Offices, using the ENA national standard training modules. None of the health workers had received ENA training before, yet were expected to conduct activities on ENA in their workplace. This training was then cascaded down to the community level, ultimately reaching an additional 610 community members (*24 men and 589 women*), including pregnant/lactating women and influential individuals.

***Fodder Production Training:*** PRIME, through HAVOYCO, also trained 32 agriculture extension workers in the Somali region in crop residue conservation techniques. The process preserves crop residues to be used as animal feed; and this training focused on how communities can increase the availability and access to animal feed during dry seasons and highlighted how the productivity of livestock can be improved, particularly milk and dairy production, which are crucial for child nutrition. The training was conducted as TOT so that participants will have the skills and knowledge to cascade the training in agro-pastoralist communities. At the end of the training, each participant developed an action plan on how to cascade this training to their respective woredas. As a result, the conservation and feed production training was given at the community level and total of 640 agro-pastoralist community members benefited.

***Edutainment Activities:*** Six nutrition promotional events were held during the quarter, utilizing edutainment activities, and conveying nutrition messages such as the importance of using animal health services and fodder, introduction of keyhole gardening, and “First 1000 Days” messages. Alongside the edutainment activities, Q&A sessions were held to ensure technical messages are provided alongside the entertainment, providing layering and re-enforcement of critical messages. For example, a Q&A session on animal drug and vaccine usage was held to improve local knowledge, and contribute to wider animal health efforts under PRIME. PVPs demonstrated their products and gave advice on when livestock owners should take their animals to a clinic or consult a CAHW. A total of 2,497 community members (1,537 men and 960 women) were present during the events; and the post-event feedback assessment showed that they learned about where to obtain animal drugs and vaccines, as well as the impact of animal health on household nutrition. Model CAHWs were awarded mobile phones during the event to improve their outreach, and feedback showed that this was a strong motivator for the CAHWs.

**Highlights from *Innovation and Investment Fund (IIF):***

Following USAID approval, the IIF finalized an agreement with Barwako Milk Processing to expand their operations, thus leveraging USD 1.3 million (\$775,000 for only capital goods and fixed assets). Pre-compliance assessments, including an environmental impact assessment, have also been completed for AgFlow Poultry (AGP) – a business that seeks to strategically expand its products and services to underserved woredas in Guji and Borena. PRIME funds will be used to finance a new breeding and hatching facility and franchise SMEs to fill distribution gaps in the live chicken and feed value chains. Once approved, AGP is expected to impact 30,000 households, increase household income for producers, and create about 200 jobs. PRIME expects the AGP investment to be approved by USAID during Q10.

## II. SUMMARY RESULTS TABLE

Indicator	Disaggregation	FY13+FY14 targets (Y1+Y2)	FY13+FY14 achieved (Y1+Y2)	FY15 Target (Y3 only)	Achieved Q9 (Oct-Dec 2014)	Remark
<b>CROSS CUTTING INDICATORS</b>						
Number of HH reached (custom)	<b>Total</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>64,348</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>8,948</b>	Once incomplete reports are counted, HH numbers will increase to be on target.
4.5.2(5): Number of farmers and others who have applied new (improved) technologies or management practices as a result of US assistance	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,687</b>	<b>13,604</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>N/A</b>	Annual reporting only
4.5.2(34): Number of people implementing risk reducing practices/ actions to improve resilience to climate change as a result of USG assistance	<b>Total</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>11,977</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>N/A</b>	Annual reporting only
PPR 4.8.2-26: Number of stakeholders with increased capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate variability and change as a result of USG assistance	<b>Total</b>	<b>10,300</b>	<b>11,977</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>N/A</b>	Annual reporting only
4.5.2(7): Number of individuals who have received USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training (RIA) (WOG)	<b>Total</b>	<b>193,215</b>	<b>37,553</b>	<b>9,936</b>	<b>2,797</b>	On target for Y3. Y2 target was too high and unrealistic but could not be changed in system.
	Male	133,185	21,784	5,599	1,311	
	Female	60,030	15,769	4,337	1,486	
4.5.2(11): Number of food security private enterprises (for profit), producers organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,411</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>1,460</b>	<b>232</b>	Not on target for Y3—reports on private sector enterprises supported are not completed as we are
	Private Sector		356	1,152	5	
	Producer Orgz		36	0	0	

Indicator	Disaggregation	FY13+FY14 targets (Y1+Y2)	FY13+FY14 achieved (Y1+Y2)	FY15 Target (Y3 only)	Achieved Q9 (Oct-Dec 2014)	Remark	
community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance (RIA) (WOG)	Water User Assoc		13	0	0	finalizing our institutional database.	
	Women's groups		36	0	0		
	Trade and Business assoc.		42	10	8		
	CBOs		117	273	210		
	Disaggregates not available		46	0	9		
4.5.1(24): Number of Policies/Regulations/Administrative Procedures in each of the following stages of development as a result of USG assistance in each case: (Stage 1/2/3/4/5) (S)	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	Mobile banking for Belcash and SMFI collaboration approved by National Bank of Ethiopia and national strategy on prosopis management drafted. On target to achieve in Y3.	
	Inputs (old def)						
	Outputs (old def)						
	Research/Extension (old def)						
	Food security/vulnerability (old def)						
	Macroeconomic (old def)		4				
	Climate Change (old def)		6				
	Institutional architecture for improved policy formulation						
	Enabling environment for private sector investment				3		1
	Ag trade policy						

Indicator	Disaggregation	FY13+FY14 targets (Y1+Y2)	FY13+FY14 achieved (Y1+Y2)	FY15 Target (Y3 only)	Achieved Q9 (Oct-Dec 2014)	Remark
	Ag input policy			1		
	Land and NR tenure, rights, and policy				1	
	Resilience and ag risk mgt policy					
	Nutrition					
	Other			1		
	Disaggregation N/A					
4.5.2(2): Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,717,110</b>	<b>4,862,773</b>	<b>8,500,000</b>	<b>N/A</b>	Annual reporting only. 8.5m is LoP target and will likely be reached once verification is completed.
PPR 4.8.1-29 Number of person hours of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance	<b>Total</b>	<b>39,000</b>	<b>101,473</b>	<b>39,000</b>	<b>20,817</b>	On target to be achieved.
	Men		73,071	28,080	17,008	
	Women		28,402	10,920	3,809	
<b>ECONOMIC AND MARKET INDICATORS (IR1 AND IR3)</b>						
4.5.2(23): Value of incremental sales at farm-level attributed to FtF implementation	<b>USD</b>	<b>5,250,130.75 (Y2 only)</b>	<b>4,916,866.81 (Y2 only)</b>	<b>5,200,288.53</b>	<b>N/A</b>	Annual reporting only
PPR 4.7.1-12: Total number of clients (households and/or microenterprises) benefiting from	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,400</b>	<b>12,622</b>	<b>22,060</b>	<b>2,296</b>	SMFI/Belcash was just approved and pilot just launched.
	Borrowers	2,520	5241	2,450	1,975	

Indicator	Disaggregation	FY13+FY14 targets (Y1+Y2)	FY13+FY14 achieved (Y1+Y2)	FY15 Target (Y3 only)	Achieved Q9 (Oct-Dec 2014)	Remark
financial services provided through USG-assisted financial intermediaries, including non-financial institutions or actors	Savers	5,880	6181	19,050	2,296	Numbers will increase in the coming months.
	Insurance	0	1200	560		
4.5(2): Number of jobs attributed to FTF implementation (RIA)	<b>New</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>1,604</b>	<b>71</b>	SMFI/Belcash was just approved and pilot just launched. Numbers will increase in the coming months
4.5.2(38): Value of new private sector investment in the agriculture sector or food chain leveraged by FTF implementation (RIA)	<b>Total (USD)</b>	<b>10,500,000</b>	<b>10,316,987</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>	<b>775,835</b>	Barwako – note that the amount will increase once we get information on value of fixed assets.
3.1.9(1): Number of people trained in child health and nutrition through USG-supported programs (S)	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,650</b>	<b>4,341</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>2,178</b>	On target to be achieved.
	Male	2,150	1,615	3,000	816	
	Female	4,500	2,726	4,500	1,362	
3.1.9(15): Number of children under five reached by USG-supported nutrition programs (S)	<b>Total</b>	<b>31,000</b>	<b>32,192</b>	<b>57,500</b>	<b>4,117</b>	Incomplete reports by the end of quarter did not allow us to capture the full number of children reached. A discount will be applied at end of Y3.
	Male	15,510	16,415	29,325	2,017	
	Female	15,490	15,777	28,175	2,100	

Please note that the above results are only for output FTF and PPR indicators. Outcome indicators will only be reported on annually

### **III. CORRELATION TO THE MONITORING PLAN**

Data for this quarterly report was gathered through PRIME's output tracking sheet and through business information gathered by the EMD team at field level and reported to IR1 and IR3. Data for VSLA members (financial beneficiaries) is being collated and reported by the Rural Financial Services specialist through the SAVIX information system. Ki-projects reports are at the moment only collecting information on concept notes and reports (approved/ pending; open/close) while the process of linking activities to indicators is being finalized. During the next quarter, reporting formats and the summary in Ki-projects may be updated based on project needs.

### **IV. RESULT BY RESULT ANALYSIS**

#### **INTERMEDIATE RESULT 1: IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY AND COMPETITIVENESS OF LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS**

##### **Key Result 1.1: Productivity in Key Livestock Market Systems Increased**

###### ***Competitive Cost-shared Business Expansion Grants to Private Veterinary Pharmacies in the Southern Cluster***

The objective of this activity is to enable pastoralists and agro-pastoralists to have access to quality affordable veterinary drugs through more effective and efficient supply-chain linkages, and to ensure that access to these critical veterinary inputs is sustainable. In order to realize the intended objective partnerships were created with potential 10 PVPs in Borena and Liben zones. The process included a call for proposal, business plan reviews, due diligence and field verification, milestone development and negotiations.

During Quarter 9, to verify that the implementation of the grants is progressing smoothly, most of the grantees were visited by the relevant PRIME area officers. Most grantees are close to finalizing expansion work in their respective sites except one. All have already started the sale of veterinary drug in the targeted kebeles. As result, 259,840 ETB of sales were made by the expansion veterinarian pharmacies and 16,330 pastoralists accessed the service. The expansions also created 20 jobs for qualified unemployed TOPs/Youth.

As a follow-up of this sub-activity, cost share grant for PVP expansion were also advertised in Dollo, Filtu and Hudet woredas. Subsequently, business proposals were reviewed and seven promising entrepreneurs qualified for award during the quarter nine. Grant agreements with these additional PVPs will be created in the following quarter. While calls for proposals were also advertised during the quarter in Goro Dola, Wadara and Liban woredas of Guji zone, only two applicants applied for the grant. The review process for these was successfully completed and the remaining processes will be finalized in the coming quarter.

###### ***Competitive Cost-shared Business Expansion Grants for the Establishment of Livestock Holding Grounds/Stockyards***

This sub-activity is expected to play a vital role in improving the marketing and quality of live animals and meat. It is expected that improved quality of live animals will result in an increase in demand, increase in price, and increased off-take. These enterprises are also expected to improve

market linkages. Consequently it will have a potential to change things from the traditional way of doing things to be more market/demand-based.

To this end, after going through a meticulous selection process, three businesses signed agreements with PRIME to construct holding grounds last year. However, they could not implement their work per agreed timeline due to challenge related with land acquisition. However, in this reporting period, the bottle neck was solved through discussions with relevant government bodies and all business are actively launching site clearing activities, materials mobilization and land excavation for area fencing. Also, they agreed to speed up implementation of the construction work and finalize all work by January 30, 2015.

Besides this, cost share grant opportunity for the establishment of fifteen feedlots was advertised in five woredas (Yabello, Dirre, Dillo, Teltelle and Moyale Oromia) of Borena, three woredas (Wadara, Gorodola and Liban) woredas of Guji and three woredas (Moyale Somali, Mubrak and Hudet) of Liban zones. The processes, like proposal review, field verification and agreement signing, will be undertaken in the coming quarter.

#### ***Competitive Business Expansion Grants for Private / Cooperative Milk Collectors in Guji, Borena and Liben Zones***

The aim of this sub-activity is to stimulate the establishment of a strong dairy supply chain that facilitates more milk transactions in the area, primarily triggered by strong aggregators. Through this process more pastoralists in remote areas will be able to access the primary market and earn money from milk sales (due to strong urban demand), and subsequently improve their livelihood. We will facilitate this by encouraging interested business to engage in bulk milk collection in villages and to sell in urban centers where there is high demand for milk. Two businesses have already entered taking advantage of this opportunity in Negelle and Yabello town.

To intensify and scale up impact of our intervention, calls for proposals were also advertised in Hudet, Filtu and Dollo woreda of Liben zone. A total of five milk cooperatives were qualified for award and milestones were developed and negotiated. Sub-award agreements will be finalized in the upcoming quarter.

During this reporting period, competitive cost-share grants for milk aggregators were also advertised in the Moyale area. We successfully completed the review process and field verification. Two qualified business were awarded and milestone developed and negotiated. These awardees will start their business expansion program in the coming quarter.

#### ***Competitive Business Grant Support to Women's Groups for Small-scale Shoats Fattening in the Southern Cluster***

This sub-activity is intended to support women's groups engaging in shoat fattening in scaling their businesses to move from traditional fattening systems to improved market-led short-cycled fattening. PRIME provides cost-shared grant support and pro-bono technical assistance.

The implementation of this sub-activity has encountered several challenges. The main issues are the lack of women groups that have legal trade registration and license for shoat fattening, very informal ways of doing business, and location of groups in very remote rural areas. To overcome

the challenges mentioned above, we decided to target women who were members of RUSACCOs so that they can use the RUSACCO's legal entity to be eligible for the grant. We also changed the grant advertisement channel from posting applications to verbal announcement which is a more appropriate means of communication for targeted groups. As a result, 18 potential women groups affiliated with existing RUSACCOs were identified and qualified for the grant. One hundred and twenty five (125) women are expected to benefit from this sub-activity and 2,397,500 ETB is expected to be invested in shoat fattening. Of this amount, 50% is leveraged from women groups as working capital while PRIME covers the remaining fixed assets cost. The agreement signing and compliance processes will be accomplished in the coming period.

### ***Support for Expansion of Weight-based Livestock Sales and Transactions (in cooperation with LMD)***

Although weight-based trade of livestock determines the price of livestock in the market more precisely, the practice is still insignificant in local trade circles. The majority of small traders conduct transactions using eye-ball judgment, which mostly disadvantages the pastoralists. This transaction culture is perpetuated mainly because of the lack of access to weighing scale and lack of knowledge. To minimize this risk it is important to support the early adopters of weight-based transactions by incentivizing the use of weight scales through cost-shared grants (for their purchase) and creating awareness through discussion to improve weight-based shoat marketing in PRIME intervention areas. The activity planned to address at least 250 small traders in the southern cluster. Discussions were held with the Borena zone Trade and Market Development Office, which agreed to identify licensed traders during Quarter 9.

In the reporting period, discussions were also held with small traders. However, it is nearly impossible to find licensed small traders as most of them are only engaging in the business as an informal entity. This it was decided to work with licensed big traders so that small traders who are working with them can buy weight scale through them. In addition, one potential supplier qualified to supply weight scales after going through the necessary processes and procedures. The activity will be fully finalized in the coming quarter.

### ***Competitive Grants for Expansion of Private Veterinarian Pharmacies in the Eastern Cluster***

Out of twelve Private Veterinarian Pharmacies that received first phase grants in July 2014, ten completed implementation of all committed milestones during this quarter and started functioning fully as veterinary drug suppliers for pastoral communities in remote targeted areas. The remaining two PVPs accomplished the first phase milestone commitments and are still implementing the second phase. Three PVPs have provided both financial and program reports of all the completed milestones and have received 100% reimbursement and closeout of their respective grants.

As they are in the early stage of the service delivery and



Kabribayah PVP Garba Harre

in order to establish better interaction with communities, the majority of the expansion grants focus on supporting promotional activities, while others created linkages with CAHWs in the respective communities. Promotional activities include the production and distribution of leaflets, business cards and sign boards to increase the businesses' visibility in the target areas. Products carried by PVPs are in high demand by the communities they serve and initial business success has been evident. PRIME will continue monitoring the completion of all Grants under this sub activity and will produce a final report during Quarter 10.

#### ***Competitive Cost-shared Grants for the Establishment of Feedlots in the Eastern Cluster***

The overall objective of the sub-activity is to support the introduction and establishment of standard feedlot operations and practices in pastoral areas to increase the quality and the value of livestock traded. Out of the four selected applicants in Quarter 7, only one of the selected enterprises Mahmud Haddi Habane Livestock Export started the establishment of the feed lot, and has started the milestone from his side, finalized the construction of the whole fence of 7,000 sqm, which is the cost share contribution from their side. In order to proceed with the signing of the support grant, PRIME will conduct an environmental review to identify potential environmental hazards and potentially develop environmental mitigation measures that will be included in the grant agreement.

#### ***Promotion of Fodder Production, Preservation and Utilization in the Eastern Cluster***

The overall objective of this activity is to increase the understanding of pastoralist HHs, commercial livestock traders, and farmers about the importance of supplementary feeding of livestock due to the impact on livestock production and to capture/display modern practices/skills and technology used for the feed production and preservation to commercial livestock traders, pastoralist/agro pastoralists, farmers, government and research institutions. During this quarter, a local consultant has been hired to create a mini-documentary film and audio program on fodder production, preservation and utilization. Once the documentation is completed, the film and audio programs will be aired on ESTV and local FMs. This sub activity is a cost-shared effort of PRIME and the ESRS Livestock Crops and Rural Development Bureau.

#### ***Competitive Cost-shared Grants for Commercial Feed Production in the Eastern Cluster***

The overall general objective of this sub activity is to increase the efficiency and production of livestock feed to ensure the availability of commercial animal/livestock feed to pastoralists. The specific objective of this sub-activity is to identify and offer support to 10 private sector operators to expand their commercial/sales-oriented animal feed and fodder production. Following the call for proposals advertisement in Quarter 8, PRIME received 17 applications. Pre-selection for eligibility was conducted and 10 applicants were selected for field verification and feasibility / business plan development during quarter nine. It is expected that final selection will be conducted and support granted during Quarter 10 of PRIME.

#### ***Competitive Cost-shared Grants for the Construction of Milk Collection Shed***

This activity was implemented by PRIME partner ACPA. The objective of this activity is to increase market linkages and improve milk quality and hygiene through the construction of sheds at collection points. However, most of the target milk cooperatives that were targeted to receive cost-share support lack a business license and bank account. The technical team thus first provided technical assistance and facilitated the licensing of the cooperative and opening of bank

account. The milk cooperative in Elba Hay Kebele of Babile Somali fulfilled all the requirement, met the cost share from their side and the signing of an agreement is underway. Activities will be continued in the next quarter.

#### ***Assessment on Government Rural Veterinary Clinics in PRIME Intervention Areas in SRS***

With this activity 100 veterinary rural clinics and posts were assessed for their basic services delivery in 21 districts of Fafan, Jarar and Sitti zones. The capacity in terms of necessary equipment, human resources, state of facilities and operational capability were assessed and documented. The assessment produced a comprehensive report that outlines the individual capacity of each of the assessed animal health posts and represents a basis for prioritizing improvements and strengthening of these publicly-owned and managed animal health posts by the ESRS LCRDB. Initial assessment information reveals that each animal health post serves on average four kebeles, 2,500 livestock rearing households and 90,500 heads of livestock.

#### ***Basic Business Skills Training for Livestock Traders in Babile Oromia***

The overall objectives of this activity were to: (1) improve the livestock marketing skills and expertise of the livestock traders to be able to access diversified and new markets; (2) provide trainees with applicable knowledge in livestock trade business; (3) enable adoption of improved livestock trade practices of 20 cooperatives and livestock trading enterprises; (4) provide a platform for experience sharing between livestock traders.

The Babile Oromia region is one of the most important livestock trade hubs in the Eastern operational cluster of PRIME where the concentration of relevant livestock trading enterprises is high. Hence the training was conducted in Babile Oromia in order to address traders from Aysha, Hadagal, Danbal, Shinile, Gursum, Gashamo, Daror and Aware.

Key accomplishments of this activity include: (1) increased knowledge of training participants for improved business management and marketing practices, (2) piloting of new marketing methodologies by showing the participants a video about the success of excellent livestock trader's life management and marketing practices, (3) stimulated and conducted discussion on major opportunities and challenges in livestock marketing, conditions and the problems they face in securing finance for livestock trade. Attitudinal changes observed during and after the training were that the traders seem to be interested in investing additional resources in establishing permanent trade links with the domestic abattoirs should better linkages are created with those buyers.

This training was supported by the Babile Oromia Office of Agriculture which provided the venue for the training and actively participated in this training implementation.

#### ***Training on Milk Quality Preservation and Sanitation in Afar***

PRIME partners CARE and AISDA conducted training on milk quality preservation and sanitation for milk traders, collectors and processors. The objective of the activity was to create awareness among value chain actors on milk preservation and standard hygienic practice to improve milk quality and reduce economic loss and consumer health risks, resulting in competitive quality dairy products.



*Participants included 8 milk collectors, 24 cooperatives members and 6 private enterprise members, of which 32 were female and 6 were male.*

Three trainers from the Ethiopian Meat and Dairy Industry Development Institute conducted the training. Awash-based Addis Milk Processing Plc also participated in identifying and mobilizing milk value chain actors and covered the costs of the field visit portion of the training. The Awash Fentale and Amibara woredas PAD offices also participated in mobilizing and facilitating the training.

Training sessions were held on the quality of milk preservation, handling and associated impacts, how to test milk quality, and other related issues. Discussions included looking at gaps, opportunities and responsibilities among the various value chain actors. Additionally, milk collectors, cooperatives and Addis Milk Processing Plc discussed how they can work together, out of which they produced a draft agreement on this mutual cooperation.

A field visit was made to Addis Milk Processing Plc to encourage and develop trust between processors and traders for future milk marketing activities. Discussions held during the field visit identified the following challenges that affect sustainable milk production and supply:

- Shortage of animal feed during droughts and dry seasons;
- Lack of access to supplementary feed;
- Lack of standard milk containers and quality testing material; and
- Lack of potential milk collectors



As the training was provided for only a few individuals from a single cooperative, it is recommended to extend the training to other cooperatives, private milk collectors and potential milk producers in the target area for greater impact. Majority of the future focus of PRIME will be directed towards supporting establishment of milk collection centers in Zone Three of Afar and increase access to quality milk markets to pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and milk consolidating households. Addiskidan Dairy underwent compliance reviews during the quarter, and during the upcoming quarter will be undertaking an environmental compliance review prior

to potentially receiving PRIME IIF Grant funding for expanding its processing and milk purchase capacity.

### ***Training and Experience Sharing Visit to Eastern Cluster***

The Economic and Marketing Development (EMD) component of PRIME held a training and exposure visit to the Eastern Cluster from 14 – 22 Dec 2014. A three day training on EMD was conducted which included approaches, strategic framework, diagnosing constraints and facilitating change. In addition, a briefing on designing activities, developing detailed work plans and concept note development was given. The final topic was on livestock market information system collecting and inquiring techniques. The web site [www.lmiset.net](http://www.lmiset.net) can be utilized to access the guidelines and the livestock market information system from major markets throughout Ethiopia. The training improved staff understanding of PRIME guiding principles, major activities, leveraging points, suitability and the role of EMD facilitators.



A field visit to key private sectors and partners were undertaken after the training. Jijiga International Export Slaughter House was one of the major partners visited. When completed, the facility will have slaughtering capacity of 2,000 heads of shoats per 8 hour shift. A modern dairy processing plant located in Jijiga was also visited and shown as a key leveraging point to improve the dairy value chain development. The dairy company collects milk from 3 organized cooperatives that serve as major collection center. The company exports camel milk to Djibouti, Somaliland, Hargeisa and also retails in town. Private medium feedlot operators, PVPs and the Jijiga market were also visited. Unlike many other markets, the Jijiga market center has stalls inside the market for small service providers and latrines run by private individuals who charge small amounts for the service.

Lessons learned include:

- Private entrepreneurs and traders in the Somali region are bigger risk takers than Afar region which results in the active participation of traders and hastens activity implementation within PRIME;
- Due to the proximity of Somaliland, there is great export opportunity for livestock and livestock products; and
- Because Mercy Corps is the lead implementer in Somali region the complexity of concept note approval, implementation and procurement is reduced.

Recommendations include:

- More team work than individual effort is required for concept note development;
- More time should be spent on finding major leveraging point than undertaking many disintegrated activities; and
- PRIME should be playing a more facilitative role behind the scenes.

### ***Training on Business Skill and Entrepreneurship for Milk Traders in Babile, Degahbur and Ararso***

The activity was implemented by PRIME Partner ACPA in Babile Oromia, Daghabur and Ararso, training 60 women milk traders. The training focused on improving the skills in milk handling and milk collection business including milk quality preservation. Trainees obtained greater understanding of business skills and later expressed how the training will benefit their business operation and use of their collective local knowledge in their business in the future.



Milk is an essential household consumption item, especially for children, and source of livelihoods for a significant segment of the community. Through its value chain, milk is traded in the market mainly on cash basis. Customarily, milk is also traded and consumed at household in fresh form. Consequently, it is crucial to change traditional barriers and transfer knowledge and methods to promote milk businesses so that households are able to maximize their benefits through selling quality milk in the markets and collection points. In follow-up to this activity additional sub-activities will be developed and implemented aiming to support improvements in the milk collection centers, as well as conducting exposure visits for producers to areas where better developed milk production and trade value chains function.

### ***Training on Camel and Cow Milk Quality and Sanitation to Milk Traders and Producers in Babile, Degahbur and Ararso***

Our target was to train 140 milk producers and traders in Degahbur, Ararso and Babile Oromia on improved camel and cow milk sanitation and quality and improve the linkages between milk producers, milk sellers as well as consumers. The current situation is marked by informal systems of the market chain, raw milk collection and marketing characterized by an absence of hygiene and cooling, and prevalence of cheap recycled plastic for transport that cannot be sanitized. In order to reduce milk contamination, increased use of appropriate milk containers, inputs, and construction of milk collection centers are recommended which will improve the strategies to strengthen livelihoods around milk marketing. PRIME is emphasizing the strengthening of market chain of the milk by improving the skills of the cooperatives in Eastern Cluster. The weak linkages among the market actors in the milk chain are getting improved as the actors adopt the milk quality and hygiene training.

The training provided good practical sessions on how to test milk quality and included a useful question and answer sessions. Active participation and interest was noticed of the participants who are increasingly aware of the changing market demands and interested in improving their skills in assuring milk quality. This training was actively supported by local authorities who provided cost-sharing in the format of training space and stationaries for a total of 22% of the full training cost. Of all training participants, 130 were female and 10 male, resulting in 980 impact beneficiaries since the training participants are expected to transfer the new skills and knowledge obtained to their immediate households and communities' members.

While implementing this sub-activity the following are the lessons learned by PRIME: (1) in order to increase attendance and focus, the trainings were scheduled after the target-trainees' daily chores and were held close to their households (proving very effective); (2) while increasing the knowledge of the producers and traders in milk quality and sanitation does help it also reveals that appropriate marketing and infrastructure are needed, such as milk collection centers and market stalls, in order to maintain quality and improve trade with milk.

### ***Competitive Business Expansion Grants in Guji, Borena and Liben zones***

Signed during previous quarters, SOS Sahel continues in the implementation of the small competitive business expansion grants and working with small businesses in their expansion and growth including three PVPs, one milk collection center, and two animal holding grounds. Progress is going well in particular with the PVPs, with all of them functioning well in their new expansions. The milk collection center has completed all of the components of the grant, although to date have not begun to generate income, which is expected to begin early in the upcoming quarter. The two holding ground clients were held back waiting for permissions from local authorities to construct their animal shade areas, although permission has now been received and construction of the shade areas as well as fencing is underway.



### **Key Result 1.2: Market Linkages Improved**

#### ***B2B National Livestock Supply Workshop in Afar***

The workshop gathered together major export abattoirs, live animal exporters and local traders from across the country. Four livestock traders, two livestock marketing cooperatives chairmen, and one marketing professional from PADB (Pastoralists Agricultural Development Bureau) attended the workshop from Afar cluster, facilitated by PRIME. The workshop linked local traders with abattoirs and live animal exporters. More than 15 representatives of export abattoirs and live animal exporters participated in the workshop.

A briefing was given about abattoirs and exporters, including their capacity and demand by the Livestock Marketing Development (LMD) project, as well as types of livestock, selection criteria and supplier issues. Introductions and initial agreements were made between abattoirs and traders/suppliers. The most significant achievement of the workshop was direct



meetings between abattoirs and traders to discuss supply and demand issues and remove intermediary brokers from the picture, resulting in an increase in trust and reduction in transaction costs.

Lessons learned during the development and implementation of this B2B linkage event include:

- Awareness of new export abattoirs and live animal exporters that can provide new opportunity for suppliers and traders;
- Introductions between abattoirs and live animal exporters for potential linkages are important since they provide for new potential trade linkages;

### ***Agreement Facilitation for Livestock Traders from Afdem and Meiso Districts in the Eastern Cluster and Mojo Modern Abattoir***

The objective of this event was to create market linkages for targeted and interested livestock traders from the Afdem and Mieso districts of ESRS and domestic abattoirs. Specific objectives included: (1) facilitate concrete linkage and formal agreement between abattoirs and traders; (2) increased livestock market availability in the area; (3) facilitate for the livestock traders get knowledge and experience on Mojo Modern production capacity, specific type of shoa, price, mode of payment, transportation etc.; (4) create a market linkages for livestock traders in the targeted woredas; (5) instill livestock traders and the abattoirs with confidence and trust building between them.

This activity, facilitated by PRIME Partner ACPA proved successful since it resulted in immediate contracting of delivery of 750 heads of shoats. The linkage seems positive and advantageous for livestock traders and producers while it has created opportunity for pastoral communities to gain additional market outlet.

The agreement facilitation aimed to reach consensus by livestock traders and Mojo Modern Abattoir on livestock supply and hence improve live animal trade. In the course of the negotiations a number of requirements and issues that needed resolution were discussed and agreed upon. In light of this, PRIME Partner ACPA facilitated a visit of 8 representatives from livestock trading cooperatives and marketing experts existing in Afdem and Meiso districts to visit and discuss potential collaboration with Mojo Modern Abattoir. The cooperative representatives and Mojo Modern negotiated and discussed building new market linkage between in order set up sustainable and comprehensive business partnership. Furthermore, among other things the actors discussed with abattoir administration: transportation, pricing and weight based trade principles as well as payment modalities.

### ***National Livestock Supply Workshop/ Pro-Poor Value Chain Supply Workshop in Collaboration with AGP-LMD***

This national workshop was organized in collaboration between PRIME and AGP-Livestock Market Development Project with an overall objective of facilitating commercial linkage among livestock traders, exporters and domestic export abattoirs through face-to-face business interaction and deal making. In this supply workshop the initial plan in the sub activity concept note was to facilitate participation of 30 participants drawn from wide range of live animal value chain actors from the three PRIME operational clusters representing producers (6), live animal

traders(12), livestock cooperative/Unions(6) and relevant local government officials. The most important people/institutions invited to attend the workshop participated in the event.

The workshop was designed in a way that initially the business profiles of the nine major export abattoirs and 11 live animal exporting companies operating in the Adama region were presented in the workshop by AGP-LMD. Potential and trends of live animal supply from the pastoral areas was presented to the participants by PRIME. Highlighting the National Livestock Information System was also given to the participants by PRIME and they were able to exercise on information interpretation and material provided. Three export Abattoirs (Halal, Abyssina and Allana) and one live animal exporter individually shared additional information on their capacity and facilities, quality live animal requirements, future plan and challenges they face on live animal quality deteriorating practices (like forced feeding of salt and corn grain by suppliers with the intention of increasing live weight of the animal).



In the follow up consultative discussion, major challenges and issues in the livestock supply market system were identified and action points for future improvements were suggested.

Among the issues discussed in detail the following were the ones prioritized:

- The presence of the owners of the export abattoir in this kind of supply workshop for facilitating on spot decision making on issues demanding immediate action was stressed;
- Issues of multiple taxation at different points in the livestock market system was noted;
- Lack of up-to-date livestock market information was also noted;
- Lack of transportation means and services specialized for livestock transportation was identified;
- Occasional undue involvement of brokers in the livestock market system was noted;
- Livestock pricing was extensively discussed whereas the traders were of the opinion that prices offered by domestic abattoirs need to be increased. The abattoirs on the other hand shared the fact that those prices are in large extent determined by the end prices they are able to obtain on export markets.
- The existence of forced feeding by suppliers to increase live weight of animals was noted.



- Importance of introducing embedded services by Export Abattoirs was noted and in this line Halal Export abattoir has promised to deliver training on livestock market requirements and live animal quality aspect for suppliers in collaboration with the two projects.

During the second part of the workshop which was designed as a series of B2B meetings between the livestock traders and the abattoirs and exporters of live animals, 45 livestock supply business deals were concluded. In this session, buyers and sellers conducted face to face business deal discussion and fill out expression of interest indicating the volume and number of livestock committed to supply to the export abattoirs/live animal exporters. To this effect, 8 livestock traders and 6 live animal exporters from pastoral areas have made 2-3 each business deal of livestock supply with 20 companies located in the central part of the country.

Business to Business deal facilitation is an important tool to build relationships among businesses for better sustainability. This event gave an opportunity to domestic abattoirs and exporters to directly discuss with livestock businesses from pastoral areas of all PRIME operational clusters. All participants emphasized that it is also good to organize workshops on livestock transportation policy forum to bring this issue to the attention of relevant authorities. PRIME and AGP-LMD discuss organizing such activities on quarterly basis in order to keep up the momentum to establish and re-establish trade links in the changing marketing seasons which offer diversified pricing, demand and trade dynamics.

### **Key result 1.3: Enabling Environment Improved**

#### ***Update on Joint Initiative with the Ethiopian Veterinary Association to Introduce a Pilot Sanitary Mandate Scheme and Contractual Arrangements to Foster Public Private Partnership in Veterinary Services Delivery in Pastoral Areas***

In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture Veterinary Service Director, the Ethiopian Veterinary Association is implementing an EU funded project –**Improving and Integration of Animal Health Services in the Livestock Value Chain through Public-Private Dialogue in Ethiopia (LVC/PPD)**. One of the key components of the LVC/PPD is to introduce a pilot sanitary mandate scheme and contractual arrangement to foster public private partnership in veterinary services delivery through contracting to potential private veterinary networks in the pastoral areas of the three regional states –Afar, Oromia and Somali. In the realization of this sub component of the project EVA has initiated a joint activity for PRIME support in identifying and getting linked with the private actors on operating in the target regions. In line with the objectives of this joint initiative six pilot woredas in the pastoral areas were targeted for piloting the sanitary mandate schemes focusing on vaccination against PPR and Small Ruminant Pox. In consultation with Regional governments and PRIME cluster technical team, 22 private veterinary service providers also were identified in the six woredas of the three regional states (2 woredas per region). Following the identification and verification of the private animal health service providers on the ground EVA has arranged, Business Plan Development training for the targeted private veterinary professionals and training has been delivered for the last three days in the Ethiopian Management Institute at Bishoftu and 21 private veterinary professionals are attending the training (training duration: 26-30 January 2015). PRIME fully collaborated and will continue collaborating with this initiative which fits well with the PRIME objective for improving sustainable deliverance of animal health services in the PRIME operational areas.

### ***Support to the Ethiopian Ministry of Trade in Implementing and Developing the National Livestock Information System (NLMIS)***

The current NLMIS was designed to improve access to market information by providing simple access to timely market information. Price and volume data are collected at designated markets and conveyed to the NLMIS server in Addis Ababa using SMS enabled cell phones and a data coding system. The data are then available to all interested parties via SMS query of the server or through the internet portal (<http://www.nlmiset.net>). Over the previous quarters at each of the currently 47 NLMIS monitored markets, market monitors have been trained in data collection procedures and livestock body condition grading protocols in order to capture price differentials at the markets due to breed, age, sex, and grade (fatness) of the animal. The system was transitioned from Ethiopian Meat and Dairy Industry Development Institute (EMDIDI) to Ministry of Trade.

- The Ministry of Trade with support from PRIME has been able to ensure a steady flow of timely, regular and reliable livestock market information to a central NLMIS database in 47 key monitored livestock markets.
- During the Quarter, The Ministry of Trade has established a department that oversees the entire NLMIS activities and a strong lineup created with regional governments, hence regional governments started disseminating the information through their local means and media as needed and in local language.
- Production of brief monthly livestock pricing bulletin was initiated during the Quarter for the whole markets centers included in the NLMIS and disseminated to various stakeholders (i.e. government, non-government, research institutes, universities and private sectors).

During the upcoming quarter:

- The Ministry of Trade will commence livestock price information and short message services (SMS) utilization awareness creation campaigns in all the regions.
- Additional new markets in collaboration with the regional government expected to be included into the NLMIS system.
- Texas A&M University will provide advance training and new server deployment in the Ministry of Trade and a new version of NLMIS will be launched.

### **Key Result 1.4: Effective Emergency Response Protects Pastoralists' Assets**

#### ***Livestock Emergency Guideline and Standard (LEGS) Training in the Southern Cluster***

The objective of this training was to improve trainees' knowledge and skill on emergency response intervention and management. LEGS general objectives are: (1) To increase expertise of local authorities in providing rapid assistance to crisis-affected communities through



livestock based interventions; (2) To increase expertise of local authorities and other stakeholders in protecting the key livestock –related assets of crisis-affected communities; (3) To increase expertise in rebuilding key livestock-related assets among crisis-affected communities. The training was provided to local government expert and Development Agents at Yabello and Nagelle Borena (54 participants from government and 6 participants from the relevant private sectors) for three days in each location.

The training covered the following topic in six sessions in the three training days:

- Introduction to LEGS
- Livelihoods, livestock and emergencies
- Preliminary assessment
- Response identification
- Analysis of technical interventions and options and
- Monitoring and evaluation

All the above six sessions the training covered also included different exercise work/group work. During the training, participants gained knowledge on how to assess and identify appropriate interventions following the LEGS standards including:

- 1) Checklist preparation before field trips
- 2) Preliminary assessment for any intervention
- 3) Situation analysis
- 4) Nature and types of disasters
- 5) LEGS participatory response identification matrix
- 6) Types and minimum standard for destocking
- 7) Minimum standards for veterinary service, feed and water supply for livestock and
- 8) Monitoring and Evaluation principles for this type of activities

During the training, the participants from both Guji and Borena zones exerted high interest in the training topics since most of them did not have LEGS training and knowledge of the concepts. This is especially valid for the participants from the PDAs and private sector, as these individuals are directly involved in working with the communities during emergency periods. Participants agreed that during emergency response, all development actors, like governmental, non-governmental, and communal and private entities have inadequate coordination, capacity and preparedness. Therefore, what was recommended by the participants was that in emergency situation more capacity building should be done for all stakeholders in order to respond to the crisis effectively and particularly that any response should not interrupt the development of the market systems.



### ***Fodder Voucher Interventions in Four Woredas of Zone 3 - Afar***

This livestock emergency response was aimed at enhancing immediate food security for vulnerable households and protecting livelihoods from the effects of a seasonal drought. Falling under the PRIME Crisis Modifier, the activity was designed to directly target 10,500 heads of productive and breeding (mainly milk producing) livestock in four districts of Zone 3.



Preliminary results of the intervention indicate positive evidence of achievement as breeding stock loss was minimized for stock under the livestock feeding intervention. Further, these livestock acted a starter in rebuilding herds.

The livestock feeding intervention clearly demonstrated cost-effectiveness, as beneficiaries stated that it would have been over three times more expensive to purchase new breeding stock at the end of the project compared to the cost of keeping the livestock alive via the project's feeding intervention.

Where they were able to be utilized and participate in the intervention, local vendors of animal feed and fodder also benefited with increasing their capacity to provide market for animal feed and fodder.

On the whole, beneficiaries perceived the intervention to be relevant to their immediate needs, and the project successfully protected the welfare of vulnerable groups, such as children and the elderly. Numerous design recommendations were made by stakeholders, including training and support to develop livestock feed production and storage capabilities, animal de-stocking price increases and harmonization between agencies, improving de-stocking slaughter site facilities and procedures, and increasing the focus on camel rearing in animal health and transport support interventions.

Regarding implementation, the selection of beneficiaries included positive participation of community leaders in community-based targeting, although monitoring selection criteria and procedures proved difficult, and some community members complained that targeting had been unfair.

There was positive evidence of efficient project implementation mechanisms and compliance with SPHERE standards, for instance efficient and transparent feed voucher delivery to beneficiaries via local traders, and relevant and timely delivery and compliance with LEGS standards. An exception to timely project delivery as recommended by LEGS was the initiation of the livestock feeding intervention due to factors outside project control, such as the time of the official emergency announcement and delay in approval process during the funding stage. The community expressed that they wished more households and livestock had been targeted, that the vouchers had a longer period of



time before expiration, that there was a greater number of suppliers, and as previously mentioned some felt that targeting had been unfair.

Challenges faced during the activity included:

- A severe flood emergency that displaced a large number of target beneficiaries, which in turn created chaos for storage and distribution;
- During the secondary flood emergency, affected community and local government prioritized other humanitarian aid in different direction;
- Long distances between communities and distribution centers/vendors;
- Misunderstanding of voucher values and usage;
- Lack of storage facilities in areas where vendors were not present, which included fear of theft;
- Community members were challenged in transporting fodder to their homes;
- Delays in supply;
- Non-beneficiary stakeholders complained about the quality of the feed and fodder, although beneficiaries were happy; and
- Lack of clearly defined responsibilities among stakeholders, including government, PRIME, suppliers, and community members.

Key lessons learned during the intervention include:

- Livestock feeding interventions can be cost-effective.
- Community based targeting of beneficiaries is an effective means to select project beneficiaries, yet further disclosure of guiding principles and more intensive monitoring of the process would enhance its value.
- Partnering with local retailers and/or suppliers creates positive relationships between them and the beneficiaries, and provides local knowledge that can be built on and supported to inform the design of future interventions.
- Project monthly reimbursements to vendors if delayed may subsequently cause the delay of services to beneficiaries if vendors do not have the capacity to make up the gap until payment is received, causing challenges in the early stages of the service delivery. The inclusion of local traders is likely to benefit local markets in the long-term. Vendor performance needs to be monitored to ensure service delivery is timely.
- Timing of early livestock feeding interventions at the start of droughts/emergencies is important for saving prime livestock. Early interventions help ensure livestock are in better condition enabling higher quality animals for slaughter and less waste and loss of opportunity.
- Livestock surveys and baselines are needed to assess whether other project livestock interventions, such as de-stocking and animal health services, help protect the livestock assets of targeted households from the impacts of drought.
- The longer term contextual issues of food security remain a challenge after interventions stop, and exit strategies are important and need more careful analysis.

Key recommendations include:

1. Improve beneficiary participation in project design as per the processes outlined by SPHERE and LEGS standards. For instance, the design of feed interventions should consult beneficiaries about their preferences on the type of transfer, recognizing that this might vary from season to season, and between communities located closer to, or further from, well-functioning markets.
2. Continue to use community based targeting as an effective means for selecting project beneficiaries but aim to improve the design, disclosure, and monitoring of selection criteria and procedures. There is a risk that community-based targeting may be prone to bias.
3. Undertake a livelihoods assessment or Household Economy Approach to increase the likelihood of a more informed, appropriate and relevant approach to baseline data capture, ability to identify needs and priorities, and the relevant design of interventions to targeted beneficiaries
4. The question of delays in monthly payments or reimbursements to local traders and their ability to purchase stock should be considered in all future selection criteria of vendors.
5. In any future design, address the challenges faced by traders in the delivery stage, such as the accessibility of the banking systems and prompt reimbursement to traders by the project.
6. In terms of the mechanism for delivering feed to targeted beneficiaries, it may be helpful to view the traders' role, activities and objectives from the perspective of value chain delivery, including procurement of goods and delivery.

#### ***Fodder Voucher Interventions - Borena Zone***

SOS Sahel implemented an emergency fodder voucher intervention to provide supplementary livestock feed under the Crisis Modifier. Two rounds of the intervention were conducted, the second of which was finalized during the quarter. The intervention was planned for Yabello, Dillo, Dire and Teltele woredas in Borena. Due to seasonal rains that occurred during the distribution and accessibility issues, Teltele was not covered and instead resources put towards Dire Woreda.

Table 1. Summary of livestock and HHs benefitting from PRIME's fodder voucher intervention

Target Location	Number of livestock targeted	Number of livestock benefitted	Target HHS	Number of HHs Benefiting	Total Volume of Concentrate Distributed in Quintal	Total Volume of Hay/grass Distributed in Quintal	Remark
Borana Zone in Oromia region	4500	4500	3250	3250	3668	8775	Two rounds planned and completed.
Liben Zone in Somali region	5000	9985	3250	7233	3875.85	8121.11	The fodder/feed was distributed in only one round (though 2 rounds were originally planned). In Afar, flood
Gebi Resu Zone (Zone 3)	5000	10589	3250	2210	4132.8	9152.01	
<b>Total</b>	<b>14500</b>	<b>25074</b>	<b>9750</b>	<b>12693</b>	<b>11676.65</b>	<b>26048.12</b>	

							conditions required the team to re-target HHs.
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**IR1 Priorities in Q10**

One of the main factors to increase the productivity of livestock in terms of milk and meat, as well as a key factor for securing resilience of the livestock industry in the pastoral areas is improved nutrition of livestock. While the pastoral system of managing livestock only merely and occasionally relies on supplemental feed and fodder provision, advancement in productivity inevitably requires increased use of supplemental feed and fodder in levels varying and depending on the season, type and category and animals reared and the productivity levels. Most of the limited amounts of supplemental feed and fodder used by pastoral households are produced as by-products of other crops and not as feed and fodder crops designated solely for animal nutrition. There are very limited resources to establish agricultural production in the pastoral areas and especially for growing feed and fodder crops that require relatively large arable land and irrigation water availability. In addition the external supply of animal feed and fodder is limited in the pastoral areas as the demand is erratic and not well established for a viable supply chains to be established from the Ethiopian highlands or import. In the coming quarter, PRIME will increase the development and implementation of activities within work plan items: Improved Availability and Quality of Animal Feed (131) and Improving Dissemination of Market Information (1210). This will be done in an effort to improve and increase animal feed and fodder production in the targeted areas that offer the opportunity for that and where demand for feed and fodder lows for feasible feed and fodder linkages to be established.

The IR1 team, as part of the Economic and Market Development team of PRIME, will continue to strengthen internal reporting in terms of timeliness and quality of activity reports and recording and reporting impact, especially FtF and other PRIME PMP indicators. In addition, collaborative and synergetic activities with the activities focused on achieving other PRIME resilience improvement objectives, will be developed and implemented to maximize impact.

Leveraging the value chain investments done in supporting the business expansion of several enterprises is crucial for the further development of the competitiveness of the dairy, live animals, meat and animal health products and service value chains. As such, PRIME will continue to support milk and livestock producing communities to become quality suppliers of those value addition enterprises which open up market will be in focus of the activities in Year 3. This is an ongoing effort to achieve the sustainable growth of private operators in offering livestock and agricultural inputs, services and products as well as market outlet for the commodities produced by pastoral and agro pastoral communities.

## **INTERMEDIATE RESULT 2: NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION**

PRIME focuses on enhancing pastoralist's adaptation to climate change by improving early warning systems, governance and technologies that can support decision-making towards climate adaptation. This includes improving livelihood-related decision-making towards climate change adaptation under intermediate results IR1 and 3, focused on livestock productivity and livelihood diversification respectively. Resilience will be strengthened through participatory rangeland management focused on strengthening customary and formal government institutional capacities and securing inclusive use and management rights of communal lands.

### **Key Result 2.1: Improved Science and Information for Decision-making**

#### ***Capacity and Feasibility Assessment of Meteorological Institutions***

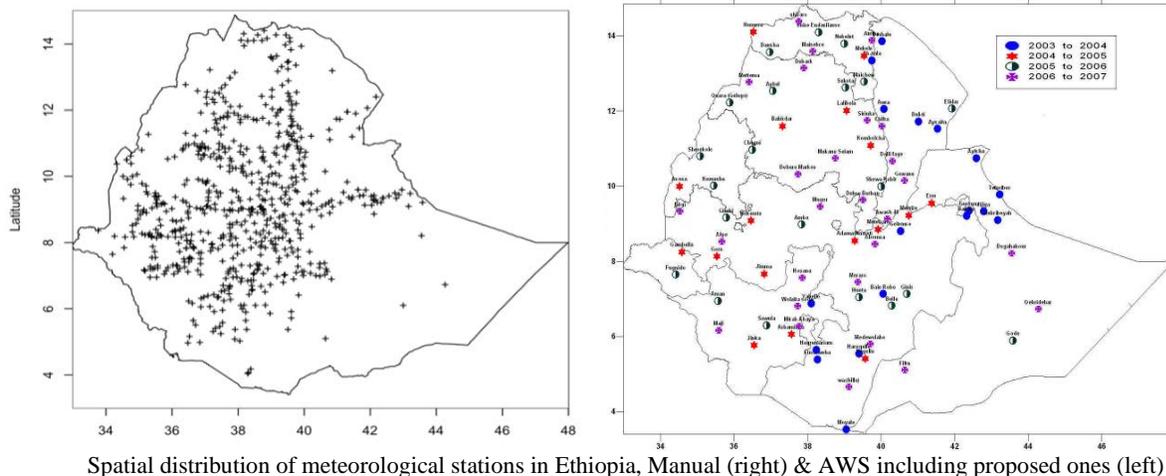
There is increasing service demand for sector-driven tailored weather and climate information products and services for applications in livestock, farming and off-farm activities in pastoral areas of Ethiopia. In the pastoral context, the climate information products which can be derived from observational data and downscaled GCMs for decision making and management actions include: daily and a 10 day agro-meteorological and hydro-meteorological forecasts; alerts; monthly and seasonal climate forecasts; and climate bulletins and outlooks. Forecasts for the week, month and season ahead are most needed, but predictions of how natural variability and climate change will interact and impact on event frequency over the next year and longer are also important to inform adaptation strategies.

In order to enhance local climate change adaptation capacities in pastoral communities, CARE through IR2 is working in partnership with the Ethiopian Meteorology Agency and local meteorological institutions to try to improve their local forecasting and information dissemination capacities. The objectives of local forecasts will be to provide pastoralists and local businesses with weather forecasts at intervals of 10 days, 30 days, and where possible seasonally, to improve production and market-based decisions that reduce the vulnerability of various production systems and markets to climate-related shocks. In addition, improved forecasting and weather monitoring at a local-level is being designed to feed into and support a national weather tracking system that creates improved climate change analysis.

In order to support this partnership work, CARE conducted a study that assessed the feasibility of improving the capacity of meteorological stations to provide reliable forecasts, and implementing an information-sharing system that delivers the forecasts to the intended audiences in a timely, effective way.

#### ***Distribution of stations:***

Currently, the national meteorology agency has 1,200 weather stations (most are conventional or manual ones) and 37 automated weather stations which are sparsely and unevenly distributed. The pastoral areas are least served and the available stations in the lowlands are concentrated in urban areas along the main roads, which are also equipped with outdated instruments. Even for those few station's instruments, maintenance and routine station inspection is not accomplished as per WMO's recommendations.



**Table 2. Classification of Stations in Ethiopia**

Type	Representation	Description	Observed meteorological parameters
Synoptic Stations		These are stations at which meteorological observations are made for the purposes of synoptic meteorology. Observations are taken every hour for 24 hours a day at full GMT hours. There are 22 Synoptic stations in Ethiopia.	Max., Min. and Dew point Temperatures (°C) Relative Humidity (%) Amount of precipitation (mm) Pressure, Wind Direction and Speed Sunshine Duration (hour) Evaporation (mm) Soil Temperature at different depth
Principal or Indicative Stations		These are stations at which meteorological observations are made for climatological purposes. Observations are taken every three hours in the following GMT times ( 0300, 0600, 0900, 1200, 1500 GMT ). There are more than 150 Principal stations in Ethiopia.	Max. , Min. & Dew Point Temperatures (°C) Relative Humidity (%) Amount of precipitation (mm) Amount of cloud (octas) Weather Wind Direction and Speed Sunshine Duration (hour) Evaporation (Pitche or Pan) (mm) Soil Temperature ( °C) at different depth
Ordinary		These are stations at which only three meteorological elements are observed, i.e. maximum air temperature of the day, minimum air temperature of the day and total rainfall amount in 24 hours. Observations are taken at 0600 and 1500 GMT.	

Rainfall Stations		<p>These are stations at which only the total rainfall amount in 24 hours are observed. Observations are taken at 0600 GMT.</p>
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*Climate information communication facilities:*

NMA's communication facility currently includes a 150 SSB radio for near real time data collection from conventional manned stations for 1<sup>st</sup> class and synoptic stations; 35 AWS' use GPRS network to send data every 15 min 24 hours a day on 6 met parameters (T, rainfall, wind speed & Dir, RH, solar radiation) for agriculture (food security) and EW purposes. The data base which the institution currently uses is done with Finish government support through the WMO Climdata database system installed with its backup at headquarters.

The NMA is preparing a forecast from the current date casting to one season ahead at the national level, and the monitoring is done by using remote sensing via Eumetsat, site visits, and feedback from collaborators (WFP, FEWSNET, Regional governments, DRM/FSS, MoWE). Communication of EWS messages is done through regular radio and TV programs of the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation and through its website. The NMA and its 11 branch directorates provide briefings to key policy makers at the federal and regional levels. Key ministries and agencies including the Ministry of Water, Energy and Irrigation, the Ministry of Agriculture/DRMFSS and the Ministry of Health receive regular and special EW messages.

*Limited weather and climate monitoring infrastructure:*

Due to the limited climate monitoring infrastructure of the NMA, today Ethiopia has only 70 functional AWSs and 1,200 manual stations - according to WMO standards Ethiopia should have around 3000 automated weather stations - out of which 200 are not functioning properly due to equipment failure and unavailability of calibration units. Existing infrastructure is often old or dysfunctional because of insufficient maintenance and calibration. This leads to inaccurate data and gaps in measured time series (reducing the application for studies of long-term changes which may be due to climate change) and the need for good quality control procedures to reduce the impact of false readings, etc. The main challenges in the operation and maintenance of climate observation infrastructure in Ethiopia are:

- a limited number of calibration units, used to calibrate sensors such as thermometers, humidity and atmospheric pressure sensors, etc.;
- fast growing and rapidly changing technology in the field of communication and meteorological observation leading to compatibility issues;
- communication difficulties and incompatibility with other regional and international centers, e.g. satellite receiving systems and upper air observations;
- limited availability of trained manpower to maintain equipment;
- increasing number of extreme climatic events which may damage equipment;
- insufficient Information Communication and Technical personnel;
- difficulty in accessing suitable and sufficient spare parts;
- limited spatial and temporal availability of meteorological information;

- insufficient computational facilities;
- societal acceptance (that is, resistance from society);
- weak collaboration between various stakeholders; and
- gaps in the reporting of disasters to relevant institutions (e.g. from remote areas).

Most weather stations in Ethiopia are manual and the data is often delayed in being sent to central forecast centers and archiving facilities. Data may also be inaccurate, and many monitoring devices such as thermometers and rainfall gauges are broken. The data is recorded manually on paper, with a potential for errors and delays in transferring the information to the national center. For the last 20-30 years, there has been a steady decline in infrastructure dedicated to monitoring the climate, environment and severe weather (e.g. synoptic, agrometeorological observing stations, satellite receivers, upper air stations, automatic weather observing system (AWOS)).

The need for a systematic improvement of the observing network is recognized by the NMA and its branch directorates. However, the installation of new infrastructure requires several practical considerations: i) safety of equipment; ii) power sources; iii) long term durability; iv) access for maintenance; and v) transmission and archiving of data. This assessment found that most of the manual weather stations in PRIME operational woredas need maintenance and rehabilitation work. Most of them are conventional (manual), sparsely and unevenly distributed, concentrated along the main roads and urban regions, and often equipped with outdated instruments.

The NMA is looking to strengthen its weather information gathering capacity to be able to disseminate more accurate weather forecasts and early warnings through existing early warning communication channels. The agency has shown interest to improve its capacity to receive and analyze satellite data through capacity building and acquisition of modern station equipment and software. The need for training and capacity-building of key personnel involved in weather information gathering and analysis from the meteorological stations is urgently needed in order to be able to enhance the country's capacity for "efficient and effective use of hydro-meteorological and environmental information for early warnings and long-term development plans."

*Limited knowledge and capacity to effectively predict future climate events*

In Somali, Afar, Borena and Guji regions, the knowledge and capacity to effectively predict extreme weather events is limited and should be strengthened at regional level. The scientific and technical capabilities required to effectively identify hazards and forecast their potential impacts are often weak. This is mainly due to an insufficient infrastructure (i.e. computational equipment), software (model code and associated routines) or human capacity/skills to program and run the model code. Running forecast models is a highly skilled task and requires many years of education and training. This is a barrier to the necessary mainstreaming of adaptation in long-term national and sectoral development planning.

*No systematic development of sector-specific information and timely dissemination of warnings:*

Even if climate hazards are forecast in Ethiopia by the NMA, they are not systematically combined with vulnerability analyses to identify the types of risks that are being faced. Such

analyses help DRMFSS, Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Health to ensure adequate warnings are issued and action is taken to mitigate the effects in areas most at risk. When climate information is available (monitoring and forecasts), it should be translated by the DRMFSS into specific hazards experienced by different sectors and users, such as heat units or the onset of the rainy season for agriculture. Additionally, the timely issuance of warnings is critical for a robust EWS, and this has been a consistent weakness in the system. This is combined with limited awareness and trust among the population about weather forecasts and warning dissemination. Meteorological literacy and large scale awareness campaigns will contribute to improving the receptiveness of the end users in understanding and acting on severe weather warnings.

*Long-term sustainability of observational infrastructure and technically skilled human resources:*

Insufficient recurring budgets and annual fund allocation by the government has reduced the ability of the NMA to operate and maintain weather observational infrastructure. The maintenance of monitoring equipment, the human capacity to use and repair this equipment, process data and develop early warning packages, all require constant income streams and annual budgets. These are needed for the sustainability of the system and therefore require suitable business models and financial mechanisms to be developed and used. Compounding this barrier is the need for improved institutional arrangements with clearer mandates and roles as well as more robust monitoring and evaluation systems. Increased technical skills alone will not address the problem unless it is accompanied by increased accountability, a vision of how institutions will grow and develop, and strong budget planning. The NMA often struggles to pay for the maintenance and upgrading of existing equipment which is recognized as a limiting factor.

**Table 3. Mapping of stations for rehabilitation, calibration and automation**

East		Afar		South	
Stations prioritized for rehabilitation	Stations prioritized for automation	Stations prioritized for rehabilitation	Stations prioritized for automation	Stations prioritized for rehabilitation	Stations prioritized for automation
Aysha	Gashamo	Bormodiatu	Dulecha	Yabelo principal station	Teltele
			Melka Sedi	Moyale principal station	Arero
Gashamo	Afdem	Gewane	Andedo	Mega principal station	
Errer	Dembel	Awash Sheleko		Teltele 3rd class station	
Harshin	Aware			Arero 4th class station	

The capacity and feasibility assessment proposed the following specific recommendations:

- continuous awareness raising activities to promote uptake of localized meteorological forecast information for local planning and livelihood decision making;
- facilitating inspection of local meteorology stations on a quarterly basis;
- automation and calibration of principal station instruments;
- upgrading old radio communications systems;
- rehabilitation of old and damaged station instruments and data processing facilities;
- training of staff on modeling and downscaling activities;
- training staff on communication of climate change information;
- training of station observers on measuring data, maintenance of stations instruments, information management and flow systems;
- packaging and transmitting information in local languages; and
- modernizing the hard and soft copy data base management system of branch directorates.

### ***Building the Capacity of Zonal and District DPPOs in Liben zone***

Linked to participatory analysis of local and regional early warning systems, SOS Sahel under the leadership of CARE supported communities and various levels of government in developing capacities to strengthen community-based early warning and DRM planning processes. Such support is designed to ensure that various levels of government can develop internal early response capacities, so as to maximize options for asset protection and livelihood adaptation during times of stress. IR2 facilitates capacity building trainings to district and zonal DPPB (Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau) staff and community-based institutions with a view to supporting the capacity of local and zonal institutions to collect, analyze, manage and disseminate early warning, DRR and climate change adaptation related information effectively and regularly.

During the quarter, IR2 facilitated multi-stakeholder consultative and planning meetings to identify gaps in the existing EWS in Liben zone. A total of 12 officials and experts (10 men and 2 women) drawn from the Liben zone DPPO (Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Office) attended the review and planning meeting. The meeting identified limited technical, technological and institutional capacity, poor inter-sectoral coordination and limited awareness about the value of EWI among local and zonal decision makers as the major gaps in the existing government EWS in the zone. As a way forward, the meeting proposed action points to strengthen the district and zonal EWS including capacity building training in early warning database management (LEAP and SPSS), community-managed DRR, food security assessment, hazard mapping and hot spot identification and classification. Preparations are completed to provide the training to zonal and district DPPB staff during the next quarter.

### ***Support to DPPO for Hagayya Season Pre-harvest Assessment in Liban woreda, Guji zone***

IR2 staff based in the Negelle field office supported the Liban woreda DPPO to conduct a pre-harvest assessment during the *hageyya* (short rains) season. The assessment was conducted from 25-30 November 2014. According to the pre-harvest assessment report of the woreda DPPO, pasture, water and crop conditions for the *hageyya* season was assessed as not promising. The assessment team predicted that production may decline by 20-30%. Based on the assessment result, the team recommended: continued food assistance to an estimated 48,900 households who are already receiving food aid; supplementary food aid for an additional 3,023 mothers and

children; and support in the form of crop seeds for agro-pastoralists who are expected to face seed shortages. The team also strongly recommended different water point rehabilitation and maintenance activities due to expected shortage of water in the district.

In addition to the pre-harvest assessment, the assessment team supported the dissemination of PSP advisories developed during the PSP workshops facilitated by IR2 team. The team reported that in the kebeles visited, they found that most agro-pastoral households who had received the PSP advisories had planted improved and short-maturing crop varieties and their fields were assessed to provide better yield. The team commented on the need to produce and disseminate advisories well ahead of time so that community members will have time to plan and implement the most appropriate and feasible actions proposed by the advisories. The team also suggested the need for PRIME to post advisories at local kebele centers, and to make use of the 1 to 5 government arrangements for wider reach and maximum impact.

## **Key Result 2.2: Increased Capacity for Effective Governance for Climate Resilience**

### ***Familiarization Training on Updated Early Warning Data Collection Formats - Afar Cluster***

During the quarter, two capacity building activities were held at Asayta and Awash Arba towns. The trainings were organized to familiarize the regional DPPB staff on the updated early warning data collection formats. A total of 106 experts (93 men and 13 women) drawn from all 32 woredas in the region participated in the training which was co-organized by CARE and the Afar region DPFSPCO. Participant included EW experts and woreda EW committee members from various sector offices in the 32 woredas. The training covered the following topics:

- mapping of major and recurrent hazards/threats in all 32 woredas;
- concepts and components of Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CB-DRR);
- revised early warning data collection formats;
- locally applicable recurrent early warning indicators;
- traditional positive coping mechanisms employed by communities and households before, during and after the occurrence of hazards/disasters; and
- proposed DRM activities to avoid or reduce the impacts of hazards/disasters on sectoral development plans.

### ***Resource Map Digitization and Validation Process - Southern Cluster***

The Wadera *dheeda* resource map was validated on 8 October 2014 by community representatives, elders' councils, women and youth, and government partners mainly from PDO, LAEPO, and WMEO. A total of 70 people (10 women) drawn from 33 kebeles of Wadera *dheeda* and neighboring areas, and key government sector offices of the woreda participated in the two day workshop. Participants discussed the digitized map, made adjustments and corrections, and added additional elements and features that were not included during the initial mapping. Currently the map is being used as a reference for all activities that the community and the rangeland council are implementing in Wadera *dheeda*. As part of this workshop, the rangeland governance institution has been reviewed and revitalized at all *dheeda*, *reera* and *arda* levels.

In addition participants discussed and addressed the below listed key governance issues;

- there were no clearly defined wet and dry grazing areas; rather everywhere is grazed year round (all season grazing areas);
- the Wadara grazing system is sub-divided into five sub-grazing units (*reeras*) namely Danisa-Warseti, Heba-Hida, Kuni-Anonu, Handoya-Kino and Sokora-Lagu *reeras* based on the pre-existing traditional resource use and management system. Those five well defined *reeras* were delineated using the digital map, kebele boundaries and villages names; and
- Grazing system boundaries was verified with neighboring grazing systems with almost no change in area and shape. Approximately 19 kebeles encompass the entire Wadara grazing system.

### ***Supporting Regular Rangeland Councils Meetings***

Regular dialogues of the rangeland councils is one of the major activities CARE has been supporting since the start of the project, with the aim of strengthening the customary natural resource governance system by supporting those elders' council managing the rangelands to come together on a regular basis and discuss resource governance issues and solve problems that need to be addressed. The regular dialogues also help the rangeland management councils to continue identifying their priority issues and develop their own action plans on how they can address those issues they identify and prioritize. Accordingly, CARE supported and facilitated a series of rangeland council dialogues in different rangeland units across the project intervention areas in the three regions.

*Argoba Rangeland Unit:* The councils of Argoba rangeland system held their dialogues from November 20-21, 2014 with 20 participants (4 women). Among the participants 18 were council members and 2 were government experts from the woreda sector offices. Participants discussed the natural resource management activities PRIME has been supporting in their rangeland units, what went well and what needs to be improved, and future priority areas. Participants evaluated progress to date and suggested giving more emphasis on natural resource rehabilitation and enhancement activities, unlike during previous periods that focused more on strengthening governance systems. They have identified and prioritized both governance and resource enhancement-related activities that need to be implemented either through PRIME's support or through their own community. The below table details prioritized activities.

**Table 4. Prioritized Activities for Argoba Rangeland Unit**

<b>Rangeland Sub-unit</b>	<b>Suggested NR rehabilitation activities</b>
<b>Sala Mankorkoria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institutional strengthening at the sub-unit of (strengthening council/committee members)</li> <li>• Area closure for rangeland rehabilitation</li> <li>• Selective clearing of undesirable vegetation species</li> <li>• Physical soil and water conservation structures including gully treatment at selected sites.</li> <li>• Training on rangeland management, hay making, cut and carry system, area closure, soil and water conservation</li> <li>• Arrange experience sharing at similar agro-ecology areas/regions where there are best experiences</li> <li>• Technical and material support</li> </ul>

<b>Marka</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institutional strengthening at the sub-unit of (strengthening council/committee members)</li> <li>• Area closure</li> <li>• Fencing with local materials</li> <li>• Physical and biological soil and water conservation measures</li> <li>• Hand tool supports,</li> <li>• Training and experience sharing</li> </ul>
<b>Sof Ager Kebele (Sidisto Falima pond)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• De-silting &amp; construction of silt trap structure</li> <li>• Fencing</li> </ul>
<b>Abali Kebele (Goferatila pond)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• De-silting &amp; construction of silt trap structure</li> <li>• Fencing</li> </ul>
<b>Tach Metekleya</b>	Excavating new pond and constructing silt trap structure

They also discussed cost-sharing and stakeholder contribution, and asked for PRIME's support to include use of the front-end loader, hand tools, refreshment, training, and arranging exchange visits, while the community will contribute all labor. In addition, government will also provide onsite technical support, and follow-up on the implementation of those natural resource rehabilitation activities. The council members finally agreed to inform the agreed points to their community and then developed an action plan for the coming two months.

Though there is high level of commitment by the council members and woreda government to contribute to the implementation of prioritized rehabilitation activities, topography of the area is expected to be a major challenge to mobilize and transport the necessary materials and machinery, and there is a concern that costs may be higher than anticipated due to terrain.

*Dulessa rangeland unit:* The rangeland council of Dulessa rangeland system held their regular dialogue from November 22-23, 2014 at the woreda administration meeting hall. There was a total of 20 participants (4 women) among which 19 were council members and 1 a natural resource expert from the woreda PADO. As women were underrepresented, as well as a few clans not represented with adequate numbers, participants decided revising the members of their councils as an agenda point to be discussed during the dialogue. As a result, 4 women representatives were elected in addition to a few clan leaders, bringing the total number of the council members to 24. The rangeland council also identified and prioritized governance and resource enhancement related activities that need to be addressed soon either through PRIME's support or through their own community mobilization as seen in the below table.

**Table 5. Prioritized Activities for Dulessa Rangeland Unit**

<b>Rangeland Site</b>	<b>Suggested NR rehabilitation activities</b>
Nara (Dire Kebele)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of hand tools and refreshment</li> <li>• Delivered training and experience sharing</li> <li>• Area closure and fencing it to protect animal interference</li> <li>• Physical and biological soil and water conservation measures</li> </ul>

Daba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prosopis clearing</li> <li>• Area closure</li> <li>• Training and experience sharing</li> <li>• Provision of hand tools and refreshment</li> </ul>
Buritela-Adele	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prosopis clearing</li> <li>• Area closure</li> <li>• Training and experience sharing</li> <li>• Provision of hand tools and refreshment</li> </ul>

The council members also discussed roles and responsibilities including support from PRIME, government and the community in terms of implementing the prioritized resource enhancement activities. Finally, they prepared a 2 month action plan with clear roles and responsibilities of the community, woreda government and support from PRIME.

*Amibara rangeland unit:* The regular councils' dialogue of the Amibara rangeland system was held on November 12, 2014 at Melka Worer town. A total of 21 people (5 women) participated including council members and experts of the woreda natural resource and land administration and environmental protection offices. During the discussion, the participants appreciated CARE/PRIME's support of natural resource rehabilitation particularly regarding the Prosopis clearing in 3 sub-rangeland units where a total of about 181 ha have been cleared to date.

**Table 6. Prosopis Cleared With PRIME Support in Afar Region**

Rangeland system	Sub-rangeland unit	Area of land Cleared (Ha)		
		Year II	Q1 of Year III	Total
Gewane-Gelealo	Buniketo-Molale	55	50	105
Awash-Fentale	Previously Dudub, but now revised to Fenti Alle	20	0	20
Amibara	Arba to Gonitabrika	60	0	60
	Kedabrika to Enitiaso	36	0	36
	Gonitabrika to Kedabrika	75	10	85
<b>Total</b>		<b>246</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>306</b>

During the dialogue concern was expressed that PRIME has not supported enough water rehabilitation or new water point development in the rangeland system. They also selected and prioritized resource enhancement rehabilitation activities that they want to pursue during the upcoming year through PRIME support, including:

- water point development/rehabilitation at Arba, Halaydege and Gonitabrika areas; and
- Prosopis clearing at Gonita Brika to Keda Birka, Keda Birka to Entiaso, Hardim to Anbul-Harari, and Enitiaso to Bearita sub-rangeland units.

In addition, they suggested an experience sharing visit to areas where there is a strong customary natural resource management and governance system, and also training on rangeland

management for council members. Finally, the council members developed their action plan for the next two months before concluding the meeting.

*Gewane-gelalo Rangeland System:* The councils of Gewane-gelalo rangeland system held their regular dialogue in Gewane town on November 15, 2014, with a total of 29 people (6 women) participating. They discussed major achievements and challenges encountered during the previous year. Key points included failure of the woreda government in fulfilling commitments, low commitment of the RLM council members during rangeland rehabilitation, and lack of coordination of the front end loader and community labor during Prosopis clearing.

**Table 7. Achievements and Challenges - Gewane-Gelalo Rangeland System**

Achievements	Challenges
Strong and smooth relationship between the project and community	In some cases the government could not commit to proposed cost sharing
Key resources and hazards of the rangeland system identified and mapped	Low commitment and support of RLM council during rangeland rehabilitation
Support of inputs for rangeland rehabilitation	Interference of livestock in the cleared area
Community capacity building supports on rangeland rehabilitation enhancement	Low coordination of loader and community during prosopis clearing
Prosopis clearing from 55ha areas of land	Vehicle/transportation
Resource mapping, digitization and verification of the maps by community	

In addition, they evaluated their performances during the past three months and discussed the need for reviewing and re-electing the rangeland council members due to poor performance of certain members, and also due lack of representation of some clans, and low participation by women. As a result, the council members were revised now membership totals 27, six of whom are women.

For the upcoming year, participants identified and prioritized new water points and pond developments in the Ourabideribi and Aba Bera Habe areas, expansion of Prosopis clearing, and area closure at Bunketo-Mollale sub-rangeland unit. As a final step in the dialogue, council members developed their action plan for the next two months.

*Awash Fentale Rangeland System:* The councils of Awash Fentale rangeland held their regular dialogue from December 24 -25, 2014 in Doho village and discussed similar topics to the other dialogues, with 9 key council members (1 woman) participating. Topics included past performance and accomplishments, major challenges, and future actions. Participants

acknowledged that there was weak coordination among the rangeland councils, and poor community participation in following up on Prosopis cleared sites with both the front end loader and community labor at Dudub grazing land.

Identified priorities for the upcoming year include governance of natural resource rehabilitation activities that require negotiation with other stakeholders, which resulted in assigning responsibilities to elders to meet and discuss with the stakeholders to address various issues. They agreed to continue to meet regularly in order to maintain momentum, and they developed their action plan for the upcoming two month period.

Some of the challenges raised were constraints in the implementation of activities during the past few months due to poor participation of the woreda government in their meetings, weak follow-up support from the woreda government, and poor commitment and high dependency syndrome within the community, especially Dudub kebele, as they showed low contribution of labor for Prosopis clearing and follow-up mitigation.

***Experience Sharing Visit for Woreda Officials and Experts on Effective Governance Systems Around Communal Land Use and Management Engaging Local and Regional Government - Borena, Oromia Region***

PRIME supported regional and woreda level government officials and experts in Afar to participate in experience sharing visits to Borena zone during the reporting period. The experience sharing visit took place from 3 - 20 December 2014. Costs for the visit were funded by CARE/PRIME, WFP and the Afar Region DPFSPCO. The visit was organized by the regional DPFSPCO and was primarily focused around early warning system and disaster risk reduction, and traditional or customary natural resource management and governance systems. Participants of the experience sharing visit were heads of Bureaus and experts from key bureaus at the regional and woreda level including the DPFSPCO, and Pastoral and Agricultural Development Offices (PADCO), woreda administrations bureaus, EW/DRR experts and natural resource management experts from all 32 woredas. A total of 60 government employees (54 men and 6 women) participated in the visit.

Participants learned a great deal from the experiences of the Borena community and government. According to participants, following are some key lessons learned:

- the importance of integrating the indigenous knowledge of the community with scientific knowledge for increased sustainability of development interventions and to maximize their impact;
- good coordination among pastoralist development activities supported by various development actors and programs was critical in considering the communities interests;
- all development projects carried out by different NGOs are coordinated by the Office of Finance and Economic Development;
- the early warning system is relatively strong due to incorporating the communities' indigenous EW forecasting and prediction mechanism alongside scientific government forecasting. Moreover, it was seen that there is strong committee performance and coordination, because issues of DRM are coordinated by a task force which is established at the zone level and chaired by the zonal administrator;



- the traditional early warning system is complementing the formal EWS in Borena by providing seasonal forecasts and early warning information;
- natural resource management activities which are being implemented by various actors are supported by strong community participation; and
- the Borena pastoral communities have a strong traditional rangeland management system with different management strategies including dividing the rangeland to strategically manage limited range resources such as water.

Following the visit participants expressed their commitment to strengthen their EW system based on direction from DPFSPCO. They also showed their commitment to provide any required support for the community as determined by the community-based planning processes.

### ***Documentation of the Participatory Resource Mapping Processes and Case Study Development - Southern cluster***

SOS Sahel and the Mercy Corps IR2 team with support from CARE facilitated a community resource mapping exercise in Gomole and Dida *dheedas* in Borena and Guji zones, with the aim of documenting PRIME's participatory resource mapping processes and develop case studies that will be used as input for the development of a participatory resource mapping guideline being developed that will be used with the participatory rangeland management guideline that is being developed through the USAID/TOPS Microgrant scheme under CARE. The participatory resource mapping processes were photographed by a consultant photojournalist, and men and women of the community were interviewed on how the participatory resource mapping exercises and processes have benefited them, in particular how women have benefited from the participatory resource mapping processes, and what changes they have observed as a result.

### ***Participatory Rangeland Management Planning Workshops for Gomole, Malbe and Dire rangeland systems***

PRIME/SOS Sahel under the technical lead of CARE is currently facilitating rangeland councils to develop rangeland management plans for three grazing systems in Borena zone. Participants included customary institutions, community members from pastoral and agro-pastoral households, district and zone level Pastoral Development Offices, Water, Mineral and Energy Offices, the Oromia Forest & Wildlife Enterprise, Yabello Agricultural Research Station, Borena Cattle Ranch, and Women and Children Affairs Offices of the respective grazing units.

The rangeland management planning work was done for Gomole, Mable and Dirre rangeland systems. The process of planning has taken into account the government's long-term development plans and strategies in the area, particularly the Borena land use planning document, to ensure the participatory rangeland management plan is in line with the government. The management actions identified by communities and stakeholders in these three grazing units fall under five major interventions: grazing management or rotation grazing; rangeland rehabilitation; rehabilitation and installation of water infrastructure; correcting settlement

patterns; and institutional capacity building. Each grazing unit had a 3 or 4 day workshop, and in total 112 people (20 women) participated, all of whom had participated in previous dialogues.

The outcomes of the three planning workshops have been compiled into a draft document to be presented to stakeholders during the upcoming quarter. Once the draft plan is agreed on, the rangeland resource councils and local level government stakeholders will sign a Rangeland Management Agreement document that will guide the implementation of the management plan.

***Regional Oromia Pastoral Advisory Committee (ROPAC) field visit to Borena and Guji zones***

PRIME and USAID's LAND program jointly facilitated a field visit for the Regional Oromia Pastoral Advisory Committee (ROPAC) to Borena and Guji zones from 26 Oct - 5 Nov 2014. The 84 participants included key government officials from both regional and woreda levels and representatives of community institutions. The LAND program works in PRIME intervention areas on strengthening pastoralists' land use rights, and PRIME has been partnering with LAND to create synergy between the two programs and to facilitate the institutionalization of PRIME's ground level rangeland management practices at both the regional and national level. Solid collaboration with the government and local communities is essential for securing pastoralists' land use rights. Pastoral advisory committees were established at the regional and zonal levels in order to facilitate the collaboration and implementation of PRIME and LAND projects.

Composition of the ROPAC includes the major stakeholders involved in the implementation of the LAND and PRIME projects. It includes: (i) Head of the Oromia Bureau of Rural Lands and Environmental Protection or his designee (Chairperson); (ii) the Director of the Land Administration and Use Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture or his designee; (iii) Commissioner of the Oromia Pastoral Development Commission; (iv) Chairperson of the Oromia Pastoral Association; (v) the USAID supervisors of the LAND and PRIME projects; (vi) PRIME IR2 lead; and (vi) the LAND Chief of Party (COP). The LAND project serves as the secretariat of ROPAC. Members of the ZOPACs (zonal level) include representatives of all the ROPAC members, except those from USAID. In addition, they include the zonal administrator, head of the Zonal Water, Mines and Energy office, representatives of the Abba Gadas, and customary representatives of each *dheeda* in each Zone (5 in Borena and 4 in lowland Guji).

The field visit had three key objectives. First, it was intended to introduce the regional and zonal OPAC members and to formalize the zonal level committees. The second objective was to discuss the terms of reference of the OPACs and develop cooperation for the achievement of common goals. Finally, it was deemed necessary to create a common understanding among all stakeholders on the objectives and activities of the LAND and PRIME projects, and how the participation of the government agencies and the communities they represent feature in the implementation of both projects.

The trip was considered a success, and outcomes were:

- awareness was created among participants on the objectives and activities of the LAND and PRIME projects;
- a common understanding was created on the purpose and function of the ROPAC and ZOPACs;

- domestic and international experience was shared among the participants on securing pastoral and communal land rights;
- the observation was made that pastoralists' have a strong demand for securing land use rights; and
- a consensus was reached on the need to implement a pastoral land use rights certification program.

### **Key Result 2.3: Implementation of Climate Solutions**

#### **Participatory Scenario Planning to Strengthen Local Adaptation Planning and Risk Reduction Through Resilient Livelihood Strategies - Southern Cluster**

During the quarter, three PSP workshops were conducted by SOS Sahel in conjunction with zonal DPPO offices, one each in Gorodola woreda, Guji, and Yabello and Dire woredas in Borena. A total of 86 participants (68 men and 18 women) representing traditional forecasters, meteorologists and local government representatives attended. The PSP process served as a platform for collective sharing and interpretation of seasonal climate forecasts (including traditional and scientific knowledge) leading to scenarios and simplified advisories for flexible, community-based contingency planning, adaptation planning and DRM. The PSP process creates a common platform for climate communication which respects, reviews and combines knowledge from pastoral communities and the scientific community. It assists communities and local governments to agree on options, develop disaster preparedness plans and make climate-resilient livelihood decisions for implementation.

This was the first time meteorologists and traditional forecasters met together and presented their seasonal climate forecasts to community and local government representatives. Both forecasters reviewed the performance of the rains from the previous season (*ganna* rains which occurred March - May 2014) and presented their forecast for the upcoming (*hageyya*) season. According to the traditional forecasters, the *ganna* rains began during the normal time frame, but the rainfall amount was lower than expected, and it was unevenly distributed, with some kebeles receiving adequate rainfall and other kebeles receiving none. In most kebeles the rains stopped two weeks early, resulting in unusually high mobility of pastoralists during the season. The meteorologists reported that the *ganna* rains were lower in recorded rainfall and erratic and uneven in distribution. As a result, pasture and crop production, particularly in Liben and Gorodola, were poor, although Wadara received good rainfall. During the season, the pre-harvest assessment by the DPPO in Liben and Gorodola woredas showed approximately 48,000 households in Liben and 28,000 households in Gorodola were in need of food aid.

For the *hagaya* rains, the traditional weather forecasters predicted a late onset but good levels of precipitation. The meteorologists stated that the prediction for *hagaya* rains is 25% above normal, 65% near to normal and 10% below normal. Similar to the traditional weather forecasts, the meteorologists predicted 90% of *hagaya* rains to be either normal or above normal. Based on these forecasts for normal and above normal rainfall, communities considered the risk of flooding, disease and crop pests. At the same time, the forecast is considered to be favorable for pasture growth and water harvesting. Given the uncertainties linked to forecasts, the participants also identified the risks, impacts and strategies for the 10% chance that rainfall will be below normal. In this case, water and pasture shortages and disease were identified as the major risks.

Having identified the potential hazards, impacts and opportunities, participants identified and developed alternative plans and advisories to address each of the 3 scenarios. Participants developed specific plans for disseminating the advisories and monitoring progress.

**Table 8. Mapping of Scenario Based Climate Risks, Opportunities and Actions - Guji zone**

Possible Hazards for above normal rainfall (25%)	Impact of hazards	Opportunities	Actions to be taken	Level of actions to be taken
1. Flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rangeland degradation</li> <li>Destruction of property and infrastructure</li> <li>Drowning animals</li> <li>Destruction of water points</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government water shed management program</li> <li>kebele level EW committee for wider dissemination of EWI</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid grazing livestock in sloppy and hilly areas</li> <li>Soil &amp; water conservation measures</li> <li>Natural resource management</li> <li>Food diversion from water sources and farm lands</li> <li>Awareness raising</li> </ul>	At <i>dheeda, reera &amp; arda</i> levels At HH level
2. Human diseases (malaria, diarrhoea)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Death</li> <li>Labour shortages</li> <li>Increased medical expenses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community level HEWs</li> <li>Good community understanding about disease symptoms and prevention measures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hygiene and sanitation activities</li> <li>Removing collected surface water from residential areas</li> <li>Regular medical check-up particularly for children and mothers</li> </ul>	• At village and HH level
3. Crop and pasture pests and diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>delay/failure of seed germination</li> <li>reduced crop production</li> <li>shortage of food/food insecurity</li> <li>reduced pasture/shortage of livestock feed</li> <li>increased grain price/ impact on HH economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DAs at community/ kebele level</li> <li>good supply of pesticides in the area</li> <li>government support for dry land farming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dryland farm management</li> <li>timely use of pesticides</li> <li>use of improved crop varieties that can survive and yield better in water logged areas</li> </ul>	• At village and HH level
<b>Possible Hazards of below normal rainfall (10%)</b>				
1. Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crop failure</li> <li>Shortage of pasture and water</li> <li>Reduced milk production</li> <li>Lower livestock price</li> <li>shortage of food/food insecurity</li> <li>Unusual mobility</li> <li>Conflict</li> <li>School drop out</li> <li>Poor Livestock body condition</li> </ul>	community experience in managing conflict and natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flexible management and utilization of range resources (planned mobility)</li> <li>Timely sale of livestock - Purchase and storage of gains in good times</li> <li>Hay making and saving</li> <li>Fodder production, and preservation</li> <li>proper management and use of reserved grazing areas/kallos/</li> <li>Proper management of wet</li> </ul>	At <i>dheeda, reera &amp; arda</i> as well as at HH level

			and dry season grazing areas. • Planting drought resistant crop varieties	
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**Table 9. Examples of Advisories Developed for Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Contexts in Guji zone**

Possible impact of above normal rainfall (25%).	Advisories for pastoralists	Advisories for agro-pastoralists
1. Destruction of water points	-Construct structures to protect traditional wells and ponds from damage by floods -Divert flood water to pasture lands	-Construct structures to protect traditional wells and ponds from damage by floods -Divert flood water to pasture lands
2. Human diseases (malaria, diarrhoea)	-Personal hygiene/ sanitation activities -Removing collected surface water from residential areas -Mosquito nets -Medical check-up particularly for children and women -Use of small water purification equipments like “ <i>wuha Agar</i> ”	-Personal hygiene/ sanitation activities -Removing collected surface water from residential areas -Mosquito nets -Medical check-up particularly for children and women -Use of small water purification equipments like “ <i>wuha Agar</i> ”
<b>Possible impact of below normal rainfall (10%)</b>		
1.Shortage of livestock feed	-Herd size management -Reserve livestock feed/hay -Proper management and use of reserved grazing areas/ <i>kallo</i> /planned mobility -Proper management of wet and dry season grazing areas. -Timely sale of animals	-Cultivate improved varieties -Reserve crop residues and hay -Proper management and use of reserved grazing areas/ <i>kallo</i> / -Make special care for Oxen and breeding cows
2.Shortage of food/food insecurity	-Purchase and storage gains at good times -Diversify livelihood activities -Special focus to meet the nutritional needs of young children and the elderly	-Water storage and management -Planting drought resistance crop varieties -Saving money and grains -Diverting flood water in to farmlands to get enough moisture

***Follow-up Implementation Support and Monitoring of the Dissemination and Utilization of Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP) Advisories by Pastoralists and Small Businesses - Southern Cluster***

In the southern cluster, SOS Sahel provided follow-up implementation support and monitoring of the dissemination and utilization of PSP (Participatory Scenario Planning) advisories carried out in Golba dawa, Dida, Golba Ganale and Wadara dheedas. A total of 537 individuals (384 men and 153 women) were directly reached through the monitoring of PSP advisory dissemination activities. The activity facilitated the dissemination of advisories at village and household levels, supported the understanding and utilization of advisories by woreda government partners, and assessed the utility of PSP advisories to different end-users. Through monitoring support, it was found that customary institutional leaders, pastoral and agro-pastoral households, rangeland council members, VSLA members, CAHWs, small traders and woreda and zonal sector offices all received the PSP advisories. The monitoring activity provided the opportunity to reflect on the effectiveness of the PSP approach and draw lessons for future PSPs. Most target community

members have received the advisories from either friends, other villagers, clan leaders, or youth and women groups in the community. However, for more effective and sustainable outcomes, there is need to proactively engage zonal and district DPPBs through the institutionalization of the process. Although the institutionalization of the PSP process is doing well in Guji, there is a need to do more in Borena in regards to facilitating the institutionalization of the process within the government early warning structures, while at the same time making those structures more inclusive and reflective of community interests.



*Participants of the PSP workshop in Dirre, Borena zone*

***Piloting Production of Improved Fodder to Promote Uptake of Adaptive Technologies and Support Implementation of Adaptation Options – Afar***

This activity was initiated to promote the production of selected fodder species by introducing improved drought-resistant and early maturing seed varieties and also to stimulate market-based production of fodder to support climate change adaptation in selected woredas. The activity will pilot the production of fodder in Amibara, Awash Fentale and Argoba woredas, and is being implemented in collaboration with other IRs and the respective Woreda Agriculture and Pastoral Development Offices. Beneficiaries will cover 10% of the seed cost, set aside demonstration plots of not less than 0.25 hectare per household for the production of seeds, and utilize methodologies and practices as acquired from participating in fodder production trainings.

To date, CARE has conducted planning meetings with woreda PADO heads and experts in Amibara, Awash Fentale and Argoba woreda, and beneficiary growers were selected in close consultation with the PADOs. In consultation with extension agents and communities, 30 beneficiary growers were selected from 4 kebeles in Amibara (Yangelilie, Burie, Badulalie, & Badhamo), 30 growers from 2 kebeles in Argoba, and 25 growers from 3 kebeles (Sabure, Kebena & Boloyma) in Awash Fentale.

***Establishing Key SAA groups, and Organizing Sensitization Workshop for the Implementation of SAA Approach to Address Social and Behavioural Constraints to CCA, in Amibara, Argoba, & Awash Fentale woredas – Afar***

From 26 November to 23 December 2014, the CARE IR2 team in Afar facilitated the establishment of core and sub-SAA (Social Action and Analysis) and BC-LA (Behavioral Change for Livelihood Adaptation) groups. Sensitization workshops were organized about the SAA methodology and the plan to address attitudinal, behavioral and socio-institutional barriers, and limits to climate adaptive practices through recurring community conversations on the barriers. Facilitators who can facilitate each sub-group dialogue while also being good role models in promoting adaptive behaviors were selected directly through the participation of the community.

Prior to the organization of the SAA sensitization workshops, discussions were held with woreda administrators and PAD offices for the purpose of the SAA/BC-LA dialogues and also on the implementation process, and the need for the sensitization workshops. In collaboration with the woreda administration offices, a total of 64 community members (23 from Argoba, 22 from Amibara and 19 from Awash Fentale) drawn from traditional rangeland management councils, kebele management, youth and women forums, school leadership, the private sector and sector offices were selected as core-SAA members for each woreda. Following the establishment of the core-SAA groups, sub-SAA groups were established and members selected in collaboration with each woreda's administration office.

During the sensitization workshops, the following points were discussed:

- climate change vulnerability and adaptation options in the most fragile arid and semi-arid rangeland ecosystems;
- the need to build community capacity for better preparedness and adaptation response actions;
- SAA as a tool to address behavioral and socio-cultural constraints for adoption of climate-smart behaviors and practices; and
- reflections on findings from the CVCA and follow-up DRM and Livelihood Adaptation dialogues on behavioral and socio-cultural constraints to adaptation.

The sensitization workshop participants then identified and prioritized the major behavioral and social barriers and limits to climate appropriate behaviors and practices as illustrated in the following table.

**Table 10: Behavioral and Social Barriers to Climate-Appropriate Behaviors**

Woreda	Sub-Rangeland System	Kebele	Selected Socio-Cultural & Behavioral Constraints to be Addressed in Sub-SAA groups
Argoba	Northern sub-rangeland system	Gozie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aid-dependency</li> <li>▪ Normative &amp; cognitive factors (restricted entitlement)</li> </ul>
	Southern sub-rangeland system	Tache-Metekeleya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Poor savings culture</li> <li>▪ Poor improved fodder &amp; rangeland management, conservation &amp; utilization practice</li> </ul>
	Gachine sub-group	Gachine town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Poor savings culture</li> </ul>
Amibara	'Keda birka' to 'Entiaso' sub-rangeland system	Andido	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aid-dependency</li> <li>▪ Poor savings culture</li> </ul>
	'Gonita birka' to 'Keda	Sidihafagie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Poor savings culture</li> </ul>

	birka' sub-rangeland system		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Traditional livestock husbandry system (herd management)</li> </ul>
<b>Awash Fentale</b>	Fenti Alle	Sabure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Poor savings culture</li> <li>▪ Poor improved fodder &amp; rangeland management, conservation &amp; utilization practice</li> </ul>
	Ata Woha	Boloyta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Poor savings culture</li> <li>▪ Poor improved fodder &amp; rangeland management, conservation &amp; utilization practice</li> </ul>

***Establishing Key SAA groups, and Organizing Sensitization Workshop for the Implementation of SAA Approach to Address Social and Behavioral Constraints to CCA - Southern Cluster***

The SOS Sahel IR2 team with support from CARE facilitated the establishment of core SAA and BC-LA groups. Sensitization workshops were organized about the SAA methodology and, through recurring community dialogues, the plan is to address attitudinal, behavioral and socio-institutional barriers and limits to climate adaptive practices. Facilitators were selected directly through community participation. Following the establishment of the core and sub-SAA and BC-LA groups and the selection of sub-group facilitators, orientation workshops were organized for SAA group facilitators in Gorodola and Wadara woredas of Gujii zone, and Yabello woreda of Borena zone. A total of 42 participants (35 male and 7 female) representing *dheeda*, *reera* and *arda* leaders/elders, religious leaders, influential women, youth group representatives, and government sector offices attended the sensitization meetings.



*Participants of the core-SAA (BC-LA) group meeting in Negelle*

***Training of BC-LA facilitators, Community Facilitators and PRIME's Project Officers on How to Address Socio-Cultural and Behavioral Constraints to CCA Through the SAA Methodology – Afar***

A capacity building training for sub-SAA group facilitators, PRIME project officers and community facilitators was held from 29-31 December 2014 at Awash Arba town. The training was organized to build the technical capacity of community facilitators to enable better management and guidance of each sub-SAA group. The following topics were covered during the training:

- role play on climate change impacts and response options;

- review of CVCA findings on community perceptions about local coping and adaptation strategies;
- common climate-adaptive and maladaptive strategies in Afar;
- socio-cultural, behavioral and institutional constraints/barriers to adoption of climate appropriate behaviors and practices;
- the what, why and how of using the SAA/BC-LA methodology;
- fodder production (on natural grazing land and irrigated land) and herd management in the context of changing climatic and environmental circumstances;
- the importance of modern animal health services (linking with the approach of PRIME and identifying opportunities);
- the importance of saving and IGA activities (considering the context of climate change and its impacts, and also linking with the approach of PRIME and identifying opportunities);
- basic community dialogue facilitation steps and skills;
- key SAA tools used to facilitate community level dialogues;
- roles and responsibilities of core groups, sub-groups, and group facilitators; and
- a general discussion on how to implement SAA and expected challenges and options.



*Participants of the SAA training in Awash Arba*

### ***Water Point Rehabilitation***

To improve water availability and access for pastoral communities, PRIME is supporting the rehabilitation of existing water points and construction of new water points as prioritized by the community and technically feasible. Construction of water points is also considered in line with balancing the wet and dry season grazing areas. The management of water points is also promoted and included in rangeland management. As surface water harvesting is the major water source for water points, the size of the catchment draining to these water points is a major consideration for obtaining sufficient water that can fill the structures as well as preventing excessive flooding that can potentially destruct the structures beyond the spillways.

*Haro Bake Microdam Rehabilitation - Borena:* Bake microdam located in Cholkasa kebele of Yabello woreda is the largest water point serving more than 15,000 households from four PAs

(Cholkasa, Dida Yabello, Dhadim and Harboro), including neighboring rangelands as well as from Kenya in the dry season. The dam is of the embankment type with a crest length of 370m, with 1km<sup>2</sup> reservoir area in the dry season. To ensure operability of the dam and increase capacity, SOS Sahel with technical assistance from CARE is working on rehabilitation by constructing spillways on both banks, upgrading weak embankments, expanding the existing reservoir area by 3.7ha and constructing flood protection dykes.

Construction of the spillways is currently underway while procurement is ongoing for hiring a contractor with the necessary machinery for expansion of the reservoir area. Detailed progress is as follows:

**Table 11. Haro Bake Microdam Progress to Date**

Area of Rehabilitation	Completed Work
East Bank Spillway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Excavation for the wing wall is completed</li> <li>● Excavation for spillway is completed except the a 10m width left for a temporary water way</li> <li>● Backfill and compaction for wing wall complete</li> <li>● Backfill and compaction for spillway complete except the 10m width left for a temporary water way</li> <li>● Hard coring for wing wall is complete</li> <li>● Hard coring for spillway complete except the 10m width left for a temporary water way</li> <li>● Masonry work for wing wall is 75% complete</li> <li>● Two coats of plastering for the wing wall is 75% complete</li> </ul>
West Bank Spillway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Excavation for spillway rehabilitation complete</li> <li>● Backfill and compaction for stilling basin complete</li> <li>● Hard coring for stilling basin complete</li> <li>● Masonry work for retaining wall and spillway cut-off complete</li> </ul>
Earth Dam rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Material to fill the weak section of the dam is ongoing by PRIME FEL</li> </ul>
Reservoir expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bid floated by SOS Sahel head office for excavation and removal of excavated material from the reservoir area</li> </ul>
Integrated Watershed Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The community has fenced the catchment areas draining to the dam to reduce the level of livestock interference. A steering committee comprised of 8 members was established. Bylaws were drafted that incorporate both the utilization and management of water which will be presented to the community and endorsed for its implementation.</li> </ul>

*Fatuma Delaytu Water Point (pond) Rehabilitation - Bunketo-Mollale sub-unit, Gewane-Gelealo Rangeland System - Afar:* Fatuma Delaytu pond rehabilitation is being undertaken in the Bunketo-Mollale rangeland sub-unit, Gewane-Gellealo rangeland system. The location is in the plain land in front of Ayelu mountain, which serves as a water source during both dry and wet seasons. The water holding capacity of the pond is 7,000 m<sup>3</sup>.

Typically there is flooding that comes to the pond from the large catchment which breaches the embankment and the spillway of the pond, causing damage to structures and causing silt deposits. As such, the CARE IR2 suggested to the rangeland council to strengthen the spillway

by building a strong masonry wall and removing silt already deposited in the reservoir in order to increase the water holding capacity of the pond. Rehabilitation activities have been underway during the quarter and nearly 80% of the work has been completed, with the activity expected to finish in January 2015. The community contributed their labor by collecting stones required for the rehabilitation, and by guarding the construction materials on site.



*Fatuma Delaytu pond under rehabilitation*

#### ***Support Natural Resource Enhancement and Selective Bush Thinning Activities in Gomole Grazing System in Southern Cluster***

During the quarter, SOS Sahel supported the Gomole rangeland community by providing technical and material support to undertake rangeland rehabilitation activities that can improve pasture productivity and availability in dry season grazing areas. The Gomole rangeland council planned to conduct selective bush clearing on a communal enclosure area by mobilizing the community. Six hectares of land has been cleared of *Prosopis* and other undesirable vegetation species in Arbore kebele of Gomole in readiness for the *gana* rainy season to improve re-growth of pasture. The community also fenced the entire area of the site to protect it from livestock and human interference.

#### ***Support Prosopis Control and Management Including New Technologies and Options - Bunketo-Mollale Sub-Rangeland System, Gewane-Gelealo Rangeland***

Based on discussions with Gewane-Gelalo rangeland management council members, Bunke-to-Mollale sub-unit community, and Gewane woreda PADO, all stakeholders agreed that further *prosopis* clearing should be carried out in the grazing land in order to help the community and maximize impacts of the project as there is still vast land which is covered by *prosopis*. Bunketo-Mollale grazing land is used by communities from seven kebeles (Urafita, Yigile, Geleladura, Gebeyabura, Kedabead, Adilalita and Gewane 01) in the rangeland system.



*The loader machine clearing Prosopis*



*Community members burning cleared Prosopis*

During the quarter, CARE supported prosopis clearing on an additional 60ha of land (50ha in Gewane-gelalo and 10ha in Amibara rangeland systems) which increased the total areas of land cleared to date in Afar with PRIME support to 306 ha (105ha in Gewane-gelalo, 181ha in Amibara, and 20ha in Awash Fentale rangeland systems). Support from PRIME included the front end loader, provision of hand tools, and refreshments for the community. The community provided their labor. The FEL is mainly used for clearing dense thickets of Prosopis which prove difficult for the community to clear manually using hand tools. Once the area has been cleared through either mechanical or manual labor, the community are doing regular follow-up clearing by uprooting any remaining roots, re-sprouting stumps, and regenerating seedlings and saplings and burning them to prevent reinvasion. The Gewane woreda PADO assigned one NRM expert and a development agent to provide onsite technical support and guidance, as well as to follow-up the day to day progress of the activity. The woreda's head of PADO also visited the site during community clearance to observe the operation and to motivate the community.

***Follow-up of Community Prosopis Clearing - Bunketo-Mollale, Arba to Gonita Birka, Gonita Birka to Keda Birka, and Keda Birka to Intiaso Sub-Rangeland Units – Afar***

As explained above, following the Prosopis clearing activities the rangeland council members and woreda PADO experts with support from CARE regularly monitor the cleared sites and mobilize the community to undertake follow-up measures whenever there is Prosopis regeneration on cleared areas. Moreover, the councils and communities of Amibara rangeland system (Arba to Gonita Birka sub-unit) have assigned people to guard the areas after clearance to protect the site from livestock interference to allow for quick vegetation regeneration in the area.



*Rehabilitating Bunketo-Mollale Grazing Land; and Arba Grazing Land*

Livestock interference from neighboring communities during and after the rainy seasons is a problem in all the grazing lands where prosopis clearing is taking place with the exception of the Arba to Gonita Birka sub-unit of Amibara rangeland system, although the communities have agreed that the areas should have enough rest for quick regeneration of grass. As a result, the rangeland councils are planning to organize a joint-discussion with the rangeland councils of neighboring rangeland units. A positive result of clearance is the increasing abundance of desirable grass species locally known as Hanbokto, E'abto, and Bo'ete in Arba to Gonita Birka, and Bunketo-Mollale sub-units.

### **Support Environmental Management of Reg 216**

PRIME is committed to ensuring there is no negative impact of activities on the environment. In order to ensure that PRIME staff understands environmental considerations, a consultant has been hired by partner CARE to review a sample of PRIME concept notes and provide recommendations, which is currently ongoing. During Q10/11, refresher trainings will be provided to staff based on the consultant's recommendations.



*Caption: Metalwork trainees on practical training at Jigjiga polytechnic collage*

## **INTERMEDIATE RESULT 3: STRENGTHENED ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS FOR HOUSEHOLDS TRANSITIONING OUT OF PASTORALISM**

### **Key Result 3.1: TOPs employability increased through life skills, financial literacy and entrepreneurship training**

#### ***TOPs are enrolled in TVETs through PRIME's Short-term vocational scholarship program***

The main objective of PRIME's scholarship program for TOPs is to improve their life skills through short-term skill training that will assist them to secure stable employment or create self-employment. According to PRIME's labor market assessment, the majority of TOPs lack the

skills set demanded by employers. Therefore, PRIME partners in all clusters have identified short-term trainings that can create job/business opportunities and make TOPs employable in the labor market. During the reporting period, in eastern, southern and Afar clusters the enrollment process has continued.

### ***TOPs Scholarships***

Eastern Cluster: PRIME facilitated the short-term skill training program by providing scholarship opportunity for youth that are transitioning out of pastoralism and unemployed and unable to integrate in the labor market or engage in self-employment due to lack of skill. The scholarship program has been designed for TOPs that are coming poor or low income families. For impanation of the program PRIME has signed a cost sharing grant agreement (cost-share) with Jigjiga polytechnic college to design curriculum and provide the skills training for TOPs based on the need assessment finding of the PRIME labor market assessment. Then out of the treated 120 TOPs 117 eligible TOPs were selected through one stop center, Disability center and were admitted and started the training in four different departments.

Afar: AISDA has advertised the bid for machinery operation scholarships and cost estimates are currently being collected at the head office. It has been challenging to find a competent bidder which has delayed the process. 50 TOPs has been identified to start this training. In addition, the Transport, Trade and Tourism Bureau was contacted to recommend eligible training institutions for driving skills. Since the existing relevant training institutions in Awash have been banned by the bureau, PRIME is working with the bureau to implement the training in an alternative venue and 120 TOPs identified to take the driving skill training.

Southern Cluster: Mercy Corps and SOS Sahel technical and financial assistance to TVETs that are operating in Yabello, Negele and Moyale areas continued during this quarter. The objective of PRIME's support to the TVETs is to strengthen the type of skill training they provide and help them develop appropriate curriculum that meets the need of TOPs in the region. In line with this, a grant agreement was signed with Yabello TVET to provide short term skill training through scholarship for eligible TOPs. Last quarter, the TVET awarded scholarships for the first class of 20 (14F) TOPs in hair dressing and beauty salon management. During this quarter, the first batch completed their training and the TVET enrolled the second class of 20 TOPs. For the trainees that have completed the four-month training, PRIME and the TVETs facilitated apprenticeship opportunities in five private businesses and three have obtained jobs immediately after graduation. In addition, the 20 TOPs have also received entrepreneurship training to help them set up their own business overtime.

During the review period, PRIME (Mercy Corps and SOS Sahel) committed a cost share grant to scale-up the TOPs' skill training through scholarship program. Based on the LMA findings and in partnership with Yabello, Negele and Moyale TVETs, ten training streams have been identified and registration of 329 TOPs in Borena, Guji zone and Moyale (Somali region) has started. To ensure the quality of the training and transparent selection process, a scholarship committee has been established, comprised of representatives of the TVET, PRIME, Youth and Sport Affairs office, TVET Agency and Labor and Social Affairs Office at zonal and district structure level. To ensure sustainable service delivery, a cost share grant agreement will be

signed with TVETs and they will purchase necessary materials which needed to delivery training.

**Table 12. Scholarship status update in all clusters**

Cluster	Type of training	Number of TOPs identified			Name of TVETs	Enrollment stage	Duration of the training	Expected date of completion of training
		M	F	Total				
SC	Hair dressing	6	14	20	Yabello TVET	The students are under apprenticeship	4 months	30-Feb-2015
	Hair dressing	0	20	20	Yabello TVET	Students have already started class	4 months	30-May-15
	Ten different skill training	134	195	329	Yabello, Negele and Moyale TVET	Registration and screening	4 months	30-Jun-15
EC	Metal works	26	0	26	Jigjiga Polytechnic College	All students are enrolled and course already started on Nov 30,2014	4 months	30-Mar-15
	wood work	22	0	22	Jigjiga Polytechnic College		3 months	30-Feb-2015
	Cobblestone	19	6	25	Jigjiga Polytechnic College		2 1/2 month	15-Feb-15
	Auto mechanics	44	0	44	Jigjiga Polytechnic College		3 months	15-Feb-15
Afar	Excavator-Heavy Machinery	25	0	25	TBD	Students are selected and date to start class not determined	4 months	
	Tractor	25	0	25	TBD		4 months	
	Dry & light vehicle	120	0	120	TBD		2 months	
<b>Total</b>		<b>421</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>656</b>				

*Note: out of the total scholarship awardees, 30 are people with disability.*

***Entrepreneurship, MIS development to One-Stop Centers/MSEs agency in the eastern cluster***

During Q8, PRIME and MSE agency of Jigjiga and Degahabur signed a Fixed Obligation Grant agreement and hired a consultant to establish a management information system to help seven OSCs act as resource points where TOPs go to get information on the labor market, employment and skills development. In supporting one stop centers with management information system will improve the information management capacities of OSCs, contributing to the improvement of the quality and coverage of their services.

In this quarter, MIS development for Jigjiga and Degahbure OSCs was completed, tested, and installed in OSCs. Thirteen desktop computers and three printers were handed over to Jigjiga and Degahbur MSEs/OSCs. Operationalizing and on the job training for administrators and users is currently ongoing. Seven OSCs will migrate their existing manual system of registering unemployed youth, businesses and record keeping schemes into computer based management information system. These OSCs will work on the system in close supervision and consultation with a professional consultant hired by PRIME for six month period to learn data migration and generation of consolidated reports on the status and performance of micro and small scale enterprises. The consultant is also providing on-the-job training to OSC staff. It is expected that the OSCs will provide ‘Creating Enterprises through Forming Entrepreneurs’ (CEFEE) training benefiting 5,000 TOPs in the future.

### ***Entrepreneurship & Small business TOT training for the staff of OSCs***

TOT training on entrepreneurship and small business management for staff of seven OSCs in Jigjiga & Degahbur was conducted during Q9. The objective of the training is to enhance capacities and performance of staff engaged in training and business counseling for micro and small scale enterprises and to build their skills and knowledge in business development services. The TOT training had originally been planned for March 2014, postponed to October 2014 due to OSCs lack of staffing and OSCs’ request to Mercy Corps staff to follow the tasks below:

- Extensive discussions with key officials and experts in both regional and cities micro and small scale enterprises development agencies on the need and target trainees and the appropriate times for the training
- Terms of References (TOR) to specify the contents, modalities and modules of the training has be developed and advertised
- Professional trainer commissioned to conduct the training
- Jigjiga and D/bur MSE agencies arranged the venue and their staff for the training

After adequate preparation for the training, four days extensive CEFEE training was conducted for 22 staffs from Jigjiga and Degahbur cities MSE/OSCs. Two professional consultants conducted the training and provided two-day coaching and technical assistance at their working place. Business management, entrepreneurship skills, business counseling techniques, Business Development Services (BDS), marketing and basic financial management were among the key themes of the training. Practical exercises, simulations, situation analysis, problem solving, group discussion and presentation, exercises and questions and answers were methodologies used for the training. The participants were also given the chance to conduct a practical exercise in business development services for real enterprises in Jigjiga that are clients of Jigjiga OSCs.



Caption: OSC staffs testing the MIS



***International Literacy Day 2014 was celebrated in three PRIME operational areas***

PRIME supported an organization called Basic Education Network-Ethiopia (BEN-E) to organize international literacy day in PRIME operational areas. The literacy awareness creation workshops were conducted for one day each in Jigjiga, Awash and Yabello on October 18, 28 and November 15, 2014 respectively. BEN-E has an experience of facilitating similar events for the past 12 years in different regions across the country. One of PRIME's improved alternative livelihoods objective is increasing the literacy of target beneficiaries and this provides an opportunity to raise awareness on literacy issues in the project operational areas among different stakeholders. The event brought together a total of 152 participants from different government sector offices, local NGOs and associations which have incorporated literacy issues in their programs. During the workshop, the presentations made by Program Department Head of BEN-E, indicated that 73.1 %, 77.3% and 71.7% of the adult population in Somali, Afar and Oromia regions are considered to be illiterate, which pose a huge challenge in promoting economic development activities. To address this huge gap, a new approach called Integrated Functional Adult Education (IFAE) is designed where now Education Bureaus across all the regions have more or less started implementation. And those offices which have started implementation have shared their best experiences, with regard to:

- Certification of adults who completed literacy courses
- Establishment of zonal technical committee and adult education board



Caption: literacy day ,Yabello



Caption: literacy day ,Awash



Caption: literacy day ,Awash

- Peer learning practices
- Facilitation of literacy courses for people with special needs.

The major challenges raised by the different discussion groups include:

- Lack of awareness of literacy benefits among the community
- Limited capacity of literacy course facilitators
- Lack of incentives for facilitators

For successful implementation of adult education, the key way forward points pinpointed following the groups discussions were integration of stakeholders, designing of mechanisms of sustainable approach to coach and recruit qualified facilitators.

### ***Entrepreneurship skill development Training for Hairdressing & Beauty Salon Trainees***

In order to shape trainees' attitude, enhance their competence and motivate them to start/run their own business effectively & efficiently, five days (04-08/12/2014) entrepreneurship skill development training had been provided for hairdressing and beauty salon training participants & instructors. 23 (17 F) people successfully participated in the training. Among the participants, three females are instructors for the department, receiving the training in order to continue the training to students for upcoming short-term training in Yabello Polytechnic College.

Prior to conducting the training, skill gap analysis/training need assessment was conducted by discussing with the college and students. Based on identified needs, the training was delivered by PRIME staff qualified and experienced in business management/administration. In line with this, the Know About Business (KAB) manual was used. The manual is tailor-made for building capacity of students in technical and vocational training institutions in entrepreneurship and small business management. Different experiential training methodologies such as role play, inspirational audio/video show, group discussions, take-home assignments, and experience sharing with private businesses were used.

The main accomplishments of this training include:

1. Trainees have developed optimistic attitude towards their future career. During group discussion and reflection session, it was realized that majority of students had pessimistic attitude prior to attending entrepreneurship skill development training. Meaning, before receiving the training, majority of students thought that technical and vocational training may not help them get employed and some of them were about to quit the program. However, after entrepreneurship skill development training, all of them became optimistic about their future career and they realized that self-employment is possible and better option than even wage employment.
2. Trainees have developed enough understanding about business in general and business plan preparation skill in particular. In addition to theoretical sessions, real business plan preparation practice session was organized and trainees were given a take-home assignment on business plan to present in class. In addition, the trainees understood the

need to enrich their business plan to be used for accessing financing (e.g. submitting to micro finance institutions).

3. A number of viable small business ideas were generated that will be helpful for future PRIME activities. Through the brainstorming session, participants were encouraged to practice idea generation step of launching business and that each group identified at least 10 small business ideas, with a total of 30 ideas proposed. Though it was for rehearsal purpose, the implication is that there are many potential viable small business ideas in local area and that unemployed youth/TOPs could start these businesses.

### ***Micro-franchise business for women TOPs***

During the reporting period, ACPA organized training for 220 female TOPs to help them start-up a micro franchise business. Female TOPs were selected from each of the 5 districts of Somali region. Ten fast moving goods were identified in each district, as well as their manufacturers/ importers and wholesalers/ retailers. The selected female TOPs were trained on business skills, marketing, business planning and financial literacy. In the next quarter they will be linked with wholesalers and other support needed will be identified.



### ***Memorandum of Understanding signed with TVET institutions***

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between ECDD and Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions in Afar, Southern, and Eastern Clusters. The TVET institutions include Lucy TVET College, Negelle Borena TVET College, Jigjiga Polytechnic College, and Meles Zemawi Memorial TVET (formerly Dire Dawa TVET College). The MoU was signed to provide micro-grants for teaching materials and in alternative accessible formats, Braille materials, audio recorders, and white cane. The MoU also includes provision of technical support and funding to TVET institutions to make premises physically accessible for trainees with physical impairments, aimed at facilitating inclusive skill training and employment opportunities for youths with disabilities in PRIME's areas.

### ***Disability Awareness and Inclusion Training (DAIT) conducted in Eastern cluster***

ECDD has facilitated, a one day Disability Awareness and Inclusion Training (DAIT) was provided to 21 participants (17 male, 4 female) in Eastern cluster, Jigjiga. Trainees were drawn from Somali Region Women Entrepreneurs Association, Trade and Transport Bureau, Chambers of Commerce, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) such as Town Clan Associations, and Disabled People Organizations. The objective of the training was to raise the general disability awareness and inclusion practice thereby developing a disability inclusive approach within the target institutions and creating access to increased income and employment opportunity to persons with disabilities. At the final session of the training participants draw a commitment plan

aimed to make their services disability inclusive. Commitments are included in the Disability section of this report.

***HelloJobs progress in Somali Region:***

*A sustainable technical platform that gives visibility and access for employment or training to people who seek employment in the pastoralist regions of Ethiopia.*

A total of 824 job seekers registered through HelloJob Agents from Oct-Dec 2014. The registration was completed for all of the Job seekers and their data is currently available online on hellosera.com (hellogebeya.com). (See annex 1)

During the reporting quarter, progress shown includes:

- Project Coordinator has been hired to oversee HelloJob activities in Ethiopian Somali region and Dire Dawa PRIME project areas.
- The new banners for Jigjiga are all placed at four agents' business premises. The roadshow promoting HelloJob for Jigjiga has been completed.
- Radio ad in Somali language on Ethiopian Somali FM Radio was broadcasted for a month.
- HelloJob billboard has been printed and placed following branding rules, obtaining necessary permission and settling of tax payments with the government.
- Two agents have been deactivated following their unwillingness to operate as HelloJob agents.
- Two agents have been identified in Jigjiga and Shinile towns of Ethiopian Somali region and once Amasis finalizes the licensing of HelloJobs the new merchants will be enlisted as HelloJob agents.

During next quarter, HelloJob licensing and Certificate of Competence will be finalized and activities will commence in Borena, South Oromia, and Afar region.

**Financial Services: VSLAs/RuSACCO: Strengthening, Expanding and Linking**

***VSLA formation through the Provider Service Provider model***

In the review period, the PRIME supported PSPs have continued the formation and expansion of VSLAs through the PSP model, a more cost effective and sustainable method to expand outreach in target communities and provide the service. PSPs train VSLAs, for a fee, paid by the VSLAs, eliminating the need for long-term external technical support. The main advantage of this approach is that new VSLAs continue to be created (and supported) after a project has ended.

**Table 13. VSLA progress update up to Q9**

<b>MIS name</b>		Mercy Corps Ethiopia PRIME Project			
<b>Currency</b>		ETB			
<b>Date of report</b>		1/12/2015			
<b>Group status</b>		Supervised			
<b>Cluster</b>	<b>Number of Groups</b>	<b>Number of Members (Borrowers/savers)</b>	<b>% of female Members</b>	<b>Value of savings this cycle</b>	<b>Value of loans outstanding</b>
MC Ethiopia Southern Cluster PRIME Project	84	1,612	58%	261,486	105,002
MC Ethiopia Eastern Cluster PRIME Project	48	1,011	86%	158,205	16,000
CARE Ethiopia Afar Cluster PRIME Project	65	1,082	49%	170,697	
<b>Total</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>3,705</b>		<b>590,388</b>	<b>121,002</b>

### ***Support to Field Agents and VSLAs in Afar***

Three monitoring visits were held to observe the activities of FAs, showing encouraging results. Challenges continue, however, in the implementation of the PSP model. Five FAs have been deployed in each of the three target woredas - Amibara, Dulesa and Gelalo. Since the start five months ago, 42 groups have been formed for a total of 774 members, with a total savings amount of 68,000 ETB.

During the reporting period 15 VSLA and field agents (FAs) were provided with necessary tools to perform their jobs, including bicycles, cash boxes, and record keeping books, keys, rulers and pens. The 15 FAs were provided with a three-day refresher training in Awash 7 Kilo. The objective of the training was to reinforce key concepts from the induction training, with the benefit of practical field experience and addressing any systematic issues during monitoring visits. The FAs were provided with an Amharic version of the field agent manual which was obtained from CRS staff in Addis Ababa.

During the training, discussions were held regarding the opportunities and challenges of forming VSLA groups using the PSP model. Based on these discussions, follow-on discussions were held with 210 VSLA members and non-members in the three woredas. These individuals expressed their questions and concerns about the formation of saving groups, the support they expect from the project, and other issues. Many stated that they expect to receive financial support from the project. This resulted in explanations of the PRIME approach, and that the kind of support they could expect to receive includes training and linkages to markets.

### ***PSP Model and Saving group MIS Training***

The CARE and Mercy Corps financial services specialists attended a training in Kigali, Rwanda on "Private Service Provider Model: A Practical Approach to Fee-For-Service Savings Group Programming" and MIS for saving groups. The training covered key topics from the PSP manual, as well as experience sharing by CRS staff, PSPs and VSLA group members. The training provided an opportunity for PRIME staff to obtain clarity on various topics and discuss challenges faced in the field. After the training, PRIME got access to the global web based VSLA MIS called SVAIX to manage data which is now being entered into the system.

### ***RUSSACO ToT Training and workshop***

23 staff from six woredas of Afar Zone 3 were trained in RUSSACO management ToT from 29 September to 4 October 2014 in Afar. Each participant developed an action plan based on the

training. The PRIME Afar team also contacted participant partners and the Regional Cooperatives Promotion Bureau (RCPB) willing to work with PRIME on an integration workshop. The team is waiting for the implementation date to be set by the RCPB.

### ***Exposure Visit to Somali MFI***

CARE and AISDA's IR3 team visited the SMFI to discuss various operational and programmatic issues. Included were topics on attracting clients, relationships with NGOs, service and products, and linkages with RUSSACOs, VSLAs and SMEs, as well as sharia-compliant products.

Challenges discussed by SMFI leadership included lack of trained personnel and high turnover. Despite this, the SMFI has had no loan defaults during its 3 years of operations. The CEO believes that the success of the MFI is due to support of the government and PRIME, trust of the community, as well as coordination with other NGOs. The SMFI provides loans for agricultural/livestock activities, trade, services, construction, manufacturing and other sectors. It provides loans to groups, individuals and SMEs.

### ***Sharia compliant training for RuSACCOs in the Eastern Cluster***

Mercy Corps and ACPA jointly facilitated a training for RuSACCOs to improve rural financial service providers' core functions and develop sharia-compliant products for members of RuSACCOs. Mercy Corps and ACPA are working with woreda Cooperative Promotion Agency staff to revitalize RuSACCOs in the area to increase access to finance for pastoralists and TOPs, while improving their financial literacy level. During the quarter, 457 members (405 female, 52 male) from 11 RuSACCOs were trained and the training will continue next quarter to train up to 1000 RuSACCO members in the region.

### ***Capacity Building Training- TOT for woreda cooperative agency***

26 experts from Somali Regional Cooperative Promotion Agency at regional, Zonal and district level participated in this TOT training in Jigjiga. The main objective was to strengthen the capacity of cooperative agencies that have direct mandate in establishing, certifying and supporting RuSACCOs. The modules or manuals of training were Cooperatives Theory and Practice; Cooperatives Law in Ethiopia; Islamic Finance, Governance; establishment and administration of SACCOs in general, RuSACCO Organization and Management (establishment, start up, community mobilization, forming group, registration, monitoring and evaluation, by-law development) and business plan development, accounting and bookkeeping for Cooperatives; Financial Management and Financing of Cooperatives, Marketing and Customer relations and client protection, RuSACCOs Role in Saving Mobilization and Community Development which would help those participants involved on the ToT to cascade the knowledge to the grassroots levels as it was intended to. PRIME leveraged on the expertise of AEMFI's inclusive financial services research and training department.

## **Key Result 3.2: Increased income opportunities for TOPs**

### ***PRIME supported Mobile and Agent Banking initiative approved by NBE***

Following the approval from the National Bank of Ethiopia, Somali Microfinance (SMFI) will start the Mobile and Agent Banking pilot initiative in the Ethiopian Somali Regional State in January 2015.

Last year, PRIME signed an agreement with the Somali Microfinance Institution to fund the Financial Inclusion for the People of Somali Region in Ethiopia (FIPSRE) project through PRIME's Innovation and Investment Fund (IIF) mechanism. The FIPSRE project is a 3-year initiative that will be implemented jointly by Somali MFI and a private sector partner, BelCash Technology Solutions PLC, with technical and financial assistance by IR3 and IIF of PRIME project components. PRIME project provided a cost-share grant for the pilot during the first phase of project implementation, while the private sector partners will provide over 75 percent of the cost-share during the overall implementation period. Now that, the National bank of Ethiopia granted the approval, SMFI and BelCash started the pilot in the month of January, 2015. This project is expected to create more than 2000 jobs and benefit 42,000 households by creating access to different financial services through their mobile phone and the nearby agents of SMFI.

The Agent and Mobile Banking project meets the current needs of the target population for financial inclusion and opens doors for future generations to meet their own evolving needs. The target population will continue to use the service for its accessibility and affordability. The agent and mobile banking solution serves as a bridge to overcome challenges related to long distances of travel faced by the target population to access financial services due to the dispersed geographic settlement and the few number of bank branches available in the region. It also serves as the most suitable solution for the nomadic population as it allows them to make money transfers from the convenience of their mobile phones and access cash in and cash out services from registered agents whether they are on movement or if they have settled in a locality.

#### ***PRIME supported the Biennial Conference of Ethiopian MFIs***

The Association of Ethiopian Microfinance Institutions (AEMFI), a national network of Ethiopian Microfinance institutions, held its 8th Biennial conference from Wednesday October 22- Saturday October 25, 2014 in Lewi Resort, Hawassa. Mercy Corps, a longtime supporter and partner of AEMFI, sponsored this year's conference through the PRIME project. The support was invaluable in making the conference successful, Over 150 people from the inclusive finance arena specifically, executive directors of MFIs, board representatives of MFIs, Micro and small enterprise promotion, central banks, universities, international organizations, entrepreneurship promotion organizations, technology companies, financial cooperative experts and development partners from across the country and the continent attended the four-day event. Each year, the conference selects a different theme. This year, AEMFI incorporated an **“Inclusive finance for expanding opportunities for the financially excluded population”** theme.

The conference featured speakers who engaged attendees with a variety of topics, ranging from savings, youth finance, and innovative models in rural finance, entrepreneurship to sharing of other countries experience specifically the Sudanese MFI sector and to the technologies for inclusive finance providers. Comprised of seasoned and emerging inclusive finance professionals, the speakers brought to the table for discussion and experience sharing monumental issues like: saving and credit behavior of clients, technology, commercialization, non-interest bearing banking and etc. Additionally, they discussed innovative ways MFIs can reach their clients using the latest technologies. The diverse topics were beneficial to every level of MFI professional.

### ***Technical and financial support for establishment of Afar MFI***

During the reporting period, CARE and Mercy Corps continued their support for the establishment modalities of Afar MFI. A key requirement for the MFI to get a license from the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) is to hire a competent general manager and revise its business plan. In response to a request from AEMFI and AMFI, for the first year, PRIME will cost-share the salary of the general manager, who has been hired followed a recruitment process and approved by NBE. The NBE provisionally approved the establishment of the Afar MFI and soon it will receive its license and will start operating in the region. PRIME will continue providing technical support during its setup and startup stage until it becomes fully functional.

PRIME continues to provide technical and financial support for Afar MFI's set up, and has received a proposal by the MFI to provide capacity building support for its human resources. Staff at each hierarchy level requires specific training to improve overall competence that will lead to more productive and effective institutions providing adequate financial products and services. Even though the newly hired staff of Afar MFI and members of the board of directors have the necessary qualifications, they lack pertinent knowledge and skill of the microfinance industry (conventional & Islamic Modality) due to lack of experience in microfinance activities. Afar MFI has hence started house training in December 2014 that will continue through the end of January 2015 for about 39 of their staff on a cost-share basis with PRIME.

### ***Rays MFI***

PRIME provided technical assistance to establish Rays MFI and National Bank of Ethiopia has given the permit and license to start operations in Somali region. Rays is a fully private-owned company and shareholders have desire to play a role in improving provision of financial services in rural and urban areas of the region. Rays established its head office in Addis Ababa and will open nine branches in Jijjiga, Gode, Kabri-Dahar, Dagahbour, Fik, Warder, Filtu, Shinile and Hargele and Dire Dawa.



Caption: Training of Afar MFI staff at Samara

During the quarter, Mercy Corps reviewed the Rays proposal and agreed to support in the areas of strengthening the core functions of the MIF including need assessment/product development, branch expansion and MIS/core banking solutions. The SOW for the need assessment and product development was developed and announced globally to hire a qualified consultancy firm. Pre-award assessment and compliance activities have been completed and in the next quarter an agreement will be signed with the MFI and consultancy firm hired to conduct the Islamic and conventional finance need assessment and product development.

### ***Cost sharing grant for poultry input supplier expansion in Jigjiga***

The objective of the cost-sharing grant is to expand poultry input and feed supply in the agro-pastoralist communities and for people transitioning out of pastoralism in the region. Friends Poultry Farm from Jigjiga has submitted its proposal for funding to PRIME. The proposal has

been reviewed and accepted for a grant. ACPA signed a FOG agreement for the expansion, which started in Q8 and continued during Q9. The poultry farm has now acquired a hatching machine and feed mixer.

### **Key Result 3.3: Market Access Expanded to Increase Employment Opportunities**

#### ***Identifying and Piloting Micro-franchise Business Model in Afar***

Woreda-level wholesalers and retailers were contacted to explain the model. During the last quarter, the team identified a soap manufacturing company from Addis Ababa and is waiting for a response regarding a suitable business model.

#### ***Competitive Cost-Share Grant for Solar Kiosk Franchise Business Expansion (ongoing)***

SOS Sahel held discussions with two solar businesses for franchise expansion. A payment was made to one distributor (Dinsefa Mohammed Electronics PLC) to begin implementing activities during next quarter.

#### ***Competitive cost grant for Expansion of Regional input suppliers in Eastern cluster***

The overall objective of this activity is to enhance agro-pastoralists' access to improved quality agricultural inputs and their knowledge and skills to increase their productivity and income. During Q8, PRIME called for proposals from applicants interested in expanding their agri-input business in Eastern cluster intervention areas. Eight suppliers applied for the competitive grant, of which five were successful after a thorough screening and selection process. Of the five grantees, four completed all their milestones during Q9 and are functioning well. They are expected to reach over 3000 households.

To expand outreach to the target beneficiaries, PRIME has announced a second round call for proposals for woreda-level Agriculture input suppliers who will be linked to Regional Agriculture input suppliers, with the expectation that they will need agents to create access and availability of inputs to farmers.

***Competitive cost grant for Expansion of Regional input suppliers in Southern cluster:*** PRIME provided competitive business expansion grant for private agricultural input suppliers looking to serve areas where access to inputs is constrained. Five businesses applied for grant, of which two signed agreements with PRIME. In Q9 the recipients continued their expansion work and are close to finalizing it as per milestones specified in the agreement. There are two businesses in the pipeline to sign agreement and start expansion.

#### ***Experience Sharing Visit on Irrigated Agriculture in Southern Cluster***

Experience sharing visits for horticulture producing farmers were organized by SOS Sahel and Mercy Corps between 12 and 18 December for 50 individuals (2F) comprised of model agro-pastoralists (35) and government experts (15) from three districts in Guji zone (Wadera, Gorodola and Liben) participated in an exchange visit to East Showa zone to learn about improved irrigation practices.

Participants visited and discussed seed bed preparation, seed rate, seed multiplication, transplanting, and rate of fertilizer application, cultivation, pesticide, and insecticide and

herbicide application. In addition, participants viewed the different farming practices of various crops including papaya, banana, onion, tomato, cabbage and green pepper. Participants stated that the visit was useful and they obtained practical experience which they plan to use on their own farms and also share with other farmers. Potential opportunities for future activity implementation include: good coordination from government; self-motivated agro-pastoralists; and practical experience gained in diversified crops and irrigation practices. Lessons learned related to organizing similar visits includes limiting participant numbers to facilitate effective discussion and maintaining good coordination with relevant government bodies well in advance of the visit. Follow-up technical support and monitoring will be provided to ensure practices are shared and implemented.

#### ***Locally-manufactured small wind turbine pilot***

Construction of wind turbine with Jigjiga Polytechnic college was initiated, with students and teachers selected. Training on wind turbine installation is ongoing at Jigjiga TVET, with 17 participants taking the course. After the training, the wind turbine will be installed by trainees at Hadow kebele, 10km from Jigjiga.

#### ***Cost share grant for agriculture threshing machines***

Cost share grants for two agricultural threshing machineries to two cooperatives in Babile Oromia were signed. Since it is currently harvesting season, the two cooperatives started operating with the technology to thresh their harvest. According to their brief reports about the operation of the machines, the two coops threshed more than 190 quintals of sorghum for the cooperative members and individual farmers in the first two weeks and generated 6000 birr of income as a result of the technology.

#### ***ECDD provided technical support for disability inclusion in PRIME programing***

Technical support was provided to PRIME Energy and Entrepreneurship Officers in Eastern Cluster to enroll 4 persons with disabilities on Solar PV and 7 others in welding, furniture making, and automotive technology training.

Identification and registration of 48 persons with disabilities has been carried out in Eastern Cluster through community case finding and school linkage. In addition, a small-scale need assessment was also made with a view to make possible interventions to facilitate engagement of these people in economically lucrative businesses.

Technical support and facilitation was carried out to enroll 7 persons with disabilities in Eastern cluster, Jigjiga Polytechnic College for short term entrepreneurship training on welding, furniture making and automotive technology.

#### ***Training in Economic and Market Systems Development (EMSD) Approach and Methodologies***

In December 2014, PRIME IR1 and IR 3 have successfully organized and conducted specialized training on EMSD approach and methodologies. The objective of the training is to enable PRIME's IR1 and IR3 teams understand the market system development (MSD) approach, its difference from direct service delivery approach and be able to plan, implement and evaluate basic MSD implementations consistent with the approach and PRIME's objectives. The training delivered

the core concepts of EMD and skills required to facilitate and implement EMD project and interventions. This training focused mainly on new PRIME staff who joined after October 2013. It was conducted in Negelle and Jigjiga with a total of 49 participants from Mercy Corps, CARE, SOS Sahel, ECDD, AISDA, and ACPA. The Core Trainers of the EMD training were Jeton Starova, Netsaalem Bahiru and co-facilitators were Dadi Gelashe, Sintayehu Alemayehu, Mahlet Seifu and Maryan S. Ali.

**Table 14. Key Topics of the EMSD training**

Concepts	Skills
<b>EMD Approach</b>	Designing Activities
<b>Strategic framework</b>	Developing Concept note
<b>Systemic Change</b>	M & E - Impact - Systemic change
<b>Anatomy of transaction</b>	(Measuring result) Collecting and analyzing performance data
<b>Sustainability matrix in market system</b>	Diagnosing systemic constraints and leveraging points
<b>Facilitation</b>	Coaching, measuring, listening, encouraging and communicating
<b>Results chain</b>	Making and communicating offer Rationalizing activities

### Priorities for Next Quarter

#### ***3.1: TOPs employability increased through life skills, financial literacy and entrepreneurship training***

- Facilitation and assistance to new and existing MFIs to expand their service and develop inclusive financial products
- Linkage and loan facilitation with MFI/Banks for business like PVP, SMEs, Solar business, and disabled groups
- Financial Literacy and numeracy training via PSP model to RuSSACOs/VSLAs

#### ***3.2: Increased income opportunities for TOPs***

- Business expansion grant for agricultural inputs, solar technology, PSB, poultry, fodder, and aloe soap
- Identifying opportunity and work with institutions that support establishment of seed (crop and fodder) businesses
- Facilitation of investment forums

#### ***3.3: Market Access Expanded to Increase Employment Opportunities***

- Awarding short term vocational scholarship program for youth, women and disabled TOPs in all clusters
- Micro-franchising business opportunity for women and disabled TOPs

- Financial and technical assistance to institutions such as TVETs and OSC to provide literacy and numeracy trainings
- Exposure visits to areas where TOPs obtain best experience on climate change adaptive alternative livelihoods
- Facilitating apprenticeship opportunities for TOPs

## **INTERMEDIATE RESULT 4: ENHANCED INNOVATION, LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT**

### **Key result 4.1: Project performance enhanced through effective monitoring**

#### ***Management Information System for PRIME: Ki-projects™ & Ki-metrics™***

PRIME Management information systems (MIS) are comprised of web-based project management, performance measurement and information dissemination software applications. The MIS applications support PRIME's efforts to foster project integration, mainstream results based practices, increases quality and efficiency in activity design and promote transparency in program business management processes. These applications include Ki-projects™ and Ki-metrics™ for output and outcome level project management.

#### ***Ki-projects™***

Overall, Ki-projects continues to be optimized with performance enhancements resulting from user feedback and ongoing systems quality control. The dashboard has been completed during quarter under review per PRIME requirements and awaiting any additional feedback from user for enhanced customization. The most important functionalities currently under design are the offline tool and the output level indicator value generation capability. The offline Ki-projects is a replica of the online information system and is designed to enable users to continue using the database system during times of internet slow-down, freeze or unavailability or systems failure altogether. This additional functionality provides a shared database space to create and store concept notes and automatically synchronize them into Ki-projects online. Consequently, the two database systems will remain up to date with each other, thus ensuring higher levels of data quality. The offline tool will be completed in next quarter provided no new requests for customization are made. The most important feature currently in the works is the output level indicator value generation functionality that will enable PRIME to automatically compute performance information from data stored in the database system. This system mirrors the USAID Feed the Future online information system to ensure output performance data available in concept notes and reports are computed and generated in compliance with prescribed reporting requirements. This system upgrade is supported by algorithms which map concept notes with related indicators and generate performance information at the desired level of disaggregation. Because the system will rely on aggregated raw data values, there are limitations in its ability to comprehensively address the potential cases of double counting which have implications for data quality. Nonetheless, by building in multipliers and discount rates to account for overlaps within and between components, such occurrences should be minimized. The tool will be completed in the next quarter given its strong linkages with PRIME's M&E plan.

#### ***Spot Checks***

Due to the reporting requirements under FTFMS and AidTracker+ during the early part of Q9 and the logistics and continuous meetings with the Midterm Evaluation Review team, the LKM team was not able to roll out the spot check methodology during Q9 as previously planned. The spot check training and roll out will take place in Q10.

### ***Data Quality Assessment***

Following the completion of the internal DQA in quarter 8, Kimetrica designed an action plan to track the implementation of recommendations made by the evaluation mission. The plan is updated monthly to reflect activity completion status. Key action points include the completion of the M&E plan, clearing the backlog of concept notes in Ki-projects and the launching of the recipient database. To date all backlog data has been cleared while the M&E plan and recipient database are in progress and expected to be completed during quarter 10. The action plan also recommends M&E refresher training for staff which will be implemented as soon as the M&E plan itself is finalized and approved (Q10).

**Table 15. Status of key recommendations of the DQA**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
Finalize all fields in Indicator Reference Sheets and define protocols for:	Counting impact beneficiaries for all IRs	In progress, requires inputs from IR leaders and LKM
	Defining multipliers	In progress, requires inputs from IR leaders and LKM
	Data collection method for output & outcome level indicators	Done for FtF. Completion pending approval.
	Parties responsible for data collection and reporting	Done for FtF. Completion pending approval
	Roll-out IRS through web interfaces and cluster level training	Pending finalization of M&E plan
Update M&E plan	Update plan to show new M&E tools	Pending finalization of M&E plan
	Include data management & safeguarding protocols	Done for FtF. Completion pending approval of possible additional indicators
	Roll-out revised M&E plan	Pending finalization of M&E plan
Recipient partner reporting	Finalize design and roll-out of institutional/recipient database	In progress, data required from IR teams.
	Harmonize or integrate IIF procedures with overall PRIME activity approval, monitoring & reporting processes	Need to discuss with IR leaders if additional measures are required
	Design standardized reporting from institutional/recipient database	Done
	Rolling training for recipient partners on PRIME data quality requirements	Pending data entry into IDB
Ki-projects functionality	Offline database	In progress, pending M&E indicators list finalization
	Evdo for staff	In progress in SC
	Show sub-activity unique identifiers in “immediate result screen”	Done
Data management & safeguarding	Assign database managers to clusters or refocus LKMs scope of work	Kimetrica will complete database manager hiring this week.
	Finalize backlog data entry of CN and reports into Ki-projects	Done
	Perform systems test to remove errors, identify missing reports & match CN with report	Ongoing process
	Create “permission” to change values in Ki-metrics	Done in database but report is pending and requires PRIME inputs

Output level indicator value generation	Finalize relationship map of indicators with sub-activities to show parent/child relationships	Almost done, pending M&E indicator finalization
	Develop algorithms in Ki-projects for output value generation	Almost done, pending M&E indicator finalization
Inconsistent & incomplete reports	Approve/close all pending and open reports in Ki-projects	Done for backlog, PRIME needs to finalize for ongoing reports
	Harmonize values (mostly targets) reported in word document with database screen (cases of mismatch)	Done for backlog, PRIME needs to finalize for ongoing reports
	Put dates on all CN & reports	Done for backlog, PRIME needs to finalize for ongoing reports
	Match report titles with CN	Done for backlog, PRIME needs to finalize for ongoing reports
	Create a feature in Ki-projects to send reminders to staff & supervisors when reports are due	Done
Data traceability	Define means of data verification (e.g: attendance sheets & certificates)	LKM to provide update
	Attach means of data verification to all activity completion reports	LKM to provide update
	Define accessible storage space for hard copy documents	LKM to provide update
	Provide verifiable information on beneficiary location (from recipients)	Will be validated through spot checks
Data verification Increase frequency & randomize	Managers should check report completion before approval	Advisors have been informed. Others in field will be trained during M&E roll out.
	Avoiding quarterly reporting of outcome indicators for which data can be only reported annually	Starting Q9

### ***PRIME M&E plan***

During quarter 9, PRIME reached an agreement with USAID on indicator targets for the remainder of the project. In this respect, Kimetrica started upgrading the M&E plan dated May 2013 to reflect agreements reached, provide additional clarification for concepts, complete all sections with relevant information and validate assumptions based on feedback from project leaders. These efforts will contribute to strengthening the overall M&E plan which will be delivered to PRIME in quarter 10.

### ***Activity monitoring and documentation***

In Eastern cluster, the PRIME LKM team conducted progress monitoring on 25 livestock traders that had received the a Murabaha sharia compliant product by Somali Microfinance Institution designed for traders. 80% of traders made, on average, livestock transactions twice (buying and selling). Babile, Obesha, Fiq, Chareti, Deghle, Lafaisa, Deghabour, Kebribeyah, Hartisheik and Segeg livestock markets are those used for the transactions. As a result, the LKM team was able to verify that the livestock traders purchased 3,077 livestock (3,011 shoats and 66 camels).

In Southern Cluster, the LKM team conducted monitoring visits to businesses supported by PRIME to understand how they are performing in terms of job creation, profits and market linkages, as well as the challenges they are facing. Monitoring shows that many of them are now completing the milestones agreed upon through cost-sharing grants, and that they are already functioning and providing services to the community. Many of them are creating jobs for locals and expanding their outreach.

### ***Emergency Intervention After-Action Reflection***

In mid-December, the LKM team organized and facilitated an after-action review for the emergency intervention in Borena (crisis modifier), Afar and Liben (OFDA proposal). Participants included representatives from partner organizations involved in the response, PRIME cluster program managers, emergency coordinator and focal points, LKM staff involved in targeting and monitoring, and PRIME leadership. Representatives from OFDA also attended. The review focused on the challenges faced and lessons learned during the intervention, as well as reflection of how PRIME could improve its processes to ensure faster and more effective interventions.

### ***Support to PRIME mid-term review***

During Q9, LKM teams in Addis Ababa and the three clusters were pulled from their regular duties to provide support to the mid-term review team contracted by USAID-AKLDP. As a result, a few activities, such as the spot checks and LKM workshop scheduled during Q9 had to be postponed to Q10.

## **Key result 4.2: Project decision making and adaptations based on strong evidence**

### ***PRIME Annual Survey Report***

The objective of this survey is to provide performance information to PRIME decision-makers based on progress in relation to select indicators and targets for Year 2. The survey was implemented in quarter 8 and initial results and the first official draft of the report were generated during the quarter under review fed into PRIME annual reporting to USAID. The survey was implemented with 583 impact beneficiary households randomly sampled from a list of 600 project recipients selected purposively from the list of 2000 recipients in Ki-metrics database. The survey used a combination of primary data collection and analysis and a review of project operational reports. The analysis shows that out of five indicators for which target information was available at the time, with the exception of one, PRIME met all targets. However, there are clear variations between regions and Intermediary Results which needs to be addressed in order to achieve scale and greater project integration. There were limitations to the survey which should inform future studies, including the absence of targets for custom indicators and the absence of qualitative information to further bolster findings.

In addition to FTF and PPR indicators, the annual survey found the following results for custom indicators:

1.1.3: Number (%) of households reporting improved access to resources	50.0%
3.0/3.2.4: Average number of alternative income sources	2.5
5.0: Percentage of men and women reporting meaningful participation of women in decision-making regarding productive resources and income	~22% <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Approximately 22% have an input into all economic decisions

### ***SenseMaker***

With matching funds, PRIME is testing the SenseMaker application to measure and monitor attitudes and behavior change for its nutrition work in all clusters. An initial pilot of the tool was done in Year 2, through which lessons and recommendations were drawn to improve both the framework and procedure for story collection. We are looking into expanding the frameworks to cover NRM activities and the nutrition soap opera during Year 3.

During the quarter, the Afar LKM team collected nutrition-related stories using SenseMaker. Three data collectors were hired and given a one-day training on the tool. The guidelines were also translated into Afari with the help of data collectors. Thirty nutrition-related stories were collected: 10 in Debele kebele of Gelaleo woreda, 11 stories in Disiri village of Amibara woreda and 9 stories in Sabure kebele of Awash Fentale woreda.

In Southern cluster, the LKM team also collected 30 stories from Yabello, Miyo and Moyale woredas using 2 local data collectors previously trained in story collection. Similarly, Eastern cluster collected 30 stories from Tuli-Guled, Erer and Shinile districts, using three story collectors from Havoyoco's circus/drama groups (supervised by Mercy Corps) who had just been trained in the SenseMaker nutrition framework.

### ***Market Facilitation Approach Monitoring***

Mercy Corps and CARE, with technical assistance from Practical Action, developed tools to monitor PRIME's market facilitation approach in order capture the effects of PRIME interventions. The PRIME team is pursuing three monitoring pilots in Somali region (financial services, traders/brokers, and animal health services) to track changes in two key areas – crowding in/replication and improved quality of market relationships. During Q9, the LKM team developed data collection tools for PVPs, CAHWs, and livestock/abattoir relationship questionnaire. During Q10, PVPs will be trained on how to respond to SMS questions through their cellular phones.

### ***Milk Quality Analysis in Eastern Cluster***

This study by Haramaya University aimed at identifying the milk quality problems, existing methods for quality analysis, testing methods, procedures and practices traders can use with affordable price and documenting simple, cost-effective and equipment that can be used on spot. The research is conducted in Afar and Eastern Cluster. The research involved a detailed desk research, key informant interview and laboratory analysis. The study looked into the milk handling practice from site of production (pastoralists homestead) to where it is collected in bulks (collection centers and cooperatives). The study identified infectious non-infectious causes of agents/contaminants involved in the degradation of milk quality as well as major factors that contributes to the actual milk quality problems in the study areas. Furthermore, the document consolidating the actual milk quality problems along the dairy value chain of Eastern cluster was drafted and communicated to IR advisors and partners during this quarter (preliminary findings were shared in the Y2 report).

### ***Market Research on Existing Insurance Products and Study of Best practices/Lessons Learned in Eastern and Afar clusters***

The study was conducted in Afar and Eastern cluster of PRIME by Haramaya University. The Research is completed and report is already finalized. The assessment was carried out in two phases: a preliminary case study and a questionnaire-based survey. In the case study part the insurance companies, micro-finance institutions and NGOs supporting the micro-insurance products were assessed. In the survey, pastoralists' preference of insurance products was assessed. In general, the study revealed that in both Afar and eastern clusters, pastoralists have strong reciprocity based informal insurance networks with their clan members. Furthermore, the major risk types associated with pastoralist production system include droughts, flood, livestock disease, and predators. The full report is completed and shared with PRIME partners (preliminary findings were shared in the Y2 report).

***Effect of Plastic Grain Storage Bags Combined with Behavior Change Communication (BCC) on Household Nutrition Security of Children under Five, Lactating and Pregnant Women in Afar cluster***

This research encompasses interviews with pastoralists, anthropometric data collection as well as grain sample collection and laboratory analysis. The study revealed that both plastic bag grain storage technology and BCC have brought change in dietary habits and in better managing of food items. Moreover, both interventions have created awareness and such knowledge creation by itself was mentioned as a good and positive move towards enhancing the nutritional status of the households in general. Having grain storage facility in the area was mentioned by all to be unequivocally important. Although most respondents that adopt plastic grain storage have a positive feeling about the technology, they highlight suggestions to the team. The full report of the study has been shared.

***Gap Analysis in the Production and Dissemination of Animal Health Education Materials (all clusters)***

This research by Haramaya University aimed to investigate the current gaps with regards to the production of AHEMs in the three clusters of PRIME. The study specifically aimed to assess the type quantity and quality of AHEMs (training materials, animal health extension booklets, brochures and posters, etc.) produced by the government, NGOs or private actors that directly or indirectly involve in the animal health service delivery. The study involved key informant interviews with government offices and NGOs as well as data collection from pastoralists/agropastoralists using semi- structured questionnaires. The assessment identified the major actors involved in the production and dissemination of AHEMs. Moreover, the study has enlisted the type of the materials produced so far taking into consideration of quality and quantity. Most interestingly the study resulted in getting feedback in the interest of private actors (PVPs) to cost-share with the government and/or NGOs in the production and dissemination of AHEMs, a model that could help PRIME create a platform or a forum for business linkage of these actors. The final report has been submitted to IR advisors.

**Key result 4.3: Policy information base strengthened**

***Policy Research on Cross-Border Trade***

Haramaya University started this research to identify the laws and institutions that govern the conduct of cross-border trade relevant to the productions and demands of the pastoral communities (these include import-export regulations, monetary regulations-especially with

respect to currency used in cross-border trade, availability of custom duty posts, animal health institutions, quality control, infrastructure etc.), examining the actual and potential legal, institutional, economic and political obstacles for cross-border trade and relationship between cross-border trade and resiliency of pastoralists in PRIME operational areas, investigating the modalities of transactions taking place across borders in PRIME operational areas (Afar-Djibouti, Ethiopian Somali-Djibouti, Ethiopian Somali- Somalia, Ethiopian Somali-Somaliland, Borena-Kenya), identifying the key actors in cross-border trade. According to the findings of the research available best alternatives for intervention in the expansion and increase of cross-border trade in livestock and livestock products, animal feed and other food items will be recommended.

The multi-disciplinary team established for this purpose conducted field survey in Addis Ababa and in the three clusters during this last quarter of year two. Experts working in relevant offices, traders and pastoralists were interviewed based on questionnaires duly prepared for this purpose. Policy and legal documents are collected and analyzed. The analysis of data and report writing is completed and the final report is communicated for IR4 advisor.

### ***Disability Inclusion in Policy Frameworks - A Policy Analysis on Inclusive Pastoral Development***

Policy information gap analysis has been conducted by Haramaya University to inform PRIME partners about existing policies and gaps and opportunities in these policies. This sub- activity builds upon on previously conducted policy information gap analysis by analyzing the content of each policy/program in PRIME operational areas in addressing the special needs of people with disability in pastoral communities. The evaluation of the policies in terms of their inclusiveness aims at strengthening the knowledge base required to come up with more comprehensive policy recommendations that ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Thus, this activity is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding on the weakness & strengths of relevant policies, laws and practices in integrating the needs of persons with disabilities in PRIME operational areas. The field survey was conducted in collaboration with ECDD local disability advisors in the three clusters and in Addis Ababa. Data is being analyzed and the final report is under preparation.

### **Key result 4.4: Information dissemination and coordination improved**

#### ***Learning and Knowledge Management Strategy***

During Q9, Kimetrica started the design of a comprehensive knowledge management and learning strategy for PRIME that is tailored to the specific needs of PRIME's multifaceted internal and external learning and resource sharing needs. The outcome of this assignment includes the learning and knowledge management strategy paper that will provide clear guidance on actionable measures for filling knowledge gaps, including forums and information systems that promote knowledge seeking and sharing within the project environment. Kimetrica's approach to this assignment was highly consultative and entirely needs driven, focused on understanding user needs and processes both internal and external to the project. The first draft of this strategy was submitted during the quarter under review and the final version expected in quarter 10.

#### ***Learning briefs***

In an effort to enhance its communications and marketing outreach, PRIME commissioned the design of briefs to help improve stakeholder understanding of select project components and activities. This new initiative has entailed extensive exchanges between PRIME leadership and brief designers (Kimetrica, independent consultants and PRIME staff) to ensure clarity and consistency concepts and formats used. The first briefs are expected to be ready for sharing and printing during quarter 10.

### ***Communication Plan***

A final draft of the PRIME communications plan was shared with PRIME consortium partners and staff, and a presentation has been prepared summarizing the key points of the plan so that all staff can easily access tips, formats, and expectations. During Q9 Mercy Corps identified a printer/design company that will assist with the finalization of strategic communication materials. Weekly updates for consortium members, USAID and other partners continue as planned.

### ***Internal communication and coordination***

#### ***Intranet***

This internal web portal is designed to provide PRIME consortium members with a shared space to exchange learning, knowledge and related supporting resources. Resources include a shared calendar to keep track of internal project events, an inter-active map showing project locations, a wide variety of reports and research documents and individualized project component resources. The portal is designed to be interactive and integrates assistive technology to enhance access for a wider audience. This portal received USAID's Web Governance approval during Q9 and was launched in December 2014. USAID is currently reviewing it for security and until full clearance is granted it will remain accessible to users with log-in privileges only.

#### ***Development of Templates***

PRIME's communications specialist finalized templates for PRIME reports and PRIME PowerPoint presentations, and shared them with project team members. The templates will ensure that the necessary contents are included in both PRIME reports and presentations. They will also enhance the visibility and value of U.S. foreign assistance by following the necessary branding guidelines in the USAID's branding manual. The templates will also improve the impact and consistency of communication efforts by the project.

#### ***Marking and Branding Orientation***

The communications specialist took an advantage of an Economic and Market Development (EMD) training session in Addis to provide a 2-hour orientation on USAID branding and marking issues, highlighting USAID branding and marking guidelines, and the project's marking and branding plans, which are part of PRIME's communication strategy. Participants raised questions and concerns, and explanations were given. A preliminary plan of activities in the clusters that need branding and marking was also developed in the session, which was further refined to guide the branding and marking supports.

#### ***LKM workshops***

Since LKM field and Addis Ababa-based staff were busy with PRIME mid-term reviewers, the LKM workshop originally scheduled for the beginning of December had to be pushed to Q10.

### *Cluster coordination and partners' meetings*

Cluster coordination meetings and partners' management meetings continued during the quarter. Partners' meetings focused on providing consortium partners with highlights of implementation as well as challenges that can be solved at Addis Ababa and cluster level. Cluster coordination meeting objectives were revised to ensure these include strategic planning at the cluster level, as well as reflection sessions with the different technical teams to continue high quality programming. Clusters are facilitating these meetings at a monthly/every two month basis. Partners' meetings will continue on a monthly basis for now.

## **Key result 4.5: Two-way communication channels strengthened**

### ***Review meetings and joint monitoring with government***

*Annual Government Review Meeting - Afar:* One aspect of monitoring PRIME activities includes the active participation of all relevant stakeholders so as to identify implementation weaknesses and strengths for improved decision making. Review meetings with relevant regional sector offices and woreda line offices helps to identify key achievements, areas of improvement, and improve the partnership among stakeholders.

CARE facilitated an annual review meeting of PRIME's year two progress with all relevant regional sector bureaus, the Zonal administrator and the six implementation woreda PADOs on 28 November in Awash town. The main purpose of the review meeting was to strengthen evidence-based participatory project performance management and enhance two-way communication with regional and woreda government offices.

Some key learning points were to improve partnership with both woredas, and to fill area-specific project implementation gaps. The project also presented its annual plan in order to incorporate their feedback. In general, the review meeting was very successful in promoting two way communication and partnership at the regional level. Though project progress is satisfactory, it needs to double its effort during the remaining life of the project.

The participants agreed that PRIME should break down activities and budget at the woreda, zonal and regional level so that the PADB could approve the plan and send to woreda offices. It was also agreed that the woreda-level plans should be flexible with PRIME having the ability to shift budget from one woreda to another, as long as woreda PADOs were informed.

*Joint Field Monitoring Visit to Bonkoto Molale Sub-Rangeland and Fatuma Delaytu Pond:* A field visit for regional participants was made to Fatuma Delaytu pond in Gewane woreda,



Bonkoto Molale sub-rangeland unit on 30 Nov. The aim of the visit was to strengthen evidence-based participatory project performance management, to enhance the partnership with regional and woreda government offices, and to show project contribution towards improving the lives of pastoralist women and girls. The participants visited prosopis clearing sites and met range land council members to discuss implementation, PRIME's contribution and community roles.

The team also visited the Fatuma Delaytu pond rehabilitation activities and observed the completed silt excavation masonry work. Participants expressed their satisfaction with the project by clearing prosopis through empowering communities. They also mentioned that the integration of prosopis clearing with the pond rehabilitation helps to improve overall productivity livestock and advised to do the same in other project implementation areas.

#### *Joint monitoring of PRIME activities in Somali Region*

PRIME along with woreda governments, met with PVPs and other businesses the project is supported and communities in different localities of Moyale, Hudet, and Filtu woredas. In general, government representatives seemed pleased with PRIME's market facilitation interventions including the crisis modifier response in Southern Cluster. One suggestion from the government representatives, was to ensure a regular stream of reports to the woredas as well as the inclusion of relevant government offices during the implementation of activities.

***TOT Training on Forward Accountability/Community Scorecard:*** Based on the success of CARE, PRIME has adopted use of the community score card for accountability. The community scorecard creates opportunities for information sharing; mutual objective and critical assessment of service quality, effectiveness and efficiency; and joint decision-making. It is also the process of scoring and monitoring aspects of service. It motivates service providers to measure and improve their performance. The tool also promotes discussion and dialogue between service user and service provider to build community empowerment.

During the quarter, CARE facilitated forward accountability ToT training for 21 participants (2 female) from 22 - 24 October in Adama city. The main objective of the training was to promote forward accountability among all its projects and partners. The trainees were drawn from all PRIME clusters, learning and knowledge management staff, Afar IR leaders and PRIME partner organizations. Each cluster prepared an action plan for implementation of the community scorecard in their respective areas.

#### **IR4 Priorities for Q10**

- Finalizing solutions and recommendations identified through the internal DQA
- Roll out spot checks and trainings for LKM staff
- Finalize latest iteration of M&E plan and roll out to PRIME clusters
- Continue support to Mid-term Evaluation team (USAID)
- Piloting plans for community scorecard
- Review meetings with government
- Deployment of website once security tests have been finalized by USAID
- Rolling out of SenseMaker tool for NRM's framework while continuing nutrition framework's story collection.

#### **INTERMEDIATE RESULT 5.0: NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF HOUSEHOLDS IMPROVED**

##### **Key result 5.1: Improved Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices**

### ***Improved Counseling & Community Support***

During the quarter, the PRIME Nutrition Team continued its partnership with the Regional Health Bureaus to begin Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA) trainings in unreached Kebeles, and continued Community Conversations among women's groups as part of improving nutrition counseling, education and awareness support. PRIME focused on strengthening local capacity by implementing three key ENA program components as recommended by government (Health Facility level, Community level and Behavioral Change Communication) through trainings, IEC material prioritization & design, as well as logistical and technical support to cascade the training to kebeles in PRIME operational areas. In addition, as part of scale-up of nutrition messages PRIME team is further exploring potential venues to integrate/add-on nutrition messages. Integrating nutrition messages with the existing venues is important for reaching large community group and sustains interventions on behavior changes process.

### ***Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA) Training of Trainers for health workers***

During the quarter, PRIME through partnership with GoE Health Offices provided a two-day Training of Trainers (TOT) for 236 (112 Men and 124 Women) Health Extension Workers and Health Workers working at health center level. The main objective of this training is to equip frontline health workers with skills and knowledge to improve maternal and child health nutrition counseling, and communication and education services at health facility and community level. Training was organized in East and South cluster. Participants were recruited from 9 districts of Jarar zone (Gashamo, Daror, Awbare, Yuale, Ararso, Degahbour, Burqod, and Degahmaedow & Gunagedo) of Ethiopian Somali regional state of EC and Liben woreda of SC.



This training targeted those kebeles not addressed in the last year. The trainings were facilitated with trained health professionals from Regional Health Bureaus and Zonal Health Offices. Training sessions were facilitated using the ENA national standard training modules. None of the health workers trained had received ENA training before, yet they were expected to conduct activities on ENA at their workplace. At the end of the training, facilitators assessed participants understanding level to provide properly counseling and integrating ENA protocol in their day-to-day activities. Finally, all participants developed action plans detailing how ENA will be cascaded to the community level, integrating with health facility counseling protocols and reporting system. To ensure the quality of counseling service at health facilities PRIME nutrition officers are responsible in mentoring and providing on job training for all health facilities.

### ***Cascading the ENA Training***

During the quarter, the PRIME Nutrition team, in collaboration with health and agricultural extension workers, cascaded ENA training down to the community level. Through this approach, an additional **610 (24 men and 589 women)** community members, including pregnant/lactating women and influential individuals were reached. Prior to cascading this training, the team developed ENA Cascading Guide and a Guide for Peer-guided Nutrition Counselling. The guide was developed with a focus on the concept of 1,000 days and seven action messages. The objectives of ENA cascading training is primarily to reach participants with basic ENA messages and also provide skills on how to facilitate dialogue with other community members. Participants are expected to facilitate ongoing dialogue on the key messages through their community-level networks. Health extension workers are responsible to providing additional technical support and supervising community level peer discussion group.



***Cascading ENA at the Community Level - Gewane woreda***

### ***IYCF training for Community health Volunteers***

PRIME, through HAVOYOCO, conducted training on Infant and Young child Feeding (IYCF) for 60 community representatives selected from Bombas and Fafan and Lafa'isa of Fafan Zone.



Before organizing the training, the HAVOYOCO team along with Health Extension Workers identified potential women and men from each site and organized as Community Health Volunteer Groups (CHVG) to reach target beneficiary with IYCF key messages and facilitate dialogue through organizing women to women groups in their nearby village. The CHVG consist of twenty members, 15 of whom are women, and 5 male. These CHVG were organized because in Somali

regional State there is no structure like the Women's Development Army (WDA), as in other regions of Ethiopia. Therefore, the CHVG will have similar functions like WDA in facilitating dialogue with different community members and working as liaison between community and health extensions workers. CHVGs are expected to meet once in a month for review meeting at

health post level where the HEW in the health post lead the monthly review meeting and provide on-going technical assistant for each group.

### ***Rapid Assessment on Dietary Diversity and Eating Habits in Borena and Guji***

During the quarter, PRIME conducted rapid assessment on dietary diversity in Borena and Guji zones. The assessment was designed to explore supplementary information--specifically key barriers and practice on dietary diversity, eating habits, and food taboos. PRIME has been undertaking various interventions to improve knowledge, awareness and actions around the dietary diversity, based on barrier analysis conducted in the last year. However, the Nutrition Team wanted to move away from standardized messages. Therefore, the PRIME team will develop specific messages and tailor key messages based on the assessment findings, and tweak them for specific target audiences (i.e. pregnant/lactating women, grandmothers, men). Findings of the assessment will be shared in the coming report period.

### ***Keyhole Gardening Training and Promotion***

Following the pilot activities conducted last year, PRIME plans to scale up the Keyhole Gardening during the remaining project period. Keyhole gardening is a technology that conserves and uses grey (waste water) in the production vegetables for household consumption. As part of this plan, the PRIME Nutrition team in Afar and Guji conducted a two-day field training on keyhole gardening for the health workers, Development Agents and School Club Leaders. A total of 81 participants from Amibara, Gewane and Awash Fentale woredas of Zone Three of Afar and Liben woreda of Guji zone attended this training. The training provided participants with new knowledge on producing nutritious food at the household level to meet the health and nutrition needs of children and women in vulnerable communities. Topics included advantages of keyhole gardening and vegetable gardening, how to construct keyhole gardens, vegetables recommended for both keyhole and home gardens, and the ideal sites and target groups for these types of gardens. In both clusters a practical session on demonstration of construction/ building the KHG organized at elementary schools in their localities. Each participant then prepared their own work plan which included constructing their own keyhole garden, and also when they will provide training to communities and students. In Afar Cluster, 567 people (350 men and 217 women) were trained in this methodology, through the cascading of training to community level.



*Keyhole Gardening training and demonstration garden*

### ***Promotional events through Edutainment***

During the quarter, PRIME organized 6 promotional events where a total of 12,387 individuals were exposed to key nutrition messages in the three clusters. The promotional events in this

quarter focused on concept of ‘1000 days’, feed and fodder for milking livestock, and demand for animal health service. PRIME is organizes promotional events in partnership with local theater groups. These theater groups convey key messages on the five behavior themes through productions that have nutrition messages woven into the storylines. These messages are reinforced with other promotional activities.

### ***Promotional campaign on ‘First 1000 Days’***

A promotional campaign on the concept of “First 1,000 Days” was conducted in Jijiga town. The aim was to improve eating habits of women during pregnancy and lactation and feeding practices of children up to age 2. Key messages of this campaign included maternal nutrition during pregnancy/lactation, early initiation of breast feeding after delivery, exclusive breast feeding till 6 months, and complementary feeding until age 2. Additional campaigns were organized by HAVOYOCO and conducted through the circus groups. These circus groups travelled to market places and other places where communities from different kebeles come together. It is estimated that around 7,300 (3,000 men and 4,300 women) individuals were exposed to the key messages during this promotional campaigns.

### ***Soap Opera for Social Change – Warner Bros. Partnership***

Partnership between Mercy Corps and Warner Bros. continues through review of scripts and provision of technical support in marketing. Mercy Corps has signed contracts with radio stations, the Ethiopia Broadcast Corporation, and ORTVO, in order to broadcast the first season of the SOSC drama. The drama will be aired in three local languages, targeting all of PRIME’s operational regions. Stations are excited about the potential of the series as there is very little high quality programming, particularly in Afari, Borena dialect, and Somali.

For the last few months, PRIME has been working with a local production company – Boku Arts. However, there have been struggles with the quality of the script writing, and in particular the accurate inclusion of key nutritional messages, and development of strong female characters. This caused significant delays with the launching of the show. After many script reviews (including Christopher Mack, VP for Warner Bros Writers Workshop) the team felt the quality of the scripts and the first round of produced shows were not able to be improved, and as a result the contract with Boku Art Promotion, was terminated. Warner Bros and USAID’s Communication office provided recommendations that ultimately led to a new contract with Zeleman Productions. The script writing and radio production activities are now on track for a March launch of the show.

## **Key result 5.2: Increased/Sustained Availability of and Access to Milk & livestock products**

### ***Improved Availability and Quality of Animal Feed for Nutrition***

PRIME, through HAVOYCO, trained 32 agriculture extension workers, selected from the zones of Shinile, Hadhigale, Erer, Meizo and Dembel in crop residue conservation techniques. Crop residue conservation is a process of preserving crop residues to use them as animal feed during pasture scarcity, especially for milking-livestock. The technique involves cutting, chopping and putting crop residues in a plastic bag, and burying them in a silo for three months. After three

months, the residues, which are otherwise wasted, are turned into nutritious animal feed. Therefore, in cascading the training focuses how communities can increase the availability and access to animal feed during dry seasons and highlighted how they improve the productivity of the livestock, particularly milk and dairy products, which are crucial for nutrition in the dry season.

Training for the agriculture extension workers was conducted as TOT so that participants will have the skills and knowledge on preservation techniques, allowing them facilitate the cascading of training for agro-pastoralist communities. At the end of the training, each participant developed an action plan on how to cascade this training to their respective woredas. As a result, the conservation and feed production training was cascaded to the community level and total of 640 agro-pastoralist community members benefited.

### ***Improved Animal Health Services for Nutrition***

Improving demand for animal health service is one of the behavior objectives in PRIME's SBCC strategy. As part of this objective, the PRIME nutrition team organized two edutainment campaigns—one in Afar cluster and the other in Southern Cluster—addressing the need to vaccinate animals, thereby improving their productivity (in both milk and meat). A total of *1350 individuals (600 men and 750 women)* were exposed to these key messages.

In Afar cluster, the CARE team conducted promotion campaign in cooperation with the Afar Community Capacity Building Integrated Development Association (ACCBIDA), PVPs (private veterinary pharmacies) and woreda pastoral PADO offices. The campaign was conducted from 22 - 29 December in Amibara (Badahamo and Bonta kebeles), Awash Fentale (Doho and Dudub kebeles) and Gele'alo (Kodae & Gefrem kebeles) woredas for 8 consecutive days. ACCBIDA provided music, song and drama with the theme of entertainment being about the use and advantage of quality animal drugs to increase milk availability.

There was a Q&A session about drug and vaccine usage during the event to improve local knowledge. PVPs demonstrated their products and gave advice on when people should take their livestock to a clinic or consult a CAHW. A total of 2,497 community members (1,537 men and 960 women) were present during the events.

The post-event feedback assessment was conducted via interview of participants. Feedback showed that they learned about where to obtain animal drugs and vaccines, and animal health and its effects on household nutrition through the messaging. Model CAHWs were awarded mobile phones during the event to improve their outreach, and feedback showed that this was a strong motivator.



*Promotional Event*



*Drama and Song*



*Model CAHWs awarded mobile phones*



*Promotion of quality animal drug by PVP*

Likewise, the Southern Cluster team organized promotional events on animal health service in Liben and Wadera woredas. The events were organized with collaboration between woreda Pastoral Development Offices, PVP and local theater group. In the two woredas, a total of 1200 (650 women and 550 men) individuals attended the events.

### ***Camel Caravan Promotes Animal Health***

PRIME Nutrition team, in coordination with the Pastoral Development Office (PDO), organized Camel Caravans in two kebeles of Moyale woreda, Liben zone. The camel caravan used thirty (30) camels wearing banners bearing nutrition messages in parades passing through residential and businesses areas to capture the community's attention. The campaign was organized with the objective of promoting animal health service seeking behaviors for better nutrition outcomes.

The community members have the opportunity to read the messages, see the pictures, ask others what the parade was about and receive the nutrition messages delivered during the parade. At the end of the parade, the camels congregate at a specific location where a local theater group stages dramas that deliver nutrition messages. The messages are reinforced with discussions on the theme of the caravan. The camel caravan is commonly known and used in Liben & other places for transportation and migration, and hence culturally appropriate, but this was the first of its kind to be used as communication strategy in promoting nutritional messages in the area. Therefore, it became an eye-catching event and attracted around 1350 people (600 men and 750 women). The PRIME team designed this locally-appropriate edutainment method to disseminate different nutrition-related messages.



### **Key result 5.3: Strengthened Local Capacity for Supporting Improved Nutrition**

#### *School Clubs for Good Practice of Livestock Husbandry and Better Nutrition Practice*



During the quarter PRIME, through HAVOYOCO, conducted training on good practice of livestock husbandry and better nutrition practice for 98 school clubs members and teachers. The training was organized in Shinile, Barak, Hadhigale, Erer, Garaman, Gota, Afdem and Bike zones. From each zone **10 Students (4 female and 6 Male), 1 school club head and 1 director** attended the training.

The director and school club head were included in the training in order to take a leading role in facilitating ongoing dialogue in their respective school and to strengthening integration/collaboration between extension workers in community level.

#### ***Lesson learnt:***

- Combining innovative ideas like the camel caravans with stage performances is important to convey messages and help bring larger crowds, so that key nutritional messages will reach a wider audience.
- Questions raised by the stage facilitators at the end of each performance were successful in engaging participants to share their learning, feelings and motivations around nutrition, in addition to providing a platform for participants to continue debating around these issues.

#### ***Challenges:***

- Based on the scale-up plan, the existing IR5 staff was not sufficient to meet the demands of the activities. Therefore, some activity linkages and the engagement of schools and

agriculture sectors were not well addressed. However, during the quarter additional staff were brought on board which should address the issue.

***Priority activities for the next quarter:***

- Linking nutrition messages in VSLA intervention through add-on training
- Finalizing production of pre-launch SOSC marketing materials;
- Continue cascading ENA training and mentoring and supervision of trained health extension workers at health post and health centers;
- Demonstration of diet preparation (cooking) and utilization;
- Continue promotional events on behavioral themes through the local theater groups;
- Training DAs on agricultural-Nutrition sensitive approach.

**INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT FUND (IIF)**

The \$5 million Innovation and Investment Fund (IIF) was designed to support activities across all Intermediate Results through targeted investments in the form of technical assistance, matching grants, service contracts with private-sector, government and non-government stakeholders. Targeted investments made in partnership with other stakeholders will leverage program and partner resources to catalyze sustainable growth. In general, the IIF will require a minimum 50% co-investment from partners on average across the portfolio. Through this mechanism, the IIF will buy down risk associated with new business ventures or approaches, giving partners the confidence to invest in new initiatives, and ultimately expediting regional economic growth and increasing employment. The overarching goal of the IIF is to catalyze sustainable improvements in industry capacity, expanded supply chains, increased sector competitiveness and a strengthened financial services industry. Ideally this will be done by encouraging other investors to crowd-in to the market as clear pathways to profitability and growth are demonstrated through the mechanism.

**Jigjiga Export Slaughter House (JESH)**

**1. The Warehouse/Office block**

The civil work on warehouse is completed. There is work still being done on the facilities for the office block.

**2. Production Hall for sheep/goat and cattle/camel**

This facility is 70% completed. Preparation is in process to start the construction of concrete casting for the slaughterhouse equipment. Installation of the equipment and electricity will start and as soon as civil work is completed.

**3. Chillers, blast freezers, and storage freezers**

The refrigeration halls foundations and floors civil works is progressing well. This is the most involving and will require the arrival of the refrigeration panels to complete. The Refrigeration equipment, panels and doors (total of 15 containers (40ft) are still in process for clearance.

**4. Boiler room and Refrigeration and Power Distribution building**

Civil works for the boiler room has been completed. Project experts will be coming to Faafan to install the Boiler equipment. The *Refrigeration and Power distribution building* is 60% completed.

### **Somali Micro Finance Institute (SMFI) and BelCash**

As reported in IR3 section above.

### **Barwako Milk Processing Factory – Jigjiga**

The plant is designed to have an initial throughput capacity of 10MT of raw camel and cow milk and produce pasteurized milk and acidified milk products (yoghurt) for both local and export consumption. Barwako Milk Processing Factory aims to make an entry into the dairy industry, focusing on milk collection from pastoralists and agro pastoralists in several woredas of Ethiopian Somali Regional State.

Barwako processes the milk into consumer packaged milk products and market/distribute the products to several urban markets in Ethiopia and Somaliland. Barwako is currently exporting 60% of their production to Djibouti and Somaliland. The investment will immediately create 40 full-time jobs for employees of the Barwako Dairy. This investment will have a significant impact on the local economy of Somali region by projected increased HH income of \$604 per HH per year from milk sale for over 3,500 households.

Barwako will leverage USD 1.3 million in private sector investment, of which USD 775,835 is capital leverage funding (note: the leveraged amount will increase fixed assets are not currently counted).

### **Private Equity Leveraging Service - RENEW**

Under the PRIME Private Equity Leveraging Services Program (Program), PRIME seeks to help unlock equity financing to fill Ethiopia’s vast “missing middle.” In pursuit of this, the team is implementing an innovative investment facilitation model that channels direct investments from a global network of impact angel investors and investment fund partners into established and promising businesses impacting PRIME areas.

The impact of the Program includes employment creation and career advancement opportunities, access to locally-produced goods, and increased productivity and resilience through adoption of new technology and best practices.

The program attracts investors because of its local presence, commitment to high-quality investment analysis, and turnkey investment services that help foreign investors overcome the barriers that historically have deterred them from investing in Ethiopia.

The objectives of the program are as follows:

- Promote the growth of 12 to 15 qualifying livestock and related businesses that are in or integrally connected to rural areas in the Afar, Oromia and Somali regions of Ethiopia.
- Attract and co-invest \$5 to \$10 million in private sector financing, primarily from our global network of impact angel investors and impact funds.
- Create more than 2,000 direct jobs.

- Generate a projected \$42.5 million in revenue over five years.
- Promote a better foreign investment environment.

The Program is designed to provide in-country support to investors across all steps of the investment process. The first phase in the process, which has been the focus of the team over the past four months since the project commenced, is pipeline development.

### ***APS***

The Annual Program Statement released in December 2013 closed on 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2014. In the last month the PRIME-IIF received 8 applications and the IIF committee is scheduled to review the applications in second week of February.

### ***AGP Poultry***

The **objective** of this investment is to strategically expand AgFlow Poultry's products and services into underserved weredas in Ethiopia's Guji and Borena Zones. Targeted weredas include Arero, Yabelo, Teltele, Liben, Abaya, and Dire, with operational support based in the greater Oromia and SNNPR regions. PRIME funds will be used to finance a new breeding and hatching facility and franchise SMEs to fill critical distribution gaps in the live chicken and feed value chains.

This three-year \$9M expansion will be co-financed by PRIME, equity investors (Flow Equity, AfricaGulf), loan capital (Acumen Fund), and operational revenue once the business is profitable in Year 2. The PRIME contribution totals \$1.2 million.

The new company, AGP Poultry, will impact 30,000 households over the lifetime of the grant while improving the poultry industry's rural productivity and competitiveness.

Key **results** will include:

- Household income increased by \$400 x 30,000 households from access to quality chicken breeds, poultry feed, and poultry management training;
- 50 new SMEs ("outgrowers") created to efficiently serve rural target market;
- Enabling environment improved for SMEs through comprehensive start-up and ongoing technical support;
- 200 new jobs generated for PRIME target groups;
- 30,000 outgrowers and end-users applying new feed processing and poultry management practices;
- 10x increase in productivity to incubate 500,000 eggs/month;
- \$7.8 million leveraged in private sector investments.

PRIME conducted an Environmental Impact Assessment in November to ensure the facility has the necessary mitigation procedures in place that are in compliance with both GoE and USAID's regulation before signing the agreement. USAID's environmental officer has approved the report and we are waiting for final approval from contract officers to sign the agreement.

### **Addiskidan Milk Processing Factory**

The project is to establish a medium-sized modern milk processing facility by collecting milk from pastoralists and agro pastoralists around Awash Fentale district and distribute for consumers in Afar urban areas, West Harage and East Shewa zones of Oromiya region. The project is anticipated to create market access for 25,000 households and job opportunity for 45-50 unemployed persons in the area.

CARE conducted pre award assessment and other pre-compliance assessments and is in the process of preparing the MoU and Sub grant agreement. Environmental Impact Assessment will begin in Q10 to ensure the mitigation measures are in place that are in compliance with both GoE and USAID.

### **USAID FORWARD**

During this quarter, a comprehensive financial monitoring visit was conducted to Barwako Milk Processing Factory to review its financial management status, compliance requirements, implementation progress, and to provide coaching to staff as part of capacity building tasks to achieve USAID Forward achievements. The report was prepared and shared with Barwako and PRIME management to monitor corrective actions and recommendations.

Three organizations were selected during this period as PRIME grantees: Somali Regional State DPPB, Rays MFI and Afar MFI. DPPB started implementation of the Household Economic Analysis along with international contractor Food Economy Group after signing a sub-award agreement with PRIME. Both organizations' management have been briefed on the terms and conditions of the agreement and USAID's requirements. Rays and Afar MFIs have been induced on key donor requirements during this period.

An organization capacity assessment visit was conducted by Mercy Corps and CARE to SOS Sahel in Yabello. The report has been submitted to SOS Sahel and a plan of action by the organization is currently under review by CARE.

Consortium partner ACPA was recently recognized by the Prime Minister at an awards ceremony for 'Best Development Partner in Pastoral Areas'. The roles played by USAID, PRIME and Mercy Corps in contributing to the success of ACPA all featured heavily in the award nomination and speeches. This brings tremendous, well deserved and earned, recognition to ACPA for all that they have done since their foundation 5 years ago. It is also a wonderful reflection of the success that PRIME and USAID Forward have had in moving forward resilience and development oriented programming in pastoral areas while giving increasing support and responsibility to local and resident charities to strengthen their ability to play a role in that.

It's important to also note that two PRIME sub-grantees through the IIF – Barwako and JESH also received awards recently, recognizing their innovation, investment and contribution to economic opportunities in the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia. The roles played by USAID, PRIME and Mercy Corps were also acknowledged.

### **CROSS-CUTTING THEMES**

## **Gender Integration**

During the quarter time was spent in understanding ‘what can work best’ in the local areas to advance activities that can both reduce women’s work burden and that can put more cash in their hands.

*Energy efficient cook stoves:* Preliminary reviews indicated that cook stoves that are designed and approved for their efficiency in the highland areas of Ethiopia are not appropriate for the cooking habits of pastoralist communities. Hence a quick assessment was undertaken to explore existing stove technologies local communities have developed, with assessment results available in the upcoming quarter.

*Literacy and numeracy:* Women in rural areas and in particular pastoralist women have the lowest literacy rates in Ethiopia. One of the biggest challenges for women to become actively engaged in business and be profitable is the lack of numeracy and literacy skills. VSLAs are a starting place for petty-trade businesses for most women in rural areas. As such, PRIME will use VSLAs for implementing a numeracy and literacy skills component. An assessment targeted at identifying functional literacy and numeracy skills and gaps of the VSLAs was conducted in Southern cluster. The quantitative assessment was carried out with approximately 40% of the members and samples taken from each VSLA group. The analysis is still underway. Based on the findings, a strategy will be designed and implementation beginning in the next quarter.

*Shoat fattening by Women's Groups:* All PRIME clusters have been looking for an opportunity to support women to increase their shoat production. The strategy initially envisioned was based on support for women's groups. However, it became apparent that none of the women's groups are registered or licensed which disqualifies them from PRIME competitive grant support. As such, an alternative strategy is necessary. Preliminary gender analysis ground work to identify the role of women throughout the value chain has started, with field work finalized end of February 2015.

## **Disability**

PRIME partner ECDD focuses on the promotion of inclusive development for people with disabilities, mainstreaming disability issues in government and projects. The role of ECDD in PRIME is to build the internal capacity of consortium members and local partners to practice and develop disability inclusive policies activities while providing regular technical assistance to program staff to ensure an inclusive design, implementation and monitoring of program activities.

Disability-focused activities during Q9, include:

### ***Provision of Disability Awareness and Inclusion Training (DAIT)***

A one-day Disability Awareness and Inclusion Training (DAIT) was provided to 21 participants (17 male, 4 female) in Jigjiga. Trainees were drawn from Somali Region Women Entrepreneurs Association, the Trade and Transport Bureau, Chamber of Commerce, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) such as Town Clan Associations, and Disabled People Organizations. The objective of the training was to raise general awareness on disability and inclusion practice thereby developing disability inclusive approach within the target institutions

and creating access to increased income and employment opportunity to persons with disabilities.

During the final session of the training participants drew a commitment plan aimed at making their services disability inclusive. The most important commitments include:

- conduct awareness creation workshop to association members and community;
- make use of the available opportunity to raise the issue of disability in meetings and public gatherings;
- conduct trainings on business development to encourage persons with disabilities;
- improve office set up to make it accessible for persons with disabilities;
- promote inclusive employment and provide support towards action;

#### ***Provision of technical support and facilitation***

- Technical support was provided to PRIME Energy and Entrepreneurship Officers in Eastern Cluster staff to enrol 4 persons with disabilities on Solar PV and 7 others in welding, furniture making, and automotive technology Training.
- Technical support was provided to SOS Sahel Ethiopia on concept note development to target people with disabilities in Borena zone, through the provision of business skill training for two cooperatives/SMEs of people with disabilities in Yabello town, and business skill training for Private Service Providers (PSPs) and people with disabilities association members in Yabello.
- Identification and registration of 48 persons with disabilities was carried out in Eastern Cluster through community case finding and school linkage. In addition, a small-scale need assessment was done to identify possible interventions to facilitate engagement of these people in economically lucrative businesses.

#### ***Memorandum of Understanding signed with TVET institutions***

An MoU was signed between ECDD and Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions in Afar, Southern, and Eastern Clusters. The TVET institutions include Lucy TVET College, Negelle Borena TVET College, Jigjiga Polytechnic College, and Meles Zenawi Memorial TVET (formerly Dire Dawa TVET College).

The MoU was signed to provide micro-grants for teaching materials and in alternative accessible formats, Braille materials, audio recorders, and white canes. The MoU also includes provision of technical support and funding to TVET institutions to make premises physically accessible for trainees with physical impairments. This provision is aimed to facilitate inclusive skill training and employment opportunities for youth with disabilities in PRIME's implementation areas.

#### ***Studies/Research***

##### ***Qualitative, in-depth study on the situation of persons with disabilities in pastoral communities***

A study on the situation of persons with disabilities in pastoral communities was conducted in collaboration with Haramaya University. The study is aimed to provide the necessary information on the opportunities and challenges for persons with disabilities in PRIME operational areas thereby the necessary intervention measures will be taken to include the issue

of disability in PRIME activities. This will ultimately ensure that all activities of PRIME are disability inclusive guaranteeing equity among different groups of society.

*Disability Policy Analysis study to identify policy gaps/blockages to inclusive pastoral development*

A study on disability policy analysis in PRIME implementation areas is ongoing in collaboration with Haramaya University. The study is aimed to make PRIME partners aware about the existing policies related with disability and the gaps and opportunities in the policies. The evaluation of the policies in terms of their inclusiveness aims at strengthening the knowledge base required to come up with more comprehensive policy recommendations which will ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

***Participation in meetings and trainings***

ECDD regularly participates and contributes to PRIME leadership team meetings (monthly), cluster coordination meetings through its local disability advisors based at field level, PRIME scope review workshop, and economic market development meetings (once every 2 months). In addition, ECDD was invited to participate in a two-day training organized by PRIME/Mercy Corps on the Essentials of Effective Management and Leadership by Influence and an EMD training organized by PRIME IR1 and IR3 teams.

**Challenges**

The challenges encountered in implementing disability inclusion in PRIME activities include the following:

- Challenges in implementation of disability inclusion activities continue at the field level as it is seen as an additional burden to staff;
- Access to concept notes for ECDD has only been given at the level of the senior disability advisor at the organization, who does not work only on PRIME. Access will be given to the ECDD PRIME coordinator;
- Requests from some persons with disabilities in PRIME implementation areas fall outside of the PRIME scope. ECDD will try to link these requests to other projects that can provide that support (rehabilitation services, wheelchairs, etc.).

**V. FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

<b>PRIME EXPEDITURE SUMMARY REPORT</b>	
<b>AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014</b>	
Per IR	AMOUNT (USD)
IR 1	5,061,297
IR 2	4,380,689
IR 3	2,632,630
IR 4	4,075,823
IR 5	1,061,669
Crisis Modifier*	916,497

<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>18,128,605</b>
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Per Funding Stream	
GCC	4,900,405
FtF	10,242,784
Nutrition	2,068,918
Crisis Modifier	916,497
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>18,128,605</b>

### Annex 1. HelloJobs Implementation in Jigjiga – job seekers registered Oct-Dec 2014

<b>October 2014</b>		
<b><i>HJ - Agent Name</i></b>	<b><i>HJ - Agent Phone #</i></b>	<b><i>Total registered</i></b>
Ahmed Mohamed Isse	915213013	79
Anwar Awel	915003535	9
Bashir Hassan Muxumed	915078880	91
Khadar Yusuf Habane	910443936	1
Roda Ahmed Kamil	915748367	81
Salah Mohamed Yaqub	915058443	2
Wasihun Zewdu	910185046	5
Zelalem enegeda	912047630	193
<b><i>Total # of Job seekers registered</i></b>		<b><u>461</u></b>
<b>November 2014</b>		
<b><i>HJ - Agent Name</i></b>	<b><i>HJ - Agent Phone #</i></b>	<b><i>Total registered</i></b>
Ahmed Mohamed Isse	915213013	37
Abiy Woldegiorgis	915003535	12
Bashir Hassan Muxumed	915078880	163
Adil Behirudin	910443936	4
Roda Ahmed Kamil	915748367	9
Wasihun Zewdu	910185046	1
Zelalem enegeda	912047630	23
Salah Mohamed Yaqub	915058443	1
Faki Nuredin	915027777	50
<b><i>Total # of Job seekers registered</i></b>		<b><u>300</u></b>
<b>December 2014</b>		
<b><i>HJ - Agent Name</i></b>	<b><i>HJ - Agent Phone #</i></b>	<b><i>Total registered</i></b>
Ahmed Mohamed Isse	915213013	18
Abiy Woldegiorgis	915003535	2
Bashir Hassan Muxumed	915078880	11
Roda Ahmed Kamil	915748367	17
Zelalem enegeda	912047630	15
<b><i>Total # of Job seekers registerd</i></b>		<b><u>63</u></b>

**Annex 2. Nutrition Promotional event summary table**

<b>Major Discussion Points/Topics</b>	<b>Cluster</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Facilitator Type</b>	<b>Group Type</b>	<b># men</b>	<b># women</b>	<b>Methodologies</b>
Demand for animal health service and fodder	SC	Moyale Somali	Woreda pastoralist office + MC	Public event	600	750	Road show and campaign
Introduction of KHG technology	SC	Liben	School and MC	school clubs and school teachers	25	15	demonstration, role play,
Animal health service promotion	SC	Wadera	Woreda pastoralist office + MC	Public event	250	300	Road show / Camel caravan and drama show
Animal health service promotion	SC	Liben	Woreda pastoralist office + MC	Public event	300	350	Road show, drama role play edutainment
Campaign on concept of 1000 days	EC	4kebeles of Jigjiga town	Nutrition officer & HAVOYCO's team leader	Public event /meeting	3000	4300	Circus shows, Q &A sessions
Total of 12,387 people participated in these events.					5712	6675	

### Annex 3. Success Stories

#### **The first milk processing plant in the pastoral areas of Ethiopia starts continuous milk production marketing with USAID-PRIME support**

The dairy production market in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of Ethiopia remains predominantly subsistence-based with limited market-orientation and poor institutional support. Producing for the market requires re-orientation of the production system and development of knowledge-based and responsive institutional support services. Investment in the value adding parts of the dairy chain has been identified as one of the key interventions to improve the market.

The recently established Barwako Milk Processing PLC in Jijiga, the capital of Ethiopian Somali Regional State, has an important role to play in catalyzing the development of market-oriented dairy. The USAID-PRIME project provides technical and financial support to this enterprise established by a local entrepreneur, Mr. Amir Mukhtar. Working with two milk consolidation cooperatives in Danusha and Bombas, a relationship that was facilitated by USAID-PRIME, Barwako currently collects cow and camel milk from about 300 households to turn raw milk into different milk products of longer shelf-life. The company has started marketing its products in Jijiga and other urban areas of the country like Addis Ababa, and neighboring countries, including Hargessa in Somalia.



Barwako PLC production line in Jijiga ESRS

The collaboration of producers, Barwako PLC and USAID-PRIME in support of the market system development, has so far resulted in stabilized production, more stable and efficient collection of milk, and an efficient distribution of finished products. In December 2014, less than five months into its start-up, the daily processing capacity of Barwako reached 1,200 liters of milk per day – and it is still increasing. Moreover, the higher price Barwako PLC offers for quality milk has resulted in improved quality raw milk and increased income for the milk producing households.

Mr. Mukhtar is optimistic about the prospects of the company. He explains, “While the completion of this project poses numerous challenges, the vision of working together with the milk producing communities and the support we are getting from USAID-PRIME makes us confident that what we are doing will bring tremendous benefits to the households who we create markets for the consumers and the national economy.”

With 25 full time staff on board, the company is set to process 5,000 liters of milk per day by June 2015. It is anticipated that USAID-PRIME’s support to Barwako will enable more than 3,000 pastoral and agro pastoral households in Duhusha, Fafan, Bombas, Babile, Awbare and

Kebribayah to have access to a more reliable, fairer, and regular market for their milk, resulting in increased household income, access to markets, and improved livestock productivity.

USAID-PRIME is investing in businesses like Barwako to stimulate the market, create jobs, and build resilient eco-systems.

### **Training in water pump maintenance raises vegetable farmer's income**

Agro-pastoralists in Genale sub-district of Guji Zone in Ethiopia's Oromiya Region started to use irrigation for vegetable farming almost ten years ago; however they were soon faced with the challenge of fixing and maintaining water pumps. They had to travel from 100 (Negelle) to 300km (Shashemene) to get their water pumps fixed, spending more than 500 birr (25 USD) in transport only. If maintenance took a long time, their crops would get dry. To avoid loss of crops, some farmers would buy a new water pump, incurring undue expenses. This problem of agro-pastoralists turned Butula Seid's attention.



Butula Seid, center, fixing a water pump with his partners

Butula, a father of six, grew up watching mechanics fix vehicles and he sometimes lent a hand, handing over tools to them. “Looking at those scruffy boys scuttling around to bring vehicles to life was the moment that I really cherished,” says Butula with nostalgia. For most of his adult life, Butula was a tailor until he got into the business of water pump maintenance in 2014. Motivated by his childhood love for vehicle maintenance, Butula decided to try the business of maintaining water pumps, which he observed was becoming a serious problem for a lot of agro-pastoralists. Butula had to learn the business the hard way as there was no one to guide him or from whom learn. His job was

far from efficient, nor could he earn trust from his clients. A few months later, however, a training opportunity by USAID-PRIME turned his business around.

In December 2014, PRIME facilitated a 7-day training on water pump maintenance to five people from Genale sub-district. When Butula and his peers learned that PRIME was not going to pay them per diem during the training, they were unhappy. “We were used to per diem for trainings. Often, we considered the per diem more important than the training,” says Butula. They soon realized that the training was a huge opportunity for a life-time career and that they should pay for trainings like this.

Butula describes the training as “an eye-opener”. “The trainers,” he says, “were seasoned professionals.” Butula learned everything about water pumps, including engines and how they are maintained. After learning the different parts of engines, their functions, and how they are

maintained, trainees went on practicing maintenance. After the training, all of the trainees were tested on their ability to reassemble engines and diagnose problems before they graduated.

After the training, Butula partnered up with two other trainees to set up a small maintenance shop. So far, they have fixed about 72 engines in their workshop. They have also fixed 20 engines outside of their shop, travelling 20 to 45 km to vegetable farms. Before the training, the zonal Water, Mines and Energy Department had brought mechanics from Negelle and other cities to fix water pumps that were out of service – but could not fix 70 of them. After the training, Butula and his peers have fixed almost all of them. Talking about his success, Butula says, “I’m proud of our achievements within such a short time. Above all, I’m so happy that I was able to fix pumps that more experienced mechanics could not fix.” Butula’s work has improved productivity of vegetable farms by enabling farmers to water their vegetables regularly. Without this service, they would have been forced to travel large distances, taking their time and risking damage to their vegetables. Today, farmers can get their engines fixed in a day or two without any travel cost or loss of vegetables. Butula and his partners are also reaping the fruits of their labor. Each of them earns about 1200 birr (60 USD) a month, 15 percent of which they put aside for expanding their business. “There were times when I couldn’t feed my family three times a day, but with this additional income, my children and wife are eating better,” says Butula. Today, his dream is to be able to open a spare part store where he could sell stock of spare parts that are in most demand, benefiting agro-pastoralists in his community as well as his household income.

### **Insurance Payout to 510 Pastoralists Motivates More to Purchase Policies**

Many challenges affect the pastoralist way of life in Ethiopia, such as erratic rainfall, lack of pasture, dwindling numbers of livestock, and land degradation. Bedaso Tare, who lives in Aralio District of Ethiopia’s Oromiya Region with her eight children, realizes that to cope with these challenges, innovation and responsiveness are needed more than ever.



Bedaso Tare attending the insurance payout ceremony

Over the years, Bedaso has learned the importance of remaining open to new ideas and adapting her livelihood. Apart from the conventional livestock husbandry, she has recently been involved in other off-farm activities that supplemented her income.

Her membership to her sub-district rural savings and credit cooperative has been very rewarding, providing her and other members with an opportunity to save money and take loans. With the loans, she buys haricot beans to sell them when their price goes up. When there is no adequate rainfall to grow crops, she trades in shoats and cattle fattening.

USAID, through the Pastoralist Resilience Improvement through Market Expansion (PRIME) project implemented by Mercy Corps, provides technical and marketing support to Oromia Insurance Company’s (OIC) Index-Based Livestock Insurance, a drought insurance product that

enables pastoralists to transfer drought risks to the insurance company. With assistance from PRIME, OIC sold 1,138 policies in 2014 covering 2,500 heads of livestock in Borena.

In January 2014, Bedaso learned about the insurance product, which covers livestock losses in case of prolonged drought. Although the idea was new, drought and loss of livestock is a constant reality. So she decided the idea was worth trying. Although she had four cattle and 10 goats, she bought an insurance policy to cover two of her goats for 60 birr (3 USD) each. Unfortunately, this past season was a very bad one for Bedaso and her fellow community members. A lot of people lost their livestock to the drought. She lost five she-goats and about seven kids.

A few months ago, she received very good news. “When I was told that I would receive 1,600 birr (80 USD) for the two goats that were covered, I could barely believe it,” said Bedaso. “With the money I received, I’ll buy three goats.”

After witnessing the benefits of the insurance, she plans to buy a policy for her goats and her cows. “Having something to fall back on times of emergency is the best thing to have in these precarious and unpredictable days,” says Bedaso. Furthermore, Bedaso noticed that this year’s payout is encouraging more and more people to buy the insurance.

The May 2014 drought triggered the first ever livestock insurance payout of 570,000 birr (28,500 USD) to about 510 insured.

### **Exhibition Participation raises a union’s income by more than 30 percent**

Makulo Yayo (27) from Moyale, was a government employee when he first noticed that pastoralists were not getting the price they deserved because they did not have access to fair markets. Equipped with knowledge about pastoralists’ livestock production, promotion, and market, Makulo’s joined Oda Roba Pastoralist Cooperative Union (ORPCU) as the manager in 2011, largely driven by his ambition to put his expertise into good use and support the union obtain access to fair markets.

Under Makulo’s management, the union has come a long way. Before 2011, the union was struggling on its own, making little progress towards market access. Over the last four years, Makulo worked hard to link the union with a number of partners that can potentially transform the way ORPCU does business.

The USAID-PRIME (Pastoralist Areas Resilience Improvement through Market Expansion) project supported ORPCU’s participation in the African Livestock Exhibition and Congress (ALEC) in May 2014 – and a few months later this proved to be a major breakthrough in the union’s search for fair markets.



Makulo Yayo

ALEC provided a platform for bringing together all stakeholders across the livestock value chain, and presenting a unique opportunity for all in the sector to reach new horizons of effective cooperation and discuss vital issues that are standing in the way of the sector's development. Makulo's participation in the exhibition took the union to the next level, creating the opportunity to meet exporters and bargain prices. As a result of that exhibition, the union struck deals with three exporters that operate in Mojo: Halal, Organic Export Abattoir and Luna Export Abattoir. Before the exhibition, the union sold a goat for 29 birr (1.5 USD) on the average. In the exhibition, however, the union got a higher offer of 34 birr (1.75 USD) per goat, which allowed the union to increase its income by 46 percent. Since December 2014, the union started trading camels selling 126 in the last two months and earning a profit of more than 88,000 birr (2,400 USD). Makulo reckons the camel trade so far has boosted their profitability by at least 13 percent. "Thanks for the ALEC participation," says Makulo, "our revenues are increasing and we hope the best is yet to come."

One of the objectives of USAID-PRIME is to improve livestock markets through enhancing market linkages and improving the flow of livestock market information. ALEC is one of the many activities the project has implemented for improving market linkages. ORCPU is just one of the hundreds of exporters, traders and unions that benefitted from the exhibition.