



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

Quarter 11 Report  
FY 2015  
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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 April to 30 June 2015, which is the eleventh quarter (third quarter, third year) of implementation. Major accomplishments for Quarter 11 include:

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

The focus of the activities for achieving the Intermediary Result 1 is on improving productivity in key livestock market systems, improving market linkages, improving enabling environment and providing effective emergency responses to protect pastoralist assets.

During Quarter 11 of PRIME and in an effort to improve productivity in livestock market systems, 4 trainings, 5 linkage events, one technical assistance intervention, 3 capacity building exposure visits and 5 new business expansion grants, were implemented in all target clusters.

Capacity and knowledge improvement efforts conducted focused on: promotion of fodder production, preservation and utilization; assessment of governmental animal health service provision capacity in the pastoral areas and providing support for increased public/private partnerships in delivering animal health services; provision of business skills training for livestock traders; and training on milk quality preservation and sanitation as well as training on business skills and entrepreneurship for milk consolidators and traders to better participate in the development of the nascent dairy value chains in Somali, Afar and Borena.

Apart from directly providing trainings to benefiting households, individuals and enterprises, PRIME, during Quarter 11 worked with regional local public offices in improving their capacity

to provide extension services to pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. Within the effort to improve market linkages between actors in the livestock and livestock productivity related value chains, during Quarter 11 PRIME facilitated the organising of two livestock trade and dairy business to business (B2B) events.

Key highlights include:

- Two additional small-business expansion grant awardees -Tawakal and Endalkachew- have started milk collection businesses around Moyale. The four expansion grant awardees, including the two awardees supported by PRIME in first phase, managed to collect more than 35,000 liters of milk through 25 village milk collection agents, creating market access for 300 pastoralists in several PRIME operational woredas of Liben, Guji and Borena Zones with a combined value of ETB 700,000 (33,980.58 USD).
- Ten Private Veterinary Pharmacies (PVPs) receiving small-business expansion grants in the Southern Cluster have continued expanding their businesses to reach out to remote pastoral areas. The 10 PVPs made combined sales amounting to 850,000 ETB (41,262 USD) in the quarter and around 10,000 pastoralists received access to quality veterinary products.
- In order to stimulate the fodder market and to facilitate the move of fodder suppliers into draught-prone regions to service vulnerable households, PRIME facilitated the promotion of fodder and feed by providing vouchers at the three big markets of Haro Bake, El-waye and Dubluk. The vouchers provided a 50% discount on limited amounts of concentrate and roughage sold by local vendors in the local market centers. Consequently, 4,300 bales of fodder and 400 quintals of concentrated feed were sold to 600 HHs (400 male and 200 female buyers) valued at 645,000 ETB (30,000 USD).
- As part of PRIME efforts of increasing fodder availability and quality in the pastoral areas to improve livestock productivity, ACPA facilitated training for 100 participants on fodder production and preservation techniques for commercial fodder producers and agro-pastoralists in Babile and Gursum woredas of Fafan zone. Practical sessions at the demonstration site and four days of theory, enabled participants to understand the importance of fodder production at various levels.
- As a result of a B2B forum facilitated by PRIME, four milk producer cooperatives and seven private milk collectors concluded formal agreements with AddisKidān to ensure the regular supply of quality milk to the company. Since facilitation support from PRIME in terms of linking cooperatives and private collectors to AddisKidān, the company has now been able to double its capacity of collecting milk from 230 liters per day to 450 liters per day.

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

During the quarter, PRIME continued facilitating community Social Analysis and Action (SAA) group conversations on behavioural and social issues including herd management, livestock fattening, fodder production and hay making, savings, establishment of contingency funds, and addressing harmful traditional practices including early marriage, female genital mutilation, polygamy, male domination and the conspicuous consumption of khat. The SAA groups

typically include 20-25 members, both women and men, and represent different groups within the community, including livelihood, wealth, gender and age groups. Beyond the regular community conversations, some SAA groups in Liben, Amibara and Yabello have begun taking practical actions including investing in animal fattening, fodder production, pasture preservation and hay making and beginning regularly saving money at the household level. In Derara, Fegero and Surur kebeles in Babile Oromiya the SAA groups led by women in collaboration with local administrations have agreed to address harmful traditional practices including early marriage, male extravagancies and the culture of asking for excessive dowry. The groups and local administrations in close consultation with the communities have decided to reduce dowries from 25,000 ETB to 5,000 ETB.

PRIME uses the participatory scenario development approach for promoting resilience in local disaster risk management (DRM) planning and livelihoods investment decision making. The approach focuses on the use of participatory scenario planning (PSP) as a process that enables communities and local governments to explore potential future changes, their associated impacts and develop a locally relevant action plan for implementation by the communities themselves. The process allows them to effectively manage both the opportunities and risks of change thereby increasing their resilience. During past seasons, PRIME has facilitated participatory scenario development processes across the three clusters. Although it is too early to determine the long-term impacts of the activity, changes were seen in the form of improved access to climate information, community confidence and improved incomes and assets through the diversification of livelihoods to climate-resilient strategies. In order to ensure local ownership, wider application and sustainability of the interventions, PRIME is working towards institutionalization of the PSP process by the respective local and regional governments.

In this quarter, the follow-up and technical monitoring support provided by PRIME staff across the three clusters facilitated the wider dissemination of the PSP advisories and the application of the advisories in the implementation of improved management of rangelands and livestock resources, soil and water conservation techniques, the planned sale of animals and mobility patterns, diversification of income sources increasingly towards climate-resilient activities including interest to grow and manage feed and fodder resources, household economic empowerment through promotion of women's empowerment and a culture of savings, and capacity building in managing disasters. Timely access to and communication of seasonal climate advisories from the PSP empower communities to take advantage of opportunities that climate presents, which is a key part of adapting to climate change. Linkages with other existing committees/communication mechanisms such as community based early warning system (EWS) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) will strengthen the sustainability of the PSP process. Sustainability is expected to be fully achieved when local government planning processes recognize the importance of and provide resources for the participation of meteorological services and community forecasting experts to help refine plans on a seasonal basis, and for systems for the dissemination of advisories. On the other hand, increased community capacity to understand, use and benefit from climate information will build their demand for the information. Since people have to continuously adapt to a changing climate, there is a need for sustained information sharing and dialogue that PSP forums promote.

***Support Regular Rangeland Council Dialogues:*** Supporting regular quarterly dialogues of rangeland councils has a significant role in capacitating the weakened customary natural resource management system, in particular by enhancing the participation of the wider community to take part in resource governance. During the quarter PRIME supported 8 rangeland level meetings in Afar (Gewane-Gelealo, Amibara, Awash-Fentale, Argoba and Dulessa rangelands), and the East (Mulli, Erer Gotha, and Babile.O rangelands). A total of 231 council members (186 men/46 women) were able to conduct their regular dialogues through the logistic support provided by PRIME. The dialogues focused primarily on a performance evaluation of the range land council members, accomplishments of prioritized activities in the previous quarter, governance related issues and challenges, and developing an action plan for the next quarter. The council members have pointed out that their performance has improved over time as well as the awareness being created in the wider community.

***Rangeland Restoration and Enhancements:*** PRIME supported the rehabilitation and restoration of approximately 362 ha of rangelands and degraded areas in Southern cluster (Wayama, Golbo, Gomole, and Dire rangeland systems: 278 ha) and Afar cluster (Amibara, Argoba and Dulessa rangeland systems: 84 ha of which 50 ha is prosopis clearing) through different technologies including soil and water conservation measures, enclosures, selective bush thinning, and prosopis clearing. A total of 1,381 community members (985 men/396 women) were involved in these activities.

***Rehabilitation and Development of Water Points:*** To ensure the even utilization of pasture resources across rangeland ecosystems, PRIME has continued supporting both the development of new water points and rehabilitation of existing ones across the three clusters. During the quarter, 4 water point activities (Haro Bake micro dam and Dembi pond in Southern cluster and Warabajiro and Awhyrad ponds in the Eastern cluster) are ongoing.

Summary tables for IR2 can be found in Annex 2 of this report.

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

The end of the previous quarter brought exciting news to PRIME as a long-awaited pilot activity on mobile and agent banking was given Government of Ethiopia (GoE) permission. Following a successful pilot, completed at the beginning of this quarter, the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) then gave approval for the full scale/commercial launch of the mobile and agent banking initiative. Details on this activity, financial service, other job creation and alternative livelihoods activities include:

#### ***PRIME-supported Mobile and Agent Banking pilot completed successfully***

Somali MFI (SMFI) and Belcash (a Dutch mobile service provider), supported by PRIME via its Innovation Investment Fund, conducted a three-month pilot in Ethiopia's Somali region that involved six SMFI branches and 19 mobile agents. By the end of the pilot period, 1,456 individuals opened mobile bank accounts and by the end of the quarter the total clients that opened mobile bank accounts reached 2,650 (807 of which were opened by women). This represented a client growth for SMFI of about 20%, within only three months and without the ability to promote the new service. By mid-July, the mobile and agent banking service was able

to be accessed through 20 SMFI agents and at 23 MFI's branches but the number of agents is expected to increase significantly in the coming months. It is expected that this activity will result in 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.

***SMFI opened seven new branches in 6 woredas of the Somali Regional State and Addis Ababa through financial assistance obtained from PRIME***

This quarter, PRIME provided a cost-shared grant to SMFI to improve access to financial services to micro and small businesses, livestock traders, petty traders, people transitioning out of pastoralism (TOPs) and pastoral households (HHs), in districts where access to formal finance was previously limited or didn't exist. SMFI opened seven new branches in six woredas and towns in Somali Regional State and Addis Ababa. The SMFI deployed resources and staff in Moyale, Filtu, Awbarre, Kebribayah, Hargelle, Dire Dawa and Addis Ababa to run these branches. Since opening the new branches, in less than a month's time, more than 110 people opened savings accounts in these branches and one of the new branches already dispersed 18,000USD in loans to 80 individuals.

***PRIME signed sub-award to increase the core financial service function of Afar MFI***

Following USAID's approval, Mercy Corps, signed a sub-award agreement with Afar Micro Finance Institute (AMFI) to provide a cost-shared grant aimed at improving the core function of AMFI. The financial support will be used for activities such as opening four new branches in PRIME operational areas, linking branches with core banking solutions, and building the capacity of the management and board of directors of the MFI. Up to the end of this quarter, AMFI mobilized more than \$45,000 in saving from 825 individuals and businesses and gave around \$45,400 in group loan to 176 small business operators. Afar MFI is the first MFI in the region.

***VSLA formation through the Private Service Provider (PSP) model continued to grow at faster rate***

As of Quarter 11, PRIME supported PSPs have formed 273 VSLA groups with a total of 5,060 (70% are women) members across three clusters of PRIME operational areas. The progress of VSLA formation through the PSPs is showing accelerated results since it was started about a year ago. The value of savings reached \$87,174 and \$35,742 in loans were given by VSLAs to members by the end of the quarter.

***More than 935 TOPs are enrolled in Technical Vocational Education Training (TVETs) through PRIME's Short-term vocational scholarship program***

Since inception, PRIME has granted scholarships for 935 TOPs to attended training at different public and private TVETs. 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. During this reporting period, out of the 295 TOPs that graduated, some are reporting they found jobs as a result of the training.

***189 new jobs were created and 438 obtained by TOPs through PRIME***

In this quarter only, PRIME created 189 new jobs for TOPs and supported 438 TOPs to obtain jobs in all three clusters of PRIME operations. These jobs are coming from businesses expanding

operations through small-business expansion grants and IIF investments. Since inception, PRIME has created 976 new jobs for TOPs and helped additional 775 TOPs to obtain jobs in different sector. Thousands of new jobs are expected to be created when the IIF supported enterprises became fully operational.

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

During the quarter under review, PRIME's Learning and Knowledge Management (LKM) component focused on the development of an offline tool to ensure data is entered in the field even when connectivity is an issue. Additional disaggregation, reporting trees and feedback fields for report approvers were added to the system to continue improvements. A final demo of the institutional database was also shown to IR leaders, and training will be rolled out at the field level in Q12.

**Surveys:** methodologies and sampling for the annual and midline surveys were finalized, as well as work plans and budgets for each. While both will be panel surveys, the annual survey focuses on our FTF outcome indicators and the sample comes from PRIME beneficiaries – beyond a panel, we will also add more respondents that may have joined the project as beneficiaries in the last year. The midline survey will have a panel sample from the baseline survey and will address custom outcome indicators as well as give us some indication of how PRIME is progressing for its two impact indicators.

**Pilots – Market facilitation monitoring and SenseMaker:** the market facilitation monitoring pilot gathered data from PVPs, Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) and pastoralists to continue measure how PRIME support is improving these relationships and animal health, while also gathering information from actors along the livestock value chain to measure the quality of relationships, especially between slaughterhouses, traders and brokers. Major findings show that most of PRIME supported PVPs have increased the quantity of CAHWs they work with as well as improved their business management practices (such as keeping better records, for example). Over 40% of them also report having improved their relationships with CAHWs they work with, with the rest of PVPs reporting no change in their relationship. On the other hand, discussions with livestock exporters shed light on what they are looking for when engaging with brokers versus traders. Trust, honesty, cost, as well as regular trading are the key factors that motivate live animal exporters to work with traders instead of brokers, whereas efficiency, reliability in terms of quality, quantity and timing, attract live animal exporters to work with brokers instead. All exporters agreed that both sets of actors need to live up to the expectations of the market, which are not always delivered.

The LKM team in SC gathered stories from listenership groups and general public based on the soap opera drama being broadcasted in Borena and Guji by the PRIME Nutrition (IR5) team. Data collection is done every five weeks/episodes, at critical points in the story line where PRIME wants to focus. During the period under review the Natural Resource Management (NRM) (IR2) team assisted the LKM team in the finalization of the NRM framework for which data will be collected in Q12.

***Policy and Research:*** Haramaya University (HU) and Mercy Corps supported the Third International Veterinary Education Conference (IVEC) held 17-19 June 2015 at Haramaya University. The conference theme ***“Enhancing Livestock Productivity, Role of Quality Veterinary Education, Research and Rationalization in Promoting Export Market to Ensure Food Security and Sustainable Economic Growth”*** was jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ethiopian Veterinary Association, and the College of Veterinary Medicine, and Haramaya University and attended by nearly 300 participants. During the event, 24 papers were presented, six of which were HU-PRIME research findings: Animal Health Service Delivery in Pastoral Parts of Ethiopia, Market Research on Existing Insurance Products and Study of best practices/lessons learned: the case of Afar and Eastern clusters, Policy research on cross border trade, Gap analysis in the production and dissemination of animal health education materials, Policy information gap analysis on livestock and livestock products trade, and Analysis of marketing systems for veterinary drugs in the three PRIME clusters.

Haramaya University, in collaboration with Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development ECDD, analyzed the content of policies and programs in PRIME operational areas that attempt to address the special needs of people with disability in pastoral communities with an emphasis on entrepreneurship and labor. The report has been drafted and submitted for review which will take place during Q12 as well as the finalization of the report.

#### Highlights from IR5: **Nutritional status of households improved**

During this quarter, PRIME’s Nutrition team (IR5) implemented various nutrition-specific activities, collaborated with other PRIME teams, and coordinated with government sectors in program implementation. Activities contributed to three key results of IR5; 1) Improved knowledge, attitudes and practices of nutrition, 2) Increased and sustained availability of and access to dairy and other livestock products for children under 5 and, 3) strengthened local capacities for supporting improved nutrition outcomes.

Under the first key result, activities included Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA), Maternal, Infant and Young Child Feeding (MIYCF), nutrition add-on training for VSLA facilitators, and MIYCF training for the influential mother to mother peer dialogues. In Afar, CARE organized 20 women-to-women peer guided nutrition counseling groups and finalized the facilitation of ENA counseling in all PRIME target woredas. Out of the 20 women-to-women groups, 19 groups successfully completed the 8 sessions of ENA. The participants were female community members: pregnant and lactating women and women reaching the age of motherhood. The discussion was facilitated by trained health and agriculture extension workers from each kebele and discussions were held based on session guidelines.

Through key result 5.2, which focuses on increasing and sustaining availability of and access to dairy and other livestock products for children under 5, HAVOYOCO organized Feed Production and Conservation Techniques training for 300 model agro-pastoralists and 20 development agents. In the Southern Cluster a variety of community events, mainly drama theatre group performances, promoted fodder use during the dry season and animal health services. The public education campaigns through these live drama performances stressed the link between improved animal nutrition, increased milk production, and child nutrition especially

within the first 1000 days of a child's life. Mirgituu Radio Serial Soap Opera continued to be aired for the Oromiya region and the temporary suspended Tekem and Adoole Geel Drama for Somali and Afar region are expected to be aired again in the next quarter. FANA FM, Haramaya FM and Jigjiga FM were selected for re-broadcasting for Adoole Geel in Somali region and Ethiopian Broadcasting Company's new channel (Medium Wave 855) and Argoba community FM radio were selected for Tekem in Afar region

Under key result 5.3, which focuses on strengthened local capacities for supporting improved nutrition outcomes, 96 health extension workers and 50 school teachers (80 males and 66 females) in Jarar zone and Degahbour city administration were trained on school nutrition, complementary feeding, IYCF feeding practices, vitamin A and folic acid supplementation.

Through the successful implementation of these activities, PRIME was able to reach a total of 1,948 people through training in child health and nutrition and 12,890 children under five by USG-supported nutrition program activities this quarter.

#### Highlights from **Innovation and Investment Fund**:

The Jigjiga Export Slaughter House (JESH) facility is about 85% completed and 90% of the capital goods have arrived on the site and are being installed. Construction on the Waste Water Treatment (WWT) plant has been delayed due the lack of cement availability in the region and heavy rainfall. Work on the solid waste site has been completed and JESH is aiming to start running tests by the end of August after the completion of the WWT plant.

Barwako has increased the amount of daily milk collections for both camel and cow milk, currently processing between 650 to 750 liters of camel and 500 liters of cow milk. Milk collection is through 2 co-operatives that are buying from 460 HHs. It is projected that Barwako will collect 700 liters of cow milk and 1000 liters of camel milk per day in the next quarter. Another major achievement for Barwako in this quarter is the launch of its production of yogurt with 250ml and 500ml cans.

Agflow Poultry (AGP) and PRIME staff held a kick-off workshop in Yabello with 25 participants including key regional government representatives. AGP (Ethiochicks) has accomplished several Key Business Activities, optimally positioning it to begin progress towards the project indicators. The company has acquired and renovated a new breeding facility, imported 30,000 parent stock, and finalized and paid for new incubators. In addition, the company has received a matching investment of USD \$1.2m from Zemen Bank. Given these accomplishments, the company expects rapid progress towards project indicators in the coming months. AGP has finalized the call for applicants to recruit agents/out growers. The call will be released in July to start the recruitment of minimum 50 potential agents/out growers, many of whom will be TOPs.

The RENEW team focused on finalizing their due diligence, setting up the investment vehicle, and finalizing their raise for Project Juice. The company also ran multiple investor calls and held meetings with investors in the U.S. and Ethiopia. The investment was opened for investors at the end of June and is currently oversubscribed. The total value of the investment at this stage is \$1.4M but will reach \$5.4M in 5 years' time. The project is anticipated to support 1,200 smallholder farmers in Afar region and create 200 jobs in the next two years. RENEW also

continued to develop the PRIME pipeline for the next investment package. The team took trips to PRIME areas, meet with business associations, banks and government agencies, and held trainings with companies.

The Financial Inclusion for the people of Somali Region in Ethiopia (FIPSRE) project, being implemented jointly by Somali Micro Finance Institute, Belcash and PRIME has obtained authorization by the National Bank of Ethiopia for a full roll-out of the mobile and agent banking services. Through PRIME support, SMFI has added 7 new branches in this quarter, each branch employing 4 operators (for a total of 28). It plans to reinforce its coverage through Mobile and Agent Banking Services using the “HelloCash” Brand name.

## II. SUMMARY RESULTS TABLE

Indicator	Disaggregation	FY13+FY14 targets (Y1+Y2)	FY13+FY14 achieved (Y1+Y2)	FY15 Target (Y3 only)	Achieved Q9-Q10 (Oct 2014-Mar 2015)	Achieved Q11 (Apr-Jun 2015)	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>43,394</b>	<b>38,860</b>	This number includes 7,000 HH reached through CM. Discount will be applied after annual survey.
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>	<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>	<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>	<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>39,289</b>	<b>37,553</b>	<b>9,936</b>	<b>4,669</b>	<b>2,836</b>	On target for Y3. Y2 target has now been changed in the system
	Male	22,599	21,784	5,599	2,869	2,076	
	Female	16,690	15,769	4,337	1,800	760	
4.5.2(11): Number of food security private enterprises (for profit), producers organizations, water	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,411</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>1,460</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>133</b>	Not on target for Y3– reports enterprises and CBOs supported
	Private Sector		356	1,152	41	1	

Indicator	Disaggregation	FY13+FY14 targets (Y1+Y2)	FY13+FY14 achieved (Y1+Y2)	FY15 Target (Y3 only)	Achieved Q9-Q10 (Oct 2014-Mar 2015)	Achieved Q11 (Apr-Jun 2015)	Remark
users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance (RIA) (WOG)	Producer Orgz		36	0	0	0	are not completed as we are finalizing our institutional database.
	Water User Assoc		13	0	0	0	
	Women's groups		36	0	0	64	
	Trade and Business assoc.		42	10	8	0	
	CBOs		117	273	306	66	
	Disaggregates not available		46	0	19	2	
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>	<b>4</b>	Achieved. In Q11 – policy analysis on disability inclusion for entrepreneurs and jobs in pastoralist areas (stage 1). Stage 2: consultative workshop for camel research and development policy direction; AHS policy stakeholder discussion during the international veterinary conference supported by PRIME. Stage 5: NLMIS implementation of institutional
	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						

Indicator	Disaggregation	FY13+FY14 targets (Y1+Y2)	FY13+FY14 achieved (Y1+Y2)	FY15 Target (Y3 only)	Achieved Q9-Q10 (Oct 2014-Mar 2015)	Achieved Q11 (Apr-Jun 2015)	Remark
	Enabling environment for private sector investment			3	1		arrangement through structural changes and staffing at region, zone and woreda levels.
	Ag trade policy						
	Ag input policy			1			
	Land and NR tenure, rights, and policy				1		
	Resilience and ag risk mgt policy						
	Nutrition						
	Other			1		4	
	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>10,500</b>	<b>10,656</b>	<b>21,890</b>	<b>20,401</b>	<b>362</b>	Targets in FTFMS have been changed based on USAID inputs. On target to be achieved.
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>43,625</b>	<b>48,768</b>	Target reached.
	Men		73,071	28,080	34,044	27,408	
	Women		28,402	10,920	9,581	21,360	
<b>ECONOMIC AND MARKET INDICATORS (IR1 AND IR3)</b>							
4.5.2(23): Value of incremental	<b>USD</b>	<b>6,304,515</b>	<b>6,027,441</b>	<b>6,353,421</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	Annual reporting

Indicator	Disaggregation	FY13+FY14 targets (Y1+Y2)	FY13+FY14 achieved (Y1+Y2)	FY15 Target (Y3 only)	Achieved Q9-Q10 (Oct 2014-Mar 2015)	Achieved Q11 (Apr-Jun 2015)	Remark
sales at farm-level attributed to FtF implementation		(Y2 only)	(Y2 only)				only. Actuals and targets changed on FTFMS.
PPR 4.7.1-12: Total number of clients (households and/or microenterprises) benefiting from financial services provided through USG-assisted financial intermediaries, including non-financial institutions or actors	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,400</b>	<b>12,622</b>	<b>22,060</b>	<b>10,919</b>	<b>5,841</b>	On target to be achieved. SMFI/Belcash was recently approved by NBE as well as approvals for our support to RAYS and Afar MFI.
	Borrowers	2,520	5241	2,450	3,331	932	
	Savers	5,880	6181	19,050	7,588	4,909	
	Insurance	0	1200	560	0	0	
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>325</b>	<b>189</b>	Mobile banking and other IIF investments will increase jobs in Q12.
	<b>Obtained</b>	-	-	-	<b>337</b>	<b>438</b>	
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>3,275,835</b>	-	Target achieved. We expect Q12 to add RENEW, Addiskidan and Afar MFI.
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>2,971</b>	<b>1,948</b>	On target to be achieved (66% currently).
	Male	2,150	1,615	3,000	1,351	1,060	
	Female	4,500	2,726	4,500	1,620	888	
3.1.9(15): Number of children	<b>Total</b>	<b>31,000</b>	<b>32,192</b>	<b>57,500</b>	<b>15,709</b>	<b>12,890</b>	Will need to update

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Disaggregation</b>	<b>FY13+FY14 targets (Y1+Y2)</b>	<b>FY13+FY14 achieved (Y1+Y2)</b>	<b>FY15 Target (Y3 only)</b>	<b>Achieved Q9-Q10 (Oct 2014-Mar 2015)</b>	<b>Achieved Q11 (Apr-Jun 2015)</b>	<b>Remark</b>
under five reached by USG-supported nutrition programs (S)	Male	15,510	16,415	29,325	7,864	6,574	Q9 numbers to include CM household children and add Barwako consumer households.
	Female	15,490	15,777	28,175	7,845	6,316	

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 entered in Ki-projects is being verified and going through data quality in order to be used in the future. Data for VSLA members (financial beneficiaries) is being collated and reported by the Rural Financial Services specialist through the SAVIX information system. Information for some indicators, such as the institutions supported, for this quarter is incomplete as we are still finishing our institutional database.

Numbers for a few indicators have been updated in the FTF management information system after discussions with USAID Ethiopia and Washington. These include:

- Hectares under improved technologies or management practices indicator: targets and actuals changed to comply with USAID request
- Value of incremental sales: actuals and targets now include dairy (milk)
- Number of people trained in short-term agricultural sector: FY14 targets changed

Some indicators have also been revised /added based on conversations with USAID Ethiopia, most of which are at the outcome level:

- Prevalence of poverty through expenditure data has been included instead of income data
- Number of households reached has been changed to number of vulnerable households – numbers will stay the same as USAID has instructed PRIME that our household beneficiaries are all vulnerable
- Dietary diversity of children 6-23 months added
- Dietary diversity of women 15-49 years added
- Percentage of men and women reporting meaningful participation of women in decision-making added (in key areas)
- Increased income streams added
- Percentage of farmers/pastoralists who practice supplemental feeding for animals added
- Percentage of households accessing animal health services added

These additions have also been made in the newest version of the M&E plan submitted to USAID in June 2015.

### 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 Grants for Milk Collectors and Cooperatives*

During the reporting period, Mercy Corps and SOS Sahel continued working on scaling up dairy value chain development activities via small cost-share competitive business expansion grants.

Along this line, two additional awardees -Tawakal and Endalkachew- have started milk collection businesses in Moyale S. and Moyale after signing sub-award agreements with Mercy Corps. In this quarter, the four expansion grant awardees including the two awardees supported by PRIME in first phase, managed to collect more than 35,000 liters of milk through 25 village milk collection agents, creating market access for 300 pastoralists in several PRIME operational woredas of Liben, Guji and Borena Zones with a combined value of ETB 700,000 (\$33,980.58). Linked with the milk collection centers, the milk suppliers/producers are using income from the sale of milk to purchase food items, medication and to cover school expenses for their children, directly contributing to ensuring food security and poverty reduction among pastoralists.

To further improve the dairy market in the Southern Cluster, PRIME also took further steps to expand milk businesses through advertising a grant opportunity in districts where demand is high. To this end, three additional businesses were qualified for the expansion of milk collection centers in Dire and Taltale Districts of Borena zone. These businesses are Arda Jila Milk collection Center (Dire district), Milami Milk collection center (Taltale district) and Yabis Milk collection center (Dire district). Sub-award agreements with the three awardees were developed, reviewed, and upon approval to receive small-grant support, the three businesses have commenced their businesses expansion. To further promote replication, the grant opportunity has also been advertised in the four PRIME operational Woredas of Borena (Miyo, Dhas, Arero) and Liben Zones (Hudet districts).

In the Eastern Cluster, a new call for proposals for the support of women-owned milk shops was made. In addition to the 13 applications received in the last quarter, four more applications were received from Siti zone in this quarter. Screening, field verification and signing of sub-ward agreements will be made in the next quarter.

#### ***Activities Aiming to Increase Access to and Utilization of Animal Health Products and Services***

Mercy Corps and SOS Sahel continued implementing activities aimed at improving the animal health services in the Southern Cluster during the quarter. The overall objectives of the activities are to increase pastoralists and agro-pastoralists' access to quality affordable veterinary drugs through more effective and efficient supply linkages, and to ensure that access to these critical veterinary inputs is sustainable. This quarter the private veterinary pharmacies continued expanding their businesses to reach out to remote pastoralist areas in the Southern Cluster and the business performance of private veterinary pharmacies was monitored in this reporting period. The 10 PVPs made combined sales amounting to 850,000ETB (\$41,262) in the quarter and around 10,000 pastoralists received access to quality veterinary products in several of PRIME's operational woredas in the Southern Cluster.

This quarter, PRIME also collaborated with the Afar Regional Government's Senior Veterinarian, to provide Community Animal Health Workers (CAHW) with training-of-trainers (TOT), benefiting 18 (2 female and 16 male) individuals, of whom one is owner of a PVP shop and 17 are woreda government animal health experts. The objective of the training is to provide CAHW trainers with the necessary practical skills and knowledge that enable them to cascade this training to CAHWs in the Afar Cluster. After the training, woreda experts developed a one-year action plan for implementation that includes a Training Need Assessment, CAHWs

Refresher Training, Monitoring CAHWs' activities, and follow up of PVPs and CAHWs linkage. It is anticipated that these trainers will provide refresher training for 158 active CAHWs in six woredas of the Afar cluster in the next two years.

### ***Training on Milk Hygiene and Sanitation in the Southern Cluster***

During the reporting period, PRIME, in collaboration with Ethiopian Meat and Dairy Industry Development Institute (EMDIDI), conducted a four-day training on milk quality and sanitation for local milk collectors and aggregators from two operational zones in the Southern Cluster (Guji and Borena). The main objective of this sub-activity was to create awareness on milk quality and sanitation, enhance skills and improve the knowledge of the local milk collectors and aggregators in the course of collecting, transporting and aggregating milk and milk products. A total of 36 (4 male and 32 female) milk aggregators and milk collectors participated in this training in Yabello. The participants of the training were mainly milk collectors that supply milk to the milk collection and processing enterprises Abdi (Negelle) and Beda Gamadu (Yabello) that were previously supported by PRIME through competitive small grants for the expansion of milk collection and distribution capacity in the urban centres.



Practical milk testing demonstration during the training

While the grants have contributed to creating market access for milk producers, the milk sanitation and hygiene training was meant to intensify the impact of the intervention. The main training contents covered were: introduction of sanitation & hygiene, clean milk production, milk handling, transportation of milk, converting milk to different milk products, procedures of milk quality testing, main factors that affect milk quality and quantity. In addition to a theoretical session, the training had practical sessions in which participants learned by doing and demonstration (especially on preparing yoghurt and cheese).

### ***Feed and Fodder Promotion in the Market Place in the Southern Cluster***

In April 2015 the Borena pastoralist households were experiencing serious drought. In order to stimulate the fodder market and to facilitate the move of fodder suppliers into this draught-prone region to service vulnerable households, PRIME facilitated the promotion of fodder and feed by providing vouchers at three big markets of Haro Bake, El-waye and Dubluk. The promotional events, led by SOS Sahel Ethiopia, were supported by the Mercy Corps IR5 team, in collaboration with a local theater and art group (Gumi Gayo), adding value to the events by linking the nutritional messages to the animal nutrition promotion. The vouchers provided a 50% discount on limited amounts of concentrate and roughage sold by local vendors in the local market centers. Consequently, 4,300 bales of fodder and 400 quintals of concentrated feed were sold to 600 HHs (400 male and 200 female buyers) valued at 645,000 ETB (30,000 USD).



Concentrate feed traded under the promotional activity

This activity allowed pastoralists to save the lives of their fundamental asset (i.e. livestock) and resulted in increased demand for feed and fodder traded by local vendors and increased interest by communities to have land and productive resources to collect and preserve fodder as a reserve for future dry spells. In response to the strong demand for feed and fodder following the promotional events in the areas, PRIME (Mercy Corps and SOS Sahel) is planning to support local fodder producers by providing financial assistance to construct fodder storage facilities. It is expected that fodder producers will preserve natural grasses for storing and selling during the dry season. This will ensure availability of quality fodder and build pastoralists resilience to drought socks. To this end, six potential fodder producers/enclosures to be strengthened have been identified.

#### ***Competitive Cost Share Grant for Establishing Feedlots***

During the quarter, in the Southern Cluster, Mercy Corps and SOS Sahel received thirty five applications for the establishment of feedlots with the intention of improving the quality of live animal trading and helping pastoralists learn/adopt a market-oriented livestock production model. Of the applications received, 18 businesses have been shortlisted and through field verification, 15 businesses will be supported through competitive cost-share grants in Borena, Guji and Liben Zones. In next quarter, it is expected that all sub-award agreements will be signed and actual implementation of the feedlot operators will move ahead.

During the quarter, PRIME (Mercy Corps) also continued its efforts in providing technical assistance and coaching to Mohamud Haddi Livestock Exporting – a previous sub-grantee located in the outskirts of Jigjiga town. Along this line, negotiation and signing of the agreement was finalized with the owner of the company to facilitate the implementation of the milestones set in the sub award agreement in the next quarter.

#### ***Training of Trainers on Alternative Feed Technologies for Government Woreda PADO, Regional PADB Experts and Private Sector in Afar Cluster***

In order to build the capacity of key stakeholders to channel knowledge to the community at a wider level, PRIME partnered with three businesses - Ethiofeed PLC, Weljaji Agri PLC and Eden Field Agri Seed Enterprise - to deliver TOT training on alternative feed technologies to 17 participants (13 male and 4 female) from the Woreda Pastoral Agricultural Development Offices, Afar Regional Pastoral Agricultural Development Bureau, Gewane ATVETC and AddisKidan PLC. To meet this objective, Ethiofeed was commissioned to coordinate the training, conducted in Adama at the Ethiofeed PLC feed processing compound, while experts from Ethiofeed, Weljeji Agri PLC and Eden Agri Field Seed Enterprise facilitated the training. Participants shared their experiences and the facilitators presented the training content through practical examples of their experience across all agro-ecological zones in the country. This training exposed the participants to a diverse set of options of feed technologies ranging from effective microorganisms (EM) ingredients, commercial feed technologies and forage species adaptable to arid and semi-arid agro ecologies, and practical application of these technologies for improved livestock feeding practices. The theoretical portion of the training was supplemented with practical demonstrations of cane top and teff straw treatment with EM, Bokash (starter feed) preparation, and commercial feed formulation from local feed ingredients. Furthermore, field visits were made to Wonji Youth Commercial Feed Producer's Micro and Small Enterprise Site

to expose the participants to cane tops, bagas and molasses for silage making; to Tamirat Sheep Feedlot to observe improved sheep husbandry and infrastructure; and Yakila Dairy Processing PLC to draw on lessons learned and explore the innovative feed-linkage arrangements with Ethiofeed. The arrangement of the training gave the opportunity for the training participants to create linkages with four private sector actors (Ethiofeed, Weljaji Agro PLC, Eden Agri Field Seed Enterprise and Wonji Feed MSE) that are engaged in the production of commercial feed/fodder located in the central part of the country for future business linkages to the Afar Cluster. Plans include cascade of the training

### ***Training and Demonstration Site Establishment on Fodder Production and Preservation Techniques for Commercial Fodder Producers***

As part of PRIME efforts of increasing fodder availability and quality in the pastoral areas to improve livestock productivity, ACPA facilitated training for 100 participants on fodder production and preservation techniques for commercial fodder producers and agro-pastoralists in Babile and Gursum woredas of Fafan zone. Practical sessions at the demonstration site and four days of theory enabled participants to understand the importance of fodder production at various levels. In addition, varieties of forages and their cultivation, preservation and harvesting processes were comprehensively presented. It is expected that producers will scale up their production and adopt preservation techniques due to their high level of interest. The participants recognized that these techniques can make a substantial contribution on reducing feed crises and the negative impact of recurrent droughts that hit their livestock every year. Similarly, they realized that they can obtain income through sale of commercial animal feed in dry times.

The fodder demonstration site is located in the Babile district of Elbahay kebele, on the farm of a willing farmer. The farmer offered 1 hectare for the demonstration site for a period of three to four months. About 23 agro-pastoralists participated in land preparation, cultivation, and irrigation and weeding activities. The area was selected based on its feasibility of fodder production and demonstration site suitability, as it has availability of water, farming land and interest of cost-share by the farmers in the operations costs of the demonstration plot. The site was planted with different species of nutritious forage grasses such as, Sudan grass, buffalo grass, panicum maximum, Rhodes grass and elephant grass, all of which can make significant contributions to livestock productivity. The forage is now getting to the harvesting stage. All technical support was provided by experts from SORPARI, which led the implementation of the field site activity from beginning to end. The next step will be to organize a pastoralist field day to expose pastoralists to the demonstration site.

### **Key result 1.2: Market linkages improved**

#### ***Fair Trade Week with the Borena Zone Trade and Market Development Office***

In order to strengthen market linkages among livestock value chain actors within the market system in the Southern Cluster, PRIME organized a fair trade week, which included product exhibitions and topical discussions. Among the exhibited products were improved pure Borena-breed bulls, milk and dairy products, and honey. Around 400 participants (223 male and 177 female) from 13 districts attended the event. At the panel discussion, the following challenges in livestock marketing were identified:

- Lack of appropriate market information for pastoralist and agro pastoralist;

- Negative attitude of livestock producers on animal off-take and lack of their market orientation;
- Brokerage and credit sale practices. It has been revealed that about 9 million birr was lost by local traders because of credit selling to buyers that did not reconcile their debts for the livestock purchased. Several legal appeals were initiated by the local traders through the Ethiopian courts;
- Lack of modern livestock product processing industry like abattoirs and dairy plant;
- Lack of awareness on livestock insurance;
- Lack of focusing on legal trade; and
- Lack of information on new Ethiopian government proclamation on live animal trade and ineffectiveness of the policy.

As a result, the zonal government has taken responsibility to solve the aforementioned problems. Moreover, model livestock traders were awarded medals to encourage them to continue their best practices and to highlight them as successful examples for other pastoralists. This will further help increase number the of livestock traders, increase competition in market place and in turn encourage fair livestock trade in the area.

### ***Linkage Workshops and Business-to-Business Connections among Dairy Value Chain Actors, Livestock Traders and Banks***

#### ***Dairy:***

With the overall objective of supporting dairy market system development and linkage creation, this quarter, PRIME facilitated a dairy value chain actors' linkage workshop to bring relevant actors together to enhance business relationships between milk collectors and aggregators in the Afar Cluster. A total of 34 participants (23 female and 11 male) drawn from four cooperatives (13 people), private milk suppliers (11 people), AddisKidān Milk Processing PLC (2 people), Awash Fentalle and Amibera Woreda PADO and Afar Region PADB (8 people), participated in the workshop held in Awash 7 town. During the workshop, the status of the dairy value chain in Afar cluster, status and objectives of AddisKidān milk Processing Plc Company, and PRIME's approach were presented to the workshop participants. Following the presentation, group discussions were held to identify opportunities, constraints and solutions to strengthen the dairy value chain in Afar Cluster. Based



on the consultative group discussion, the major challenges and recommendation on milk value chain in Awash Fentalle and Amibera Woreda were identified and summarized for future action.

As a result, four milk producer cooperatives and seven private milk collectors concluded formal agreements with AddisKidān to ensure the regular supply of quality milk to the company. Since facilitation support from PRIME in terms of linking cooperatives and private collectors to AddisKidān, the company has now been able to double its capacity of collecting milk from 230 liters per day to 450 liters per day. Currently, two private milk collectors and two cooperatives are regularly supplying milk to AddisKidān.

#### *Livestock Traders:*

In the Eastern Cluster, Mercy Corps continued facilitating business to business linkages between livestock traders and financial service providers operating in Jijjiga areas. The overall objective of this sub-activity was to create linkages between livestock traders and banks in order for the livestock traders get access to loans. A B2B forum was conducted in Jijjiga town in which 42 livestock traders and 2 financial institutions participated. During the forum, representatives from Oromia International Bank (OIB) extensively described a wide range of sharia-complaint loan products for the participants. Following the presentation on new sharia compliant loan products, livestock traders gave the feedback that they are excited by non-interest bearing loan products and services of OIB. Livestock traders opened 10 new savings accounts in the bank, whereas OIB committed itself to traders to provide its services and products once the bank can ensure that all of its internal loan procedures and processes are ready. In the same way, Somali Microfinance Institute (SMFI) briefly presented its services and criteria for loan request processes. In the next quarter, the impact of the discussion workshop will be monitored and reported to show the results from this activity.

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

#### ***Consultative Workshop on Camel Milk for Producers, Milk Collectors, Milk Processing Companies and Government Organizations***

In order to stimulate sustainable livestock production and marketing, further improvements in the business policy environments for livestock production and trading are paramount.

During this quarter, PRIME supported the Ethiopian Somali Regional State LCRDB and Ethiopian Meat and Dairy Industry Development Institute to conduct a consultative workshop on camel milk for milk producers, milk private/cooperative collectors, a camel milk processing company, and government organizations. The overall objectives of this workshop were to create awareness among stakeholders and exchange ideas on the camel milk value chain to pave the way and set strategies for future activities towards improving the production and processing of camel milk both for domestic and export markets so as to contribute to the fulfilment of the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) of the country. A total of 71 (61 male and 10 female) people attended this workshop in Jijjiga. The participants of the workshop came from the Federal MoA, Regional Agricultural Research Institutes, Jijjiga and Haramaya Universities, private milk Processors from Afar, Somali and Oromia-Borena Zone, milk cooperatives (Somali and Afar), ESR Crop and Livestock Development Bureau, ESR Industry Development Bureau and ESR Woreda Crop and Livestock Development Offices, Pastoral Forum Ethiopia, and Ethiopian Milk Processing Association. After the presentation of four research papers, and producers' and private sectors' experience and lessons on camel production and camel milk processing, major challenges and opportunities were discussed by the workshop participants and way forward on the camel milk research and development was recommended. The Pastoral Directorate under the Ministry of Agriculture has taken the lead to coordinate stakeholders for the development of national camel research and development strategies.

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

### ***Support to Public Animal Health Services to Conduct Annual Vaccination and Livestock Health Prevention Campaign***

This quarter, PRIME partnered with the ESRS LCRDB to support a regular strategic vaccination program in Awabare and Danbal Districts of ESRS in Fik and Fafan Zones. The vaccination program was based on a cost-share among the regional LCRDB (40%) and District LCRDOs (40%) - costs covering vaccines and drug supply - while Mercy Corps PRIME (20%) covered daily subsistence allowance for program team and logistic support.

As a result, by the end of quarter 11 of PRIME, a total of 314,359 heads of livestock were served in 19 kebeles of the two districts, of which 281,167 heads of livestock were vaccinated against PPR, Blackleg and pox, and 33,192 heads of sick animals were treated by antibiotic and anthelmintic against different endemic diseases. 2,345 pastoral and agro-pastoral households benefited from the interventions in the districts.

### ***Crisis Modifier in Afar***

Afar region has two main rainy seasons: *sugum* (mid-February to April) and *karma* (July to mid-September), along with one very brief rain in December. PRIME monitored changes in key crisis modifier indicators from sources including FEWSNET, WFP, the National Meteorological Agency and community early warning systems. The *sugum* rains were either late or virtually non-existent this year, which was having a particular impact on PRIME target woredas of zone 3. The previous year's less than optimal rainfall resulted in pastures that did not fully produce forage to support herds for the duration of the dry season. Viable pasture areas within the concerned rangeland systems were depleted due to massive livestock movements within kebeles, woredas, and rangeland systems. Movement and lack of adequate nutrition and access to water resulted in declining livestock body condition across the Zone. Milk productivity was severely hampered which is a major cause of child malnutrition in the area. Because of already weak body condition and poor pasture situation, and livestock deaths were becoming common place. As a result, PRIME received the Crisis Modifier funding from OFDA to implement a voucher-based feed and fodder distribution for 7,000 pregnant or lactating livestock in Zone 3, Afar.

The main objectives were to:

1. Prevent further livestock death or decline in livestock productivity, while preserving the key productive assets to pastoral households in Zone 3 through provision of feed/fodder using a voucher scheme in four drought affected woredas;
2. Increase access to, and availability of, milk during the drought period to help ensure that vulnerable households - especially children under 5 years and lactating mothers - are less affected; and
3. Develop linkages between feed/fodder wholesalers in the country and potential feed/fodder retailers in the region.

Beneficiaries were selected by elders and local government authorities, giving priority to families with core breeding animals who were a female headed household, households with a disabled member, households with severe malnutrition cases, households in the lowest wealth quadrant, and households with elderly members or chronically ill individuals.

Out of the 7,000 selected household beneficiaries, the following table represents households that were female headed or had a PWD:

Woreda	# of People With Disability(PWD) Targeted	# of Female headed HH Targeted
Awash	52	247
Amibara	108	500
Gelealo	204	159
Gewane	260	157

Following the national LEGS standard of feed/fodder rations, 1.5kg/day of feed and 3.5kg/day of fodder were designated per livestock, meaning each livestock received a quantity of 45 kg of feed and 7 bales of fodder for the 30 day intervention period. The feed and fodder was distributed to 7,000 households (one livestock per household per government request) via a voucher scheme. PRIME facilitated local retailers to link with CARE contracted wholesalers, and they entered an agreement with the wholesaler to take responsibility for feed/fodder security and quality control. The wholesalers agreed to pay the retailers commission per voucher redeemed, with the hopes of encouraging the feed and fodder market in Zone 3.

Once the feed and fodder reached the distribution centers, the distribution was solely the responsibility of the retailer, with monitoring by PRIME staff and local government officials. The distribution occurred in 4 woredas, Gewane, Gelalo, Amibara and Awash. The table below represents the breakdown of households per woreda:

Target Woredas	Targeted # of lactating cows	Amount of Feed/HH/month (quintal)	Total feed distributed (Quintal)	Amount of Fodder/HH/month (Quintal)	Total Fodder distributed (Quintal)	Remark
Amibera	2000	0.45	900	1.05	2100	<b>Fodder ration- 3.5kg/day and Feed- 1.5kg/day</b>
Awash	1000	0.45	450	1.05	1050	
Gewane	2000	0.45	900	1.05	2100	
Gelalo	2000	0.45	900	1.05	2100	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7000</b>		<b>3150</b>		<b>7350</b>	

In total:

- 14,000 vouchers were printed and distributed to target beneficiaries and collected by the retailers during the distribution;

- 7,350 quintal (49,000 bales) of fodder and 3,150 quintals of feed were transported and supplied by three wholesalers, distributed by five local retailers;
- A total of 7,000 lactating/pregnant cows belonging to 7,000 households received feed and fodder for 30 consecutive days; and
- 5 local retailers and one wholesaler participated in the process of the feed/fodder distribution and supply, respectively.

Although follow-up data from baseline milk production is ongoing, anecdotal evidence suggests that milking frequency increased for targeted households from once to twice per day. Throughout the intervention, government and community consultation was integrated in all aspects of the intervention, from targeting geographical areas to selecting households.

The main challenge of the intervention was timely transport of fodder to the target areas. Due to the majority of transport being allocated to collecting fertilizer at the Djibouti port, transport was challenging for wholesalers to obtain. As a result, the contract of the initial fodder wholesaler was terminated due to lack of delivery. The second wholesaler, while having better delivery times, was still challenged to deliver according to schedule. CARE hired a separate transport company who also failed to deliver to schedule.

#### **IR1 Priorities for Q12:**

- Promotion of the use feed and fodder in the pastoral areas through integrating the promotional activities with IR5 activities
- Facilitate fodder/feed forum among fodder/feed actors in the cluster
- Facilitate the supply of feed and fodder in partnership with private sectors
- Continue strengthening the dissemination of Livestock Market information in collaboration with MoT
- Leverage value chain investment supporting business expansion for fodder/feed ,milk, live animal and meat , animal health services and products for wider impact in the PRIME operational areas
- Facilitate Livestock Supply workshop for market linkage among livestock market actors
- Facilitate milk quality and hygiene Training for milk market value chain actors and support service sectors
- Test/Pilot Mobile animal Health services in South Cluster
- Conduct consultative workshop on animal health services providers

#### **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**

### ***Dissemination of Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP) Advisories for Household and Community Resilience***

PRIME uses the participatory development approach for promoting resilience in local DRM planning and livelihoods investment decision making. The approach focuses on the use of participatory scenario planning as a process that enables communities and local governments to explore potential future changes, their associated impacts and develop a locally relevant action plan for implementation by the communities themselves. The process allows them to effectively manage both the opportunities and risks of change thereby increasing their resilience. PRIME has been facilitating participatory scenario development processes across the three clusters. Although it is too early to determine the long-term impacts of the activity, changes were seen in the form of improved access to climate information, community confidence and improved income and assets through the diversification of livelihoods to climate-resilient strategies. In order to ensure local ownership, wider application and sustainability of the interventions, PRIME is working towards institutionalization of the PSP process by respective local and regional governments.

The PSP process in PRIME is designed to be driven by communities and local government, by purposely involving them and building their understanding of the importance of forecasts and their levels of uncertainty for decision making in a changing climate. This encouraged integration of PSP into community livelihood adaptation and local government development planning, hence continuity of the process. In the reporting period, for example, the woreda DPPOs in Liben and Guji and the regional DPFSPCO in Afar decided to own the process and take practical action for the wider dissemination of the advisories. The institutions translated the PSP advisories produced during the PSP workshops into the local languages and instructed early warning staff and other government agents (DAs, CAHWs) to engage in the dissemination of the information. In Borena and Guji zones, the local EW experts, DAs and community representatives played a critical role in the dissemination of advisories from the PSP. IR2 staff facilitated the production of the advisory templates, created the linkages with community EWS committee members, and organized events at schools and public gathering for wider dissemination.



*Community members and small business owners in Wadera listening to PSP advisories*

An assessment was conducted to evaluate access to PSP advisories by pastoral communities in Harshin grazing system in Somali region. The joint assessment conducted by HAVOYOCO and the PADO shows that from the 752 households contacted by the team, the overwhelming majority (85% or 637 households) reported they had received the advisories. According to respondents, the advisories were useful in different ways. Major actions taken by community members included the planned or timely sale of livestock, establishing contingency funds to manage expected risks, fodder saving and the purchase of veterinary medicine, and a willingness to invest in non-livestock income generating activities. Alongside the dissemination of PSP advisories, respondents recommended business trainings and improved access to financial services.

In a follow-up meeting with the woreda sector offices in Harshin, HAVOYOCO agreed to strengthen community based EWCs and increase the implementation speed of rangeland rehabilitation and enhancement activities (including area closures, water point development and fodder production). In return, the woreda administration agreed to implement activities prioritized during PSP meetings and to create linkages between the woreda EW activities with the PSP process by organizing monthly meetings for its EW experts and the community based EWCs.

Following the distribution of *sugum/belg* PSP advisories to local government sector offices and private service providers via official letter during the previous quarter, the Afar IR2 team facilitated the dissemination of the advisories to local communities and businesses in remote villages of Dulesa, Argoba and Amibara woredas (Halaydege, Angelilie, Andido, Sufiager, Abali, Hugub and Kefis Edeli). 360 households (265 men/95 women participants) have received the advisories directly from government and community representatives.

Linking with other existing committees and/or communication mechanisms such as community based EWS and DRR will strengthen the sustainability of the PSP process. Sustainability is expected to be fully achieved when local government planning processes recognize the importance of and provide resources for the participation of meteorological services, community forecasting experts to help refine plans on a seasonal basis, and for systems for the dissemination of advisories. On the other hand, increased community capacity to understand, use and benefit from climate information will build their demand for the information. Since people have to continuously adapt to a changing climate, there is need for the sustained information sharing and dialogue that PSP forums promote.

### ***Ganna Season Pre-Harvest Assessment in Liben, South Cluster***

In the context of increasing variability of weather patterns and a changing climate, early warning and response strategies are critical to livelihood adaptation and climate appropriate natural resource management and enhancement. In this regard, pre- and post-harvest assessments will contribute immensely toward the effectiveness of local early warning and response mechanisms. Seasonal pre-harvest assessments in particular can support producers at the household level, other market actors, and communities to manage risk and take appropriate adaptive measures in a particular season to preserve assets, continue investment and enhance resilience. Investments in poverty reduction efforts would have better impact if complemented with timely and predictable

response mechanisms that would ensure the protection of livelihoods during crisis periods whether climate change-induced or nature-related.

PRIME has a strong EWS component which aims to strengthen access to and management of EWI (early warning information) around climate and other hazards or crises, enhance performance and relevance of EWS and support community-based EW and DRR planning and response processes. To further this aim, PRIME works with regional and local DPPOs to strengthen the early warning systems to support informed planning and decision making. During the quarter, PRIME provided technical and logistical support to the regional DPFSPCO in Afar, the woreda DPPOs of Liben, Gorodola and Wadera in Guji zone and the Borena zone DPPO.

In Liben woreda, the result of the pre-harvest season assessments predicted a 22% reduction in total crop harvest in the agro-pastoral kebeles, which will have a negative impact on food security of households. The main reasons for the expected reduction in crop yield (especially maize and haricot beans) are heat stress and crop infestation by rust and ball worm. In purely pastoral kebeles of the woreda, the assessment predicted a decline in livestock body condition and productivity. The situation in pastoral kebeles is predicted to be worse than what was during the 2014 *ganna* season. Although the *ganna* rain was generally adequate, it was not possible to harvest enough water for dry periods as most water point in the woreda were filled with silt. The report estimate shows that the water saved in ponds will only last for approximately one month. The report anticipates water shortages for both humans and livestock.

#### ***Multi-sector Rapid Assessment on the Overall Humanitarian Situation in Afar Region***

Following the 5 week delayed onset of the *sugum* rains and below average performance with uneven spatio-temporal, the regional DPFSPCO requested PRIME provide technical and financial support to conduct a multi-agency rapid emergency assessment in 16 woredas from five zones of the region including PRIME's intervention woredas. The assessment evaluated the impact of the delayed 2015 *Sugum/Belg* rains in all five zones of Afar region and the impact on household food security. It also generated and disseminated the rapid assessment report to all DRR stakeholders in the region with a view to update the existing humanitarian situation.

#### ***Social Analysis and Action (SAA) for Climate Change Adaptation in Pastoral Communities***

At its simplest, climate change adaptation within social systems relates to the processes people use to reduce the adverse effects of climate variability and change on their livelihood and well-being, and take advantage of new opportunities provided by their changing environment. In practice, community-based adaptation actions in disaster-prone pastoral areas tend to constitute on-going processes, reflecting many factors or stresses, rather than discrete measures to address climate change specifically. In such contexts, adaptation actions are considered to be tangible alterations, or changes in decision-making environments, to enhance resilience or reduce vulnerability to the current or expected climate.

Household livelihood strategies in pastoral areas in Ethiopia are ultimately shaped by socio-cultural, behavioral, economic and environmental contexts. PRIME adopted SAA in June 2014 as a communication tool and iterative process to work with communities through regularly recurring dialogue and collective action to address underlying drivers of vulnerability to climate change and the behavioral and socio-cultural factors limiting adaptive capacity, from the very

personal to the highly structural levels. The process was initiated through the establishment of core SAA groups at the grazing system and/or district (Woreda) level, which includes representatives from rangeland management councils, early warning committees, development agents, local pastoral and agricultural development offices, health extension workers, and women and youth groups. Core SAA group members were tasked with facilitating the establishment of sub-grazing unit or local village/Kebele-level sub-groups, each of which is led by a team of two facilitators, one male and one female. These facilitators were selected through a consultative process with the core-SAA group members, kebele administrations and community/clan leaders, who know the community well and were able to identify people who would be enthusiastic and able to lead the group by example. The group facilitators received training from the PRIME project team, which focused on climate change, adaptive strategies and barriers, as well as on developing facilitation skills. Following the training, the facilitators were encouraged to identify group members, hold initial discussions and make a plan for ongoing discussions over time. Groups typically include 20-25 members, both women and men, young and old, and representing different groups within the community (livelihood groups, wealth groups, social groups/gender and age and so on). This process is ongoing; however, as shown in the box below, progress has already been made.

During the quarter, the SAA groups established across the three clusters conducted a series of dialogues on behavioral and social issues including herd management, savings and establishing contingency funds, harmful traditional practices including early marriage, female genital mutilation, polygamy, male resource domination in the household and the consumption of khat. Beyond the regular community conversations, the SAA group in Liben have begun taking practical actions including investing in animal fattening, pasture preservation and hay making and the start-up of regularly saving money at the household level. The SAA groups in Yabello held 4 consecutive dialogues. The conversations focused on fodder production, hay making and livestock fattening for marketing purposes.

In Babile Oromiya woreda of the Eastern cluster, 21 sub-SAA groups were established. Fifteen of the groups have carried out four consecutive dialogues each focusing on harmful traditional practices, savings, livestock and natural resource management. In Derara, Fegero and Surur kebeles, the SAA group is led by a woman in collaboration with the local administrations, and they have agreed to address HTPs. The groups and the local administrations in close consultation with the communities in the respective kebeles have decided to reduce the dowry from 25,000 ETB to 5000 ETB.



*The outspoken SAA facilitators from Surur (Ateba, right) and Derara kebeles (Halima, left)*

As demonstrated by the case stories from Derara and Surur kebeles in Babile, the community facilitators are key to the success of the SAA process. PRIME has deliberately chosen to assign community members as group facilitators, as they are embedded in their communities and are therefore in a good position to bring people together and mobilize collective action. IR2 teams in each cluster have provided training to all of the SAA group facilitators, which was highly appreciated by the members. However, as the dialogue evolves and the issues that emerge become increasingly complex, it will be important for the project team to accompany and mentor the facilitators on their journey, providing targeted training and guidance on facilitation, including addressing sensitive issues and dealing with conflicts that may arise. As next steps, PRIME will produce a training manual and provide capacity building and regular monitoring support to the SAA groups.



Sub-SAA Groups in Babile Oromiya Discussing Behavioral and Social Constraints to Adaptation

### ***Household Economy Analysis (HEA)***

After successfully collecting data in the field, the Somali DPPB and Food Economy Group conducted the Outcome Analysis training in Dire Dawa in mid-April to input data into the livelihood impact analysis spreadsheets (LIAS) among other things. The Food Economy group then finalized all LIASs, which are used to run the outcome analysis, putting together the baseline data plus data on the current year (crops, prices, etc.). The Food Economy Group, with support from the DPPB then also finalized the Livelihood Profiles and Regional Overview of 16 zones in the Somali region. Data from the DGR zone, the only remaining zone for the HEA updating activity, was not completed correctly by the field team, and therefore the deliverables were not finalized by the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. PRIME thus extended the DPPB Somali sub-award and the FEG contract in order to allow for the DGR zone data re-check and the final presentation, which will both be completed in the following quarter.

### **Key result 2.2: Increase capacity for effective governance for climate resilience**

#### ***Restructuring of Kebele Early Warning Committees in Zone 3 of Afar***

The local early warning system in Afar was not working well. There was poor coordination and inefficiency in the collection and timely communication of early warning information from the local kebele levels. The link between the regional and local EWS was very poor. The regional

EWS was not effectively responding to community information needs and communities were not informing the regional and zonal EWS. PRIME, in coordination with the regional DPFSPCO and woreda early warning and food security units, has been supporting the restructuring of the local early warning units in the region. The aim of this activity is to enhance the performance and relevance of EWS by strengthening the role of community groups in the Early Warning System. It was also aimed at linking the regional and woreda EWS with the local communities so that the regional EWS will respond to the information needs of the pastoralists in a timely and regular fashion. PRIME's recommendation to include rangeland monitors, traditional forecasters and women and youth representatives in the local EWS was accepted by the regional DPFSPCO.

Through the inclusion of key community members (traditional weather forecasters, pasture/water resource monitors, and clan leaders) and consolidation of the traditional early warning system with the existing formal EWS (7 KEWC members), PRIME effectively facilitated the creation of CbEWS (Community based EWS) and thereby improved the efficiency of the system in the collection and communication of EWI. With PRIME support, the regional DPFSPCO reestablished 66 KEWCs (about 93%) in Amibara, Argoba, Gewane, Dulessa, and Gela'alu woredas. Five more kebele level EWS will be established: 3 in Gela'alo, 1 in Amibara, and 1 at Undufo in Gewane. The newly established Kebele Early Warning Committees have 10 members composed of representatives from traditional weather forecasters (*hutukbiya*), pasture and water resource monitors (*fiemat aba*), clan leaders, religious leaders, kebele chairpersons, school directors, kebele Agricultural Development Agents, kebele Health Extension workers, and women and youth representatives.

#### ***Preparation of the Regional State of the Environment Report (SOER) for Afar Regional State***

The State of the Environment Report (SOER) is one of the periodic reports prepared by the Afar regional government to provide information on the changes in all aspects of the environment including climate, rangelands/biodiversity, land, water and human settlements of the region. SOER provides accurate, timely and accessible information to the community and regional government regarding the condition of the environment, underlying pressures, and sustainability trends. It also evaluates the effectiveness of community and government actions, policies, and initiatives in terms of progress towards sustainability. The report has also the aim of understanding the role of non-state actors (NGOs and other development partners) in climate change adaptation, community resilience and environmental sustainability. In the reporting period, PRIME provided technical and financial support for the preparation of the Afar regional SOER. PRIME believes that preparation of the report will increase community and regional government understanding of environmental and sustainability trends and interactions. The field assessment for the report was conducted from April 07–May 18 2015 in five woredas of the region (Aysaita, Amibara, Dalifage, Afedera, and Teru). The assessment employed participatory rural appraisal techniques and ten regional experts from different disciplines conducted the field survey. Primary data was collected through questionnaire, interview, and field observation. Secondary data was collected from already published materials, maps and photographs from regional bureaus and online sources. The contents of the report include descriptions of the current economic state of the region, economic sectors and their linkages with the natural resource base of the region, the state and condition of livestock, rangelands and the agriculture sector. PRIME has reviewed and provided constructive inputs to the SOER report.

### ***Preparation of Regional Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP of 2015) for Afar Region***

PRIME facilitated a two-day review and planning workshop on Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning (EPRP) which was organized by the regional DPFSPCO from 7-8 April 2015 in Semera town. The aim of the workshop was to assess existing capacities and identify gaps for effective and timely emergency response to priority hazards in the region and thereby prepare the regional EPRP for one year (April 2015-March 2016). Having assessed the existing capacities (resources, supplies, funds, personnel, etc.) and mapped the top five hazards (drought, flood, conflict, human epidemic diseases, and livestock diseases), a ready-made tool to support humanitarian response resource mobilization was prepared. Priority areas for risk informed programming and wider resilience building were identified, and a plan that provides a base for the development of contingency plans at local levels, as hazards become more eminent, was prepared. Finally, a coordination and action plan for emergency preparedness and response was developed. During the development of the plan, PRIME was tasked to prepare the agriculture-livestock sector preparedness plan for 2015/16. By doing so, PRIME was able to promote an integrated approach for Disaster Preparedness and Response process at the regional level.

### ***Support the Development of a Website for the Regional DPFSPCO to Enhance and Strengthen the Regional Early Warning Communication System in Afar***

PRIME has been working with the Afar regional DPFSPCO to support the strengthening of the regional EWS, including strengthening information communication systems. This includes capacity building, assessment and material support. In the reporting quarter, PRIME provided financial support for the development of a website to improve communication and information exchange between the various early warning units in the region and with institutions outside the region. The website is under development and it is intended to facilitate communication of the office with different partners and stakeholders which are working on the field of early warning, disaster risk management and emergency response. Moreover, the website will also facilitate the delivery of the right information at the right time for stakeholders' early preparedness and response planning, in order to prevent or reduce impacts of potential impending threats.

### ***Range School Concept Training Government Experts and Members of the Rangeland Councils in Erer Gotha***

PRIME organized and facilitated a four day training in June for 41 participants (31 men/10 women) representing rangeland council members and woreda level government experts in Erer Gotha. The objective of the training was to raise the understanding of the rangeland council members and government partners about range ecology, particularly plant growth and response to grazing, to help them apply the concepts to their management and monitoring of rangelands. The training is part of the ToT training that was been provided to PRIME and partner staff in 2014 by a team of experts from the USFS (US Forest Service). The trainers were from Jigjiga University, the PRIME IR2 team and government experts who previously received the training from USFS. This training was provided to cascade down the "range school" concept to woreda experts and rangeland council members who are engaged in day to day rangeland management. The training methodology involved both indoor lectures and field based practical exercises.

Training participants were supported with field level applications of rangeland monitoring tools including animal use summary, Grazing Response Index (GRI) (where the intensity, timing, and

duration of grazing is assessed), and Rangeland Health Evaluation (RHE). The participants have gained the basic understanding of *range school concepts* and on how the concept can be integrated with the indigenous knowledge to improve the management of their rangelands.



*Class room session and Rangeland monitoring field practice, Erar gotha*

***Follow up on Participatory Rangeland Management Planning Workshop (Golba Dawa, Dida and Wadera rangelands)***

PRIME has been facilitating a series of NRM dialogue sessions as preliminary processes which lead to the formulation stage of RMPs (rangeland management plans). To date, PRIME has facilitated six rangeland management planning workshops in Southern and Afar clusters. After each planning session, draft management plans and management agreement documents are written. RMPs and the management agreement documents for Dida, Goba-Dawa, and Wadera rangeland units in Guji zone have been drafted, and sent back to RCs and the woreda stakeholders of each unit for validation and incorporation of comments.

The draft RMPs include activities to be implemented over the next five years, aiming at improving the condition and the reversing the trend of range resource degradation. Included are key rangeland management activities common to the three grazing units. Bush encroachment will be reduced through implementing of bush-thinning activities, and communal grazing reserves will be formed and managed to make pasture available during lean seasons. In all the

three units, severely degraded pasturelands are to be closed to provide adequate rest for rehabilitation of grasses. The construction of new ponds and rehabilitation of existing water infrastructure are also included. Recognizing the linkages to livestock productivity, the protection of cultural sites, brackish water sources, and saltlick sites form an essential part of the plans, in addition to halting the expansion of private grazing yards and farm plots in communal grazing locations.



*Rangeland council members of Erer Gotha attending the meeting*

The documents will be signed and sealed by all stakeholders and become binding during the final endorsement workshop.

### ***Support Regular Rangeland Council Dialogues***

As part of PRIME's regular support to customary institutions, regular review meetings of rangeland councils in the three clusters were supported. During the quarter, 8 dialogues were facilitated in Eastern cluster (Mulli, Erer Gotha and Babile Oromia), and Afar cluster (Gewane-Gelealo, Awash Fentale, Amibara, Argoba and Dullessa).

In Eastern cluster, a total of 122 rangeland council members (93 M/30 W) drawn from the three rangelands were supported to conduct their review and reflection dialogues involving natural resource experts from corresponding woredas. Dialogues focused on the achievements of prioritized activities during the previous quarter, governance related issues and challenges, and action planning for the upcoming quarter. Council members pointed out that their performance has improved, including awareness being created in the wider community.

Similarly, in Afar cluster rangeland councils have conducted their quarterly review and reflection meetings at Gewane-Gelealo, Amibara, Dullessa and Argoba rangeland systems involving 117 participants (101 M/16 W) drawn from the four rangelands and sub-range land units.

### **Range Council Meeting Participants - Afar**

Rangeland Unit	Participants		
	Female	Male	Total
Amibara	4	19	23
Dullessa	3	21	24
Argoba	4	27	31
Gewane-Gelealo	5	34	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>117</b>

In the Afar meetings, council members stressed that they want to strengthen monthly meetings at the sub-rangeland unit level to enhance the active involvement of the rangeland management council members in day to day resource governance activities, and scale up the council's information exchange and decision making mechanisms to improve their effectiveness in resource governance and build community resilience to climate risks.

The council members mentioned that the support they are receiving from PRIME has enabled them to motivate and communicate effectively to the wider community, and enhanced their capacity and practical skills for better management and decision making over their rangelands. The council members described that when compared to the previous periods changes are being observed on the productivity of their range land as a result of their participation and their efforts in mobilizing the wider community on different resource enhancement and management activities. Participants also emphasized the need for enhanced collaboration and coordination between different partners, including rangeland management councils, local administrations, the community and PRIME. Councils of the Gewane-Gelalo rangeland system arranged a field visit

to Bunketo Molale grazing land and observed the management of sites cleared of invasive species.



*Participants in the review meeting and during site visit at Buniketo grazing land*

In Dulessa rangeland system, as rehabilitation and management activities have not progressed well, the participants have given more emphasis to site identification and prioritization for rehabilitation activities. They preferred area closures and related activities to be implemented in Geribohaf and Kilele grazing lands as they believe the areas have good potential for regeneration.

### **Rangeland Areas Identified for Closure and Restoration - Dulessa RLS**

<b>Grazing Land Areas Selected for Enclosure &amp; Restoration</b>	<b>User Clan</b>	<b>User Villages</b>
Geribohaf	Fediha	Miena-Debie, Yeyeba, Dekini-Halo, Adoda, sasabur-deba, Ali-Agira, Adoke, Geribohaf
Kilele	Sidehabura	Gehar-Debo, Ferihani, Adanidaba, Adadotolie, Ayilalie, Gehorita, Kilelei-Gura, kelela

Monthly sub-rangeland unit level dialogues of range councils took place in Afar during the quarter. These sub-rangeland unit level meetings were held in nine sub-rangelands under four main rangelands. The objective of range council meetings at this level is to strengthen community participation in rangeland management activities through holding regular monthly review meetings on which achievements are assessed and solutions are sought on exiting challenges. The meetings of the nine sub-rangeland units under Gewane-Gelealo, Dulessa, and Amibara and in Argoba rangeland units discussed important rangeland resource management agendas. This included the need for making hay for lean seasons, adopting the cut-and-carry method of feeding animals, implementing area closure interventions in degraded locations, site selection for clearing *prosopis*, and planning for clearing management needs. In addition, the roles and responsibilities of the range councils, PRIME and PADO at the sub-rangeland unit level were identified and agreed upon. In all locations, participants agreed on the mode of

utilization of PRIME's inputs, including refreshments and hand tools. Overall, 34 female and 95 male participants attended the meetings.

### **Key result 2.3: Implementation of climate solutions**

#### ***Institutional Capacity Building Support to Zonal and District DPPOs in South Cluster***

Linked to the participatory analysis of local and regional early warning systems, PRIME supported communities and various levels of government systems to develop capacities to strengthen community-based early warning, DRM planning, and early response. Such support is designed to ensure that various levels of government can trigger internal early response mechanisms in order to maximize options for asset protection and adaptation as early as possible. Key areas of support being provided by PRIME includes building the technical and institutional capacity of zonal and woreda early warning units. This should strengthen the effectiveness of local early warning systems in the collection, management and communication/dissemination of early warning information, and the implementation of early warning response measures.

In March and May of 2014 PRIME facilitated different multi-stakeholder consultative meetings to identify gaps in the existing EWS across the three clusters. As a way forward, action points in the areas of capacity building and institutional support were proposed to strengthen the woreda, zonal, and regional EWS. During the previous quarter, PRIME organized a six-day capacity building training session in the thematic areas of early warning database management, community-managed DRR, adaptive social protection and food security assessment, and hot spot classification. During the current quarter, PRIME provided materials (2 digital cameras, 4 laptop computers, 2 desktop computers, 2 LCD projectors, 2 scanners and 2 color printers) to support the local EWS in Liben woreda and Guji zone. These materials will help facilitate the timely collection, analysis and dissemination of early warning information to government and community stakeholders.

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

Fodder production is one of the adaptation activities prioritized by communities in CVCA and follow-up livelihood adaptation dialogues. The activity is an important strategy to manage risks caused by drought and feed scarcity. Producing and conserving feed resources will also reduce the over dependence on natural pasture, as pastoralists lack the experience and skill to produce and preserve fodder. PRIME is working with fodder producers, seed suppliers, research institutions and pastoral and agricultural development offices on the production and conservation of fodder and feed resources. During the quarter, PRIME facilitated awareness raising and skill building sessions for pastoralists to engage in the production of fodder. In Erer-Gotha woreda in Somali region, skill development training was organized for 39 households (27 M/12 W) selected from Garmam, Bila, Kentras, Fathuli and Gota areas in Erer woreda. Topics covered during the field-based training included identification of climate adaptive feed species appropriate to Erer-Gotha, specific agronomic management practices for adaptive improved forage species, management of improved pasture and fodder banking. Households who attended the training were exposed to the eight main fodder species: alfalfa, small cow pea, cow pea, pigeon pea, sudan grass, leucaena, and sesbania. Using each of the eight forage species as

examples, the training gave particular emphasis to seed rate and spacing, types of nutrients to be applied as fertilizers and feeding management.

Fifteen of the trainees allotted 0.5 ha of land for planting fodder crops and 21 of them had allotted 0.25 ha. Following the training, 36 of trainees purchased a total of 72 kg of improved forage seeds from a preferred seed supplier using a voucher system. Following the skills development training, the preparation of land and purchase of forage seeds, PRIME supported the woreda PADO to provide agronomic support to growers.



*Fodder production training in Erar-Gotha*

A multi-stakeholder consultative meeting was facilitated in Guji zone to introduce and promote more productive, nutritious and climate-resilient fodder species, anticipating that they can be produced to market scale in the near future. The meeting was supported by field visits to identify potential production sites and appropriate forage species. Mi'essa and Buradhera kebeles were selected for both irrigated and rain fed production of fodder. 42 interested growers were selected in consultation with the communities in each kebele. Each grower has allotted between 0.25-0.5 ha of land for fodder production. The forage seeds selected are elephant grass and matagudessa (*Cenchrus Ciliaris*). Consultation was also held with IR1 and IR3 staff on potential linkages with forage seed producers and suppliers. IR1 staff have agreed to organize a training on farm management, planting techniques, and harvesting, preservation and utilization/feeding methods. IR3 will support in sourcing seeds and cuttings and in facilitating market linkages with agricultural input suppliers. PRIME will liaise with the local PADOs and other actors (such as FAO and ILRI) and facilitate the actual planting of the selected forage species by the selected growers.

In Afar, the PADO and communities prioritized panicum *maximum*, alfalfa (*medicago sativa*), cow pea (*vigna unguiculata*), and buffle grass (*cenchrus ciliaris*) as the most adaptive forage species to the agro-ecology in zone 3. In consultation with the PADO and communities, a total of 59 beneficiary agro-pastoral households (7 women and 52 men) were selected from 8 kebeles in Amibara and Argoba woredas. These beneficiaries are model agro-pastoralists who will be used to promote the technologies for other community members through field days. The woreda PADOs will provide the required skill training and field-level agronomic and advisory support to growers. Since there was no seed available for purchase from the agricultural research centers in

Afar, PRIME will purchase the seeds from preferred suppliers and/or research institutes in Addis Ababa or Somali region.

***Support the Rehabilitation of Rangelands through Selective Bush Control and Management***

Rehabilitation of rangelands through selective bush clearing are increasing in pace and scale, in particular across Wayama, Dire, Golbo, Malbe and Gomole range land units. The rehabilitation efforts initiated in the previous quarter with hand tool and refreshment support from PRIME have continued despite environmental challenges and the national election. During the quarter, 278 ha of infested rangeland areas have been cleared through community mobilization. The cleared sites are fenced and reserved for the dry season. The following table shows the level of effort in each rangeland:

**Rangeland Rehabilitation Activities Q 11**

Rangeland	Participants		Rangeland rehabilitated (ha)	Implementer
	Men	Women		
Wayama (Bede & Gofa reras)	95	55	10	Mercy Corps
Golbo(Arbale & Goray sub-units)	155	75	58	Mercy Corps
Gomole (Afura,Dhadim, Dida hara & Danbala sadden reeras)	186	104	60	SOS Sahel
Dire(Anole, Gara Haya, Danbala wachu &Dida dhadota koromi reras)	325	125	110	SOS Sahel
Malbe(Dibe Gaya, Sarite, Marmaro & Gobso reras)	224	37	40	SOS Sahel
Amibara (Halaydegi)			50	CARE
<b>Total</b>			<b>328</b>	

Rangelands rehabilitated during the previous quarter have also showed improvement in terms of the quality and quantity of pasture.

***Support Rangeland Rehabilitation through Prosopis Control and Management***

In Afar, Halaidege grazing land in Amibara rangeland system has been known for its grass potential for many years. However, the size, production and productivity of the grazing land has

started declining primarily due to overgrazing, recurrent drought and the expansion of *prosopis juliflora* and other invasive plant species. The community and local government have declared *prosopis juliflora* as the number one problem challenging their livelihoods. In 2014, PRIME supported the community in Amibara rangeland system to clear 85ha of grazing land by mechanical means. As there is still vast land covered by the species, and regeneration of native grass from cleared land being very encouraging, the community in Halaydege prioritized to undertake further prosopis clearing. Considering the community need and actual problem on the ground, PRIME continued supporting prosopis clearing by integrating mechanical and hand clearance. 50 ha of land have been cleared from prosopis with the participation of over 68 people (48 men and 20 women) and machinery support during the reporting quarter.

The loader takes the lead in clearing prosopis especially in areas where the density of the stand is medium to dense to minimize labor intensive work and manage larger areas in a short period of time. The community contributed their labor for tasks including collecting and burning the biomass from the cleared prosopis stands, clearing saplings and seedlings that cannot be managed by the loader, and uprooting and clearing using hand tools on less dense and sparsely vegetated prosopis stands. Based on the previous experiences of the community, prosopis clearing techniques included cutting at 10-30 cm below ground level, burning stumps with animal dung after cutting, burning of the biomass after being cut by the loader, and uprooting seedling and saplings was applied. The community has been using hand tools provided by PRIME during the previous year and which are available at a tool bank of the rangeland council for similar rangeland rehabilitation endeavors.

#### ***Support Restoration of Degraded Sites and Catchment Area Protections***

In Argoba and Dulessa rangeland systems of Afar, PRIME has continued to support the restoration of degraded sites and catchment area protections. In the previous quarter, community representatives of these rangelands selected and prioritized enclosures and development of soil and water conservation measures, including terraces, stone bunds, half moon, and bench terracing. With technical support and monitoring from PRIME, members of the rangeland councils and woreda focal persons of Argoba rangeland system enclosed 27 ha of degraded rangeland areas to help restore the site. A total of 72 participants (50 men and 22 women) took part in the activity. Similarly in Dulessa rangeland system, 7 ha of grazing land at Dire have been enclosed, mobilizing 64 community members (42 men and 22 women). Hand tools were provided which will be kept in a rangeland council managed tool bank.



*SWC structure development at Guba sub-rangeland unit in Argoba*

## Soil and Water Conservation Activities Undertaken in Argoba Rangeland, Afar

Sub Rangeland Unit	SWC Activities
<b>Guba (Marke and Abagola grazing lands)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.8km terracing</li> <li>- Expansion of fencing</li> <li>- 0.7 km bench terracing</li> </ul>
<b>Lib-Argi (Sala-Manikorikoria grazing lands)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approximately 45 ha of grazing land fencing</li> <li>- 2 km terracing</li> <li>- 14 km stone bund</li> </ul>
<b>Debireko-Sekela (Nefaso and Abat-Hage grazing lands)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 0.8 km fencing with local materials</li> <li>- Fencing on approximately 27 ha of grazing land has already started (12ha Debireko, and 15ha Goze)</li> </ul>

### *Development and Rehabilitation of Water Points*

To ensure even utilization of pasture resources across the rangeland systems, PRIME has been supporting both the development of new water points and rehabilitation of existing ones across the three project target areas.

### *Rehabilitation of Haro Bake Microdam*

Rehabilitation of Haro Bake microdam has been ongoing for nearly a year. The work has been ongoing under two separate contracts. The first contract comprises three major activities: 1) Construction of one new spillway at the east abutment of the Dam, 2) rehabilitation of one existing spillway at the west abutment of the dam, and 3) downstream channel stabilizing works in both the east and west abutments. Over 97% of the first contract has been accomplished and the only remaining work is the construction of a 16m x 20m x 40 cm thick pavement at the upstream apron of the spillway channel, with guide walls at the far end of the channel. The pavement and guide walls are pending due to the onset of the rainy season. The second contract also comprises two major activities: 1) expansion of reservoir capacity, and 2) rehabilitation of the dam embankment. Over 88% of the second contract has been completed, and the remaining work is chamfering the steep cut at the periphery of the excavated area, which is also pending due the rainy season.

48,000m<sup>3</sup> of silt deposits have been excavated and removed from inside the reservoir. The excavated soil was used to construct a flood guiding dyke behind the reservoir's embankment at the southern lower side of the dam. The excavation together with a flow regulating structure constructed on the east bank side of the dam has increased the storage volume to 780,000m<sup>3</sup>. During the quarter the dam harvested rain to its full capacity. The flood waters entering the dam were safely disposed at both banks of the spillways. Users of the dam including government officials are very pleased to see the amount of water the dam is storing, and witnessed that the amount stored is the most in the dam's history.



*Water reservoir at full capacity behind the rehabilitated Bake micro dam*



*The newly constructed East bank spillway safely discharging excess water*



*The rehabilitated spillway structure at the West bank*



*The West bank spill way discharging excess water from the reservoir*

The visibility signboard has been put in place both by the roadside in Haro Bake town and by the water point at the east side of the earth dam as shown in the pictures below.



*Signboard by the roadside & at the water point*

### **Environmental Considerations**

Environmental degradation due to inappropriate placement of permanent water sources and inappropriate rehabilitation technologies of degraded rangeland causes degradation of the fragile rangeland environment and leads to loss of grazing areas, conflicts and increased vulnerability of pastoral communities to drought. Hence, avoidance or minimizations of risks that have negative impacts on the environment are considered as an integral part of the entire natural resource enhancement works PRIME is supporting. The environmental considerations are made in accordance with the Environmental Screening criteria developed for every enhancement works of PRIME. In cases where negative impacts are not avoidable, appropriate mitigation measures at acceptable levels are considered and implemented. Site specific considerations have been

made during water point development, restoration of degraded areas and bush thinning and prosopis clearing in all the three clusters of PRIME.

### **Challenges**

- Due to the lack of experience and capacity of rangeland councils in rangeland rehabilitation practices, there is a low commitment by some councils to mobilize the community and follow-up progress during the implementation of physical activities.
- Seasonal migration of pastoral communities in Afar (particularly Amibara) due to the lack of rainfall has affected project activities including community prosopis clearing and SAA discussions.
- National elections and the extended dry season in Afar with the resulting temporary shift of Afar PRIME staff to carry out Crisis Modifier activities affected the implementation of regular IR2 activities. The unavailability of the front end loader due to an accident has also negatively impacted the pace of prosopis clearing and water point rehabilitation in Afar.
- Resistance to the facilitative approach of PRM and a strong push towards the cash for work approach in Eastern cluster has resulted in lowered results of NRM rehabilitation and enhancement activities.
- Lack of coordination among partners and poor team management at the cluster level has contributed to poor performance during the reporting quarter.

### **IR2 Priorities for Q12**

#### **Natural Resource Management**

##### **Initial Remote Sensing and Scientific Analysis for Climate Adaptive NRM**

- Remote sensing analysis in key pastoral resource areas conducted (Vegetation mapping in four selected pilot sites in Borena, Guji, Afar and Somali with the support from USFS technical team)
- Conduct scientific analysis around land potential (land capability classification) in pilot rangeland system in Borena through Haramaya University

##### **Improve Governance for Climate Smart Natural Resource Restoration & Enhancement**

- Continue support range councils regular dialogues and consultation workshops around key NRM priority issues affecting rangeland management and productivity
- Support and facilitate the development community's rangeland management bylaws that helps to enforce the implementation the rangeland management plan being developed

##### **Implement Natural Resource Restoration & Enhancement towards Climate Adaptation**

- Continuing with the ongoing natural resource rehabilitation and enhancement activities including bush thinning, water points rehabilitation/development

##### **Facilitate and Support participator rangeland management planning that Supports Climate Adaptation**

- Facilitating rangeland management planning workshops in Afar and drafting the management plan documents
- Facilitating rangeland management plan validation workshops in Borena and Guji

## **Climate Change Adaptation**

### **Strengthen Access to and Management of EW Information around climate and other hazards/crises**

- Capacity building support to DPPOs for institutionalization of PSP
- Tracking early warning indicators through local EW committees

### **Strengthen Disaster Response Capacities and Strategies at Local and Regional levels**

- Organize planning workshops (PSPs) and dialogue forums for uptake of localized forecast information for livelihood adaptation and DRM planning
- Enhancing the capacity of stations, instruments and key personnel of local and regional meteorological institutions
- Training of meteorologists in climate modelling, downscaling and communication of climate change

### **Improve capacity for information-gathering around climate change**

#### ***Strengthen capacity of meteorological information gathering***

- Support downscaling of regional climate model products and calibrations to support local planning and livelihood decision making
- Support the production, packaging and communication of downscaled climate information

#### ***Link and tailor meteorological information for local stakeholders***

- Support automation and calibration of selected meteorological stations (install automatic weather stations)
- Rehabilitate old stations with new observing communication instruments and data processing facilities

### **Increased Capacity for Information-Dissemination and Decision Making around Climate Information**

#### ***Enhance systems and institutions for delivery of climate information to key community and government stakeholders***

- Provide training to local and regional meteorological directorates on management and communication of climate information for local decision making

### **Support awareness and capacity-building events towards application of climate change information for local decision-making**

- Build the capacity of key institutions/government partners for co-ownership and institutionalization of PSPs
- Conduct participator scenario planning (PSP) workshops
- Support dissemination of PSP advisories
- Track and monitor PSP advisory dissemination and utilization

### **Promote uptake of new adaptive technologies/practices**

- Training of Community facilitators
- Linking SAA groups with rangeland management and VSLA groups/financial services

- Follow up monitoring and technical support for SAA dialogue groups

### Support Climate Smart Livelihood and Adaptation through Market Driven Initiatives (IR1 and 3)

- Promote fodder production through pilot production of improved local feed seed varieties
- Hay making trainings for communities in Dirre, Gomole and Malbe rangeland systems

### 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 that are enrolled in TVETs through PRIME's Short-term vocational scholarship program reached 935*

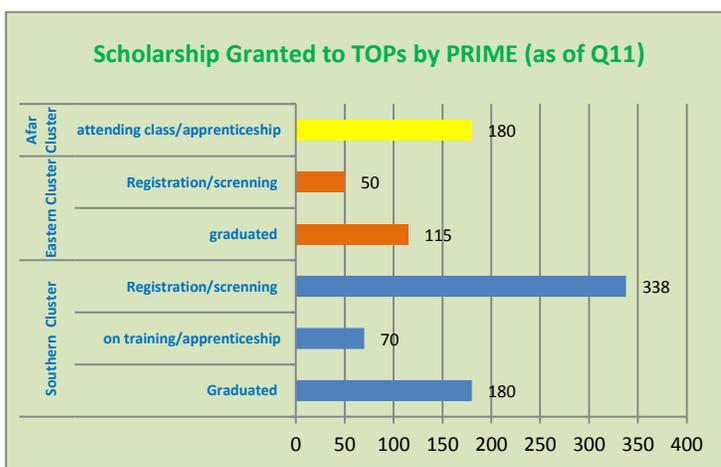
The main objective of PRIME's scholarship program for people transitioning out of pastoralism (TOPs) is to improve their life skills through short-term skill training that will assist them to secure stable employment or create self-employment. According to PRIME's labor market assessment, the majority 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. Up to this quarter PRIME has granted scholarships to 935 TOPs coming from different woredas in the three PRIME operational clusters to attend training in different public and private TVETs. Out of this group, 295 have already graduated. To ensure sustainable delivery of the training in the long-term, PRIME also provides cost-shared grants to TVETs to procure fixed assets (i.e. training equipment) and materials for the TVETs to offer new training streams and strengthen existing training streams (i.e. carpentry, plumbing, tailoring, etc). In some cases the cost-shared grants also covers some of the tuitions fees. In return the TVETs provide short-term skill training for TOPs. TOPs are required to cover their transportation costs. For TOPs coming from very poor families and from remote areas, PRIME, in special cases, also covers accommodation cost in addition to the tuitions fee for the training. The enrollment process for scholarships continued throughout this quarter in eastern, southern and Afar clusters.

*Scholarship for 60 Youth TOPs on Machinery Operating Training in Zone 3, Afar:* The machinery operator training began on May 29, 2015 in Awash 7 Kilo after signing an agreement with the Chora Heavy Duty Machinery Training Institution. The training resources and personnel were transported a week before the training commenced. Based on the national standard ratio of 1:15 (1 machine for every 15 trainees), a total of 60 trainees were placed into four groups (two groups for excavator operation, and two groups for loader operation). The training will be delivered for 12 consecutive weeks, the first 3 weeks being theoretical, and the remaining 9 weeks covering practical sessions including testing and certification, for a total of 604 credit hours.

*Scholarships for 120 Youth TOPs on Public 1 and Dry 1 Driving License Training, Afar:* The driving license scholarship was developed with the objective of building the technical capacity and employability of TOPs and unemployed youth of Zone 3 of Afar. The selection of trainees was undertaken by the pastoral and agricultural bureau of each target woreda and the Awash 7 Kilo town administration. 120 individuals (including 5 women) were selected, meeting basic selection criteria of being a resident of Zone 3, unemployed, and having an 8th grade certificate.

A year ago, the regional transport bureau banned driving training centers due to poor quality service delivery. However, because of the scholarship opportunities offered by PRIME, Kada Aba Drivers Training center was recommended by the transport bureau to conduct the training. CARE signed an agreement with the training center in association with the Regional Trade and Transport Bureau.

Training began on April 29th. The driving training scholarship offers two tracks: Public 1 (public transport buses) and Dry 1 (trucks for dry freight), with 60 trainees enrolled in each track. The curriculum includes theory, computer training, engine training, and practical driving skills. Due to the number of vehicles provided by the training center, and the standards set by the government, an additional 10 days were added to the practical instruction in order to ensure each student had the minimum number of hours required.



All students passed the theoretical test, and 75% of the students have scored higher than average.

*Short-Term Training Scholarship Program for 140 TOPs in Southern cluster:* 140 TOPs in the field of sanitary installation, auto mechanics, and dress-making (30 of which are for people with disabilities) have successfully completed their trainings at the Yabello & Moyale TVETs. In order to scale up the provision of these trainings, PRIME also signed an additional agreement with Negelle and Yabello TVETs to increase enrollment figures and diversifying the fields of study. As a result, an increased number of female students are being enrolled as compared to the previous quarters.

The scholarship program is not limited to short term trainings however, but also aims to facilitation and link graduates to job opportunities. On this regard, the 100 dress making graduate students from Moyale TVET were linked with the local SME office to support them in starting their entrepreneurial ventures. The SME Officer is also facilitating linkages with MFIs to facilitate loan access for graduates looking to start their own business. On top of this, PRIME will also facilitate entrepreneurship training to enhance their business skill.

### ***Online HelloJobs platform expanding into Afar and Southern cluster***

HelloJob is an online platform, managed by Amasis, providing visibility and access to employment or training for people who seek employment in the pastoralist regions of Ethiopia. During this quarter, a total of 346 jobs seekers registered through the HelloJob platform, bringing the total job seekers initiated registration through HelloJob agents to 2,532 in the Somali region since September 2014. Data on job seekers is currently available online on [www.hellosera.com](http://www.hellosera.com) ([hellogebeya.com](http://hellogebeya.com)).

During the reporting quarter, PRIME and Amasis developed a rollout plan for the HelloJob service to expand into Afar and southern cluster. (*See annex 3 for detailed rollout plan*)

Last quarter, Amasis conducted a snapshot random survey to monitor how many people obtain jobs directly or indirectly via the HelloJob system. Out of the registered job seekers a telephone interview to 220 job seekers confirmed that 13% of the job seekers reported that they obtained a job after registering in the system. This implies that from 1,868 the total registered job seekers approximately 242 of them have obtained jobs since it was started 8 months ago.

### ***Business Skill Development Training for Private Service Providers (PSPs) - Borena***

Business skill development training was provided to Field Agents and People with Disabilities (PWDs) for 5 days each to acquaint trainees with small business development, management and knowledge to enhance their ability to identify, plan, implement and manage income generating activities effectively. Twelve individuals (2 women) from 3 districts in Borena attended. The training will be cascaded down to Village Savings and Loan Association group members to increase their understanding about business ideas and to encourage participation in income generating activities.

Key areas included in the training were:

- 1) *Business development and management, and entrepreneurial skills:* This included basic information on developing and managing businesses, developing flexibility in business management according the environment, and also identifying entrepreneurs in the community.
- 2) *Managing and expanding small trade experience:* As most of the PSPs are already engaged in small business activities, this training helps them understand how to manage and expand their own business, in addition to training VSLA members on engaging in and managing their respective businesses.
- 3) *VSLA members engaging in business and increasing savings:* This included training on assisting VSLA members to take loans for the purpose of starting small businesses and increasing their savings.

*Challenges:* Key challenges identified included limited capital of VSLA members to engage in small business activities as during dry periods. Most loans were used for the purchase of food, health care and seeds.

*Opportunities:* Different small business opportunities were identified during the training that are appropriate for VSLA members. Also, most members are highly motivated to start businesses.

*Outcomes:* Through the training it was realized that the majority of PSPs were able to:

- Identified interests;
- Apply learning to various situations;
- Understand the ways they learn;
- Discover their motivations; and
- Learn from their experiences.

*Next steps:* There will be follow-up with PSPs to observe the impact of training, and also to ensure VSLA members receive cascade training.

***Business skills and entrepreneurship training for women TOPs***

This quarter ACPA facilitated basic business skill and entrepreneurship training for women TOPs from three woredas. The overall objective of this activity was to increase business skills, marketing, and business planning and financial literacy of women TOPs. A total of 150 women TOPs were trained in Jigjiga, Gursum and Babile Somali. This activity will continue in the next quarter in Afdem and Mieso of ACPA operating areas.

***Adult Literacy Training - Afar – Friendship Support Organization (FSA)***

Sixty facilitators (52M, 8F) received two five-day training-of-trainers for Integrated Functional Adult Literacy (IFAL) adult teaching techniques. The first training was for facilitators from Awash Fentale, Amibara and Gala’lo woredas, and the second was for participants from Argoba and Dulessa. The training focused on three practical issues for adult learners: knowledge, life skills improvement and behavioral change and materials included linkages to markets and employment.

Woreda	Total #of Female
Jigjiga	50
Gursum	50
Babile	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>

*IFAL Implementation:* The IFAL program continued in all 30 schools of the 5 target woredas. The learning sessions are held 3 - 5 days per week, for 2 hours per session. The government has provided books in both Ahmaric and Afarina, and each woreda education office remains involved. Learner attendance remains high. Each project site was visited monthly by the FSA field coordinator to monitor and mentor. The adults in all IFAL sites are learning 3-5 days per week for 2 hours per session. 30 blackboards were distributed to each location, and woreda officials are requesting solar panels. PRIME has agreed to provide the panels if the community contributes 50% of the cost. A project review session was held at the end of the quarter to share experiences and strengthen activities.

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

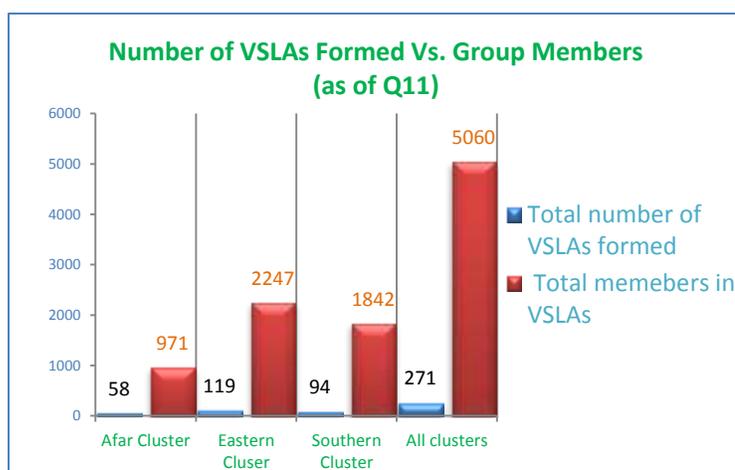
### ***VSLA formation through the Private Service Provider (PSP) model is growing at faster rate***

This quarter the PRIME-supported PSPs have continued the formation and expansion of VSLAs through the PSP model, a more cost effective and sustainable method than the traditional Field Agent Model, 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. As of Quarter 11, PRIME supported PSPs have formed 273 VSLA groups with a total of 5,060 (70% are women) members across three clusters of PRIME operational areas. The value of savings reached \$87,174 and \$35,742 in loans were given by VSLAs to members by the end of the quarter.

Increased financial literacy in the pastoralist communities as a result of the approach is paving the path for PRIME to expand the model into more areas through a second round of PSP cohort trainings. These activities are being under implementation by Mercy Corps, SoS Sahel, ACPA and CARE in all clusters.

#### ***Evaluation of PSP's performance:***

The success of PSP model is highly dependent on the performance of PSPs (number of VSLAs established and quality of service provided). According to the industry benchmark, one PSP during its Field Agent-phase of the first 8 months should establish 6 groups with project support. Out of 39 PRIME-supported first-cohort PSPs (SC & EC), 42% formed an average of 9 groups while 35% formed an average



of 5-8 groups. Another twelve percent of PSPs under-performed (i.e. formed an average of less than 5 groups). Whereas, the rest of the PSPs (12%) dropped out of the system at some point by forming an average of only 1 group or without forming a single group. The main reason for dropping out was obtaining another job or moving to different locations.

Currently, 10 PSPs in southern cluster have been certified and eight groups have started paying fees to PSPs for their service.

***Second Cohort PSP recruitment:*** PRIME has also started second-cohort recruiting by training and deploying 16 PSPs in Southern and Eastern clusters. Based on the experience obtained from the first cohort, the monitoring and technical support for the PSPs was enhanced. In order to scale up and cover more geographic areas, in the upcoming quarters more PSPs will be recruited.

In addition, entrepreneurship and Islamic financial service training has been facilitated to PSPs that are operating in Southern and Eastern cluster respectively. The objectives of the training are to enhance the entrepreneurship capacity of PSPs and to provide them with an additional service offering that they could potentially provide to the VSLA groups.

*Support and monitoring of FAs and VSLAs in Afar cluster:* The performance of PSPs in Afar cluster was found to be poor. As a result the project provided additional supervision of Field Agents during the VSLA formation and verification stages in the three piloting woredas (Burimudayitu, Amibera and Dulesa). New FAs will be recruited in the upcoming quarter. Existing VSLAs will be revitalized and materials recovered from terminated FAs, and new VSLA groups will be established.

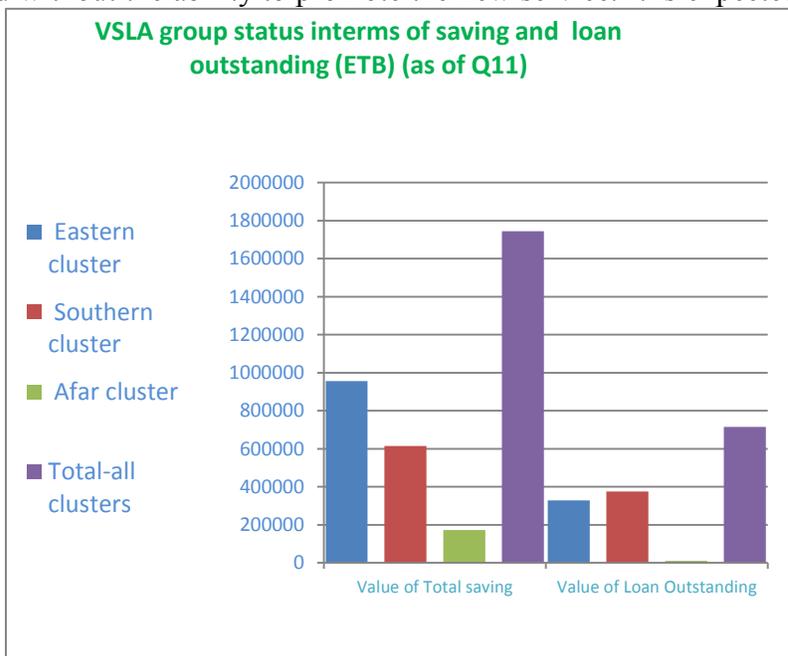
### Key Result 3.2: Increased income opportunities for TOPs

#### ***PRIME-supported Mobile and Agent Banking initiative approved for commercial launch***

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 provided a cost-share grant for the pilot during the first phase of project implementation, while the private sector partners are providing over 75 percent of the cost-share throughout the implementation period. This project is expected to create more than 2,000 jobs and benefit 42,000 households by creating access to different financial services through mobile phones and the agents of SMFI.

The National Bank of Ethiopia granted approval for the pilot in January, 2015. After the successful completion of the pilot, the National Bank of Ethiopia granted SMFI and Belcash to commercially launch the mobile and agent banking service in the region. Since the mobile and agent banking service started, 2,623 (807 are female) individuals opened a mobile bank account through 20 agents and 23 SMFI branches. This represented a client growth for SMFI of about 20%, within only three months and without the ability to promote the new service. It is expected that this activity will result in 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.

The Mobile and Agent 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-the-move or if they have settled in a locality.

***SMFI opened seven new branches in 6 woredas of the Somali Regional State and Addis Ababa through financial assistance obtained from PRIME***

This quarter, PRIME provided a cost-shared grant to SMFI to improve access to financial services to micro and small businesses, livestock traders, petty traders, TOPs and pastoral HHs, in districts where access to formal finance was previously limited or didn't exist. SMFI opened seven new branches in six woredas and towns in Somali Regional State and Addis Ababa. The SMFI deployed resources and staff in Moyale, Filtu, Awbarre, Kebribayah, Hargelle, Dire Dawa and Addis Ababa to run these branches. Since opening the new branches, in less than a month's time, more than 110 people opened savings accounts in these branches and one of the new branches already dispersed 18,000USD in loans to 80 individuals.

***PRIME signed sub-award to increase the core financial service function of Afar MFI***

Following USAID's approval, Mercy Corps, signed a sub-award agreement with Afar Micro Finance Institute (AMFI) to provide a cost-shared grant aimed at improving the core function of AMFI. The financial support will be used for activities such as opening four new branches in PRIME operational areas, linking branches with core banking solutions, and building the capacity of the management and board of directors of the MFI.

The technical and financial assistance to Afar MFI is changing dynamics of the inclusive financial service delivery to the vulnerable households in Afar region. Since Afar MFI become operational in March 2015 through support from PRIME has opened its door for service in four branches and two sub-braches at Awash, Semera/Logia, Asiyta and Aba'ala. During the period between March and June, AMFI reached saving clients and provided group loans to 176 clients amounting to \$45,000. AMFI mobilized \$50,000 in saving from 825 individuals and businesses gave in the same period. This access to finance is expected to create more business opportunities and increase incomes for pastoralist Households and TOPs in the region. As part of subaward signed between the MFI and Mercy Corps, the technical and financial assistance to the AMFI will continue and currently we are facilitating an exposure visit to Indonesia for the management of the MFIs. As same time the MFI is planning to open two more branches in the PRIME operational woredas in the following quarters.

***Status of sub-award to Rays MFI to improve their core financial service function***

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 desire to play a role in improving



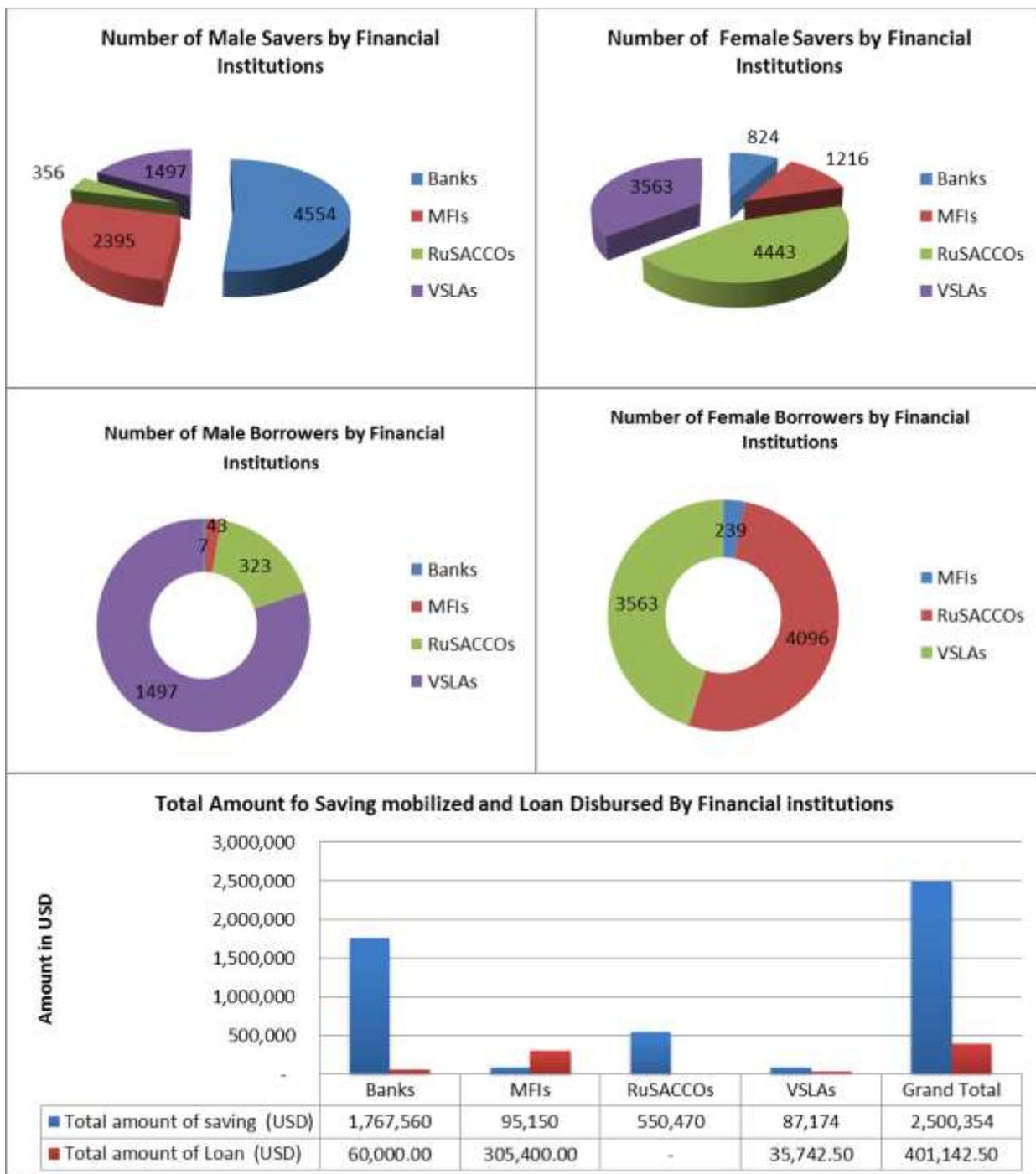
Afar MFI and PRIME staff during the signing of the agreement

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. During the quarter, USAID approved Mercy Corps to sign a sub-award agreement with Rays MFI. The main objectives of PRIME's support to Rays are to strengthen the core functions of the MFI, including need assessment/product development, branch expansion and MIS/core banking solutions. However, before PRIME can engage with Rays MFI on this activity, Rays MFI has to settle certain issues with the ESRS government and then the sub-award will be signed.

Furthermore as part of the technical assistance, during the quarter under review, PRIME commissioned a consultancy to conduct a need assessment and Islamic financial product development for Rays. The companies hired for this assignment are a consortium of two entities, Awal consulting LTD and the Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI). The main objective of the consultancy is to (1) conduct research/assessment to identify target clients by geographic location, economic sector, and unique needs, (2) develop appropriate financial products/services for the MFI/s that meet the needs of the target clients, (3) update the institution's strategic plan, (4) to identify the appropriate and right core banking system (MIS), and (5) developing relevant systems and manuals. By the end of the quarter, the field work for need assessemnt was completed and draft reports and product manuals are under development. PRIME's technical team has provided feedback and comments on drafts of the report and manuals.

It is expected that the needs assessment report and product manuals (for appropriate financial services/products to be offered by the MFI that satisfy market needs and Ethiopian law) will be completed by next quarter. Products to be developed could include Murabaha, Mudabara, Salam, Istisnina Mushraka, Ijira, qardi-Hasaan and Sharia-compliant saving products and will be customized to the needs of individuals and businesses in the region. Awal and IRTI will organize and provide training on the aforementioned financial products and operational guidelines mentioned above.

*Interactive summary of total number of borrowers and savers as a result of PRIME support to Financial Institutions*



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

#### *AGP/Ethio-chicken poultry market expansion kicked off in Borena Zone*

PRIME has facilitated a kick-off workshop for one of the IIF recipient AGP Poultry PLC (Ethio chicken) in Yabello, Southern cluster. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce AGP's business expansion for stakeholders in the region and to officially start operation in Borena zone

in particular. In the workshop, 25 participants from PRIME, relevant government offices and representatives of Ethio-chicken participated. Another kick-off workshop in Guji zone will be facilitated in the following quarter, AGP will commence recruiting and training to at least 50 SMEs/outgrowers, predominantly TOPs. There would be additional job opportunity for 200 TOPs expected to be created. Moreover, the poultry expansion is part of PRIME's objective to help target beneficiaries diversify in climate adaptive alternative livelihood and improve household nutrition. In the coming years, at least 30,000 households will have access to 150,000 dual purpose chickens with high egg and meat productivity.

#### ***PRIME-supported small poultry farm operational with increased capacity in Jigjiga***

Friends poultry farm (FPF) was established in Jigjiga to help supply eggs, poultry products, and agricultural inputs. FPF received grant from PRIME project through ACPA to help it expand its production. From the grant obtained from the project, FPF bought an incubator with a capacity of incubating 1,800 eggs at a time and a feed mixer intended to formulate feed for the chickens. The main activities under this grant were achieved successfully and started yielding results. Currently, the farm is producing at least 300 chicks using the incubator every month and when it operates in its full capacity it will increase 1800. The farm is formulating its own feed and producing its own chickens with optimum cost. As next step, FPF is diligently working to build alliances between key poultry value chain actors and increase customers.



#### ***PRIME-facilitated experience sharing visit on irrigated vegetable production***

Vegetable production activity has become an emerging alternative income sources in agro-pastoral areas of the southern cluster. However productivity of the subsector has been highly affected due to agro-pastoralist's limited knowledge and skill of irrigated vegetables production practices. To fill the knowledge gap, PRIME facilitated and supported an experience-sharing visit for 38 agro-pastoralists and extension experts selected from Liben, Goro Dola, Wadera and Hudet woredas of Guji zone on irrigated vegetable production practices. The visit was made to rift valley (Ziway & Meki) area where irrigated vegetables production has been intensively practiced. From the visit, agro-pastoralists obtained practical experiences and lessons on improved vegetables production and management practices and have started application of improved agronomic practices such as raised nursery bed preparation, staking and row planting. Moreover eight agro-pastoralists have also started to replicate onion seed multiplication activity.

#### ***Competitive small grant enhances agro-pastoralist's access to improved agricultural inputs***

In this quarter, out of the five private agricultural input suppliers in southern cluster receiving PRIME support, two have successfully completed the milestones as per the agreement and continue to supply inputs to agro pastoralists. The remaining three businesses are also performing well in terms of milestone accomplishments. Likewise, in eastern cluster, out of the four private agricultural input suppliers receiving support, three businesses are functional and continue to supply the demanded agricultural inputs to agro pastoralists.

#### **Summary of results from PRIME supported agri-input supply expansion**

Name of agric-input supplier expanding their business through a small grant	HHs reached			Sales (ETB)	Type of input sold
	Male	Female	Total		
Abdurahiman Vegetable and fruit supplier	145	25	170	155,000	Seeds (onion, tomato, pepper) and agro chemicals
Kifle Vegetable and fruit supplier	70	15	85	110,000	Seeds (onion, tomato, pepper, fodder) and agro chemicals
Dirir Agri-input supplier	115	40	155	170,000	Seeds (onion, tomato) and agro chemicals
Igal Agri input Supplier	40	10	50	65,000	Seeds (onion, tomato) and Agro Chemicals
<b>Total</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>500,000</b>	

In total during this reporting period, 814 households (460 in SC and 354 in EC) have benefited from these private businesses. In order to further scale up and expand the business to woreda levels, additional competitive small grants has been advertised and screening of the businesses and grant agreement will be completed in the coming quarter.

*Eastern cluster:* in the previous year, PRIME supported regional agriculture input suppliers to expand to new areas, with the objective to create linkages with local retailers such that agro-pastoralists have access to improved agricultural inputs in their locality. During the quarter, to scale up expansion of agri-input suppliers business into new districts, a call-for-proposals was made for interested applicants. By the end of the quarter, 14 applications from businesses were received and preliminary screening was done. The next step in the next quarter is to conduct field verification and award the small grants to selected businesses.

***PRIME partnered with Jigjiga University to facilitate establishment of local seed businesses:*** Access to early maturing seed varieties was identified as one of the key challenges for agro-pastoralists to adapt to the changing climate. The existing seed varieties are long-maturing, low-yielding and are not adapted to the prevailing erratic rain fall conditions of agro-pastoral areas. In the agro-pastoral areas there currently is no private business that supplies adaptable and productive seed varieties to agro-pastoralists on a timely basis and in a sustainable way.

In the previous quarter, PRIME project partnered with Jigjiga University and the Regional Bureau of Agriculture to support a community-based private potato and sweet potato seed business in Fafan zone of Somali region to enhance agro pastoralists’ access to quality and adaptable seeds. Three interested private businesses were selected and started potato seed production on about 2 ha of land. Inputs required to start the seed production (basic seed & fertilizer) have already been purchased and planting of seeds were completed. Trainings and practical on-farm demonstrations on agronomic practices, fertilizer application, and efficient irrigation were provided to 30 individuals from private seed producer businesses and agro-pastoralists from the surrounding areas. Upon completion, apart from increasing income of the private seed producers; this activity is expected to create access to quality seed for more than 500 agro pastoralists and created on-farm employment opportunities for at least 30 unemployed individuals of the area. The next step is that these businesses will diversify the type of seed they are multiplying to include fodder seed (based on the demand from the communities).

During the quarter, Jigjiga University president and other officials also visited the PRIME-supported local seed business activity in Fafan zone of Somali region. During the visit the performance of potato seed production activities was evaluated and found to be in a good state. Agro-pastoralists were also happy with the adaptability and performance of the varieties. To raise awareness at community level and scale up the activity to a larger area, PRIME in collaboration with Jigjiga University, is planning to organize technical trainings and field days in the coming quarter before the seeds are harvested.

### ***Fruit and vegetable market system assessment, Dire Dawa***

During this quarter, PRIME conducted a fruit and vegetable market system assessment in the eastern cluster to identify constraints, opportunities and leveraging points for PRIME intervention along the market chain. About 50 exporters are based in Dire Dawa, and on average about 38,534 tons of fruits and vegetables are exported to Djibouti a year, generating a foreign currency revenue worth of 8.4 million USD.

However, the export market is only practiced by Somalis who have a family tie with their Djibouti recipients. Thus, the export market is characterized by informal transactions and entry is difficult for new actors. Inappropriate packaging, handling, lack of cold chain facilities and poor transportation system of fruits and vegetables not only cause significant post-harvest losses but were also found to be a major factor for the underdevelopment of the sub-sector in general and the export market in particular.

On the other hand, high demand of producers for productivity improvement, existence of private business supplying appropriate packaging materials, recent initiatives to organize exporters as a cooperative, supportive policy for involvement of the private sector, and ongoing improvements in the transportation infrastructure (railway) have been identified as major opportunities to develop the sub-sector. Given these major findings, PRIME may intervene in improving existing product packaging practices, building the capacity of fruits and vegetables market actors, establishing forums for actors and strengthening exporters cooperative, and supporting the private sector in the areas of input supply, agro-processing and value-addition of fruits and vegetables.



*Photo: Poor packaging and transportation system of fruit and vegetables*

### ***Training and exposure visits facilitated for fruit and vegetable exporters and producers***

In the eastern cluster, agro-pastoralists have been engaged in fruit and vegetable production and marketing for decades. The sector has also been serving as one of the income streams for producers and significant number of unemployed TOPs in the area. But despite proximity of the area to export markets (Djibouti and Somaliland), the actors in the market system are not optimizing the benefit of the sub-sector. Exporters are not organized and they are competing with each other. As a result only big traders and middlemen are dominating the business.

In order to improve the existing fruit and vegetable market system and enhance agro-pastoralist's income, PRIME facilitated the organization and registration of interested traders into a cooperative. As a result, about 32 interested traders formed a cooperative named Al Wadani Fruit and Vegetable Exporters Cooperative. In addition, partnering with Haramaya University, PRIME also facilitated a two-day business skill and management training for members of the cooperative (15 men & 5 women). During the training, member traders were able to gain skills and knowledge around business management, marketing, record keeping, customer relation and networking, to mention just a few.

### **Promote & Implement Efficient/Renewable Energy Technologies**

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

In the previous quarter, Mercy Corps and CARE partnered with Jigjiga Polytechnic College and Semera University respectively to pilot locally manufactured wind turbine in eastern and Afar clusters. In January 2015, a locally-manufactured small wind turbine was built and installed in the Fafan Zone in partnership between Wind Empowerment, PRIME and Jigjiga Polytechnic College. A course was given by Wind Empowerment instructors to a total of 22 (4 female) staff and teachers of Jigjiga Polytechnic College, including hands-on training about wind turbine construction as well as in-depth background theory relating to the technology and implementation. The trainees were selected based on their prior training and/or work experience of at least two years in the field of electricity, wood work, and metalwork which are the basic skills required constructing the wind turbines. During the two week intensive training, trainees manufactured and installed a 3m blade diameter wind turbine as well as a 12m tower, installed together with 300W of Solar PV in Hadew Kebele of Fafan Zone located 12km north of Jigjiga town. The installed system will provide electricity to a local shop for lighting, refrigeration, mobile charging, TV and radio with a rated power capacity of over 1kW. Research has been instigated to determine the economic impact of the turbine on the shop keeper and village to inform research regarding business and delivery models for effective implementation of the turbines.

Phase 2 of the project will see two more turbines manufactured and installed in partnership with Semera University in Afar Cluster. As part of the preparation for implementing the activity in Afar, a one-day preliminary training was conducted on wind data logging and installation of a data logger in the Semera University compound to get wind speed data for the coming three months before the actual turbine construction happens.



During the quarter under review, preparation for the second phase is ongoing. Training will be facilitated in September/October in Semera, Afar cluster to construct & install two more turbines. One of the basic requirements to install wind turbine is to monitor the wind speed in monthly basis to ensure that there is consistent will throughout the year. Accordingly, monthly wind speed data collection from Semera and Amibara area shows average wind speed of 3.37m/s compared to the Jigjiga (Hadew Village) of 4.45m/s.

Average wind-speed data from Amibara shows 3.34ms, which is the lowest of all the three sites but a few months' more data is required which will help to make an informed decision to determine what size of turbine to construct. An average of 4m/s wind is needed to construct same size turbine constructed in Hadew. Potential business opportunities for productive and domestic use of energy in Semera and Amibara was collected (i.e. electrical demands for particular energy applications in a community) and locating a site to install the turbines.

*To know more about the performance of the wind turbine in Hadew, see the success story in annex 5.*



***Cross-cutting - Disability inclusion***

Last quarter, a sub-award grant for Jigjiga Polytechnic College and Meles Zenawi Memorial TVET College was signed to encourage and promote the development of disability-inclusive TVET education practices and to facilitate inclusive skills training and employment opportunities for youths with disability in the Pastoralist Areas Resilience Improvement through Market Expansion (PRIME) project area. This quarter, two additional sub-grants to Negelle Borena TVET College and Lucy TVET College were signed to encourage and promote the development of disability inclusive TVET education practices and facilitate inclusive skill training and employment opportunities for youth with disabilities in PRIME areas. 50% of the total sub award grant has been released to Lucy TVET College in Afar Cluster, Jigjiga

Polytechnic College & Meles Zenawi Memorial TVET College in Eastern Cluster as well as Negelle Borena TVET College in Southern Cluster to provide teaching materials in accessible format and to make college premises physically accessible for trainees with disabilities.

### **Basic Business Skill (BBS) Training for persons with disabilities**

A five-day Basic Business Skill (BBS) training for a total of 53 (28 female) persons with disabilities selected from the Association of Women with Disability and WAZ Metal, Wood Works Plc (established by persons with and without disability), and four associations of disabled people from Yabello, Negelle, and Dire Dawa was facilitated by PRIME. The main objective of the training was to enhance their skill in business development thereby effectively manage their income-generating activities.

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

ECDD, in collaboration with the Labor and Social Affairs Office, select 25 (4 female) persons with disability from Negelle and Liben Woreda to receive short-term skills-training scholarships from Negelle Borena TVET College in the field of cobble stone, electricity, catering, garment, beauty salon, welding, wood and metal work.

Three persons with disability selected by ECDD graduated in the field of welding and auto-mechanics from Eastern Cluster Jigjiga Polytechnic College and received job opportunities in the private sector.

Fifteen persons with disability were identified by ECDD in Afar Cluster for inclusion in skill-development and self-employment trainings at Lucy TVET College.

ECDD facilitated the registration of 8 persons with disabilities to be members of Disabled People Organization (DPO) at Argoba special woreda-Yicilella in Afar Cluster. ECDD provided capacity building technical support on sustainability issue.

ECDD facilitated the registration process of a newly established microenterprise association called "Aymokiru" with 21 members with disabilities from Awash Fanatalle. ECDD provided capacity building technical support on lobby and dialogue with concerned government bodies. Moreover, the microenterprise has got technical support from Awash woreda labor and social affairs office and will be linked with Lucy TVETC for Short-term training on hollow block production.

### **IR3 Priorities for Q12**

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

- Provide technical support for AGP poultry to select SMEs as outgrowers.
- Expansion of HelloJob service to Afar and Southern clusters.
- 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

- Facilitate Training for second cohort PSPs
- Financial Literacy and numeracy training via PSP model to RuSSACOs/VSLAs

***Increased income opportunities for TOPs***

- Promotion of the commercial launch of mobile and Agent banking
- Facilitate exposure visit to AMFI management and Board of Directors to Indonesia
- Finalize Islamic financial service need assessment product developed for Rays MFI

***Market Access Expanded to Increase Employment Opportunities***

- Awarding more short term vocational scholarship program for youth, women and disabled TOPs in all clusters
- Start the pilot of 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
- Facilitating technical trainings and promotion of improved fruit seedlings in east and south cluster
- Training of agro pastoralists on irrigated vegetables production and onion seed multiplication in southern cluster
- Scaling up of crop threshing technology in south cluster
- Facilitating and supporting agricultural input supply business expansion in south and eastern cluster

**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™***

Customizations on *Ki-projects™* continued during Q11, with new features and changes including:

- Modifying the reporting tree in *Ki-projects™* to display information by type of individual
- Designing and implementing additional disaggregation (by technology type) in the report section
- Adding a feedback field for approvers in the report section so that they can provide comments on reported figures
- Changing system settings so that any IR can view concept notes.

The offline tool was developed to meet PRIME's need for field staff to administer sub-activity initiation and tracking data and reporting when there is no internet connection available. The tool was ready to install on staff members' laptops by the end of May, once the enhancements to the online tool had been iteratively specified, implemented and reviewed to ensure they track the necessary M&E disaggregation and support the required review and workflow processes. These had to be finalized first because once installed, changes in the offline tool would require significantly more complex work. Installation started in June in the Addis Ababa office, but was not successful on all computers due different software issues.

After discussion between IR4 leadership and Kimetrica's Chief of Information Services, PRIME agreed to install the offline tool onto servers for each field office – starting with Mercy Corps as servers in most are already available and the capacity of partners such as CARE was still being assessed. By hosting the offline tool locally all staff members can use it without an internet connection. The tool synchronizes any updates to and from the central *Ki-projects*<sup>TM</sup> when internet connectivity resumes. This decision implies some additional coding and testing (which is currently under development) to the tool. Nonetheless, it also brings more data security, system reliability and reduces installation and maintenance costs compared to individual laptop installs.

Finally, training on the *Ki-projects*<sup>TM</sup> system was delivered in April to four new PRIME staff and a special training for approvers was delivered in April to 8 PRIME staff and in June to 9 PRIME staff. This training aimed at improving the approval process for sub-activity concept notes and reports in the system. It is expected that as a result of the training the speed of approval will improve as well as the data quality, since approvers will be more careful about the reports approved. In addition, IR5 team members were given M&E and system refreshers/orientation in all clusters so they can increase their confidence in reporting and to better understand definitions on indicators.

#### *Ki-metrics*<sup>TM</sup>: Institutional Database

An institutional database (IDB) was developed in *Ki-metrics*<sup>TM</sup> to monitor the progress of the institutions supported by PRIME and which will serve as main data source for FTF and PPR indicators related to employment, financial services, number of enterprises and other institutions supported by the project, and potentially hectares under improved management (in consultation with IR2). The database development started in Q9, but during this quarter Kimetrica received comments from IR leaders regarding the information to be included as well as the roles of people who will have access to this database. A final demo session was held in mid-May and training dates in the field offices were established accordingly. The IDB will be rolled out after all trainings have been delivered to assure that all feedback is incorporated before its use. Training in Southern cluster is still pending. A total of 72 PRIME staff have thus far been trained in June (10 in Addis Ababa, 23 in Afar, 28 in Jigjiga, and 11 in Dire Dawa).

#### *Spot Checks*

In March 2015, spot checks were conducted in all three clusters to seven consortium partners (Mercy Corps, CARE, ECDD, HAVOYOCO, ACPA, AISDA, and SOS Sahel) and 23 recipient institutions. Per the approved spot check methodology for PRIME, the process also included auditing partner program records. A preliminary report was submitted in April 2015 and the final version is being revised to be finalized in July 2015.

### ***Data Quality Checks***

Data quality checks were run during this quarter for Q9 and Q10 data to ensure the system upgrades correctly so the value generation functionality for output level indicators does not create contradictions or gaps in data values. Kimetrica staff also visited Eastern cluster (May), Afar (June) and Southern cluster (June/July) offices to directly address issues encountered in *Ki-projects*<sup>TM</sup> as well as in the output tracking sheets. Data in the system from the backlog (uploaded before Q9), Q9 and Q10 has been cleaned for Afar and Eastern cluster.

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

After inputs from Washington DC and PRIME's AOR in USAID Ethiopia, PRIME finalized the latest version of its M&E plan. The decisions made include:

- Prevalence of poverty through expenditure data has been included instead of income data.
- Hectares under improved technologies or management practices indicator: targets and actuals changed to comply with USAID request.
- Value of incremental sales: actuals and targets now include dairy (milk)
- Number of households reached has been changed to number of vulnerable households – numbers will stay the same as USAID has instructed PRIME that our household beneficiaries are all vulnerable
- Number of people trained in short-term agricultural sector: FY14 targets changed.
- Dietary diversity of children 6-23 months added
- Dietary diversity of women 15-49 years added
- Percentage of men and women reporting meaningful participation of women in decision-making added (in key areas)
- Increased income streams added
- Percentage of farmers/pastoralists who practice supplemental feeding for animals added
- Percentage of households accessing animal health services added

### ***Annual Household Survey***

During this quarter, the 2014 household survey report was updated to include the changes made in the M&E plan and FTFMS (such as value of incremental sales).

The 2015 household survey will provide information regarding the project performance on the following indicators:

- Number of farmers and others who have applied new (improved) technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance.
- Number of people implementing risk reducing practices/actions to improve resilience to climate change as a result of USG assistance.
- Number of stakeholders with increased capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate variability and change as a result of USG assistance.
- Implementing risk-reducing practices/actions to improve resilience to climate change
- Using climate information in decision making.
- Value of incremental sales at farm-level attributed to FTF implementation

- Percentage of men and women reporting meaningful participation of women in decision-making regarding: economic activities, nutrition, NRM/governance.
- Percentage of farmers/pastoralists who practice supplementary feeding for animals.
- Average number of income streams per household.

During Q11 preparation for data collection started with the following decisions made:

- Defined the sample size to include 800 households (433 panel + 367 new cohort)
- Allocation of the households by IR and clusters.
- Revision of the survey questionnaire with IR leaders and tested it in Afar and Eastern cluster
- Budget and work plan finalized
- Interviews for data collectors in Afar and Somali regions.

### ***Midline survey***

The midline survey is a follow-up to the baseline survey done in 2013. It aims to provide information on the following indicators:

- Percentage of households accessing animal health services
- Average dietary diversity of women 15-49 years of age
- Dietary diversity of children 6-23 months of age
- Prevalence of households with moderate or severe hunger
- Prevalence of poverty (expenditure poverty)

In preparation for data collection, work plan and budget for this activity were prepared and a decision was made to collect data from the same 1095 households from whom we collected information at baseline (panel). While the size of the sample may not be enough to get significant results for impact and some outcome indicators, it will give as a picture of how the project is doing in reaching its targets for 2017.

### ***IIF data needs – AGP***

The IIF manager has requested support regarding an upcoming poultry activity (AGP) to be implemented in Oromiya region that aims to increase household income from poultry. As part of the activity Kimetrica has drafted the form that will be used for baseline data collection in Q12. Work still needs to be done for sample size definition as well as targets to be reached by the end of the project.

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

### ***Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis – EMMA: Fodder and livestock***

An EMMA assessment for fodder and livestock was updated and the emergency overlay produced based on baseline assessments done at the beginning of PRIME (2013). As such, the IR1 and IR4 teams collaborated, with the help of an EMMA leader (consultant) in data collection from major markets, businesses, and government stakeholders in PRIME's three areas. The final report was finalized during Q11, with the following response options:

- Behavior change communication, business planning and market services: leading to change in marketing behaviour, selling practices and fodder use (long-term feasibility)
- Provide business support and improve aggregation, bulking and fattening services by supporting market linkages, access to finance, insurance and risk management (feasible if investments in negotiation and relationship building are made)
- Strengthening markets for private sector led animal health and input service through a market-based networks of PVPs (medium feasibility)
- Strengthening existing rangeland management and governance system while supporting the nascent fodder market (medium feasibility)
- Support to livestock export markets – business-enabling environment areas including licensing, taxation, access to foreign exchange, and grading and standards, animal health regulatory issues (medium to long-term feasibility)

### ***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 Q11, the soap opera framework was tested and launched with listenership groups and general public in Southern cluster (Borena and Guji). PRIME collected 100 stories (50 from listenership group members and 50 from general public) to understand people attitudes and ensure key messages are reaching listenership. The LKM team in the field reported back some of the issues respondents were having with language and messaging as well as overall listenership to inform the Nutrition team of these challenges and improve their programming. Story collection will continue after every fifth episode. The NRM framework was finalized and will be launched in the three clusters during Q12, with data collection only twice a year to a larger sample size, as opposed to the nutrition framework which is used once a month to a small sample.

### ***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 to 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 Q11, the following progress has been made:

#### ***PVPs-CAHWs relationship***

To complement the already gathered data from CAHWs, PRIME collected data from 12 PVPs supported by the project to expand their business. The preliminary results show that 42% of PVPs reported that the relationship with CAHWs had improved, with the remaining reporting no change in their relationship. PVPs reported that the support received from PRIME for business expansion has played a profound role on their income growth, ability to purchase quality drugs, getting new customers and creating job opportunities. They have started systems of recording

procurement and sales and indicator of business management improvement, and with 67% of them adding one or more agricultural products in their PVP shop. Half of PVPs indicated they have increased the quantity of CAHWs they are working with, mostly due to selling veterinary drugs with discounts, providing professional advice and participating on PRIME refresher trainings. Almost all PVPs reported an increment on users/pastoralist clients. In addition, more than half of PRIME-supported PVPs surveyed reported starting business relationships with non-PRIME supported PVPs.

#### *Quality of Relationships between actors along the livestock value chain*

Field data reveals that trust, honesty, cost, as well as regular trading are the key factors that motivate live animal exporters to work in some instances with traders instead of brokers. In contrast, efficiency, reliability in terms of quality, quantity and timing, attract live animal exporters to work in other instances with brokers only. All interviewed animal exporters feel that improving the quality or ability to meet exporters' specification plays a great role in order to their relationship with them.

#### *Southern cluster PVP and AHS assessment*

In addition to the pilot undertaken in Somali region, Southern cluster also implemented an assessment to understand the outreach, quality and availability of animal health services, business performance and collect community feedback about the services, while identifying current challenges of grant recipients in delivering animal health in remote areas (Liben and Borena zones).

The findings show that PRIME-supported PVPs work directly with 17 CAHWs each, on average. Due to PRIME leveraged resources (grants), 9 PVP shops have opened new branches in pastoral villages participating in productive livestock value chain. Over 24 jobs have been created for locals including TOPs. In addition, quick feedback from regular PVP clients show that even pastoralists with few resources are willing to pay for veterinary services if they are efficient and accessible on a timely fashion. Some the challenges that PVPs still face include shortage of drugs and turnover of CAHWs – only about half of those working with PVPs surveyed have been in practice for two years.

#### ***International Veterinary Education Conference on “Enhancing Livestock Productivity, Role of Quality Veterinary Education, Research and Rationalization in Promoting Export Market to Ensure Food Security and Sustainable Economic Growth”***

Haramaya University and Mercy Corps supported the Third International Veterinary Education Conference (IVEC) held 17-19 June 2015 at Haramaya University. The conference theme as stated above was jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ethiopian Veterinary Association, and the College of Veterinary Medicine, and Haramaya University. Furthermore, it was sponsored more than ten national and international organizations including private business enterprises. The workshop brought together policy makers, government officials, scholars, international partners and business communities. It was attended by nearly 300 participants. During the event, 24 papers were presented, six of which were HU-PRIME research findings: Animal Health Service Delivery in Pastoral Parts of Ethiopia, Market Research on Existing Insurance Products and Study of best practices/lessons learned: the case of Afar and Eastern

clusters, Policy research on cross border trade, Gap analysis in the production and dissemination of animal health education materials, Policy information gap analysis on livestock and livestock products trade, and Analysis of marketing systems for veterinary drugs in the three PRIME clusters. The event was attended by the State Minister for Livestock Sector Development who presented the roadmap for livestock in view of the conference agenda.

Emphasis was given on rationalization of veterinary services focusing on challenges, opportunities, and future directions for efficient animal health service delivery, improved livestock input supply and improved producer resilience to climate shocks and stresses. The discussions and the resolutions made during the conference were documented and will be included in the conference report which will be finalized in Q12.

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

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

This sub-activity analyzes the content of policies and programs in PRIME operational areas that attempt to address the special needs of people with disability in pastoral communities. HU evaluated these policies in terms of their inclusiveness in order to strengthen the knowledge base required to come up with more comprehensive policy recommendations that ensure the inclusion of interests of persons with disabilities. Key informant interviews were conducted with regional and federal government offices and disable peoples' organizations, including Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Regional Bureaus of Labor and Social Affairs, Microfinance Institutions, Cooperative Promotion Agencies at regional and federal level, micro and small enterprises agencies, Ministry of civil service and regional civil service bureaus, and regional associations of PWDs. The report has been drafted and submitted for review which will take place during Q12 as well as the finalization of the report.

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

##### ***Learning and Knowledge Management Strategy - Implementation***

As part of the implementation of the LKM strategy, during Q11 PRIME started the planning of the development of a couple of case studies for its NRM work, for which a consultant will be joining the field teams during Q12 to write them. PRIME also started the recruitment of a Learning Coordinator who will also work closely with the M&E team and the communications specialist. This new position will be working on documenting NRM work that is not well captured by our current indicators and work with the CARE GIS specialist and our new Research Deputy Advisor (who will also start in Q12) to map out PRIME's activities and layering our results.

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

Two learning briefs were produced during this quarter: IIF and Fodder EMMA and Barrier Analysis. PRIME also finished the development of three learning briefs: sub-awards, adaptive management, and concept notes. The Kimetrica designer is finalizing the production in Q12.

##### ***Meetings, blogs, webinars and newsletter stories***

During this quarter PRIME's work on dairy was showcased on the Agrilinks blog (<http://agrilinks.org/blog/got-camel-milk-ethiopian-dairy-processor-ramps-production-usaid-support>) and the nutrition soap opera for social change on the FTF Newsletter ("Nutrition with a flair for the dramatic in Ethiopia"). PRIME also submitted two proposals (Islamic Finance and private equity) for the SEEP conference to take place late this year in the US, as well as a workshop proposal for the VSLA conference organized by SEEP network in Zambia in November 2015.

In May, Senator Casey spoke at the US Leadership and Global Food Security event in Washington DC and mentioned PRIME as an example of resilience programming through Feed the Future after Mercy Corps Ethiopia country director, Dominic Graham, briefed the Senator's staffer. During this same visit, Mr. Graham also talked to other members of congress and had a meeting with OMB.

In June 2015, the LKM advisor attended the Joint Program Cell meeting in Kampala, Uganda to represent PRIME. The meeting had the following objectives and outputs:

**Objectives:**

1. Increased understanding of how USAID implementing partners contribute to the resilience agenda and identifying specific areas of collaboration to promote cross-border programming and cross-partner learning
2. Promoting cross border programming and learning among USAID resilience partners
3. Stock taking of each partner's contribution to the PMP and sharing experiences on collection of data

**Outputs:**

1. Input into the JPC mid-term review
2. Identification of one resilience policy we shall focus on in the coming year
3. Identification of exchange visits
4. Identification of collaboration to regional programs
5. Finalize monitoring protocol for the region which includes: data to be collected and timeline for submission of the data

***Communications***

The PRIME communications Specialist attended two communications trainings in May 2015. The one-day training by USAID in Addis Ababa, focused on purpose of communication, audience targeting, appealing to audiences, press invitations, language tips, strong leads, speeches, non-technical approach to photography, composition and scale in photography, photographing people, and telling stories through photos. The second was a two-day training on communications by Mercy Corps delivered in Nairobi. This training covered topics such as crisis and emergency response communications plans, universal messaging, brand strategy, permissions policy for photos/stories/quotes/video, photography brand guidelines, working with the media, story gathering guide, and key messaging. The communications specialist shared some of the key learnings from these trainings in a brown bag presentation at MC in which partners co-locating were present.

***Internal communication and coordination***

*Intranet/Website*

During this quarter, USAID's MCIO approved the PRIME intranet/website after we complied with their last condition: changing the URL address from [www.usaidprime.org](http://www.usaidprime.org) to [www.prime-ethiopia.org](http://www.prime-ethiopia.org). In addition, several changes have been made to the website to make it more user-friendly. These changes include:

- Developing a site map that is pending review by PRIME's Communication Specialist
- Fixing images in the home page
- Adding a gallery of images
- Fixing logos in the website and per PRIME and USAID requests
- Uploading different documents and news, as requested by PRIME

Kimetrica staff also worked in close coordination with IR leaders to obtain the senior management documents that needed to be uploaded to the intranet. The documents were successfully migrated from Dropbox to the intranet and categorized by IR in folders and sub-folders as needed. Documents are being reviewed by IR leaders to be approved and consortium partners' documents have also been uploaded.

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

##### ***ToT Training on Community Scorecard - Afar***

Cascade training was given to 25 government staff (5 women) in the six Afar target woredas. The training was facilitated by CARE PRIME and non-PRIME staff. Participants included woreda administrators, PADO and Women's Affairs office heads. Trainees went through the five processes of CSC utilizing practical examples of PRIME NRM activities with their respective woredas by taking on the role of service user (community), as well as a service provider (PADO and PRIME).

During the training PRIME learned that the regional government has been piloting the community scorecard tool in Amibara in the rural road development sector. The Amibara woreda administrator advisor shared lessons learned from his visit to Adama hospital (which has practiced CSC and brought remarkable service improvement), and from his practice of CSC in his rural road development activities that he manages.

Discussions were lively during group work and presentations, and the trainers confirmed that participants are now capable of implementing the community score card in their activities. The trainees also prepared woreda level action plans to undertake the score card with beneficiaries and project management. The intended end result is to create and build a better and clearer understanding of project activities, strengthens partnerships with government stakeholders and promotes good governance and accountability among beneficiaries.



Participants during power point presentation (left) and group discussion and group work (right)

### ***Creation of repository of learning/library – Stage 1***

During this quarter the Afar LKM team in collaboration with CARE's IT team and procurement unit, purchased all required materials for establishing the repository such as an external hard drive and PC server. The server was installed with Windows 8 software and tested successfully. The repository will be deployed in the Gewane CARE office in Q12.

### **IR4 Priorities for Q12**

- Data collection for Annual Household survey 2015 and Midline survey
- Submit final version of spot check report
- Draft methodology and background sections for annual household survey and midline survey reports
- Install offline tool in servers and set users laptops in Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, Jigjiga, and Negelle
- SenseMaker data collection for the three frameworks (NRM, Nutrition, Soap Opera)
- Facilitate implementation of community scorecard according to the action plan of the Afar woredas
- PRIME systemic change pilot: finalize data collection for PVP/CAHW relationship, finalize compilation of livestock market actors relationship surveys report, and conduct second round survey on financial service providers.

### **INTERMEDIATE RESULT 5: USE OF NUTRITIONAL PRODUCTS**

#### **Key result 5.1: Knowledge, Awareness and Practices around Household Nutrition**

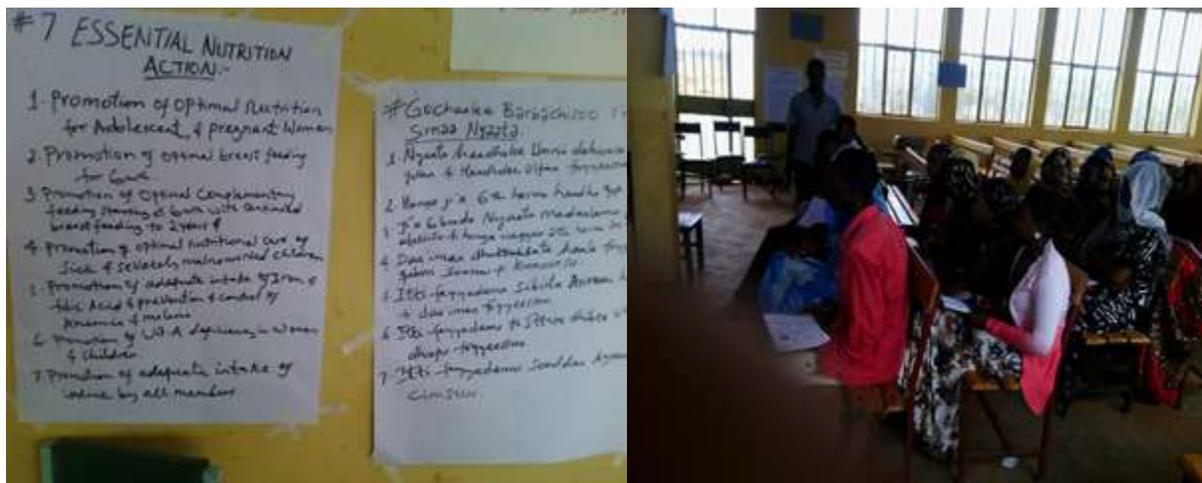
##### ***Improved Counseling & Community Support***

During the quarter PRIME organized different trainings including ENA and MIYCF for health workers and community representatives. In addition, women to women peer dialogue sessions were also conducted to strengthen counseling and community support on IYCF care and practices.

##### ***Essential Nutrition Action (ENA) TOT Training for HEWs***

PRIME in collaboration with woreda and zonal health offices provided capacity building trainings for health staff on Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA) in woredas not covered in the past quarters. During the quarter South cluster team with collaboration of Borena zone health office and respective health offices of Arero and Dhas woredas provided a four day ENA Trainer Of Trainer (TOT) training for 49 (45 women and 4 men) health extension workers. The essential nutrition action mainly focused on the, globally agreed, seven Essential Nutrition Action's key messages. TOT trainings had two main objectives namely; to provide skills for cascading ENA trainings to communities and secondly to enhance nutrition counseling at the health-post level by providing HEWs skills to counsel mothers at critical points in the health post.

The trainings were facilitated by experienced trainers assigned by Borena zone health office with the material adopted and contextualized from national ENA standard training module. The trainees expressed their satisfaction with the training and set an action plan to show their commitment to cascade similar trainings to the community through utilizing the existing community events and at the critical contact points.



**ENA Training at Dhas woreda**

***Cascading ENA training to community level***

Previously trained health extension workers have continued in the provision of ENA cascade trainings for the community members. The purpose of cascade training was to enhance community level counseling and community support on the seven ENA messages (exclusive breast feeding, adequate complementary feeding for children 6-23 months with continued breastfeeding for at least 24 months, adequate nutritional care of sick and severely malnourished child, adequate nutrition for women, prevention of Vitamin A deficiency for women and children, prevention of Anemia for women and children, and prevention of iodine deficiency for all members of the households). Accordingly 454 (226 women and 228 men) community members of Moyale Somali were reached by the ENA cascade training. Those trained participants are expected to reach pregnant and lactating women within their neighborhood.

***MIYCF training for Influential and religious leaders***

PRIME nutrition team in coordination with zonal and respective woreda health offices, facilitated a training on Maternal Infant and Young Child Feeding (MIYCF) for 55 (11 women

and 44 men) religious leaders, elders and influential community members from Liben woreda of Guji zone and Hudet districts of Liben zone of Somali regional state. The main objective of the two day training was to engage influential and religious leaders in promoting the importance of infant and young child feeding practices and the concepts of “1000 days”. The training of MIYCF entailed woredas staff to support community members to explore existing practices on MIYCF, barriers related to MIYCF and counselling on proper MIYCF practices which includes maternal nutrition, exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding plus continued breast feeding up to two years and beyond.



MIYCF Training at Liben woreda

#### ***Nutrition add-on training for VSLA Facilitators***

During the quarter the PRIME IR5 nutrition team in coordination with IR3 financial service sector provided a two and half day training on nutrition add-on for Private Service Providers (PSPs) to transform individuals into effective VSLAs by organizing, communicating, and paying attention to how the group members work together. VSLAs (15–25 members) are user-owned, self-managed savings and credit groups that are accessible, transparent and flexible. The VSLA model offers poor households (majority of them are women) safe and frequent opportunities to save in the convenience of their own community.

Therefore, this nutrition add-on training was organized to improve the facilitation skill of PSPs about how to discuss nutrition messages specifically around MIYCF, household decision making and the concept of “1000 days”. A total of 12 (2 Female and 10 Male) PSP’s from Miyo, Dire, and Yabello woredas of the Borena Zone attended the VSLA nutrition add-on training.

PSPs made an agreement with PRIME to facilitate eight dialogue sessions with the existing VSLA members in their location. A session by session discussion guide was provided for PSP’s to be used for ongoing dialogue with VSLA members. Through this mechanism, PRIME is expected to improve nutrition knowledge of VSLA members. The same training will be continued during the coming quarters for additional PSPs in the SC and other clusters as well as part of the scale-up approach.

#### ***Women to Women Peer Guided Nutrition dialogue***

In Afar cluster, out of the 20 previously organized women to women peer guided nutrition counseling groups, 19 have completed the 8 discussion sessions on ENA key messages. The 19 groups who successfully completed the 8 sessions are from Gewane (Egile, Meteka and Beida),

Gele'alo (Gefrem, Beidaforo and Koda'e), Amibara (Sidhafage1, Sidhafage-2, Keseltoli, Bedluale, and Bonta), Awash Fentale (Dudub, Doho and Wasero), Dulessa (Hrunto, Durufili and Segento) and Argoba (Aba'ali).

The total participants were 380 female community members comprised of pregnant, lactating women & adolescent girls about to reach motherhood. The discussion was facilitated by trained HEWs & AEWs from each Kebele and the discussions were held based on the developed session guideline for a consecutive 8 sessions. The dialogue focused on the following discussion topics: Session 1- included participant's self-introduction, setting governing rules, and selecting the regular discussion site and time. Session 2- discussion on Exclusive Breastfeeding (EBF), Session 3- Complementary feeding, Session 4- Sick child feeding, Session 5-maternal feeding, Session 6-prevention of lack of vitamin A, Session 7- Discussion on prevention of Anemia and finally Session 8- Discussion on use of iodine.

The participants were very active and interactive in the way they were sharing their experience and learning from each other. Some of the discussions like EBF were supported by practical demonstration on the proper positioning and attachment. Coordination with respective Woreda health & pastoral development offices and kebele structures contributed to the successful accomplishment of the discussion. The groups will continue their discussion on SOSOC and other nutrition messages and continue working with PRIME as a Kebele-level champion group.



Women to Women Groups during discussion

### ***Behavior Change and Communication (BCC)***

#### ***Nutrition Edutainment to Improve Household Nutrition Knowledge***

During the quarter, different promotional events were conducted in all PRIME operational areas. The importance of the first 1000 days, fodder conservation for dry seasons, and demand for annual health were among some of the topics discussed through edutainment events during the quarter. Detailed descriptions are discussed and summarized under each key result.

#### ***Promotion on the concept of the first 1000 days***

During the quarter PRIME's Southern Cluster team organized 12 promotional events on the concept of the first 1000 days for woredas of Guji and Borena zones. The main objective of the

event was to improve community understanding on the importance of 1000 days for better nutrition outcomes for both mother and child.

These promotional events were organized in partnership with a local theatre group working with PRIME and the woreda health offices. The promotional events were organized in market places during market days or at large community gatherings. In order to convey the key message on 1000 days the local theater group started with the live drama show that was followed by a question and answer session and finally concluded with an expert briefing and audience feedback.

Through the 12 promotional events on “1000 days”, PRIME reached 5723 (3364 women and 2359 men) community members in rural kebeles of Liben; Gorodola; Wadera woredas of Guji zone and Yabello and Dire woredas of Borena zone. Through the immediate feedback assessment most people reported that they heard about the importance of the first 1000 days for



A drama in progress in Dubluk



Question-and-answer session in El-woya

the first time and promised to put the necessary actions in their household to prevent stunting and reverse any possible current malnutrition within their children. In addition, the promotional events were recognized by local governments because through this approach it enabled them to disseminate key nutrition lifesaving messages to large communities.

### ***Soap Opera for Social Change (SOSC) radio drama production and broadcasting progress***

SOSC serialized radio drama is one of the PRIME BCC strategies to promote the main PRIME nutrition messages and bring a long term impact of behavioral change among the pastoral community. The drama was designed in three local languages (Afan Oromo, Somali and Afar) by integrating main PRIME nutrition messages with entertainment as a result of PRIME’s edutainment approach in conveying behavioral messages. The soap operas are titled Tekem, Adoole Geel and Mirgituu and broadcast for Afar, Somali and Afan Oromo languages respectively. All the aforementioned titles in the local languages mean “a milky livestock” in the English language. The dramas are performed with local actors and contain the local context. There are four systematic stages in developing each episode to be broadcast, namely: (i) development of the English script, (ii) translation of the script into local language (Afan Oromo, Somali and Afar), (iii) recording the performance, and (iv) broadcasting the final production on the preferred radio station of the PRIME beneficiaries. Even though the production of the PRIME Soap Operas is outsourced, the PRIME script reviewing team checked the balance of the

education and entertainment component and made sure that the drama resonated within the local context.

As of end of June, the English script for twenty episodes of the three serialized dramas was completed; the translation and recording for more than eleven episodes of Tekem and Adoole Geel dramas was completed and 12 episodes of Mirgituu drama were approved by the PRIME script reviewing team, recorded and aired. PRIME aired two feedback sessions of MIRGITUU serialized radio drama on Oromia radio station and FM Yabello. The feedback sessions were aired in two consecutive weeks, each lasting for thirty minutes with the main objective of the feedback sessions being to hold a discussion with animal health and nutrition experts.

Discussions were based on the questions collected from listeners after ten episodes of Mirgituu drama were broadcast. The collected questions were mainly on animal health service and fodder. An animal husbandry and BCC nutrition expert from the Oromiya PRIME team participated in the dialogue sessions that were facilitated by a host who was the local dialect speaker and a government employee. Generally, the discussion of the experts highlighted the contribution of animal health and fodder in preventing malnutrition of the pastoral community, particularly for under-fives. Malnutrition was reduced by increasing animal milk production and milk consumption for the household. Similar discussion sessions are planned after the airing of episodes 15 and 20 of the drama.



The broadcasting for the other soap operas of PRIME was not successful this quarter because of a poor quality radio signal in the Afar and Somali Regions. PRIME signed an airtime contract with the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation (EBC) based on a rapid listenership survey which was conducted on local media. According to the findings of the Survey, the Ethiopian radio station was among the most preferred local radio stations for the PRIME beneficiaries in Afar and Somali regions. Unfortunately, the quality of the signal happened to be different just at the broadcast time of the PRIME soap operas. In response to this unexpected inconvenience, PRIME suspended the broadcasting of the two serial dramas after only four episodes had been aired. As way forward the team then identified alternative radio stations with strong signals and good listenership in each area. Based on this FANA FM, Haramaya and Jigjiga FM were selected for rebroadcasting for Adoole Geel in Somali region. EBC channel (Mid Wave 855) and Argoba community FM radio were identified for Tekem in the Afar region. The airtime negotiation with the aforementioned radio stations is ongoing, and it is expected that PRIME will air the two dramas on a quality, preferred radio station typically selected by the beneficiaries. In the meantime, PRIME is working on the necessary preparations to conduct the re-promoting campaign of its soap operas including Mirgituu based on recent feedback collected from listeners who preferred it to be aired at more convenient times. As such the broadcasting time of Mirgituu drama has been replaced with the most preferred listening time for the listenership group members in the Southern Cluster. The re-promotion campaign which is scheduled to happen in

the next quarter for all the three dramas includes roadshows which contains live dramas and question and answer sessions. Announcement of the new tune-in information was accomplished with a road-show truck bearing informational banners and distributing small stickers showing the station and time the drama is being aired. Furthermore, the teams have now designed specific interpersonal marketing strategies to improve general listenership of the drama. This is made possible through distribution of five medium sized kitchen door stickers carrying tune-in info and nutritional behavioral messages to each of the existing PRIME radio listenership group members. They will stick one sticker to their kitchen and it acts as a cue to remember to tune in for the serial drama and they will give the other four to their four neighboring households. As they handout the sticker to their non-listenership group household, they mainly initiate a conversation among neighborhoods, about the soap opera and nutrition messages on the sticker hence dually making them the brand ambassadors of the SOSC and nutrition messages. The campaign will be strengthened with several events which will be conducted along with the distributions of marketing items like syringe pen, seed packet, market bag and baby wrap. Each of the marketing materials is supporting at least one behavioral theme that IR5 is promoting.

***SOSC radio drama Listener groups’ Listening and discussion***

During this quarter’ PRIME’s SOSC serial drama continued in Oromia region particularly for Borena and Guji zone communities. During this reporting period twelve episodes of Mirgituu drama and two feedback session on episode 1 to 10 were broadcast. To date listenership was mainly localized within the listenership groups who members who continues to listen and discuss on the drama concept after listening each episode. The listener groups’ leaders facilitated listening and dialogue among the listener group on the first twelve episodes of the radio drama. From the beginning of the drama up to episode 12; a total of 430 (318 women and 112 men) of the radio listener groups benefitted in Oromia region.



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

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

***Training on Feed Production and Conservation***

During the quarter HAVOYOCO organized Feed Production and Conservation Techniques training for model agro pastoralist and development agents (DAs). The purpose of this training was to provide skills on feed production and conservation techniques to avoid shortage of feed during dry seasons. A total of 300 Model Agro-pastoralists and 20 DAs (197 M and 123 F) from Gursum, Jigjiga, K/beyeh, and Tuliguled Districts of Fafan zone and Ararso of Jarar zone were successfully trained. Model Agro-pastoralists are trained primality to produce feed from their farm and also properly conserve the produced feed in order to feed the milking livestock during dry season thereby guaranteeing availability of milk access for under-fives. In addition to this training, they are expected to share this skill with their neighbors. DAs also provided necessary

technical support for those trained people and are expected to train more people by integrating these acquired skills into their day to day lives, hence guaranteeing sustainability of this activity.

### ***Fodder promotion for milking animals during dry season***

PRIME has been working on improving knowledge, attitude and practice towards conservation of fodder during the dry season through SOSC serial radio dramas and live theatre shows. This effort is to increase the availability of fodder for milking livestock, ensuring an uninterrupted supply of milk for children under 5. PRIME aired two feedback sessions of the MIRGITUU (Oromifa) serialized radio drama. Generally, the discussion of the experts highlighted the contribution of animal health and fodder in preventing malnutrition for the pastoral community as a result of increasing animal milk production. PRIME's Nutrition team is leveraging on the recommendations and key findings from the "Milk Matters"<sup>1</sup> study conducted in the Somali region of Ethiopia and other pastoralist areas of Africa. It identified places with seasonally high rates of acute malnutrition. Children who live in these areas are increasingly referred to as some of the most nutritionally vulnerable in the world.

### ***Improved Animal Health Services for Nutrition Promotion of animal health services***

Similar to the fodder promotion during dry season activities, animal health service promotional activities have been conducted in the Southern Cluster through different BCC events. Events focused on improving knowledge, attitude and practices of the communities towards demand for animal health services including quality animal drugs and vaccines. In addition to the edutainment events conducted through live theatre drama, PRIME SOSC educated the community on animal health services and also conducted feedback sessions which were prepared and aired together with fodder promotional messages for the same purposes.

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

### ***Training for Extension Workers and School teachers on School Nutrition***

A total of 96 health extension workers (HEW) and 50 school teachers (80 male and 66 female) from Ararso, Degahbour, Burqod, Awarew, Yuale, Daror, Gashamo, Degahmadow and Gunagedo woredas of Jarar zone and Degahbour city administration were trained on school nutrition, complementary feeding, MI (micronutrient ) feeding practices, vitamin A and folic acid supplementation. The overall objective of this activity was to equip these cadres with key nutrition behavior messages which meet the health and nutrition needs of school children including adolescence girls, and pregnant and lactating women. The aim of this training was to link health extension workers and school teachers to address the critical nutritional gaps targeting adolescent girls as a way to reduce school dropout and to prepare adolescent girls to be nutritionally sound as they prepare for child bearing process thereby breaking the malnutrition cycle. A standard package of the National School Health and Nutrition Strategy set by federal Ministry of Health was used as a training guide throughout the course of the training.

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<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup> Sadler, K., Mitchard, E., Abdi, A., Shiferaw, Y., Bekele, G., and Catley, A. (2012). Milk Matters: The impact of dry season livestock support on milk supply and child nutrition in Somali Region, Ethiopia. Feinstein International Center, Tufts University and Save the Children, Addis Ababa

### ***Training on Concept of first 1000 days***

The PRIME Nutrition team in Afar cluster organized a two days training on the Concept of 1000 days for education office supervisors and school teachers. A total of 45 participants (38 men and 7 females), selected from the three woreda education offices of Amibara, Gewane and Awash Fentale and six schools attended the training.

PRIME's nutrition team considers the 1000 days concept as one of the cross cutting strategies for different nutrition outcomes. Therefore, the training was not only designed to inform participants with the concept of 1000 days but also to discuss how school communities can contribute to enhancing the importance and interventions required during the first 1000 days. Finally, training participants agreed to include the concept of 1000 days as part of the school club ongoing conversation and reach other members through different school events. In addition, they agreed to organize community level promotional events to reach a large number of community members. School teachers agreed to address a total of 900 students in their cascading plan for the concept of 1000 days. Woreda education office supervisors also took responsibility to follow up and monitor the progress of cascading training in the schools falling under their administrative geographical spheres. Participants liked the supporting cascade training materials because they can assist them in cascading the training at the school level.

### ***Workshop on Intersectional Collaborations on Nutrition Integration***

PRIME's nutrition team in coordination with the health office of Guji zone in SC and Jarar zone and Siti Zone in EC facilitated a workshop for 35 (5 women & 30 men) in SC and 243 (70 women & 173 male) government employees on nutrition integration. The workshop objective was enhancing the inter-sectoral collaborations among government sectors offices. In EC the workshop participants were from Muli, Shinile, Aysha, Hadigala and Damble woredas of Sit zone, and Arasro, Degahbour, Burqod, Aware, Yuale, Daror and Gashamo woredas of Jarar zone.

The workshop participants clearly noted that such a multi-sectorial workshop helped to engage other sectors on nutrition work rather than just the health office and recommended that there was a need for more monitoring of the sectors in how they are engaging in nutrition sensitive activities within their sectors. In addition, the workshop's delivery model was participatory and helped the participants and PRIME staff to really engage and discuss on concepts of nutrition-sensitive programming, the PRIME nutrition approach, and share the role of different sectors in achieving nutrition objectives.

### ***Workshop on PRIME BCC Approach for Government workers***

PRIME's social behavior change communication strategy (SBCC) involves working with communities to understand their perceptions and constraints and ultimately identifying solutions for addressing nutritional problems. This requires the collaboration and continued interaction with the communities including their local authorities. In relation to this; HAVOYOCO continued organizing BCC workshops at Jigjiga, Awbare, Gursum, Harshin, K/beyeh, Shinille, Erer, Ayshia and Af-Dhem Districts of Fafan and Jarar zones.

These workshops were aimed at enhancing the understanding of the PRIME project's nutrition BCC interventions among the local government authorities to foster better collaborations while

working with the communities, and local authorities. So, the overarching objective of this workshop was to enhance awareness of local government authorities and some of the influential figures in the local community on the nutrition and behavior change communications interventions. The workshop included 297 participants from Fafan and Siti Zones of which 152 were male and the rest 145 female.



Workshop participants

### ***Lessons learnt:***

1. It is important to Coordinate and collaborate with government staff to enhance government's engagement in PRIME's nutrition implementation and monitoring as well as guaranteeing sustainability of PRIME's nutrition approach beyond the lifetime of this project
2. The importance of the SOSOC drama was how it easily motivates individuals to change behaviors and enhances open discussion among about issues related to the drama.

### ***Challenges:***

- The EBC signal hindered continued airing of the drama for the Somali and Afar regions, however, an alternative was identified and a planned re-broadcast of the two dramas will begin next quarter.
- There is an absence of standard materials including contextualized guidelines for trainings and BCC nutrition counseling.
- During the pre and post- national elections there was a restriction on promotional activities that involved community gatherings which significantly affected IR5 activities and community events.
- Community events were further affected by the month of Ramadan which made it difficult for some communities, especially the Muslims, to engage during the late hours of the day or to commit to other activities like cooking demonstrations.

### **IR5 Priorities for Q12:**

- Conduct Edutainment shows to deliver nutrition messages
- IYCF Training for Community Volunteers in Fafan Zone
- Crop residue conservation techniques training for agro-pastoral households

- TOT for health workers on nutrition counseling
- Promote appropriate backyard poultry and small ruminants (coordination with IR3)
- Review meeting with PRIME woredas nutrition focal person partners
- TOT training for health workers on essential nutrition actions (ENA) for woredas who did not take the training
- Organize/strengthen women to women peer-guided nutrition counseling and develop discussion guide manuals
- Jointly supportive supervision at Health facilities and HHs on counseling provision
- Nutrition add-on training through VSLA (supervision of discussion facilitation)
- Training of religious leaders, community elders and other influencers about nutrition and MIYCF
- Agri-nutrition sensitive training for DAs
- Harmonization of training approach across clusters
- Adaptation of MIYCF manual and training aids together with ENGINE in Somali region
- Development of a TV spot on the first 1000 days approach
- Broadcasting of the SOSC serial drama in all the 3 regions

## **INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT FUND**

### ***Jigjiga Export Slaughter House (JESH)***

The Jigjiga Export Slaughter House (JESH) project, partly funded by USAID-PRIME project, has made significant progress since the last quarter. The JESH facility is about 85% completed. The different sections of the facility are at various stages of completion. Most are at finishing stage except the office building which is being delayed till the priority areas are finished. If everything goes according to plan, JESH expects to be ready for testing by the end of August for the sheep/goat line.

About 90% of the capital goods, machinery and equipment have arrived on site and being installed.



**The Jigjiga Export Slaughter House (JESH)**

## Progress on construction and installation

*Production Hall for sheep/goat* – installation of equipment for sheep/goat production is almost complete. The technical expats are now working on installation of electricity to the machinery. The machinery is expected to be ready for testing before 30 August 2015. The cattle line is planned for phase two of the project.



**Sheep/goat slaughtering line**

### *Chillers, blast freezers, and storage freezers*

Installation of all panels for the chillers and some for the deep freezers are completed. The rails system from goat production hall to the chillers and cattle cutting/deboning section is completed. The electricity power connection of this section is also completed. The floor finishing and the refrigeration machinery installation are ongoing.

### *Waste Water treatment (WWT) plant and Solid waste disposal site*

There has been major delay in the WWT plant due to the heavy rains in the last three months. The shortage of cement in the region also contributed to the delay of the WWT plant.

Mercy Corps Ethiopia (Jigjiga Office) supported JESH by providing excavator for 4 weeks to prepare the solid waste disposal site. This site is located about 1.5km away from the main plant and within the JESH farms. JESH also used the excavator with site clearing and construction storm water pond near the factory.

### *Boiler room*

The building is 90% completed and remains with some finishing works only. The equipment and heat exchangers have been imported and reached the site. Some steam pipes and fixtures being procured.

### *Refrigeration and Power Distribution building*

This building is also about 90% completed. Some finishing works remain such as aluminum doors and windows. Refrigeration compressors and power distribution panels inside have already been installed.

#### *Water supply*

All water supply equipment has been successfully imported and has reached the site. Deep well pumps have been installed in one borehole. Other boreholes need rehabilitation as they have been out of use for several years.

#### *Electricity Supply*

Power installation started last month and is ongoing. All electricity equipment, power distribution panels and transformers have been imported and have reached the site. Standby generators have been purchased and are now undergoing mandatory quality inspection. They are expected to arrive on site by 30 August 2015. All power installation is expected to be completed before 30 September 2015.

#### *Staff Changing rooms, laundry, Showers, toilets, kitchen and cafeteria*

The changing rooms are 90% completed. Some finishing work remains such as painting and ceiling. The laundry equipment has been imported and reached the site.

#### *Office Furniture*

Manufacturing of all furniture completed. Currently undergoing mandatory quality inspection and expected to be shipped to site by 30 July, arriving on site by 30 August.

#### *Animal housing (lairage)*

The facility is almost completed. The steel pipes for animal pens are on site and are expected to be completed by 30 August 2015.

#### *Project Finance*

The total project balance sheet has now reached birr 105,578,741.87 (as per the report ending 30 June 2015).

#### ***Somali Microfinance Institute (SMFI) - Belcash***

The project has obtained authorization by the National Bank of Ethiopia for a full roll-out of the mobile and agent banking services. It is expected that the SMFI-HelloCash inauguration will take place in the next quarter.

After successful completion of the pilot and following NBE's approval, through PRIME support, SMFI has added 7 new branches in this quarter, each branch employing 4 operators (for a total of 28). It plans to reinforce its coverage through Mobile and Agent Banking Services using the "HelloCash" Brand name.

Five SMFI branches have recruited between 2 and 10 Agents. The number of Agents to be recruited per branch has varied within the above mentioned range, based on the density of the population and availability of qualified agents.

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Amount/Number</b>
Total number of agents	19
Total number of active mobile accounts	1,456
Total balance in mobile accounts (in Birr)	273,841.89
No of transaction in the quarter	
A) Fund transfer	167
B) Deposit (Cash in) to mobile account	669
C) Withdrawal (Cash out) from mobile account	437
Total number of transaction in the quarter, (a b c), (in Birr)	1,273
Value of transaction in the quarter (in Birr)	
D) Fund transfer	52,911
E) Deposit (Cash in) to mobile account	629,848
F) Withdrawal (Cash out) from mobile account	299,870
Total value of transaction in the quarter ( d e f)	982,629
Average size of transaction in the quarter (VII/V)	771.9
Average number of transactions in the quarter per day	17.4
Total number of regular accounts opened at agent premise during the quarter	0
Total number of regular accounts opened at agent premise	0

Additionally, a total of 10 new jobs have been created in the last quarter as follows:

- SMFI Call Center: 5
- Supervisor call center: 1
- Monitoring Agents and Branches: 2
- Project Manager SMFI: 1
- Maintenance: 1

### ***Barwako milk processing factory***

Barwako is a privately owned milk (camel/cow) processing factory established in 2014 and located in Jigjiga town of the Ethiopian Somali regional state.

### ***Milk production***

During the period under review, Barwako increased the amount of daily milk collections for both camel and cow milk. The average daily milk collected and processed during this reporting period reached between 650 to 750 liters of camel and 500 liters of cow milk. The maximum processing capacity of the factory is 10,000 liters per day. Barwako is currently buying from an estimated 350 to 460 pastoralist households.

The table below will show the summary of the quarterly milk collection status so far.

<b>Name of milk supplier</b>	<b>Type of supplier</b>	<b>Liters of cow milk collected/day</b>	<b>Liters of camel milk collected/day</b>	<b>Number of HHs reached</b>	<b>District or Kebele</b>	<b>Distance From Jigjiga</b>
Golahajo	Cooperatives	300	450	250	Fafen	45
Barwaqo	Cooperatives	200	450	216	Qubijara	48

### ***Milk by-products***

Producing yogurt with 250ml and 500ml cans for sale is another best achievement for the factory for this quarter. The factory forecasts the increment of buying cow milk for the coming months for its production of yoghurt. It is projected that Barwako will reach 700 liters of cow milk and 1000 liters of camel milk per day collection in the next quarter.

### ***Promotion and Demand creation***

Barwako worked intensively on the promotion and expansion of processing organic milk products collected from the pastoral community to expand its market within and outside of the country.

Demand creation for milk market was also the other key activity the factory worked on during the reporting period. In addition to six cities in Ethiopia (including Addis Ababa), and to the existing two export sites in Somaliland and Djibouti, the factory is receiving demand from private business companies in Sweden, Britain and U.A.E. The Somali community informally promotes the health values of camel milk. Therefore, Europe and Middle Eastern countries are target markets.

### ***Purchase of equipment***

With the support of USAID-PRIME funds, the factory has made all the necessary arrangements to purchase equipment such as milk coolers and solar panels for the milk collectors. Barwako has made all the necessary arrangements to open LC account and purchase will be made soon within the coming months.

### ***Administrative/jobs***

The reporting period records a better reform and performance on the overall management and administrative gaps observed during the previous quarter. Qualified and skilled staff have been recruited for the position of managerial and financial administration position to close the previously observed gaps. Four new individuals have been recruited in the factory in different roles.

#### *Collaboration and Networking*

The factory has been working strongly on networking and collaboration. The Federal Minister of Agriculture to the Ethiopian-Somali regional state administration, Haramaya and Jigjiga University and Oxfam GB, have come to the factory for different purposes during the reporting period.

Individuals from small cooperatives also came from Share Endeselas with an interest to know how their cooperatives can upgrade their milk products, transform their traditional way of production to modern way and delivering their milk to the factory.

#### *Constraints and Suitable Solutions*

As a newly founded factory, ensuring stable quality supply of milk from producers is the main problem faced by the company. Being engaged in a very sensitive and perishable product business, it needs a concrete base to deal with both the suppliers of raw milk as well as the retailers/wholesalers. The underlining cause of this challenge is the absence of cool and safe milk collection center and equipment. This impacts the quality of raw milk before transportation to the factory, and has a negative impact both on the suppliers and the factory's daily market interaction.

In other words due to absence of safe environment in the field, raw milk will be exposed for damage before market exchange happens. To solve this problem, effort has been made to facilitate the purchase of needed equipment. The factory understands the importance of creating awareness and information dissemination on the use/handling of milk to increase its production. It has a plan to work with partners to create this awareness to bring in sustainable change to address the problem in a longer term.

#### *Future considerations*

Considering the information gap on camel milk use within the country, Barwako plans to have a press conference session with the national media soon after the end of the Muslim fasting of Ramadan. We believe that it will enhance the information coverage to the wider population of the country.

#### ***RENEW Investment advisors Plc. - Private Equity Leveraging Services***

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.

In Q11, the team focused on finalizing their due diligence, setting up the investment vehicle, and finalizing their raise for Project Juice. The company also ran multiple investor calls and held meetings with investors in the U.S. and Ethiopia.

The team continued to develop the PRIME pipeline for the next investment package. The team took trips to PRIME areas, met with business associations, banks and government agencies, and held trainings with companies. Broadly speaking, all of this work is helping to educate the Ethiopian business community on private equity and corporate finance. It also allows the team to meet new companies

Stages of Investment	Apr	May	Jun	TOTAL	Coming
Companies evaluated	10	5	10	25	2
Deals closed <sup>2</sup>	0	1*	0	1	1
Jobs created	0	0	0	0	50
PRIME area small-farmers supported	0	0	0	0	500

#### *Results for SME Pipeline Development: Q11*

The team has developed a pipeline of over 102 opportunities and has now selected 10 that they are considering and at various stages of analyzing them for potential investment. One company is in the final stages of closing (Project Juice).

#### *Project Juice*

The team is at the final stage of this deal (closing deals takes at a minimum 6 – 8 weeks, and also how quickly the Banks and Government offices give approvals and document authentications). The investment was opened for investor’s end of June and is currently oversubscribed. The total value of the investment at this stage is \$1.4M but will reach \$5.4M in 5 years’ time. The project is anticipated to support 1,200 small holder farmers and create 200 jobs in the next two years.

#### **PRIME SME Pipeline**

Metrics / Investment Stage	Value	Comments
Identified (cumulative)	102	
Met with (cumulative)	74	RENEW provides feedback and coaching to all companies we meet with. We also educate them on private equity and attracting foreign investors.
Meeting with (planned - current)	28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Edible Oil – established close to PRIME area and supply to PRIME areas (big!)</li> <li>Project Salt– sourcing raw materials from PRIME</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> The team closed East Africa Emergency Services, an emergency medical company that is partnering with Tebita Ambulance in Ethiopia. Although this company falls outside of the PRIME impact areas directly, over the coming years the company intends to provide ambulance services across the country, and expects to save thousands of lives as a result of this expansion investment. The PRIME project helps support the work needed to make these high-impact investments. Tebita currently goes on 12 runs per day.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Soap – sourcing raw materials from PRIME areas, selling to PRIME areas, established close to PRIME area</li> <li>• Project Cow Chow – supply to PRIME area (this meeting)</li> <li>• Project Seed – established close to PRIME area (soon)</li> </ul>
Removed (cumulative)	18	No new removed
Still Considering (cumulative)	10	Added 2 (Salt company and Seed producer are added)
Waiting Approval (current)	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Soap started – (needs approval)</li> <li>• Project Water started – (needs approval)</li> <li>• Project Cow Chow started – (needs approval – this meeting)</li> </ul>
Active Pipeline (current)	1	Project Juice - CLOSING (fully capitalized) Following up with other Dire Dawa co's
Invested (current)	0	Goal is to close 1 deals in July
Second Round (current)	0	

#### *Results for Investor Support and Investment Analysis*

The team is preparing Executive CIMs on two opportunities (Project Salt and Project Cow Chow). The team uses these names to protect the confidentiality of the company, and to also prevent other funds from finding out about the process. If this happens, other investors could inadvertently put competitive pressures on the investors, unnecessarily inflating the valuation of a company and reducing the chances that the deal will come together.

#### **Investor Support Table**

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Comments</b>
IAP Conference Calls	1	1	2	4	Calls to review Project Juice.
Investor Calls	30	20	2	72	Individual investor calls to review Project Juice!
Investor Meetings	20	10	2	32	11 meetings with new investors 10 meetings with current investors
Investor Events	0	1	0	1	Main event on May 1-2 was the Impact Angel National Gathering (photo below). General David Petraeus, the Ambassador of Ethiopia and investors attended the D.C. event. OPIC, Mercy Corps and others were in attendance. Overall, over

					100 guests attended the event. On May 2, RENEW hosted two investor only meetings to discuss Project Juice and other deals.
Econ-Tourism Trips	0	1	1	2	Hosted an investor in May, and one family in June. Preparing for two Econ-Tourism trips in the Fall of 2015.

### ***AGP Poultry***

PRIME have signed agreement with AGP poultry to expand their production to PRIME target regions. The objective of this investment is to strategically expand AGP poultry’s products and services into underserved woredas in Ethiopia’s Guji and Borena Zones.

During Q11 the company has accomplished several key business activities, optimally positioning it to begin progress towards the project indicators. The company has acquired and renovated a new breeding facility, imported 30,000 parent stock, and finalized and paid for new incubators. In addition, the company has received a matching investment of USD \$1.2m from Zemen Bank. Given these accomplishments, the company expects rapid progress towards project indicators in the coming months.

### ***Kick-off work shop***

AGP and PRIME team held a kick-off workshop in Yabello for 25 participants. Most of the attendants came from different Government agencies including;

- Borena Zone Woredas Livestock Agency,
- Borena Zone and Woredas Small and Medium Enterprise Agency
- Borena Zone and Woredas Women, Youth, and Social Affairs Agency
- Borena Zone and Woredas Microfinance Agency

The workshop was conducted for a day where the relevance of poultry business in pastoral area was highly recognized. The stakeholders discussed and shared roles and responsibilities to ensure the success of the project. AGP and PRIME team have a plan to conduct the same workshop in Guji Zone.

### ***Progress against Performance Benchmarks and Indicators***

As the company has not yet begun distribution to the PRIME areas, progress against benchmarks will not begin until after recruited out growers begin distribution in September. However, the company has made substantial progress against the project’s key business activities, detailed below.

To date, the company has completed the following:

**Breeding Facility:** The company has acquired and operationalized a 3,000m<sup>2</sup> breeding farm in Gubre, SNNPR, renovating the ventilation systems, upgrading the electrical and plumbing

infrastructure, and removing trees from the area surrounding the breeding facility to improve biosecurity.

Agents/out growers: AGP has finalized the call for applicants to recruit agents/out growers. The call will be released in July to start the recruitment of a minimum 50 potential SME agents/out growers, many of whom will be TOPS. These agents/out growers will be trained in July and August, and will begin distributing chickens and feed in September 2015.

Soy Extruder and Feed Mill: The feed mill has been rehabilitated and is producing 48 quintals of feed daily, or over 17,000 quintals per annum. The company has not yet begun construction of the soy extruder, but is prepared to begin immediately following second disbursement of funds.

Incubators: The company has selected the site for a ChickMaster setter and hatcher, with total capacity of 380,000 eggs per incubation cycle. The company has finalized its order, paid the costs in full. The setters and hatchers have arrived at port in Djibouti, and construction will be completed in mid-August.

Area Sales Managers: The company has recruited ten new Area Managers to its southern operations, eight of whom are fully operational, and plans to leverage existing staff to aid the Project in the target zones. In addition, the company has hired Dr. Eyayu Ketema Kumsa to serve as the Regional Manager for PRIME areas. Dr. Eyayu holds a DVM Degree and has over five years' experience with livestock in pastoralist areas of Oromia.

Parent Stock: The company has imported a total of 31,757 parent stock units, 59% above the amount detailed in its work plan.

#### *Anticipated Future Problems*

Operationalizing the activity and ensuring its sustainability will be challenging, and the recruitment and training of 50 out growers will require a large amount of extension and mobilization work, both by the Company and by PRIME/Mercy Corps.

#### ***Addiskidan Milk Processing Factory***

During the quarter, the final steps were completed to enable Addiskidan to obtain their IIF funding. An MoU was signed between Addiskidan, CARE, and 4 dairy cooperatives in Zone 3, USAID approval was received, and CARE obtained the last required documentation to clear all compliance regulations.

Addiskidan submitted their list of equipment they wish to purchase with their first tranche of \$100,000. The initial tranche will be provided to Addiskidan early in the upcoming quarter.

#### **USAID FORWARD**

PRIME carried out support for organizational capacity building support to partners during this quarter. As part of the last quarter plan of action, MC and CARE organized a workshop to train PRIME partners on previously identified gap areas of sub-award management and partnership.

The specific objectives included enhancing understanding of sub-award management and USAID rules and regulations, creating opportunities to participants gain from experience sharing for better project implementation, and improving the capacity of partner staff on sub-award management process and partnership as part of USAID Forward objectives. Two participants (one finance and one program staff) from FSA, AISDA, SOS Sahel, Haramaya University, ACPA, HAVOYOCO, DPPB, and AG Flow, Amasis, and Afar MFI attended the two-day workshop. Participants developed action plans for follow up capacity building activities which will be reviewed by CARE and MC.

During this quarter, a new partner – Afar Microfinance Institution – signed a sub-award agreement with PRIME/MC. MC conducted a grant opening presentation to AMFI staff. PRIME also paid a monitoring visit to DPPB (HEA activity) and the report has been shared with PRIME management and DPBB Project manager. The report feedback and corrective actions from DPPB were submitted to MC and documented in the grant file.

Next quarter, priorities include a reflection and leaning sharing workshop for partners, and more capacity building activities with a focus on financial management.

## **CROSS-CUTTING THEMES**

### **GENDER**

#### ***Enhancing More Inclusive Decision Making in NRM***

The Climate Smart Women Leaders Training and Coaching program was expected to start in the second quarter of this implementation year. The activity was delayed due to engagement of the gender advisor in other market development activities in Afar cluster. During the quarter, the training manual was finalized, and the first round of training in all clusters will begin mid-August to early September. The second round training will be conducted by staff in each cluster based on the plan developed during the initial training.

#### ***Provide Technical Support for Consortium Partners to Document and Build Lessons***

During the quarter two activities were planned: 1) documenting lessons on PRIME's work with groups and 2) trial the adaptation of USAID's Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) to dairy-related activities.

*PRIME's work with women's groups:* PRIME is working with 21 women's groups in livestock and dairy marketing in Somali region. These groups were supported through trainings and market linkages. Two groups were supported in their business expansion through small grants. Although PRIME's cost share is a minimum of 1 to 1, the rule was waived for women's groups which are significantly constrained by capital, who shared 30% of the cost burden for expansion. In Afar cluster PRIME works with 4 dairy cooperatives who were supported with business skills and milk quality and hygiene trainings. Linking the groups with Addis Kidan Dairy PLC has also opened a reliable market. Addis Kidan is in the process of finalizing their IIF funding to expand its business which will allow it to buy and process milk at a significantly higher rate. PRIME is also currently in the process of procuring a business development services provider to help these cooperatives develop a sustainable business plan and obtain expansion grants. In the Southern

cluster, the dairy market is primarily individually operated. As such, there is currently an effort to support women's groups involved in small animal trading which is currently challenged by the lack of formal registration of the groups. The project has changed its initial plan to provide small grants for these groups and instead moved towards training and marketing linkages, on the assumption that the groups will realize the opportunities and risks associated with licensing and move towards licensing.

Good practices on working with women shows that there are 3 key areas needed to support groups: 1) leadership strengthening; 2) access to knowledge and information; and 3) exposure to good practices and technologies. The lessons from PRIME's work shows that the project is working in areas 2 and 3. The project should also explore possibilities to support the groups in their leadership and group management skills.

*Adapting WEAI to dairy:* This assignment was difficult to conduct without out-sourcing, although alternative possibilities were explored. The annual survey conducted by Kimetrica has questions that can generate analysis on different components of women's empowerment for the different interventions in PRIME. Hence, a decision was reached to conduct an additional in-depth analysis of women's empowerment on different interventions in PRIME, primarily on dairy, VSLA and NRM.

#### ***Provide Technical Support to Businesses to Integrate Gender***

Mekelle Farms embarked on its expansion in Southern cluster during the quarter. The project has already taken into consideration the employment of women in the farm. However, the biggest leverage point is the out-growers scheme. Although the details for utilizing out-growers has not yet been completely developed, Mekelle Farms has a partnership with Oromia MFI and KIVA which will provide loans to some out-growers who have potential but may not have capital. PRIME is discussing with Mekelle Farms to use this opportunity to prioritize women and youth groups.

#### **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 Q11 include:

#### ***Basic Business Skill (BBS) Training for persons with disability***

A five-day BBS training was given to 10 people (4 female) with disabilities selected from association of women with disabilities and WAZ Metal and Wood Works Plc established by persons with and without disability in Eastern Cluster (Dire Dawa). Another training for 43 (24 female) people selected from associations of disabled people in southern cluster (Yabello and Negelle Borena). The main objective of the training is to enhance their skills in business development thereby effectively manage their income-generating activities.

### ***Signing of Sub-Award grant***

Two additional sub-award grants to Negelle Borena TVET College and Lucy TVET College were signed to encourage and promote the development of disability inclusive TVET education practices and facilitate inclusive skill training and employment opportunities for youth with disabilities in PRIME areas. 50% of the total sub-award grant has been released to Lucy TVET College in Afar Cluster, Jigjiga Polytechnic College and Meles Zenawi Memorial TVET College in EC as well as Negelle Borena TVET College in SC to avail teaching materials in accessible format and to make college premises physically accessible for trainees with disabilities.

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

- In collaboration with Labor and Social Affairs Office, ECDD selected 25 (4 female) persons with disability from Negelle and Liben woredas for short-term skill training scholarship in Negelle Borena TVET College in the field of cobblestone, electricity, catering, garment, beauty salon, welding, wood and metal work.
- Three persons with disability were selected by ECDD graduated in the field of welding and auto-mechanics from Jigjiga Polytechnic College and obtained jobs in the private sector. The skill training was sponsored by Mercy Corps Jigjiga field office.
- 15 persons with disability were identified by ECDD in Afar Cluster for inclusion in skill development and self-employment trainings in Lucy TVET College
- ECDD facilitated the registration of 8 persons with disabilities to belong to the disabled people organization (DPO) at Argoba special woreda-Yicilella in Afar cluster. ECDD provided capacity building technical support on issues of sustainability.
- ECDD facilitated the legalization process of a newly established micro-enterprise association called “Aymokiru” which has a membership of 21 persons with disabilities from Awash Fentale. ECDD provided capacity building on dialogue with concerned government bodies. Moreover, the micro-enterprise has got technical support from Awash woreda labor and social affairs office and will be linked with Lucy TVET for short-term training on hollow block production.

## **V. FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

<b>PRIME EXPEDITURE SUMMARY REPORT</b>	
<b>AS OF June 30, 2015</b>	
<b>Per IR</b>	<b>AMOUNT (USD)</b>
IR 1	8,692,052
IR 2	8,022,137
IR 3	5,182,077
IR 4	4,440,242
IR 5	1,383,932
Crisis Modifier	500,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>28,220,440</b>

Per Funding Stream	
GCC	8,022,137
FtF	18,314,371
Nutrition	1,383,932
Crisis Modifier	500,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>28,220,440</b>

### **List of Annexes**

Annex 1. Acronyms

Annex 2. IR2 annexes (tables from report)

Annex 3. Hellojobs PRIME rollout plan

Annex 4. EMMA final report

Annex 5. Success stories

Annex 6. Match report