



Pastoralist Areas Resilience Improvement through Market Expansion (PRIME) Project
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Quarter 14 Report
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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 Q14

This report summarizes the key activities implemented, and the associated accomplishments for PRIME over the period of 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2016. Major accomplishments for this quarter include:

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

During Quarter 14 of PRIME the IR1 team, in collaboration with other IRs and IIF, continued the implementation of activities initiated in previous quarters focused on development of the live animals trade, meat, dairy and livestock inputs (animal health products and services and feed/fodder) value chains.

PRIME conducted numerous trainings focused on handling and using of over the counter animal health products, production and conservation of feed and fodder, handling and marketing of milk and meat products; benefitting 162 people. The number of enterprises in the value chains that were offered and obtained business development and marketing assistance increased by 30 for a total of 330.

The drought conditions existing in Afar and Siti zone of Somali Region pushed PRIME to develop and start implementation of extraordinary activities focused on preventing the negative effects on the livestock and livestock marketing. Destocking and veterinarian vouchers interventions implemented as a follow up of interventions aiming to increase access to feed and fodder implemented in Quarter 13, strengthened the market linkages, improved animal disease prevention and reduced the livestock losses due to depressed markets for over 5,000 vulnerable households in the Siti Zone of ESRS.

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

PRIME's IR 2 focuses on enhancing pastoralists' adaptation to climate change by improving availability and access to climate information services, supporting strengthening of early warning systems and the capacity of local institutions for improved resource governance and management practices. This includes improving livelihood-related decision-making processes towards climate change adaptation under IRs 1 and 3 that focus on livestock productivity and livelihood diversification, respectively. PRIME's performance on the implementation of NRM activities has been constrained during quarter 14 due to various factors, with the primary issue being the severe drought situation in several implementing areas during the last several months. Even with delays in the budget approval process for FY2015 that affected CARE And SOS Sahel implementation, there were successful activities during the quarter which included rangeland restoration activities over an estimated area of 1,164 hectares, and the rehabilitation and development of water points including rain water harvesting ponds, underground water storage tanks, and the rehabilitation of traditional wells.

Rangeland management planning workshops were held for Wayama grazing system in the southern cluster, and rangeland health monitoring data collection in selected rangeland systems of Borena and Guji zones with the support of the USFS technical team were ongoing during the quarter. In addition, the IR2 GIS expert provided GPS training for PRIME's field teams in all IRs to facilitate mapping of PRIME activities.

PRIME continues to address the underlying causes of vulnerability to climate variability and change in Afar and Somali regions and in Guji and Borena zones by successfully implementing CARE's proven Social Analysis and Action methodology to empower communities to explore and challenge the social norms, beliefs and practices that shape their lives and livelihoods. In the reporting period, the focus has been on equitable gender norms as well as community support for fodder production and hay making, herd management and savings culture. In Afar, Borena and Siti zones, the various sub-SAA groups established by PRIME were able to produce improved fodder and save it as hay for the dry season. Some community members were able to fatten livestock using their fodder reserves produced at their own farmyards. Some SAA groups have successfully challenged restrictive norms and acted together to create equitable gender norms to make climate-smart decisions. The groups have developed an action plan to support gender equality in household decision making in the management of sales and use of income from livestock.

PRIME successfully promoted the production and conservation of improved fodder crops in Afar, Borena and Guji by facilitating practical and field-based trainings on improved agronomic practices and fodder management techniques. In addition to trainings, model agro-pastoralists interested in growing fodder were given improved fodder seeds in cost-sharing arrangements.

The institutionalization of the participatory scenario planning approach by the respective DPPB in Borena and Liben zones encouraged integration of PSP into community livelihood adaptation and local government development planning. Although it is too early to determine the long-term impact of the activity, we have observed changes in improved access to climate information, the

application of the advisories to improve management of rangelands and livestock resources, soil and water conservation techniques, planned sale of animals and mobility patterns, diversification of income sources towards climate-resilient activities (including interest to grow and manage feed and fodder resources), household economic empowerment through promotion of joint decision making with spouses and a culture of savings, and capacity building in managing disasters. Sustainability is expected to be fully achieved when local government planning processes recognize of the approach importance and provide resources for the participation of meteorological services and community forecasting experts to help refine plans on a seasonal basis and to disseminate the advisories.

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

Facilitating Cash Transfer and Financial Literacy Training for Drought Stricken Areas of Siti Zone in Somali Region and Zone 3 in Afar Regional State: The cash transfer intervention under a USAID cost extension will target 5,000 pastoralists transitioning out of pastoralism (TOP) households (30,000 beneficiaries). Poor households in the lowest wealth quartile are the primary targets of the cash transfer intervention. PRIME is working with woreda and kebele administrations to target beneficiaries. Mercy Corps is leading this intervention with the collaboration of PRIME partners ACPA, AISDA and CARE.

TOPs employability is on the rise: PRIME interventions to enhance employment and entrepreneurship to create jobs for people transitioning out of pastoralism (TOPs) are paying off. During this quarter, PRIME supported the creation of 117 new jobs and helped 172 TOPs to obtain jobs in the labor market. Simultaneously, PRIME is building the capacity of TVETs and providing scholarship opportunities for TOPs to acquire skill training to become more easily employable or start their own business. The enterprises that are hiring TOPs include JESH, Somali MFI, Rays MFI, Afar MFI, Barwako dairy processing, AGP poultry, PVPs, and agricultural input suppliers, among others.

Additional 466 job seekers (TOPs) are registered on HelloJobs System: During this quarter, 466 job seekers from Afar and Somali regional states have registered in the HelloJobs database. These additionally registered TOPs have increased the total number of registered job seekers in HelloJobs database to 3328 (2769 male and 559 female). The profile of these job seekers is now available for employers to access from the system free of charge should they want to hire these job seekers.

Somali Microfinance Institution: Mercy Corps supported the Somali MFI introducing and rolling out mobile and agent banking (HelloCash) solutions to increase access to inclusive financial services in the region. During the quarter HelloCash was officially inaugurated in presence of high level delegates from Federal and Regional government officials, US Ambassador to Ethiopia and USAID mission representatives. After a successful rollout mobile and agent banking, HelloCash account holders increased to 69,936 representing a 45% increase from last quarter and the number of agents banking reached 149. Now account holders can save, withdraw cash from nearby agents, and can make transactions using mobile payments.

Afar Microfinance Institution: Mercy Corps continued to provide technical and financial assistance based on the sub-award agreement to Afar MFI. The performance of the MFI is improving over time and this quarter has recorded significant increase in terms of numbers savers and loan to clients (512 new savers; 101 borrowers). Afar MFI is also going to work with PRIME on a cash transfer intervention for the drought response. It is expected that Afar MFI will open bank accounts and provide financial literacy training for 2,500 targeted households and transfer cash for three consecutive months.

The newly established Rays MFI opened its first three branches for Service: Rays opened three new branches in Addis Ababa, Negelle Borena and Moyale Oromia. PRIME has been supporting Rays since its establishment and has continued to provide financial and technical assistance. During the quarter Rays facilitated training for its newly hired staff to ensure they have the necessary knowledge to give the best service in their respective branch offices. After the training, Negelle, Moyale, and Addis Ababa branches have fulfilled the necessary requirements to start operation and are now open to provide savings and local money transfer services.

519 VSLAs established with 9,553 members via private sector provider (PSP) model: The establishment of Village Saving and Lending Associations (VSLA) via PSP model is continuing in this quarter across all PRIME interventions. The VSLA PSP methodology provides a relatively safe place for poor households to save their money, borrow money and improve their financial literacy to increase their income.

Disability inclusion in skills training: ECDD in collaboration with Mercy Corps and SOS Sahel provided disability adjustment equipment including wheelchair, crutches, and braces for 54 (31 F) trainees with mobility impairment who were registered for short term skill training in Negelle and Yabello.

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

During this quarter, the IR4 team conducted progress monitoring of three interventions: livestock de-stocking and veterinarian voucher intervention (drought response) and birkads construction and pond excavation. Through qualitative data collection, the team found that most interviewed livestock traders noticed a positive change in the respective livestock market, especially on livestock price. Access to feed remains the main challenge interviewed traders reported. Price determination on the basis of livestock body condition was the second challenge most reported. PRIME interviewed pastoralists who received veterinary vouchers as part of the drought response intervention. Pastoralists believed that after the intervention their livestock improved their health status, especially for those too weak to stand. CAHWs also played a great role, including providing awareness about the use of vouchers and the use of drugs. The team found delays in the implementation of water works by the companies contracted which led to the PRIME IR2 team to meet with the contractors – one company was delayed due to lagging payments, but the other company promised to mobilize construction materials within a short period of time. Frequent oversight of the progress of construction is necessary in addition to frequent communication with community leadership.

To understand the contribution of PRIME interventions towards building resilience in Faafan zone, Mercy Corps regional resilience hub and the learning technical support unit at Mercy Corps headquarters are carrying out research in four woredas of the zone. While this research is similar to what TANGO is doing around Jigjiga town, this research is meant to look at different geographical areas and provide a ‘baseline’ with planned follow-up surveys to observe resilience capacities in PRIME target households and communities. PRIME is providing some support to this resilience research, assisting with technical and programmatic inputs. The research will take place during May 2016.

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

During this quarter, the PRIME Nutrition team organized MIYCN training at different levels. The MIYCN training was designed as a comprehensive approach to strengthen the capacity of health workers and community volunteers for effective and sustainable nutrition behavior change communication, education, and counseling services at health facility and community level. Before organizing training at each level, PRIME developed MIYCN manuals for trainers and participants contextualizing it for pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. 285 health workers and health extension workers trained on the MIYCN. In addition, to improve counseling services at health facility and community level, PRIME in collaboration with ENGINE developed MIYCN counseling cards for health facility and community volunteers in Somali region. The MIYCN counseling cards for Afar and Oromia (Borena and Guji) are also under development and they will be finalized and distributed next quarter.

In addition to MIYCN training, PRIME organized ToT training on the PRIME youth drama approach. This training was organized as part of the capacity building of education sector and to create linkages between nutrition behavior change communication and school club activities. 20 participants from the three clusters attended the training. During the next quarter, PRIME will continue to cascade the training for school teachers and club members.

In order to reach additional beneficiaries with key nutrition messages, the PRIME nutrition team in collaboration with local theater art group and government bureaus organized different promotional events. The topics included the concept of first 1000 days, the importance of critical handwashing, cooking demonstration to highlight dietary diversity and community dialogues on the use of concentrated feed.

PRIME continues dialogues with radio listener group members on different nutrition messages included in the soap opera radio serial drama. During the quarter, PRIME organized a reflection meeting with all partners to review the SOSC drama season 1 and discuss on the way forward. During the reflection the team agreed to continue community dialogues, using season 1 radio serial drama by adding groups established by PRIME or the government. In addition, the team suggested continuing the development of season 2 because of emerging issues the communities have told us are of concern to them.

In addition, during the quarter, the PRIME nutrition team attended different international and national conferences and shared experience of Ethiopia’s pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. The PRIME nutrition team was able to train **856** people and reach **4750** people with different nutrition messages.

Highlights from **Innovation and Investment Fund:**

The Jiggiga Export Slaughter House (JESH) project was inaugurated on February 25, 2016. As planned, JESH completed all construction work on the sheep and goat line and is ready to start operation once the process of obtaining business license is finished. JESH is also working on obtaining Food Safety (HACCP) Certification that will enable them to export to Middle East countries.

HelloCash was also officially inaugurated on February 25, 2016 along with JESH. Since its full roll out was approved by the National Bank of Ethiopia in May/June 2015, HelloCash has reached 66,936 end users through 148 agents, 23 branches and 17 satellite branches.

Barwako factory continues milk processing and distribution activities and has been conducting marketing activities since the end of last quarter. The biggest challenge for the factory the past few months has been the shortage of raw milk due to the drought caused by El Niño. Barwako is trying to tap into different sources to mitigate the problem.

AGP poultry has reached 21 operational agents in Borena and Guji zones. The farm has achieved high productivity from its incubators and seen mortality rates below 5% among its agent groups' birds. Of the 21 agent groups currently in business, five have already finished the distribution of the first cycle, and another two groups are 80% complete on distribution. Furthermore, AGP Poultry conducted intensive training of government experts to facilitate market linkage for the Agents, including 36 micro and small enterprises and Pastoralist Commission experts.

The RENEW team focused on launching Project Juice, which was closed on November 2, 2015, and implementation of the company's 120-day plan. The team also hosted several investors in Ethiopia, including several who invested in Project Juice. The team also ran multiple investor meetings across the U.S. providing information on the overall investment climate in Ethiopia, current portfolio performance, and upcoming investment opportunities.

II. SUMMARY RESULTS TABLE

Indicator	Disaggregation	FY13+FY14 +FY15 targets (Y1+Y2+Y3)	FY13+FY14 +FY15 achieved (Y1+Y2+Y3)	FY16 Target (Y4 only)	Achieved Q13 (Oct 2015-Dec 2015)	Achieved Q14 (Jan 2016-Mar 2016)	Remark
CROSS CUTTING INDICATORS							
4.5.2-14: Number of vulnerable households	Total	125,000	118,649	75,000	15,781	40,619	Q14 includes 8,716 PLW reached through CMAM # for both Q13 and Q14 will be applied discounts for IR overlaps at the end of year and will include those beneficiaries reached through CM interventions and IIF
4.5.2(5): Number of farmers and others who have applied new (improved) technologies or management practices as a result of US assistance	Total	16,687	50,804	27,380	N/A	N/A	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	Total	29,000	64,054	27,380	N/A	N/A	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	Total	20,300	56,274	27,380	N/A	N/A	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)	Total	49,225	48,042	6,174	2,278	1,409	Q13 data is under review due to data quality issues.
	Male	28,198	28,845	3,944	1,811	911	
	Female	21,027	19,557	2,230	467	498	
4.5.2(11): Number of food security private enterprises (for profit), producers organizations, water users	Total	2,871	1,641	1,846	309	331	For Q14 data, 209 of them are new and 122 are continuing.
	Private Sector	2,394	602	1,686	99	167	

Indicator	Disaggregation	FY13+FY14 +FY15 targets (Y1+Y2+Y3)	FY13+FY14 +FY15 achieved (Y1+Y2+Y3)	FY16 Target (Y4 only)	Achieved Q13 (Oct 2015-Dec 2015)	Achieved Q14 (Jan 2016-Mar 2016)	Remark
associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance (RIA) (WOG)	Producer Orgz	108	36				
	Water User Assoc	0	13				
	Women's groups	45	266				
	Trade and Business assoc.	16	45	5	0		
	CBOs	283	286	155	135	47	
	Disaggregates not available	25	393	0	75	117	
4.5.1(24): (NEW) Number of agricultural enabling environment policies completing the following processes/steps of development as a result of USG assistance (S)	Total	5	6	3			
	Area	5	6	3			
	Institutional architecture for improved policy formulation	-	1	0			
	Enabling environment for private sector investment	3	1	0			
	Agricultural trade policy	-	-	0			
	Agricultural input policy	1	2	0			
	Land and natural resources tenure, rights, and policy	-	1	1			
	Resilience and agricultural risk	-	-	1			

Indicator	Disaggregation	FY13+FY14 +FY15 targets (Y1+Y2+Y3)	FY13+FY14 +FY15 achieved (Y1+Y2+Y3)	FY16 Target (Y4 only)	Achieved Q13 (Oct 2015-Dec 2015)	Achieved Q14 (Jan 2016-Mar 2016)	Remark
	management policy						
	Nutrition	-	-	1			ongoing
	Other	1	1				
	Process/Step	5	6	3			
	Analysis	1	1				
	Stakeholder consultation/public debate	2	3				
	Drafting or revision	-	-	2			
	Approval (legislative or regulatory)	1	1	1			
	Full and effective implementation	1	2				
	Disaggregates Not Available						
	Total policies passing through one of more processes/steps of policy change	5	6	3			
4.5.2(2): Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance	Total	32,390	34,544	25,000	286	1,413	
PPR 4.8.1-29 Number of person hours of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity	Total	78,000	200,041	39,000	6,536	4,984	
	Men	56166	143775	27,300	4,686	3,920	

Indicator	Disaggregation	FY13+FY14 +FY15 targets (Y1+Y2+Y3)	FY13+FY14 +FY15 achieved (Y1+Y2+Y3)	FY16 Target (Y4 only)	Achieved Q13 (Oct 2015-Dec 2015)	Achieved Q14 (Jan 2016-Mar 2016)	Remark
conservation supported by USG assistance	Women	21,840	56,266	11,700	1,850	1,064	
4.5.2(23): Value of incremental sales at farm-level attributed to FtF implementation	USD	12,657,936	13,728,874	8,100,000	N/A	N/A	Annual reporting only
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	Total	30,460	49,223	51,900	44,600	20,965	
	Borrowers	5,000	13,858	4,000	1,680	1,260	
	Savers	24,930	33,465	47,000	42,920	19,705	
	Insurance	560	1900	-	-	-	
4.5(2): Number of jobs attributed to FTF implementation (RIA)	Created (New and Continue)	2,700	1,701	1,910	91	126	Continuing jobs from FY15 will be added during annual report.
	Obtained		1,213	-	-	172	
4.5.2(38): Value of new private sector investment in the agriculture sector or food chain leveraged by FTF implementation (RIA)	Total (USD)	13,500,000	13,767,972	1,871,000	-	600,000	Addiskidan and Rays will be reported during Q15. The number reported is from RENEW
3.1.9(1): Number of people trained in child health and nutrition through USG-supported programs (S)	Total	14,150	12,577	7,171	4,673	657	
	Male	5,150	5,392	3,289	2,631	307	
	Female	9,000	7,185	3,882	2,042	350	
3.1.9(15): Number of children under five reached by USG-supported nutrition programs (S)	Total	88,500	70,698	38,046	6,531	13,671	Q14 report includes 10,069 under five children reached in Afar and eastern clusters (CMAM).
	Male	44,835	35,972	19,323	3,397	7,048	
	Female	43,665	34,726	18,723	3,134	6,623	

III. CORRELATION TO THE MONITORING PLAN

Data for this report was gathered through PRIME’s Ki-projects, after verification from the field and through business information gathered by the EMD team at field level and reported to IR1 and IR3. Data for VSLA members (financial beneficiaries) is being collated and reported by the Rural Financial Services specialist through the SAVIX information system. Information for institutions supported is still in process of being entered into PRIME’s institutional database.

During this reporting period USAID asked for Microenterprise Result Reporting (MRR) data for FY2015 and was submitted on 18 March 2016. An extract of the submission can be found in Annex 1.

IV. RESULT BY RESULT ANALYSIS

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

Key Result 1.1: Productivity in Key Livestock Market Systems Increased

Competitive Cost Shared Business Expansion Grants for Milk Collection and Distribution Centers in the Southern Cluster

This intervention aims at improving the dairy value chain by creating access to sustainable milk market for pastoralists. The business expansion of small milk collectors and processors, not only improved income stream for small holder pastoralists but also reduced women pastoralists work burden as they started selling their milk close to their homes. All eight milk collection centers continued functioning and expanding their operations properly and thereby addressing dairy market constraints in the area.



In this quarter SOS Sahel signed new sub-award agreement with two milk businesses in Southern cluster: Solina and Buzé milk collection centers in Wadara district of Guji zone. The businesses started operations successfully and the first installment reimbursement against business expansion milestones was paid. The number of PRIME supported functional milk collection and processing centers has reached ten in the Southern cluster. To provide necessary technical support through coaching, the PRIME technical team conducted field monitoring to all milk collection centers this quarter. During Quarter 14 of PRIME, the milk collection centers supported by PRIME generated revenue amounting USD 25,714 (540,000 birr), purchasing milk from over 500 households.



Competitive Cost-Shared Business Expansion Grants to Private Veterinary Pharmacies in Southern Cluster

PRIME has been working to increase the capacity and expand twelve Private Veterinarian Pharmacies, with an objective to increase pastoralist access to quality animal health services.

This quarter, PRIME signed an additional sub award agreement with Amerti PVP in Liben zone. To further enhance their capacity; necessary technical support, coaching and performance monitoring was conducted this quarter for all 13 PVPs. While following up and monitoring the business performance the following information and updates were generated this quarter:

- All supported PVPs stocked enough vet drugs to serve customers/pastoralists for at least two months at normal business capacity. Businesses are receiving reasonable returns while delivering quality animal health services at affordable cost. The average quarterly sales for the PVPs are ETB 787,500 or about 12,000 USD monthly.
- At least 5,250 pastoral households in 35 kebeles have access to sustainable, quality veterinary drugs and inputs.
- 140 CAHWs have been linked with PVPs for pastoralists in remote areas to obtain veterinary services and products nearby.
- The volume of illegal drugs traded informally has been minimized due to increased access and availability of high quality vet drugs for pastoralists. The PRIME supported PVPs are providing appropriate advice and extension services for pastoralists.

Competitive Cost-Shared Business Expansion Grants to Private Mobile Veterinary clinics in Southern Cluster

In order to further improve availability and access to sustainable animal health services in the Southern Cluster, in Quarter 13 PRIME published a call for applications/proposals for private veterinary clinic (mobile services) expansion. During this quarter PRIME signed one sub-award agreement with Arero Mobile Veterinary Clinic to expand its reach and service to an additional 900 households. As this activity progresses, it is expected that expansion of veterinary clinical service will complement services being delivered by PVP businesses.

Workshop on Control of Illegal Veterinary Drug Trade and Unfolding Newly Endorsed Government Proclamation (VDFACA) No: 728/2011 in the Southern Cluster

A key component of improved animal health services is the availability of quality animal health prevention and treatment products. However, the informal livestock drug market, with its cheap and unregulated products, has stifled the formal veterinary drug market. To increase awareness of animal health input market actors and various stakeholders on illegal veterinary drug control in line with the Government Proclamation No: 728/2011, PRIME facilitated a workshop in collaboration with Federal Veterinary Drug and Feed Control Administration Authority at Yabello and Negelle in March 14-15 and 17-18 respectively. A total of 153 (of which 21 female) participants from private businesses and government offices attended the workshop. As a result of the workshop, the following achievements are recorded:

- Participants (CAHWs, animal health experts, PDO, PVP owners) increased their awareness on veterinary drug definitions, the illegal drug market, downside of illegal drugs, controlling mechanisms and regulatory actions and roles of stakeholders.
- To create linkages between PVPs and wholesalers, the addresses of 62 veterinary drug importers and wholesalers, have been shared with 17 invited PVP owners.
- Finally, a regulatory body of five government sectors (Police, Justice, Livestock Agency, Pastoral Development Office, Customs and Revenue Office and Trade and Market Development Office) has been established at both zonal and woredas levels.

Competitive Cost-Shared Business Expansion Grants for Local Feed Suppliers in the Southern Cluster

The livestock production system in the Southern Cluster is highly dependent on natural pasture. Due to the current climatic situation and changing socio economic environment, critical shortages of pasture is more frequent. Supplementary feed production and marketing is not commonly practiced in the area and that value chain is nascent. To increase availability of quality animal feed, in quarter 13, PRIME advertised business expansion grant opportunities to encouraging local entrepreneurs to open feed supply outlets. During quarter 13 and 14 of PRIME, several proposals from private entrepreneurs interested in establishing/expanding feed and fodder supply business were received. Applications screening process in Liben and Gorodola woredas were completed during the quarter and two sub-awards were signed with Mohamed Sharifo Livestock Feed Supplier and Teshome Feed and Fodder Supplier in Liben and Gorodola.

Competitive Cost-Shared business Expansion Grants for Private Veterinarian Pharmacies in Jarar and Fafan zones of Eastern Cluster

This activity was initiated by PRIME in quarter 12 to follow up on the successful PVP expansion activity conducted earlier by the project in the Eastern Cluster. In this quarter, the Mercy Corps Eastern Cluster EMD team started implementing the activity. A call for proposals was published and 19 applications were received and screened. Sixteen of the applications were verified and reviewed for costs and expected impact. Sub-award agreements are expected to be signed with at least 10 PVPs operating and wishing to expand to new locations/woredas in Jarar and Fafan zones.

The table below summarizes the list of PVPs and areas to which they plan to expand.

No	Name of PVP	Name of the Owner	Professional	District	Business expansion Location Woreda
1	Aisha	Farhan Dayib	AHA	Aisha	Sinijif
2	Duale	Abdirisak Mohmaned	AHA	Degehbor	Dasgenyo
3	Gahnug	Yusuf Maten	AHA	Ararso	Ubahle
4	Awale	Abdirashed Abdullahi	AHT	K/beyeh	Jingada
5	Iftin	Bashir Shiek Nur	AHA	Birkot	Garigo,an
6	Gamame	Barked Ali Mohmed	AHA	Daror	Goseyga
7	Ararso	Abdulahi Abdulahi	AHT	Ararso	Adadadader
8	Daryel	Bashir Muhumed	AHT	Aware	Bukudabe
9	Wayel	Abdi Hassen	NA	DB city	BilinBur
10	Waramiog	Shakur Aden Aydid	AHT	Harshin	Baley Ase
11	Fidar	Mohamed Abdi Fider	AHT	harshin	Afufley
12	Shifo	Mohamed Yusuf	AHA	Gashamo	Manyere
13	Hassen Pvp	Hasen Mohamed	AHA	Hadegela	Hore
14	Shifo	Busher Mohamed	AHA	k/beyeh	Durwale
15	All Amin	Mohamed Ahmed	AHT	Aware	Dig

Training on Fodder Production and Preservation Techniques for 59 Model Farmers in the Eastern Cluster

This quarter, in collaboration with Somali Regional Livestock and Pastoral Development Bureau, PRIME conducted a three-day training on fodder production and preservation for 59 participants from agricultural cooperatives in Gursum and Erer districts with the expectation that this will impact 177 beneficiaries. The training was conducted in two rounds both theoretical and practical, one round in each Gursum and Erer district. Participants were selected from Jijiga, Gursum, Erer and Babile Oromia.

The key objective of the training was to increase the skill and practical techniques application for fodder production and preservation. This is a follow up on the previously implemented PRIME activity which resulted in production and dissemination of educational films for fodder production through the ESRS public electronic media.

Hydroponic Fodder Production Research and Demonstration

In an effort to increase awareness of and exposure to supplementary feed/fodder production technologies appropriate for dry areas, PRIME initiated research of hydroponic fodder production in its implementation areas. The research aims to: (1) study the production and economic feasibility of hydroponic production and (2) introduce hydroponic fodder production model to a wider audience of pastoralists, agro pastoralists and extension workers. While commonly viewed as a prohibitively expensive fodder production method, the expansion of hydroponic (on demand fodder production) is rapidly expanding in regions in the world that exert low potential for agricultural production and yet have high demand for animal products especially milk and eggs.



Following the initial testing and success of locally manufactured hydroponic fodder production installation and technologies in Dire Dawa during Quarter 13, an additional seven mobile installations were produced and dispatched for field testing in: Jijiga, Arbaminch, Negele, Yabello and in Addis Ababa during this quarter.

The initial research results and cost analysis obtained during quarter 14 are presented in the table below.

Preliminary Cash Cost Analysis of Hydroponic Fodder Production

1. Assumptions	Unit	24 kg/day
Number of working days	number	365
Number of working hours daily	hours	1
Average Quantity of Raw Material Input Per day (wheat seed)	kg/day	4.0
Average Purchase Price of Raw Material (wheat or barley seed)	Birr/kg	7.0
Average Finished Product Yield of Raw Material	%	600%
Product Yield (green fodder)	%	600%

Average Sales Price of 1 kg of Fodder	Birr/kg	3.5
Total Quantity of Product Produced (fodder)	kg	8,760
Sellable by-product produced daily (fodder)	kg	24
Bleach used for sanitation	liter/day	0.3
Price of bleach	Birr/liter	18.0
Raw material transportation cost	Birr/kg	0.2
2. Variable Cost		
Raw material	Birr	10,220
Varikina used for sanitation	Birr	1,971
Local Transportation of Raw Material (wheat)	Birr	292
Total Variable Cost	Birr	12,483
Working Capital Need (two weeks)	Birr	520
3. Fixed Cost		
Equipment and machinery @ 15%	Birr	30,000
Total Fixed Cost	Birr	30,000
Project Value		30,520
Project Value in \$US (Exchange rate = = = = =	21.5	1,420
4. Depreciation		
Equipment and machinery	15%	4,500
Total Depreciation	Birrr	4,500
5. Sales		
Class I Product	Birr	30,660
Total Sales	Birr	30,660
6. After Tax Profit		
After Tax Profit	MNT	13,677
After Tax Profit in \$US	21.5	636
Return on Investment	%	44.8
Years Payback	Years	2.2
Cost of Goods Sold	Birr	12,483
Gross Margin	%	59.3

While the applied research and demonstration of the technology will continue during quarter 15 of PRIME, it seems that this technology alternative in producing fodder for dairy animals in peri-urban agro pastoral setting could be useful. After establishing routine fodder production in collaboration with early adopting households, PRIME will continue the research in evaluating the fodder feasibility production in various PRIME target regions and livestock productivity performance with utilizing this type of supplement fodder source.

Competitive Cost Shared Business Expansion Grants for Milk Shops in the Eastern Cluster

During the quarter a call for proposals for competitive cost shared grants for milk shops was re-advertised in order to solicit potential candidate enterprises from Jigjiga, Kebribayah, Harta-sheik, Ararso and Dagahbur towns. Discussion workshops were conducted with the identified and potential applicant milk shops to understand the gap and challenges in the milk supply sector. The number of applicants of the grant is depicted in the table below

Name of the town	Number of applicants
Jijiga	7
Kebribayah	14
Hartishek	2
Dagahbur	11

The due process for screening, verification, ranking, negotiating and signing cost shared sub-awards will be conducted in quarter 15.

Training on Meat Hygiene for Meat Traders in the Eastern Cluster

During the quarter PRIME provided meat hygiene training for meat traders in Jijiga. Basic meat hygiene and inspection courses were introduced to participants over a period of four days. The objective of the training was to enhance the knowledge and understanding of meat sellers in Jijiga to improve meat management and handling practices. Participants gained the necessary information and education of methods and steps to maintain hygiene from start to end of the meat selling process. Experts and participants have explained major hygienic issues important to meat preservation and consumption. As a result of this, the training has significantly changed the attitude and knowledge of the traders to increase efforts to reduce unhygienic conditions and promote awareness of hygienic activities.



This training was attended by 70 individual business owners and local cooperatives which are more productive than individual businesses. Cooperatives enable traders to generate increased incomes, learn from cooperation and gain the possibility to get external support.

Supporting Control of High Impact Animal Diseases in Zone 3 of Afar through Facilitation of Livestock Vaccination

Implementation of this sub-activity began in March 2016 in Awash Fentale woreda. 25,200 sheep and goats (63% of plan) have been vaccinated against sheep and goat pox. The relatively lower level of accomplishment was attributed to the fact that the same activity was conducted earlier in December 2015 for part of the population of livestock, as well as the current migration of pastoralists with their livestock to distant places in search of grazing. Although the vaccination is intended to protect against high impact animal diseases of public interest, a total of 277 households (39 of which are female headed) have been reported to directly benefit from the vaccination. In the course of implementing this activity 12 CAHWs and 12 government staff participated both in vaccinating and coordinating. Implementation of the activity will continue in the remaining 5 woredas of Zone 3 of Afar during Quarter 15.

Exposure visit for Private Veterinary Pharmacies from Afar to Veterinarian Product Importers and Wholesalers in Addis Ababa

The objectives of this activity conducted in quarter 14 were: (1) to enhance PVPs' soft and hard skills by creating interactive forums and dialogues between PVPs and upstream input suppliers and strengthening their involvement in the institutional and functional relationships and interactions across input markets; and (2) to develop PVPs understanding of the law and enforcement around veterinary pharmaceutical trade and regulations. During the course of the visit to wholesalers in Addis Ababa the Ethiopian veterinary drugs and feed importers and distributors association; Veterinary Drugs and Feed Administration and Control Authority (VDFACA) and Veterinary input suppliers in Ethiopia were involved.

Six PVPs from each woreda of Afar Zone 3 participated in a three-day with presentations from the regulatory authority that included (1) Veterinary pharmaceuticals registration system in Ethiopia; (2) Good pharmaceutical distribution practices and good pharmacy practices; (3) Statutory packages and enforcements of the VDFACA; (4) Overall discussions and explanations around veterinary drugs trade in Ethiopia and specifically on challenges and opportunities the PVPs need to explore from the sector; (5) Bilateral discussions and negotiations with Equatorial business group, Tropical pharmaceutical trading, and DAT international trading. The PVPs also visited several shops in Addis Ababa.

Key Result 1.2 Market linkages improved

Competitive Cost Share Grant for Feedlot Establishment in Southern Cluster

To improve the quality of live animal trade and help pastoralists learn how to produce livestock for available markets, PRIME facilitated the establishment of medium size feedlots in southern cluster. In quarter 13, PRIME signed a cost shared sub-award agreements with eleven feedlot businesses (three through SOS Sahel and eight through Mercy Corps). Recognizing the promise of this intervention, PRIME additionally signed two sub-awards in quarter 14, reaching the total number of business expansion projects to 13.

During this quarter, most businesses showed good progress completing milestones and some started their operation. The summary of feedlot businesses' progress is described as follows:

- 1. Fikadu Feedlot Farm:** The construction of facilities is 75% completed and high quality standards. The farm is located on the outskirts of Moyale. The business has accumulated tremendous stock of feed/fodder for starting first round fattening with 50 cattle in the coming two weeks. This business integrates biomass technology for converting cattle manure into biogas.
- 2. Kiyatu Fattening Farm:** The construction of feedlot structures has been almost completed (95%) at very good quality. This feedlot farm is located in a rural area called Lay kebele, 3 km from Moyale. The business has started the necessary preparation to



commence fattening 40 cattle during their first round. Best practice at this farm is construction of stores and offices using bricks (from soil) fabricated with local youth entrepreneurs. The IR 3 team has been advised to devise a mechanism for availing such skills through short term training scholarship program.

- 3. Mohamed Abdella Fattening:** This business is also located in Moyale town. It started construction of facilities late due to some challenges in land ownership, that is now resolved. It completed site clearing, fencing, water pipe installation and started construction of the feeding trough.

- 4. Balii Godana Cattle Fattening:** This feedlot farm is located in Arero town, 100km East of Yabello. This is an outstanding feedlot farm in terms of performance and volume. The farm is on 20,000 m² land, fully fenced. It has started fattening 104 bulls (aging 4-5 years) in early March 2016. Currently, the owner has started dealing with traders for selling the bulls. Many local/zonal government authorities have visited the business, appreciating PRIME's intervention.



- 5. Boru Haleke Cattle fattening farm:** This business is found in Dida Yaballo kebele, 12 km North of Yabello town. It is owned by a model pastoralist called Boru Halake. He has completed milestones, accumulated enough feed/fodder stock and started first round fattening with 20 cattle. Taking experience from PRIME supported feedlot farms, another livestock trader called Sara Arero started feedlot infrastructure construction near Boru Halake feedlot compound in Dida Yabello kebele. It seems that the private sector is crowding in the fattening business venture.



- 6. Wanofi Animal Fattening:** Is located in Haraweyu kebele, nearly 40 km South- East of Yabello town. The owner is a physically disabled entrepreneur. The feedlot farm is being constructed on investment land (100 ha), integrated with fodder production investment project. The feedlot construction is 70% completed and expected to be completed soon.
- 7. Harobe Halake Cattle Fattening:** This feedlot farm is located in a small town called Elwaye, 30 km west of Yabello. The construction work is fully completed and the owner started purchasing cattle for fattening in April 2016. When fully operational, this feedlot farm will be the second largest next to Bali Godana's farm in terms of size.
- 8. Duba Wario Livestock Trading Enterprise:** This business is located in Gobicha kebele, 5 km South of Negelle Borena town. Though started only recently, the construction work is now 60% completed. The owner has also purchased 30 cattle, keeping them in enclosed grazing land until the feedlot facility construction is fully completed. The business also stored enough fodder for fattening purpose. The feedlot is expected to be operational in the next month.

9. **Roba Gufu Borena Cattle Breeder:** The owner has failed to start feedlot construction as per the agreement. Continuous coaching has been provided by PRIME technical team but this business is not showing progress and therefore a pre-termination notice has been given.
10. **Hussein Haro Fattening Farm:** The business is located in Genale kebele, Gorodola woreda. The progress is slow but construction has started.
11. **Udo Ganale feedlot farm:** This business signed a sub-award agreement with SOS Sahel in March 2016. It is located in Wadara town, 60 km north of Negelle Borena. The progress is promising as 60% construction work is completed within a month time.
12. **Bati Boko:** This business signed a sub-award agreement with SOS Sahel in March 2016. It is located in Gorodola district, 30 km north of Negelle Borena. Progress is relatively good.
13. **Tile Medo Livestock fattening:** The business is ready to start implementation immediately after the sub-award agreement is actually signed. This has been delayed but PRIME's grant officer will finalize soon.

Feedlot Management and Business Skill Development Training for Feedlot Operators in Southern Cluster

To further build capacity of feedlot operators many of which are also recipients of business expansion grant support, PRIME facilitated feedlot management and business skill development training for feedlot business owners and managers. Accordingly, 27 (1 female, 26 male) individuals from 13



feedlot businesses and 1 PDO expert attended the training. The training had been facilitated in coordination with experts from the Ethiopian Meat and Dairy Institute and Haramaya University. The training had two sessions:

- **Feedlot Management/fattening:** feedlot construction, components of feedlot farm, cattle fattening process, selecting animals for fattening, safety protocols for animal transportation, feeding & watering and animal health management.
- **Business Skill Development:** basic business development philosophy, entrepreneurship and its importance, processes for starting businesses, market linkages/networking, building self-confidence, market analysis and key market component, exporting policy and procedures, business plan development and recorded keeping.

In addition to facilitating the training, a half day workshop was conducted on livestock market linkage issues. Borena zone trade and market development office chaired the discussion. PRIME, government and feedlot owners will work together for ensuring successes of feedlot businesses in the cluster. Feedlot owners who have not yet started, have developed action plan for launching fattening based on awareness obtained from training.

Rehabilitation and Upgrading of Afar Zone 3 Livestock Market Infrastructure

To improve the livestock marketing system in the region, PRIME Afar Cluster IR1 team in coordination with Regional Pastoral and Agricultural Development Bureau (PADB), initiated and conducted rehabilitation and regular maintenance activities of four primary market centers in

the cluster. Major rehabilitation work included: (1) installation of shades; (2) installation and fixing of water tankers; (3) assuring water supply line and water pumps for Dulesa market; (4) maintenance and repairing of livestock loading ramps, water troughs, communal latrine, doors, fences, etc. During quarter 14 all rehabilitation works have been completed and handed over to the regional PADB and respective woreda government offices that manage the markets.

Along with handover, discussion and agreements were made with concerned woreda GO to share responsibility and ensure sustainable function and maintenance of the markets in the future. The issues discussed and actions taken include:

- Ensure sustainable function of the market centers in discussion and coordination with woreda PADOs, admin, finance, water supply office, etc.
 - PADOs and town authorities will be responsible for hiring guards for the market centers;
 - PADOs will be responsible for assuring sustainable water supply and related costs;
 - PADOs will be responsible for sustainable utilization of maintained latrine/toilets and water supply for livestock as well as organizing latrine/toilets maintenance through charging for usage during market days
 - PADOs will use 60% of the tax collected by finance for maintenance and other duties through woreda PADOs.
- Mobilization of livestock producers and traders to use the market centers will be carried out in coordination with woreda administration and police, key livestock traders, community market facilitators, kebele administration, clan leaders and influential individuals and through enforcing live animal marketing regulations.



Awash 7 Market center before (upper picture) and after rehabilitation (lower picture)

Key result 1.3: Enabling Environment Improved

Discussion Forum/Workshop for Livestock Traders and Transporters for Better Livestock Transportation Systems in the Southern Cluster

Borena and Guji zone are known by production and supply of livestock for both local and export market. Currently, traded animals are transported along the supply chain either by truck or on hoof. However the competitiveness of animal transport is affected by various problems. To identify and address problems involved in the



livestock transportation system, two workshops were conducted in Negelle Borena and Yabello, bringing together actors including transporters, livestock traders, brokers and relevant government bodies. 67 people (10 females) participated in both workshops. The following issues and problems were raised:

- Lack of awareness on new proclamation on animal transportation and welfare
- No health services available before animals are transported to market centers
- Lack of follow up from owners during loading
- Overloading of vehicles
- Inexistence of resting places for animal on the transportation routes
- Outside market center marketing/ illegal traders
- Poor experience of drivers in transporting live animals

Several action points were discussed and raised among the participants in the workshops including: (1) government offices such as trade and market development office, PDO, transport office, municipality office and traffic police have recognized the problems and agreed to work on addressing those problems in coordinated way; (2) facilitation of training for creating awareness on animal welfare and new policy of live animal transportation for all actors is needed; (3) all livestock traders participating in the business should be licensed; (4) improving market infrastructures (loading and unloading) and facilitating duty free import of animal transportation trucks for interested investors should be strongly considered.

Key Result 1.4: Effective Emergency Response Protects Pastoralists' Assets

Facilitation of Commercial Destocking in Six Livestock Markets in Sitti Zone of the Eastern cluster through Destocking Subsidy for Livestock Trading Enterprises

The onset of drought conditions as a consequence to the strong El Nino effect during 2015 and first half 2016 in Eastern Ethiopia, urged PRIME to step up facilitative market support in order to reduce the negative impact of poor livestock body conditions and poor livestock demand in the period between November 2015 – January 2016. This activity aimed to increase livestock offtake from targeted primary markets in the Sitti zone, affected by the drought as a follow up of the previous activities conducted by PRIME using the crisis modifier. Those preliminary activities were conducted in order to increase the availability of supplementary fodder to a limited number of drought affected households. However with the continuation of the drought conditions in later 2015 and the beginning of 2016, most households in the affected areas started seeing a decline in the value of their main assets and faced serious inability to sustain livestock numbers.

The activity was implemented to stimulate livestock markets in the drought affected areas and help pastoralists market their drought-stricken shoats. In order to stimulate trade and working through the registered and legally licensed livestock enterprises in the region that expressed an interest to participate in this activity, a subsidy of ETB 210 per shoat was offered to traders that can show that they purchased and traded a contractually assigned number of shoats from targeted woredas in Sitti zone. The total number of contracted subsidies was 14,000 shoats to be destocked from six markets.

Livestock traders were responsible to purchase and sell shoats on their own, without PRIME being directly involved in the transactions. Upon completion of the activity, the eight contracted livestock trading enterprises managed to successfully off-take 12,237 shoats from drought-affected markets in Sitti zone, stimulating the market and trickling down the subsidy to the level of 20%. Below is the list of livestock traders and their performance:

	Name of the company	Contracted No of Shoats	Shoats destocked up to Jan 31, 2016	Markets
1	Belete Tesfaye Asefa import and Export	300	300	Shinile, Hadigala, Dembal
2	Omar Gire Alale Livestock Trader	900	587	Biki (Afdem)
3	Haji Farid Abootid	900	750	Erer
4	Mohamed Usman Yunis Import and Export	900	900	Shinile
5	Abdillahi Omar Abdi livestock exporter	5,000	5,000	Dembal, Shinile, Hadigala
6	Awbash bash integrated farming and Agro industry	900	800	Dembal, Shinile, Hadigala
7	Mahmud Hadi livestock exporter	900	900	Miesso
8	Abdi Elmi Jibril	900	0	Hadagala
9	Ali suge Dirir	3,000	3,000	Dembal, Shinile, Hadigala
Total		13,700	12,237	

With this support PRIME offered the incentive for the livestock traders to invest over USD 300,000 in purchasing livestock. This was done by provision of subsidies that totaled USD 120,000 used to: (1) improve the body condition of the purchased animals; (2) transport the animals to the terminal markets; (3) increase the purchase price the producing households were receiving by USD 2-3 per animal and (4) offset other costs related to the transactions. In addition, this activity brought in utilization of other good practices in livestock trade. Those include but are not limited to:

1. Traceability of the animals and familiarization of both producers and traders with animal identification as a business practice that will be increasingly required in the future when marketing live animals;
2. Registering and licensing livestock trade business; moving to a more sophisticated and professional approach towards livestock trade entrepreneurship including adoption of livestock conditioning and fattening practices, establishing stronger links with suppliers, transporters and buyers.



Access to Veterinarian Products and Animal Vitamin/Mineral Supplements for vulnerable drought-affected Households in Siti Zone

PRIME conducted a Restricted Value Vouchers activity from November 2015-January 2016. The activity enabled the most vulnerable households involved in livestock production to purchase selected veterinary drugs and vitamin supplements from private veterinarian pharmacies operating in their regions.



Upon onset of the activity, discussions took place with regional and district level government officials on the veterinary voucher activity and its modalities. After support for the proposed activity was received and their active involvement was encouraged, Mercy Corps PRIME requested and obtained USAID approval for the activity.

Ten most affected kebeles from each of six woredas were targeted for the activity. 100 most vulnerable households from each kebele were selected according to pre-designed criteria in collaboration with kebele authorities. Vendor contracts were signed with seven registered and licenced PVPs operating in the six woredas. The selection of the PVPs was done transparently requiring the vendors (PVPs) to express interest, prove legality of their operation, and accept the conditions of the Veterinarian Vouchers Redemption Contract offered.

PRIME printed vouchers denominated with values of 100 ETB and 50 ETB and distributed them to the targeted benefiting households.

During the voucher distribution process, each benefiting household representative received training on” (1) how to use the vouchers, (2) instructions as to which kind of veterinarian products they can purchase with the vouchers; (3) list of PVP locations where they can purchase the products needed in exchange for the vouchers and (4) detailed instructions on how to handle external parasite control products used as sprays, baths or pour-on in order to mitigate potential negative effects on human health and environment. In addition PRIME posted public notices and educational leaflets via kebele administrations.



As of January 31 2016, 5,270 households purchased the allowed veterinarian products, representing 87% of targeted households who received the vouchers. Below table summarizes the list of PVPs, woredas, target household and total households that benefited from the veterinarian voucher activity.

Woreda	Target households	Actual beneficiary households (used the vouchers)	%
Shinile	1,000	951	95
Danbal	1,000	939	94
Erer	1,000	911	91
Hadigala	1,000	625	63
Afdem	1,000	944	94
Mieso	1,000	900	90
Total	6,000	5,270	87.8

This activity improved the market for the growing network of private veterinarian pharmacies in the region through increasing the demand and increasing their turnover, while increasing the access of the pastoral and agro pastoral households to quality and legally traded veterinarian products. In addition PVPs were able to strengthen their business relationships with the Community Animal Health Workers in the areas where vouchers were distributed. In some woredas, such as Hadigala, the percentage of voucher utilization was lower than expected due to the fact that the PVP which served as voucher redemption contractor was of a low capacity. Further work is needed to increase the number of PVPs in the pastoral areas for increased access to legally traded veterinarian products.

IR1 Priorities in Quarter 15

The ongoing drought condition in the Eastern operational clusters of PRIME (Siti and Fafan zones of Somali region and in Afar) will force PRIME to focus on providing supplementary activities under IR1 Key Result 1.4 Effective Emergency Response Protects Pastoralists' Assets, in quarter 15. During quarter 14, PRIME received a USAID cost extension in order to implement additional activities related to the drought response (Siti and Afar Zone 3) in quarters 15 and 16, including: (1) Increasing access to veterinarian products through Restricted Value Vouchers in limited number of woredas; (2) Support increased livestock off-take through the regular market channels in limited number of livestock markets and (3) Support to increasing the availability of supplement feed and fodder through using sugar by products. In quarter 15 PRIME will focus on rolling out the mentioned activities.

Regular implementation of PRIME activities in all clusters will continue during quarter 15. While it is expected that majority of the Cost Shared Business Expansion Grants implemented through IIF and IR1 funding will gradually be completed during quarter 15 and 16, PRIME will continue to focus on adding value to the new investments done by the enterprises in the supported livestock related value chains. Those value chains include: (1) animal health products and services; (2) Livestock production and trade; (3) Milk production and trade; (4) Animal feed and fodder production and trade. The follow up on those activities will include:

1. Further improvement of trade and market linkages established and expanded through the investments leveraged;
2. Introduction and development of new business and marketing practices;
3. Support expansion of the market base for all value chain core participants and supporting functions;

4. Support the improvement of business environment and integrative linkages to other PRIME and other stakeholders IRs and objectives.

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

Supporting the facilitation of Rangeland Management Planning processes (Southern Cluster)

A rangeland management planning workshop was held for Wayama Grazing system at Borbor town of Dhas woreda. The objective of the workshop was to formulate a community owned management plan for Wayama rangeland system with participation of the community members, elders, rangeland council members and key government sector offices. Forty-eight individuals attended (4 female and 44 male). The workshop identified the main problems of the rangeland, described the status natural resources in the area, was used as a forum to agree on the specific management actions to be included in the plan, and helped determine the roles and responsibilities of the rangeland councils, the community, and various government sectors in Implementation.

Rangeland health Monitoring Data Collection (Southern Cluster)

Data collection began in early March from 30 randomly selected locations in both Borena and Guji zones. Data was gathered with the support of a technical team from the US Forest Service along with PRIME partners (SOS Sahel, Mercy Corps and CARE), in addition to an expert from the Yabello Dryland Research Center. Of the 30 locations, 15 samples were taken from area closure sites, and samples from 15 sites were taken outside of the area closures to serve as control samples for measuring changes due to various management actions being taken by the community with project support.



In addition to collecting baseline data to measure changes in the status of the rangeland over time, the fieldwork was a great contribution towards building the capacity of PRIME partners and government staff (2 project staff and 2 government staff participated). These staff will continue to participate in similar data collection during the remainder of the project.

GPS training and data gathering for PRIME intervention mapping

Southern Cluster

CARE's GIS expert continues to provide training to all PRIME clusters to map activity locations and examining IR integration. Training was provided in the southern cluster during the first quarter, and subsequently data has been checked for accuracy, corrected and finalized for rangeland systems Woyama, Dirre and Malbe, with geo-referencing completed. Golbo rangeland has not yet been completed. Finalization of all GIS mapping is expected to be completed in Q15.

Golbo rangeland system resource mapping is nearly completed. Map geo-referencing, digitizing, verification, corrections with community input and final map production will be completed in Q15.

Afar Cluster

GIS training was recently completed and data is currently being collected. Discussions were held with the Afar EPLUAA (Environmental Protection and Land Use Agency) director, and it was determined that GIS was an important area of collaboration. GIS technical support has been offered to EPLUAA regional experts to build their capacity, exchange PRIME project information as well as other legacy data, and to strengthen the working relationship between the EPLUA and PRIME.

Eastern Cluster

Follow up is on-going, though GPS data collection has been very slow, with limited data received to date. Mulu and Afden maps are currently being updated.

Post-Hagaya 2015 harvest assessment in Liben woreda of Guji zone

In the context of increasingly variable weather and changing climate, early warning and response strategies are critical to livelihood adaptation. In this regard, pre- and post-harvest assessments can contribute immensely towards the effectiveness of local early warning and response

mechanisms. Seasonal post-harvest assessments in particular can support local government decision-makers, communities and other market actors to manage risk and take appropriate adaptive measures in a particular season to prepare for an impending disaster and continue investment to 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 early warning system component that aims to strengthen access to and management of early warning information around climate and other hazards/crises, enhance performance and relevance of early warning systems and support community-based early warning; and DRR planning and response processes. PRIME works with regional and local DPPOs to strengthen 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 and the Borena zone DPPO. In Liben woreda in particular, the result of the post-harvest season assessments showed that although a relatively good amount of rain was received in Hagayya it was not sufficient to support the growth of good pasture. The assessment estimated a crop loss of up to 68.5% which is higher than what was predicted in the pre-harvest assessment season (40.5%). The assessment report recommends continuing food aid to the 40,907 beneficiaries who are already receiving food aid in Liben. In addition, the reports recommend that 2,170 pregnant and lactating women and 3,559 children who are receiving supplementary food aid should be supported for the coming 6 months. According to the assessment some 3,300 households received field crop seed support.

Facilitation of PSP events across PRIME woredas

PRIME has effectively rolled out Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP) events in all three regions of intervention during the reporting quarter. Multi-stakeholder PSP workshops were conducted with communities, traditional forecasters, meteorologists and local government representatives as a process for collective sharing and interpretation of seasonal climate forecasts (from both local and scientific knowledge) that led to the development of scenarios and simplified advisories to be disseminated to the beneficiaries for flexible, community-based contingency planning, adaptation planning and DRM. The PSP process created a common platform for climate communication which respects, reviews and combines knowledge from pastoral communities and the scientific community. It assisted communities, local governments and other stakeholders to agree on options, develop disaster preparedness plans and make climate-resilient livelihood decisions for implementation.

Across the three clusters, PRIME, in partnership with the local DPPBs facilitated PSP events in 22 woredas. The events were attended by 1,080 participants (162 of them women).

Number of households who attended PSP events across the 3 clusters (Feb-March 2016)

Cluster	Woreda	Number of PSP Workshop participants		
		Male	Female	Total
South	Gorodola	63	12	75
	Wadera	69	6	75
	Yabelo	50	13	63
	Dire	45	12	57
	Dilo	41	12	53
	Teltele	47	13	60
	Dhas	34	1	35
	Moyale	42	4	46
	Miyo	45	1	46
	Liban	42	6	48
Afar	Arero	60	4	64
	Awash Fentale	22	5	27
	Argoba	14	4	18
	Dulesa	25	4	29
	Amibara	15	4	19
	Gela'alu	18	5	23
East	Gewane	17	7	24
	Babile	48	7	55
	Mieso/Muli	37	17	54
	K/bayah/Jigjiga	100	3	103
	Daror	41	12	53
Total	Gashamo	43	10	53
		918	162	1080

Dissemination of PSP advisories for household and community resilience

During the reporting quarter, PRIME continued to apply the participatory scenario development approach to promote resilience in household and community livelihoods decision making and in local DRM and contingency planning. The institutionalization of the approach by the DPPBs in Afar and Somali regions and the respective DPPBs in Borena and Liben zones encouraged integration of PSP into community livelihood adaptation and local government development planning, hence continuity of the process. Although it is too early to determine the long-term impact of the activity, we have observed changes in improved access to climate and warnings information, the implementation of improved management of rangelands and livestock resources, soil and water conservation techniques, 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 joint decision making with spouses and a culture of savings, and capacity building in managing disasters. Timely access to and communication of seasonal climate advisories from PSP empowers communities to take advantage of opportunities that climate presents, which is a key part of adapting to climate change. Sustainability will be achieved when local government planning processes recognize the importance of the approach and provide

resources for the participation of meteorological services and community forecasting experts to help refine plans on a seasonal basis, and the dissemination of advisories.



Dissemination of PSP advisories in Babile Oromia (left) & K/Bayah (right), Eastern Cluster

In the Southern Cluster, a total of 10,341 people (6886 men and 3455 women) received the PSP advisories. In Eastern Cluster, about 9198 people (3788 women and 5410 men) received the advisories.

Number of people that received PSP advisories in East and South Clusters

Cluster	Woreda	Male	Female	Total
South	Miyo	1331	784	2115
	Moyale	959	704	1663
	Dhas	694	757	1451
	Liban	2295	426	2721
	Arero	1607	784	2391
	Total	6886	3455	10341
East	Babile	1120	368	1488
	Mieso/Muli	1230	480	1710
	K/Bayah/Jigjiga	1020	980	2000
	Daror	1020	980	2000
	Gashamo	1020	980	2000
	Total	5410	3788	9198

In Afar, following the organization of PSP events in all six woredas of zone 3, PRIME in partnership with DPFSPCO, facilitated the packaging and distribution of 7,000 PSP advisory templates prepared in local Afari language to households, local businesses, schools and sector offices.

Partnership with USAID LAND project

PRIME's partnership with the LAND project continued during the quarter. PRIME IR2 staff from Addis and Afar participated in a consultation meeting in Afar organized by the LAND project to discuss coordination of different programs such as the LAND-led communal land

certification program, PRIME’s participatory rangeland management, and the government-led Woreda Land Use planning process supported and facilitated by GIZ. During the meeting action plans and procedures for the way forward on communal land demarcation and registration were discussed and agreed upon, and the different actors discussed ways to work closely together and exchange data to avoid duplication of efforts.

Key Result 2.2: Increase capacity for effective governance for climate resilience

Institutional support to Afar Regional DPFSPCO to strengthen disaster response capacities & coordination

DPFSPCO is the agency that coordinates response to various hazards and crises occurring in Afar Regional State. Strengthening disaster response and coordination capacities of the office has been a critical element of PRIME’s support. To improve the capacity of the office in coordinating the current drought crisis response and improve climate information sharing internally and with other DRR stakeholders, PRIME procured and delivered office furniture and communication equipment worth more than 250,000 birr to the regional DPFSPCO. The materials and equipment include desktop computers, printers, wireless access points, EVDO, fax machine, photocopiers, server and hub, flip chart stands, and a television with satellite receiver. The support also includes covering the cost of installation and configuration of the communication equipment.

SAA group dialogues conducted and participants by cluster

Woreda	Name of SAA groups	No. of participants			Issues discussed	Actions taken
		M	F	Total		
Liben	Buradhera	18	6	24	Hay making Knowledge sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 members who participated on hay making training shared the knowledge they gained from training with SAA members and non SAA members in their villages 5 SAA members harvested and saved fodder and crop residues as hays 17 non-SAA members who received training from SAA members harvested and saved 20 heaps of crop residues and 13 heaps of hays. 6 SAA members who received hay making training piled 8 heaps of crop residues and 7 heaps of hay.
	Buradhera	18	6	24	Sharing progress in implementation of individuals' plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 SAA members are fattening animals 1 woman SAA group member (named Ware Boru) has invested her income from fattening business to construct and open a small shop in her village.
Amibara	Sidihafage	3	17	20	Saving	
Argoba	Gachine	16	9	25	Saving	
	Gozie	17	8	25	Saving	
Awash Fentale	Tach-metekeleya	16	9	25	Saving	
	Sabure	19	6	25	Saving & fodder cultivation	
Gorodola	Boloyta	19	6	25	Saving & fodder cultivation	
	Guduba/Darara	17	5	22	Fodder saving & fattenin	7 SAA members have cultivated fodder crops
Gorodola	Sokora	25	4	29	Fodder saving & fattening	3 SAA members are saved fodder and are fattening animals
	Mucho	12	6	18	Herd management, fodder saving & fattening	1 SAA member is cultivating fodder and fattening milking caws
Gorodola	H/Dadacha	21	3	24	Fodder saving & fattening	Some SAA members saved fodder

	Dilalessa	13	3	16	Fodder saving & fattening	Fodder have been saved, by some of SAA members
Wadara	Hebahid	8	7	15	Herd management	Fodder saved, animal fattening underway
	Tulam	8	7	15	Herd management, fodder production & animal fattening	1 SAA member cultivated fodder
Erer	Garmam & Bila	94	57	151	Herd management Fodder production Saving, Gender roles	SAA members are cultivating feed crops SAA members have started challenging gender norms

Key Result 2.3: Implementation of climate solutions

Supporting the restoration and rehabilitation of rangelands

Although there were many challenges due to the on-going drought, PRIME was able to continue to support various rangeland restoration and rehabilitation activities. Improvements were made on an estimated 1,413 ha in the three clusters (1,345 ha in eastern cluster, 63 ha in Afar, and 5 ha in southern cluster) utilizing soil and water conservation measures and selective bush thinning and prosopis clearing. Rangeland councils, development agents, woreda PDOs and communities were actively involved in these climate risk-reducing practices.

The soil and water conservation measures, selective bush clearing and protection of degraded areas from livestock interference to allow vegetation recovery provides both economic and environmental benefit through increased rangeland productivity. Communities across the three clusters were keen and committed to engage in these activities and they accomplished a great deal during the quarter. In Eastern cluster (Harshin, Erer Gotha, Mulli and Gashamo) restoration activities occurred on an estimated 1,095 ha (Harshin 300 ha, Mulli 345 ha, Erer Gotha 350 ha and Gashamo 100 ha) through the construction of hill side terracing, soil bunds, water way diversions, check dams and gully treatments, as well as utilization of selective bush clearing and area closures technologies. Community members were actively engaged in all these activities. Rangeland councils, DAs and woreda PDOs played a key role in mobilizing the communities and monitoring the overall progress of the work. PRIME supported the community through the provision of hand tools and provided refreshments during the work.



Rangeland rehabilitation activities (Soil bund, hill side terracing and stone check dams) undertaken at Erer Gotha

In Nebed Gelle sub-grazing unit, Babile, Oromia, 250 ha of degraded rangeland were identified by the community for restoration which is currently in progress. Discussions and debriefings on the activities were held with members of rangeland councils, communities, DAs and woreda NRM experts. During the quarter they have managed to construct 2.5 km

of soil bund, 2.2 km of stone-faced bunds, undertaken selective bush thinning in a 1400 m² area, and constructed a 1.5 km fence around a 250 ha degraded site to reduce pressure from livestock interference. Over 200 people (165 male and 35 female) from Gebo kebele participated. Total community outputs are summarized in the table below.



Soil and water conservation measures (left) and enclosure (right) underway at Nebed Gelle, Babile Oromia

Over the last three years, PRIME has been supporting prosopis clearing and management in Afar through the integration of mechanical and manual labor. During the quarter, communities in Amibara and Gewane rangeland systems prioritized prosopis clearing through clearance efforts. A plan was made to clear 250 ha of land in Halaydege, Andido and Bonketo-Molale: in the reporting quarter 63 ha were cleared in February and March in Halaydege plain. PRIME supported the manual clearance with the front end loader, lunch and technical support; the woreda PADO supported by assigning NRM experts for community mobilization, technical support and day to day follow up. Rangeland management council members played a key role in community participation through mobilization and motivation. Clearance will continue in Andido and Arba grazing units (Amibara) and the Bonkito-Molale grazing unit (Gewane - Gelalo).

Rangeland Rehabilitation Activities Quarter 14 (January - March 2016)

Cluster	Rangeland	Rehabilitation Technology and Completed	Amount Rangeland rehabilitated (ha)
East	Harshin (Aran-Aaray & Lafwacays sub-rangeland units)	Soil bund: 1,050 bunds each 18 m long, total 18.9km	300
	Mulli (Tuloyti & Jejebe sun-rangeland unit)	Soil bund: 12.3 km Improved pits: 2,160 Woodbrush checkpoints: 56 sections Selective bush thinning from 8,075m ² area 22.035 km fencing around rehabilitated area	345
	Erer-Gotha (Derra Mojjo)	Hill side terracing: 7.109 km Stone-faced soil bund: 2.864 km Fencing: 10.575 km Stone check dam: 427 m at critical flood control sections	350
	Gashamo (In a Nur-muse & Wab-idhidhi)	Soil bund: 7km: Stonefaced bund: 1 km Water diversion: 5 km	100

		Half-moon soil bund: 3 km Wood brush fencing: 0.35 km	
	Babile Oromia, Nebed gelle sub-grazing unit	Soil bund: 2.5 km Stone-faced bunds: 2.2 km Bush thinning: from 1400 m ² area Fence: 1.5 km around the target site	250, in progress & not completed
Afar	Amibara, Halaydege sub-rangeland unit	Prosopis clearing	63
South	Woyama rangeland system	Selective bush thinning	5
	Total		1,413 ha

Restoration of Haro-Bake Micro-dam catchment

To improve the safety of Haro Bake micro-dam and reduce the silt being deposited into the micro-dam by surface run-off, PRIME has been facilitating the rehabilitation and restoration of the catchment area in Gomole rangeland system through different soil and water conservation measures



including half-moon micro basins, soil bunds, and check dams. The plan was to do restoration work utilizing community participation on an estimated 647 ha of land.

To date, communities of the four surrounding kebeles have completed fencing of the catchment area. Each kebele mobilized more than 100 people and conducted the work for a one-week period. In addition, all kebeles' communities have constructed soil bunds and micro-basin structures within their respective areas and together have constructed the different conservation structures on an estimated 80 hectares. The structures also protect large areas downstream of the micro-dam by reducing the velocity of runoff. These activities were done in collaboration with community members, government watershed programs, the PRIME team and rangeland councils' members.

Support the rehabilitation and construction of water points

The development and rehabilitation of rainwater harvesting ponds, underground water storage tanks (*birkads*) and the rehabilitation of traditional wells (*elas*) in priority areas were among the major water rehabilitation activities supported during the quarter.

In PRIME areas, the main source of water for human and livestock consumption is through rainwater harvesting utilizing the aforementioned small ponds, *birkads* and *elas*. These existing water facilities and structures have been under severe pressure due to an increasing livestock population, recurrent drought and limited water points distributed across rangelands, particularly during dry seasons. Water points constructed and rehabilitated by PRIME have ensured their functionality and supported communities across the three clusters particularly during the current drought. The water points also have the potential to enhance the utilization of dry season grazing areas. During the quarter, PRIME supported the rehabilitation and construction of four water points in the center of dry season grazing areas. There has also been an increasing awareness among communities and their cooperation and participation in the development and management of these water points.

In Southern cluster, the construction of one new pond and the rehabilitation of two *elas* were completed in Dida Liban grazing system, Guji zone. Due to scarcity of surface water, *elas* are the most important water source in dry season grazing areas. They have a significant social, cultural, and economic role in the Borena pastoral lifestyle, and are communal water points giving all

local clans equal rights in their use. The constructed pond has a capacity to harvest approximately 10,500 m³ of water supporting 650 households. The two *elas* are located along a river bank and previously were endangered by flooding during the rainy season despite local efforts to maintain them. PRIME worked with local elders to identify technical challenges and rehabilitated the *elas* by installing masonry stabilization walls, river training measures and water collection troughs. Two new cattle troughs were also constructed on the side of each well, as the previous mud-constructed troughs required daily maintenance. Utilizing hand tools provided by PRIME, the community also cleared a 7km access road to the well site that helped in transporting the construction materials required for the rehabilitation activities and assisted with the transport of materials. The two *elas* are expected to benefit more than 2,800 pastoralists (1,500 of whom are women) and over 400 households with their livestock year round.



Ela before rehabilitation



Ela after rehabilitation (masonry wall stabilizers)



Trough before rehabilitation



Trough after rehabilitation

The construction of one surface water harvesting pond (Dhungo pond) was completed during the quarter in Dheeda Dida rangeland system, Guji zone. Rangeland council members, in cooperation with PRIME's technical team and the woreda PDO, identified the location of this new water point. The excavation work was done by PRIME's frontend loader, and a dump truck was rented to dispose of materials excavated from the pond's reservoir. 17,744m³ of soil were excavated to a depth of 3.5m. The pond has a capacity to harvest approximately 15,082m³ of water that has the potential to support 400 households in Siminto sub-grazing unit as a key dry season water source.



PRIME front end loader on duty in Did Liban, Guji Zone

Excavated pond site

In Eastern cluster one surface water harvesting pond (Jingade pond) was constructed in Kebribeyah rangeland system. The excavation work was done by PRIME's front end loader supported by rental dump trucks to dispose of excavated materials. The pond has a capacity to harvest 10,500 m³ of water and will benefit 517 households.

Another surface water harvesting pond in Dible is under construction in Kebribeyah rangeland system. The pond is expected to harvest 14,000 m³ of water supporting 385 households. To date, 55% of the pond has been completed.

In Afar, the construction process of one new surface water harvesting pond in Awash Fentale rangeland began, with bidding completed and the contract signed. Actual construction will begin mid-April and is expected to be completed during the upcoming quarter.



SAA for community empowerment and resilience

During the reporting quarter, PRIME continued to address the underlying causes of vulnerability to climate variability and change in Afar and Somali regions and in Guji and Borena zones by successfully adopting and implementing CARE's proven Social Analysis and Action methodology to empower communities to explore and challenge the social norms, beliefs and practices that shape their lives and livelihoods. The focus in the quarter was on equitable gender norms as well as community support for fodder production and hay making, herd management and saving culture. In the southern cluster, the Bura Dhera and Haririo SAA groups in Liben woreda of the Guji zone were able to produce improved fodder and save it as hay for the dry season. In Afar, six SAA groups in Argoba and Awash Fentale woredas have started saving while 11 of the SAA groups established in Gorodola and Wadera woredas of the Guji zone in southern cluster have harvested fodder and



began fattening animals. From the monitoring visits and discussions held with group facilitators and members during the regular monthly meetings, the SAA approach is helping group members to understand key socio-cultural barriers and constraints, encouraging them to overcome some these, and motivating them to begin implementation of adaptive livelihood strategies in their communities. Most members in all the village-level SAA discussion groups have begun harvesting fodder, fattening livestock and saving money through traditional ways in addition to opening savings accounts in microfinance institutions.

Some community members were able to fatten livestock using fodder reserves produced in their own farmyards. Some SAA groups have successfully challenged restrictive norms and acted together to create equitable gender norms to make climate-smart decisions – they have developed action plans to support gender equality in household decision making to manage sales and income use of livestock. In Afar, IR2 team provided technical support to the regular monthly SAA group dialogues in five kebeles (Gachine, Tachmetekeleya, Gozie, Sabure, and Boloyta) of Amibara, Argoba and Awash woredas. The group members are producing fodder and also saving money by opening savings accounts in Commercial Bank of Ethiopia. As shown in the photo below, the SAA group members in Sabure kebele in Awash Fentale have prepared a hectare of land to cultivate improved fodder crop varieties. In eastern cluster, the SAA groups established in Babile and Erer were provided refresher training on facilitation skills and the technical aspects of saving and fodder production. In Afar, PRIME provided capacity building and material support (saving boxes, saving registering/account books and plastic carpets) to the various SAA groups in Zone 3.

Following a series of dialogue and capacity building sessions, each of the SAA group members in Bura-Dhera have developed action plans to implement fodder production and preservation activities. During a field monitoring visit, PRIME learned that 32 members of two SAA groups in Liben have harvested and preserved fodder as hay to use it during the lean periods.

In addition to directly implementing activities based on the SAA dialogues, the SAA group members have served as good models for co-villagers to engage in the production and management of fodder. As such, 52 community members in both kebeles have preserved fodder as hay.



Kabale Boneyya and Ware Rupha sharing practical application of hay making at Hariro village

Environmental Considerations

Site specific environmental considerations and a review of the foreseeable effects of proposed activities on the environment were made during water point development, restoration of degraded areas and prosopis clearing. In all natural resource enhancement activities,

environmental monitoring and mitigation plans are considered and applied utilizing the formats developed for this purpose. Environmental considerations are made in accordance with the environmental screening criteria. The results of the screening criteria will be evaluated against the environmental categories, mitigation measures are considered based on an analysis of the impacts, and threshold decisions will be made based on the US CFR 216. During the excavation of ponds, surplus excavated materials are disposed of at nearby sites selected by communities and typically used for filling depressions and healing gully affected sites.

IR2 Priorities for FY16

- Support the development and rehabilitation of water harvesting schemes and other water enhancement initiatives.
- Support rangeland restoration and rehabilitation activities particularly the restoration of degraded sites and catchment area protections around water schemes through area enclosures, physical conservation measures and re-seeding where possible.
- Facilitate improved access to dry season grazing through establishing communal grazing reserves, hay making, crop residue and storage.
- Facilitate capacity building supports to rangeland councils and stakeholders on the implementation of the rangeland management plan.
- Scaling-up and scaling out of fodder production interventions.
- PSP experience sharing visit to Kenya.
- Strengthening SAA groups and facilitating implementation of action plans linking with other IRs.
- Documentation of impacts of PSP and SAA related interventions.
- Facilitating piloting of innovative climate forecast and warnings information dissemination technologies (by the NMA).
- Training on Basic Data Collection and Dissemination Techniques for Kebele Early Warning Committee Members.
- Training of SAA local facilitators on the newly developed discussion guide/manual.
- Support the cultivation of improved fodder at potential irrigation sites.
- Support Sugum (2016) PSP advisories dissemination and informed livelihood decision making by households and businesses.

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 employability is on the rise:

PRIME interventions to enhance employment and entrepreneurship to create jobs for people transitioning out of pastoralism (TOPs) are paying off. During this quarter, PRIME supported the creation of 117 new jobs and helped 172 TOPs to obtain jobs in the labor market. Simultaneously, PRIME is building the capacity of TVETs and providing scholarship opportunities for TOPs to acquire skill training to become more easily employable or start their own business. The enterprises that are hiring TOPs include JESH, Somali MFI, Rays MFI, Afar

MFI, Barwako dairy processing, AGP poultry, PVPs, and agricultural input suppliers, among others

Number of new TOPs attending short term skill training through PRIME's scholarship program

S.#	Name of college	Type of training	M	F	Total	PWDs	Enrollment stage	Expected date of completion
1.	Tasa roba	Auto driving skill	40	2	42	none	Theoretical training completed	May' 16
2.	Negelle & Moyale TVET	Furniture making	32	2	34	34	Training completed	March 30,16
3.	Yabello	fields of study ¹	28	39	67	none	Training completed	
4.	Yabello	fields of study ²	19	14	33	22	In training	21 June 16
5.	Moyale	fields of study ²	0	42	42		Apprenticeship	
Total number of trainees			119	99	218	56		

1: Auto engine, masonry, sanitary installation, hair dressing, Electrical installation, ICT

2: Dress making, furniture making, hair dressing, ICT, Sanitary installation, Welding, Auto engine

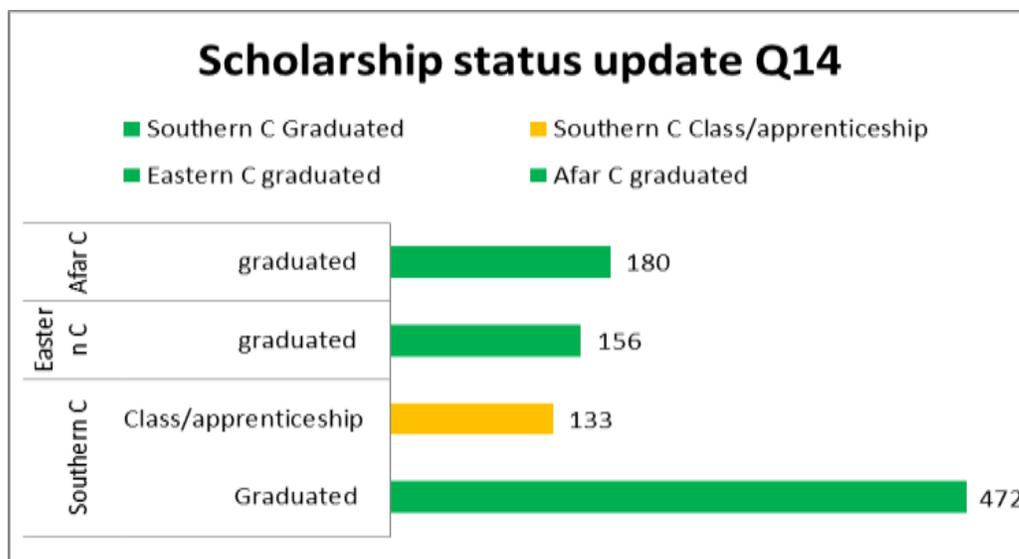
Across the clusters we observed a 38% increase in the number of graduates since the last quarter.



To increase the level of disability inclusion in the scholarship program, 22 trainees with disabilities received disability adjustment equipment, transportation and accommodation allowance from PRIME through ECDD. An additional 34 trainees are also attending class at Negelle TVET.

Related ongoing activities include:

- Automobile driving skills training institution selection is underway to register 60 TOPs/youth in Guji zone and Liben zone.
- Second round scholarship facilitation with Negelle Polytechnic College continued and 38 TOPs are registered so far.



Assessment of Previous Machinery Scholarship and Current Employment Demand (Afar)

An assessment on the employment status of the 60 machinery operation scholarship grantees was conducted. Two separate assessment checklists were developed for both the grantees and employment agencies. Interviews revealed that most of the trainees have a lack of understanding about where jobs are found, and they were not aware of job placement agencies. The nearby Kesseem Sugar Factory announced vacancies on machinery operation which most of the grantees applied for, with results still pending.

Scholarship students also stated that usually job announcements are advertised in Addis Ababa or Adama where the headquarters of the employers are located. Therefore, to enhance their employment opportunities, there is a plan to link them with employment agencies, so that they can access employment opportunities in a timely fashion. The full report will be completed after discussion with government, industries, and other stakeholders.

SCHOLARSHIP-PROGRAM AND JOBS HIGHLIGHT OF THE QUARTER

Of the 117 TOPs that were trained in Jigjiga Polytechnic College through PRIME's scholarship program, 78 TOPs organized as SME and obtained lucrative job contract in their field of training. Below is the brief summary of the groups and types of contract they obtained.

EASTERN CLUSTER

- 2 SMEs (20 members) trained in woodwork obtained a contract worth 8 million ETB from regional TVET
- 3 SMEs (33 members) trained in metalwork obtained a contract worth 12 million ETB from regional TVET
- 1 SME (25 members) training in cobblestone pavement obtained a contract worth 2 Million ETB from Degahabur city administration

SOUTHERN CLUSTER

- Monitoring of employment status of garment/dressmaking training graduates from Moyale TVET College from the previous quarters was conducted. Accordingly it was found that 94 female graduates from Moyale TVET obtained jobs.
 - Out of 100 graduates in the field, 80 graduates have been organized into 19 SMEs. From their income, these groups managed to save 30,140 birr at Oromia Saving and Credit S.C-Moyale branch
 - 14 other graduates obtained jobs with local employers

Additional 466 job seekers (TOPs) are registered in the HelloJobs System

During this quarter, 466 job seekers from Afar and Somali regional states registered in the HelloJobs database, bringing the total number of TOPs registered to 3,328 (2,769 male and 559 female). The profile of these job seekers is now available for employers to access free of charge.

To increase the coverage of jobseeker registration in the system, Mercy Corps and Amasis (HelloJobs operator) are trying the following approaches with positive results thus far.

- Sending Bulk SMS to 15,000 HelloCash customers to inform them to register on HelloJobs. 870 responses were received out of which registration was completed for 424.
- Out of 60 scholarship graduates of machinery operation from Afar supported through PRIME, registration was completed for 38 of them.

Major challenge: In spite of Amasis securing Human Resource (HR) license, job seeker registration using agents in the cluster was impossible as there is no system or legal framework that can allow an agent to collect payment from a jobseeker, which caused a significant delay in the intended number of job seeker registrations.

Next steps

- Continue to send SMS to the remaining 45,000 hello cash customers and PRIME supported scholarship graduates across the three clusters.
- Engage Hello Cash customer onboarding representatives to register job seekers in PRIME target areas.
- Adjusting the online database system by completing the employer and training provider list.

The microfranchise business model pilot is working well in eastern cluster

After five months of implementation, close follow-up and monitoring of the sales ladies performance was done in Shinile and Babile woredas. The first three months showed encouraging results as the women were at least able to purchase products once in a month from the wholesaler.

Overall observations from the monitoring visit are:

- All women remember 90% of the business skill training content and are able to explain in detail how it has helped them in the business that they are conducting.
- Of the women who started the micro franchising business, nearly 60% of the sales ladies had no previous experience but because of the training they linked with the agents of the manufacturing company, which allowed them to become successful. They are also

starting additional small businesses like barbershops, cloth shops and tea/coffee shops. In addition they are becoming role models in their villages by encouraging other women who aren't working to become active and generate additional income for the household and not only be dependent for money from their husbands.

- Even if the value of sales is small and the trend didn't show an increase compared to last quarter, the women were able to purchase items worth 14,300 birr.
- Compared to Shinile, the performance of Babile business women was lower because Shinile women work directly with the company sales agent whereas in Babile, women work with a wholesaler who could not manage to keep timely records of product sales and poor customer handling.
- GUTS agro industry products were available to the sales ladies only after three months (around mid of January 2016) in Dire Dawa for Shinile sales ladies and not at all in Babile. There was a disagreement between the company and the originally selected wholesaler/agent in Dire Dawa but a new agent was selected and the product is now available for Shinile sales ladies.

Competitive Cost Shared Grant for Employment Placement Agencies (EPAs)

To build the capacity of employment placement agencies and improve the quality of the service and therefore increase the employability of TOPs, PRIME advertised a cost share grant opportunity in Negelle Borena. Three businesses (Satalit, Hulegab and Oda EPA) submitted business proposals. The applications' review is underway and the sub-award agreement will be signed in Q15. We expect one applicant will be qualified for a grant and will facilitate job matching for TOPs in partnership with TVET colleges, labor and social affairs office and PRIME.



Support Babile Technical and Vocational Training institute to upgrade skill training centers

After identifying the institute, conducting a capacity gap analysis and discussing with directors and instructors, PRIME procured two desktop computers and two printers to upgrade the capacity of two ICT workshops for youth to attend skill training. Equipment handover will take place in the following weeks. With this support, the intake capacity of TVET in the ICT sector will increase from 60 students to more than 120 trainees for both short term and long term training.

Grant support for Woreda Cooperative Promotion offices (Southern Cluster)

Grant support for Goro Dola and Wadera Cooperative Promotion offices was approved and signed during the quarter and implementation has begun. This is being led jointly by Mercy Corps and SOS Sahel.

Adult Literacy Training

The general objective of adult literacy training is to establish a well-planned, organized and coordinated adult education system that will provide access to quality and relevant learning programs to youth and adults that will enable them to participate competently in the social, economic and political development of the region.

1,256 men and 757 women attended literacy training conducted by FSA in Awash Fentale, Argoba, Amibara, Dulessa and Gelalo woredas. Dulessa woreda in particular is performing well in both student numbers and a strong female ratio. In Awash Fentale, due to access to the city and road system, the number of students is lower and has fewer women. Generally, we observed an improvement in the month of March with increased numbers of students, more women participants, and lower dropout rates.

Disability inclusion: Creating opportunity for people with disabilities

ECDD in collaboration with Mercy Corps and SOS Sahel provided disability adjustment equipment including wheelchairs, crutches, and braces for 54 (31 F) trainees with mobility impairment who have been registered for short term skill training in Negelle and Yabello.

34 (14 F) trainees with disabilities enrolled in Negelle Borena TVET College have successfully completed their courses. Out of the total graduates, 30 (12 F) saved Birr 10,000 from their monthly allowance during their training period and were organized by Medium & Small Enterprise Development Agency (MSE). Furthermore, 4 graduates started their own business in dress making. Additionally, 22 (9 F) trainees with disabilities are currently enrolled in Yabello Polytechnic College for short term skill-building in the field of dress making, hairdressing, furniture making, ICT, sanitary installation and welding.

A scholarship for short term skill training started for 40 (5 F) youths with disabilities in Amibara woreda of Afar Region at the Werer Lucy TVET College. The field of training in which the trainees are enrolled is metal fabrication and the duration of the training will take 3 months. Moreover, the trainees will be provided with disability adjustment allowances during their stay in the training. Assistants are also assigned for wheelchair-using trainees.

Similarly, short term skill training scholarships for 25 persons with disabilities is under process to be launched in Jigjiga town and its outskirts. PRIME identified trainees with disabilities and discussed with Regional BoLSA and Jigjiga Polytechnic College the training fields suitable for trainees and market demands.

Disability mapping was conducted in Gelealo, Amibara, Awash Fentale, Gewane, Argoba, Dulecha woredas of Afar region to make all PRIME activities disability inclusive. The mapping identified 4,320 (1,087 F) persons with disabilities with age 30-45 years. The type of disabilities includes physical impairment, visual and hearing impairment, and intellectual disability.

Following a sub award grant provided to TVET colleges to equip them with teaching materials in alternative accessible formats and make their premises physically accessible for trainees with disabilities, Negelle Borena TVET College and Afar Lucy Polytechnic College has constructed ramps and walkways from the college main gate.



Key Result 3.2: Increased income opportunities for TOPs

Facilitating Cash Transfer and Financial Literacy Training for Drought Struck Areas of Siti Zone in ESRS and Zone 3 in Afar Regional State

Mercy Corps received additional funding for drought response in Zone 3 of Afar region and Siti Zone of Somali region. One of the interventions proposed for drought response is Cash Transfer and Financial Literacy Training. Mercy Corps leads this activity with contributions from PRIME partners ACPA, AISDA and CARE

Why cash transfer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables the purchase of goods and services that beneficiaries need, unlike other forms of aid • There is an aspect of dignity- both in choices cash transfers provide and how they are provided • Providing cash through MFIs allows beneficiaries the option of saving and can help families smooth their consumption • The fact that training is included in this intervention will provide information to households about savings to be resilient in times of stress and shocks

Overall Objective and Expected Results Linkage

- Provide unconditional cash grants to beneficiaries living in the drought-affected woredas, by enabling and encouraging purchase of food for household or agriculture and livestock inputs as needed, thereby protecting livelihood assets. Facilitate cash transfers to beneficiaries through bank accounts opened with Somali Microfinance, Rays and Afar Microfinance Institutions, thereby enabling an efficient modality for future drought-response cash transfers and strengthening the linkage of emergency intervention with development through market and MFI expansion.
- Facilitate training for cash recipients through MFIs to encourage savings habits thereby building the absorptive capacity of beneficiaries for future drought.

The cash transfer process and solicitation of the financial service provider in targeted areas

- Reach agreement with Somali and Afar MFI
- Prepare all required logistics to
 - open bank accounts
 - conduct targeting and
 - transfer cash
- Communications
- Funds Transfer to Somali, Rays, and Afar MFIs

- Cash Disbursement
- PRIME will continue providing technical assistance and incentives for the MFIs to continue saving mobilization from HH after this intervention ends

The cash transfer intervention under this Cost Extension will target 5000 pastoralist households (30,000 people) transitioning out of pastoralism (TOPs) in the Sitti and Afar Zone 3 selected woredas. Poor households in the lowest wealth quartile of the community are the primary targets of the cash transfer intervention. PRIME is working with woreda and kebele administrations to target beneficiaries.

Summary of the duration, value of cash and targeted woreda

Total target beneficiaries (HHs) for Cash transfer intervention	5,000 (2500 in Siti Zone and 2500 in Afar Zone 3)
Total Impact beneficiaries	30,000 (an average of 6 family members in the HH)
Amount of Cash	\$45/month/household
Duration of intervention	3 months
Target Woredas	Three target woredas, Afdem, Erer and Muli, of Sitti Zone in Somali Region and three woredas, Amibara, Dulesa and Gewane of Afar Zone 3.

Progress of the cash transfer intervention up to Q14 report compilation

- High level meetings were conducted and agreement was reached with Afar and Somali regional government
- Preliminary agreement reached with Afar and Somali MFIs
- Discussion with targeted woreda administrations completed and are ready to start household targeting
- New staff were hired and trained to implement this intervention

Financial Services: MFIs/Banks: Strengthening, Expanding and Linking performance update Somali Microfinance Institution:

Mercy Corps has supported the Somali MFI in the introduction and rollout of mobile and agent banking (HelloCash) solutions to increase access to inclusive financial services in the region. During the quarter, HelloCash was inaugurated in the presence of high level delegates from Federal and Regional government, the United States Ambassador to Ethiopia and USAID mission representatives. After successful rollout of the mobile and agent banking, HelloCash account holders increased to 69,936 approximately a 45% increase from last quarter; and the number of agents banking reached 149. Account holders can save, withdraw cash from nearby agents and can make transactions using mobile payment.

In the previous quarter PRIME supported SMFI to expand its branches in seven different woredas. The number of savers increased from 997 to 1658 and the number of borrowers from the previous quarter increased from 600 clients to 1997.

Afar Microfinance Institution:

Mercy Corps has continued to provide technical and financial assistance based on the sub-award agreement to Afar MFI. The performance of the MFI is improving and this quarter has recorded significant traction in terms of numbers of savers and loans to clients. Afar MFI is also going to work with PRIME in cash transfer intervention drought response.

Rays Microfinance Institution:

The newly establish Rays MFI opened its first three branches for service

Rays opened three new branches in Addis Ababa, Negelle Borena, and Moyale (Gewane is in the process of opening). PRIME has been supporting Rays since it was established and continued to provide financial and technical assistance. During the quarter Rays facilitated training for all their newly hired staff to ensure they provide the best service in their respective branch offices. The training included the following topics:

- Islamic MFI product and service
- Fundamental concepts of MFI and Lending Methodologies
- Saving and Personal Financial Panning
- Accounting for microfinance institution and Financial Analysis
- Credit Appraisal, Monitoring and Delinquency Management
- Risk Management in Microfinance
- Customer handling

After the training, Negelle, Moyale and Addis Ababa branches fulfilled the necessary requirements to start operation and are now open to provide savings and local money transfer services.

PRIME also supports the MFI to improve their core functions. In line with this, Rays MFI has announced a bid tender for the supply, installation and commissioning of the servers, network infrastructure and other data center equipment, and provision of related services in the Reporter Newspaper on March 24, 2016. Thirty-two (32) companies collected the bid document from Rays MFI head office, nine of which fulfilled the required documentations and have submitted their bid documents before the closing deadline. The winner will be announced in early May 2016. In addition Rays is in the final stages of the negotiation process with a technology provider company to implement a mobile and agent banking in all their operational areas.

<p>Highlights of Afar MFI's quarterly performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 512 new savers• 1,873,899.62 ETB savings mobilized• 101 new borrowers• 931,434.00 ETB loans disbursed• 85 Savings boxes distributed for user• One additional new service center opened
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Financial Services: VSLAs/RuSACCO: Strengthening, Expanding and Linking performance update

Strengthening capacities of rural savings and credit cooperatives (Eastern Cluster): PRIME facilitated training and technical assistance for 27 RuSACCOs in Fafan and Jarar zones in Somali Regional State. 242 members of management committees (221 women and 21 men) of 27 RuSACCOs were trained in eight rounds across eight districts. The objective is to sensitize

and train management committee members on improving the quality of their core services and products and governance, as well as Sharia compliant loan product procedures.

Strengthening capacities of rural savings and credit cooperatives (Southern Cluster): PRIME signed a cost share grant agreement with seven cooperatives. Out of these, three are from Guji Zone (Liban, Wadara and Gorodola) and four are from Borena Zone (Miyo, Moyale, Dhas, Arero). Thus far, only two woredas have begun implementing activities (Liban woreda and Moyale CPOs). The Cooperative Promotion Agencies in Liban woreda conducted assessments and identified the main obstacle and problems, after which they provided training to RUSACCOs. As a result, their membership has increased on average from 74 to 103. The total number of members has increased from 591 (F 219) to 825 (F 350). The average individual member regular savings also increased from 38 ETB to 60 ETB. Consequently, eight RUSACCOs have managed to mobilize 162,580 ETB as additional total saving. All eight RUSACCOs have developed four types of loans and sharia compliant loans.

Liban Cooperative promotion office has provided training for 39 participants (F=33), including the executive committee of eight RUSACCOs and an expert from the CPO office, on business plan development and bookkeeping; while Moyale woreda Cooperative Promotion office discussed with seven RUSACCOs on how to increase membership and product development. As a result of this; they have increased their average individual member regular saving from 25 ETB to 45 ETB. Their total savings is 945,412 ETB.

519 VSLAs with 9553 have been formed through the private service provider model

The establishment of Village Savings and Lending Association (VSLA) through the PSP model continued this quarter across all PRIME areas. VSLA PSP methodology provides a relatively safe place for poor households to save their money in the village, borrow money and increase their income. This quarter's VSLA updates from Mercy Corps, ACPA, SOS Sahel and CARE are presented below.

Third Cohort VSLA-PSP Model Launched: 18 field agents (six from Liban, four from Moyale O, four from Arero and four from Dhas woredas) were deployed to the field following induction training and post-training test. Mercy Corps has given them assignment letters and they have started promoting the VSLA PSP model to wider community.

Refresher training for field agents (Southern cluster): A two-day training was given in Yabello for 12 field agents (3 female). Field agents are currently working on group establishment in their assigned implementation areas. Each field agent was evaluated on the previous eight month period on their performance establishing VSLA groups, coaching groups and ensuring VSLA criteria were met.

Linking solar suppliers with VSLAs through facilitating training for PSPs: Photo-voltaic Solar Home System Technical and Business Skills training was provided for twelve PSPs/FAs and two Yabello TVET teachers. The main objective of the training was to create access to solar products and provision of after sales services through different sales outlet to reach to end users of large pastoralists and agro-pastoralists community and creating additional marketing opportunity for solar suppliers and income diversification for PSPs. The training was provided for 7 days, for

PSPs from Yabello, Liban, Gorodola and Wadara woredas. TVET teachers are included in the training to maintain skills locally and to equip electronics department students with solar maintenance skill and knowledge. The training was provided in collaboration with Dayod Engineering.



The practical sessions conducted at training center involved field practical installation of one 30w-SHS at Higo Primary School as well as maintenance of one 600w- SHS-at Wachile Health Post. The activity has been facilitated through integration effort between energy and financial service sectors of the PRIME EMD team.



VSLA PSP Methodology training for stakeholders (GO and NGOs): To equip stakeholders with knowledge of VSLA-PSP methodology and share best practices and lessons learned, PRIME provided five days training at Yabello town for 32 (F=2) participants invited from NGOs (Save the children, Goal Ethiopia, CIFA, GPDI, AFD, Dorcas, ACF) and Zonal and Woreda Cooperative Promotion Offices (Wadara, Goro Dola and Liban of Guji Zone and Dhas, Arero, Moyale Oromia, Miyo, Yabello, Dirre and Teltelle) and MFIs. During the training participants acquired knowledge on how VSLA PSP methodology work, group formation and governance, constitution, saving, loan and social fund policies, record keeping, meeting steps, PSP timeline and its phases (Preparatory, PSP and network). Finally, the participants acknowledged PRIME adopts an innovative approach in the establishment of VSLAs and planned to include the model in their future interventions.

Establishing New VSLAs through PSP Model (Eastern Cluster)

Support of VSLAs formation through trained field agents is continuing in Erer and Babile Oromia. In this quarter, nine field level agents continued supporting 17 VSLAs with 321

members (242 female) that were established last quarter. Field level agents (future PSPs) provided training and coaching and technical assistance to groups to teach saving and institutional set up management.

Moreover, PRIME facilitated certification of nine field level agents to be standalone certified private business services providers, their certification came as they completed establishing and nurturing the first subsidized village level saving and loan groups in Kebribayah and Babile (East Hararghe of Oromia Regional State). The certified PSPs will provide business training to VSLAs on fee basis. PRIME will continue to technically support them through coaching and technical assistances.

Establishing New VSLAs through PSP Model (Afar cluster)

During the previous quarter, seven field agents were deployed in Gedamayetu, Awash Arba and Awash 7 Kilo, in addition to one field agent previously deployed in Worer. Out of these eight field agents only three are still working (one in Awash 7 Kilo and two from Gedamayetu). Four dropped out due to lack of willingness or absence of contribution, and the fifth discontinued at the end of her initial contract. Twelve VSLAs are currently operating in the four locations.

A VSLA group in Gedamayetu acquired their own savings box and ledger, and four of the Gedamayetu VSLAs began to provide loans to members due to increased savings. In most areas, the drought is hindering the organization of VSLA groups as they are not viewing it as priority due to more pressing concerns, and also a lack of resources to save. In addition, other government and non-government programs are working with VSLA groups by injecting seed money and providing matching funds which is inhibiting the field agents to form new groups. In order to overcome commitment issues of field agents, discussions were held with community members and government officials to continue sensitization of VSLA development, and VSLA groups from the same area met for experience sharing. Refresher training was also provided to the remaining field agents on the VSLA manual, problem solving, and other issues. Field agents and their supervisor also met with VSLA groups to clarify issues, and supervision was intensified. Finally, a performance-based stipend was introduced to encourage field agents to meet goals.

Facilitating micro loans for start-up business run by women TOPs in Filtu and Moyale

The ACPA team supported the Somali Microfinance Institution (SMFI) to facilitate micro loans for 100 women from Filtu and Moyale Somali woredas. SMFI provided entrepreneurship and financial literacy training for the selected women while PRIME covered operation costs needed for the training. At the end of the training, 100 women TOPs were linked to SMFI and opened savings account. Each participant started with savings of 400 ETB, i.e. a total of 40,000 ETB. Following that, SMFI disbursed a loan amount of 4,000ETB per women as per individual business proposal made by them. The participants regularly save with SMFI monthly and will repay the loan monthly. Upon repayment of first round loan received, clients will be eligible for another loan on voluntary basis.



Women borrowers attending SMFI's financial literacy and loan management training

Key Result 3.3: Market Access Expanded to Increase Employment Opportunities

Grant support for Woreda Cooperative Promotion offices (Southern Cluster)

Grant support for Goro Dola and Wadera Cooperative Promotion offices was approved and signed during the quarter, and implementation has begun. The objective of this activity is to support woreda cooperative promotion agency to strengthen existing RuSACCOs and form new RuSSACOs in their respective woreda. This is being led jointly with Mercy Corps.

Forum facilitated to create linkage between vegetable and grain market actors

Vegetables and grain market linkage forum was facilitated in Negelle town to improve linkage among major market actors, with the participation of 70 producers, traders, agro-input supplier and experts from supporting government line offices from Liban, Gorodola and Wadara woredas of Guji zone. During the discussion, vegetable and grain marketing bottlenecks were identified and linkage was created among producers, agro-input suppliers and irrigation motor pump maintenance service providers.

Agro-pastoralists and Development Agents received onion seed multiplication training

The training was conducted in Negelle town to improve the technical capacity and skill on onion seed production for model agro-pastoralists, government experts/DAs and agro-input suppliers. The training was facilitated partnering with Yabello dryland agricultural research center. 28 people (25 M and 3 F) participated. The training will significantly improve skills of agro-pastoralists and contribute to the enhanced production and productivity of vegetable farming. The follow up/monitoring of the training outcome will be reported in next quarter.



Onion seed production training

Expansion of Agricultural input supply in Southern Cluster

Following small grant cost shared agreement signing, Arero Goro Agro input supplier (Arero woreda), Bikiltu Grain and Quality Seed Supplier (Dire woreda) and Jatani Seed Marketing Unit (Yabelo woreda) completed most of the milestones and started business operations. The businesses are engaged in trading of cereal and vegetable seeds as well as agro chemicals. The owners are working with respective woreda irrigation development office for wider linkage with irrigation users. Generally, in this reporting period, about 759 households (650 male and 109 female representing 759 households) have accessed various types of vegetable seeds, cereal seeds and agro chemicals through seven agro input suppliers operating in the area. The total transaction was about 614,000 ETB.

Expansion of district level agricultural input Supply in Eastern Cluster

During the period under review, 16 agricultural input suppliers signed sub-award agreements with Mercy Corps to open new input supply shops in eight woredas in Faafan, Sitti and Jarar zones. The objective of this activity is to enable enterprises to sell improved seeds and farm tools/technologies to farmers and agro-pastoralists in Eastern cluster. Twelve out of 16 input suppliers have expanded their businesses and are currently operating in 7 woredas in the region. The remaining four agricultural suppliers are on their ways to start operations (See Annex 2).

Pilot shallow well casing and manual borehole drilling

PRIME started to pilot low-cost technologies for small scale irrigation farmers. Shallow casing is a technique pioneered by a local investor to prevent total collapse of shallow wells and to extend the lifespan by reinforcing the walls of wells with concrete molds. To transfer these techniques to farmers in the area, PRIME conducted a feasibility assessment and started the pilot in Harawa areas of Awabare woreda. 17 model farmers were selected as first beneficiaries to model and cost share in producing the technology, PRIME called for proposals from potential contractors to produce and install molds in the selected shallow wells. Contractors' screening is ongoing.

Supporting Jigjiga University to pilot local seed business establishment in Somali region and build local cooperatives' capacity

After the first phase of piloting potato seed multiplication last quarter, Jigjiga University completed the construction of a 4x5m² mini storage to show the required potato seed storage and handling techniques in Degahle town. To expand the production of improved potato seed, the university purchased 20 Quintal of potato seed and Urea and DAP to assist seven new cooperatives in Jigjiga, K/Bayah and Gursum woredas to multiply and familiarize farmers on the improved potato seeds that can germinate in the local areas.

Promote & Implement Efficient/Renewable Energy Technologies

Locally manufactured Small Wind Turbine

The small wind turbine that is installed in Hadew Village, around Jigjiga had maintenance service as it has been a year since its installation. The maintenance cost for the turbine was covered by the shop keeper (300 ETB) to purchase grease and paint. The maintenance was conducted together with seven previously trained students and teachers from Jigjiga TVET. Overall the wind turbine is in a very good condition except the welding between the two towers, the trained students and teachers has agreed to fix this in 3 to 4 months.

From the follow up visit with the shopkeeper, he explained the following changes indicated in the following table:

Description	Before wind turbine	After wind turbine
Average number of customers/day	15	40
Number of mobile phones charged/day	5-8	30
Average monthly income from mobile charging (ETB)	640	1902
Average monthly income from dry goods (ETB)	500	2905
Average monthly income from refrigerated goods (ETB)	0	6334

The shopkeeper has now opened a bank account at Somali microfinance institution so that he can save for the maintenance of the system and his business expansion. Villagers around his shop are also benefiting from the services of the turbine, as they don't have to travel long distances out of their village to charge phones and buy cold drinks. The next steps include ongoing coaching to the shopkeeper to add one or two new businesses to increase income and adequately utilize the amount of energy from the turbine.

Solar energy product regional distributors

PRIME conducted performance monitoring of business expansion grantees in Southern cluster to find out sales volume, value of sales and number of clients (households). Accordingly the grantee for solar energy product regional distributor (DAYOD Engineering plc, Dinsefa Electronics trading and Google Computer business) and the cost-free PRIME partner (HIDASIE TELECOM SC) have sold a total of 68 products valued at ETB 102,644 and were able to reach 68 clients in this quarter. Among other functions of solar system, mobile charging is a popular activity, where mobile charging services are run by an entrepreneur named Dawit in Borbor. Dawit charges more than 200 mobile-phones per day.

In addition to distributing micro-solar lanterns through its agents for sale to households, DAYOD Engineering Plc, has identified a new market segment for Solar Home Systems. This market

segment includes churches, mosques and rural schools that require larger systems. The partner has hired one professional for Negelle and also changed its business premises to the center of town so as to respond to the potential demand. Despite the supply shortage encountered for one product of high demand, the partner keeps on working with previous agents as well as creating new linkage with recently trained VSLA field agents.

Cook stove production and marketing promoted through a one day regional workshop

In collaboration with Somali Regional State Mining, Energy and Environmental protection agency, PRIME facilitated a one-day workshop for 32 cook stove value chain actors (12 female and 20 men) to understand opportunities, market players and linkages in the sector. Participants were drawn from traditional cook stove retailing enterprises, distributors, producers (individual business and energy groups) and entrepreneurs from different woredas of Eastern Cluster and the regional Energy Bureau. PRIME also facilitated an exposure visit for six model traditional cook stove producers (all women) selected based on their active engagements in the sector and willingness to improve their business linkages. The six women cook stove producers and marketers visited Engela cook stove producers in Modjo, Adama and Awash and exchanged their experiences while creating business linkages. Currently, PRIME provides coaching and technical assistance to the women entrepreneurs who are currently preparing their business to use these opportunities.

Regional Solar Distributor Performance in Eastern Cluster

As a result of past linkages facilitated by PRIME, Haji Abas who is a PRIME grant recipient and acting regional solar distributor in Jigjiga, has created business linkages with Fosera Manufacturing Plc and Robin Solar Engineering Company in Addis Ababa. With this linkage, Haji Abas procured 85 more solar products and distributed to his retailers' networks in villages and small towns around Jigjiga. Haji Abas also developed linkage with village-based retailers in Degahbour and reportedly sold solar products of about 45,000 ETB worth to the retailers.

IR3 Priorities for Q14

- Cash transfer and financial literacy training for 5,000 drought-affected households starting May 1st.
- Completing outstanding business expansions through small grants
- Facilitating the expansion of Oromia International Bank MFI branches in southern cluster and Afar cluster
- Expansion of HelloJobs service in southern cluster
- Implementation of the linkage workshop between Afar MFI and agribusinesses.
- Scholarship trainings and market assessments will be done to create employment opportunities for PWD scholarship holders.

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 Q14, with three key changes taking place: modified approval rights and responsibilities, especially for Mercy Corps-led selected IR2 activities in Eastern and Southern cluster; updated email addresses for Mercy Corps users (as they had recently migrated their email to @mercy Corps.org from @et.mercy Corps.org); and the creation of a new field to enter the number of hours training for IR2 activities (NRM/DRM).

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. During the quarter, Kimetrica and Mercy Corps completed installation of the tool and training to Negelle in Southern cluster. The offline tool has a remote monitoring scheme that has been put in place for checking how it is working in each of the field-level servers. Through this feature, Kimetrica was able to detect that the server was off in Dire Dawa and Jigjiga offices for several weeks due to the absence of the staff trained to keep the server off and updated. Synchronization for the Negelle office has also been an issue because the password in the computer that hosts the server has been changed. Due to these limitations, Mercy Corps, CARE and Kimetrica will decide in Q15 whether to continue installation in other offices.

Ki-metrics™: Institutional Database

An institutional database (IDB) was developed in *Ki-metrics™* to monitor the progress of the institutions supported by PRIME and which will serve as main data source for Feed the Future 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). Field and Addis-based staff entered institutional profile data – up to 90% of the original goal – during this quarter. During quarter 15, staff will be trained and refreshed on how to fill out performance data for each institution.

New features/customizations were also performed during the current quarter in the IDB system: restricted the system to allow only users entering the data to modify it (focal point) but allow everyone to see the data; and updated all the woredas and zones as advised by field staff.

Data Quality Checks

Data quality checks in ki-projects and ki-metrics (IDB) continued to be performed daily on data uploaded and data quality reports submitted for January and February 2016 (ki-projects) and for the period February 10 to March 15, 2016 (IDB) to the IR4 leader (Annex 3 and 4 respectively). Data quality checks allowed Kimetrica to provide information to IR4 teams to review with other technical teams and to delete duplicated and mock records in the IDB.

These checks have also allowed Kimetrica staff to prepare M&E trainings/clinics for IR5 team during their quarterly team meeting in Addis Ababa. Kimetrica is preparing materials to deliver trainings to all field teams and approvers to improve their use of Ki-projects.

Annual Household Survey and Midline Survey

The Annual Household Survey 2015 report was finalized after receiving comments from IR4 and IR5 which were in turn addressed. During Q15 Kimetrica will work with Mercy Corps to finalize branding and marking requirements under the new Feed the Future guidelines and organize a presentation for USAID, partners and other stakeholders. The midline survey report has been delayed due to further refinements in the analysis performed by Kimetrica. The first draft will be delivered to Mercy Corps before the end of April 2016.

JESH tracking sheet

A tracking sheet was developed for JESH to start recording the livestock the company buys from traders and pastoralists and sells/exports. This will be shared with PRIME quarterly for the project to track how many households JESH is buying from (based on an average calculation when done through traders), and the volume they export. The tracking sheet was piloted during this quarter and is attached in this report (Annex 5).

AGP baseline

During the quarter the PRIME IR4 team reviewed the AGP baseline tool (meant as a rapid assessment) and came to an agreement with the IIF team as to how data will be collected. While we wait for the project to finalize getting lists of households that will receive chicks, the IR4 team is coding the baseline for data collection in tablets.

Progress monitoring – Eastern Cluster

Livestock De-stocking monitoring

PRIME signed agreements with nine livestock trading institutions working in Afdem, Erer, Mieso Sommali, Shinile, Dembal and Hadejala for the current drought response interventions in Sitti zone. Through qualitative data collection, the team found that most interviewed livestock traders noticed a positive change in the respective livestock market, especially on livestock price. Access to feed remains the main challenge interviewed traders reported. Price determination on the basis of livestock body condition was the second challenge most reported.

Abdillahi Omer, originally from Deghabour, signed an agreement with PRIME to de-stock shoats from Dembal livestock market in Sitti zone. Even though he is not a resident of Sitti, the de-stocking provided him an opportunity to enter another market, renting an house and opening a branch in Dembal to continue purchasing from this livestock market. He is waiting for the opening of JESH to collect shoats permanently from this area. Other traders are from the areas where they are de-stocking and have agreements with slaughterhouses in Modjo and will continue to de-stock beyond PRIME's intervention, given the condition of animals does not continue to deteriorate.

Veterinarian vouchers intervention

PRIME interviewed pastoralists who received veterinary vouchers as part of the drought response intervention. Pastoralists believed that after the intervention their livestock improved their health status, especially for those too weak to stand. CAHWs also played a great role, including providing awareness about the use of vouchers and the use of drugs. While the overall intervention was helpful, some of the distributed vouchers expired before they could be used.

Birkads Construction and Ponds Excavation

The PRIME LKM team monitored the progress of the construction of Birkads in kebeles in Gashamo and Kebribeyah woredas. The team found delays in the implementation of the works by the companies contracted which led to the PRIME IR2 team to meet with the contractors – one company was delayed due to lagging payments, but the other company promised to mobilize construction materials within a short period of time. Communication with kebele leadership and community representation was also found important to avoid disagreements over the progress and expectations. Frequent oversight of the progress of construction is also necessary.

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

SenseMaker

With matching funds, PRIME tested 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 FY14, through which lessons and recommendations were drawn to improve both the framework and procedure for story collection. During FY15, PRIME expanded its use of SenseMaker to cover NRM activities and the nutrition soap opera.

During this quarter, the IR4 leader, with the support of a core team of IR5 and IR4 team members and advice from a Narrate Consultant, finalized the analysis of stories collected around the soap opera for Southern Cluster. The final report is included in Annex 6 and in Q15 a two-pager will be developed to summarize the findings.

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 the reporting quarter, the Practical Action consultant Luis Osorio-Cortes, started the documentation process for this exercise and the PRIME team provided feedback to his first draft report comments and questions. The document will be finalized during Q15.

El Niño Resilience Research Initiative

To understand the contribution of PRIME interventions towards building resilience in Faafan zone, Mercy Corps regional resilience hub and the learning technical support unit at Mercy Corps headquarters are carrying out research in four woredas of the zone. While this research is similar to what TANGO is doing around Jigjiga town, this research is meant to look at different geographical areas and provide a 'baseline' with planned follow-up surveys to observe resilience capacities in PRIME target households and communities. PRIME is providing some support to this resilience research, assisting with technical and programmatic inputs. The research will take place during May 2016.

Key result 4.3: Policy information base strengthened

Policy and Practice in Land Administration and use in pastoral areas: analysis of implications on development interventions in the three clusters

The research focused on the gap between policy/law and practice in land use structure in pastoral communities, and provided alternative approaches for land use policy and legal structure that will better suit pastoralist needs. Data was collected from key informants, households, and secondary sources in July and August 2015 in Afar and Eastern clusters as the LAND project is researching in the Southern cluster. Some of the key findings and opportunities found include:

- There is demand from the local community to work together with formal institutions in policy implementation
- Existing land policy and laws, if implemented, will enhance the realization of land use rights of pastoralists
- Strengthening collaborative environment between the customary and formal institutions is key to better implement land policies and for the betterment of the pastoralist community.

Land policies and laws in Afar and Somali regional states have not been implemented as planned. In the case of Somali region, it should be supported to issue regulations and directives to improve implementation of land laws in the region.

Analysis on Micro and Small Enterprise Policy

This research analyses existing FDRE government policies, laws, plans and programs on MSEs with particular emphasis to the three clusters, identifying good practices for enhancing entrepreneurial engagement of pastoralists and suggesting possible ways of improving existing policy and practice in MSE policies and legal frameworks for pastoralist communities where PRIME is operating.

Some of the recommendations under this policy research includes:

- Revising the current MSE policy to ensure pastoralist areas also benefit from it
- Scaling up effort to provide skills training for MSE operators and for those looking to start their own
- Improving access to finance for MSEs especially in Afar regional state
- Increasing the credit ceiling imposed on MFIs so that MSEs can get sufficient startup capital
- Creating conditions for MSEs to get a rewarding market for their products and services
- Strengthening the link between TVETs and MSE so that technologies generated by the former can be put to a production process by the latter.

Rapid assessment of impact of drought occurrence on TOPs number, distribution and employability and livelihood of pastoralists (under IR3)

These assessment's findings include:

Limited financial Access

Access to finance is very vital issue to allow pastoralists access to and success in other economic activities. However, most households have limited access to finance, even from RuSACCOs. As the table below illustrates 96 (70.6%) of respondents do not have cooperatives in their vicinity.

Availability of Cooperatives

	Number	percentage
No	96	70.1
Yes	41	29.9
Total	137	100

More importantly, from those who have a cooperative in their vicinity (41) only 17 of them are members of the cooperative and only 3 of them received loans from their cooperative.

TOPs Number and their Direction of Influx

One of the major observed impacts of this drought is the increase in number of pastoralists transitioning out into another economic activity and/or migration to another places. From the sample households, 92 (67%) have at least one family member move to another economic sector. On average about three members of the family moved to another sector from these households. The table below shows most of them moved to be daily laborers in their vicinity and other places. Other economic activities include mat making, village shops, petty trade (mostly onion), and weed clearing.

Economic Activities of New TOPs

Types of Economic activity	Number	Percentage
Daily Laborer	40	43.5
Charcoal making	5	5.4
Permanent government worker	4	4.3
Other Economic Activity	43	46.8
Total	92	100

Recommendations

- ✓ TOPs would benefit from organizing in cooperatives, particularly in financial cooperatives, to break the vicious circle of financial shortage trap.
- ✓ Majority of TOPs move to non-skilled economic activities like daily labor. This creates over supply of labor and low wage rate in effect. To solve or to minimize this problem, it would be better to give them a short term training based on the available demand in the locality.

Cost benefit analysis of community-based climate change adaptation strategies in the lowlands of Ethiopia: the cases of Eastern and Afar clusters

This research found that migration is still one of the best net return adaptation strategy practiced by pastoralists in the long-run. Months of food availability affected almost all adaptation strategies and households with more experience raising livestock are less likely to use irrigation and crop variety selection. For pastoralist communities, support for water harvesting, rehabilitation of degraded land and migration requirements/options are needed; whilst for agro-

pastoralists, development of irrigation schemes, disease and pest control are the most vital requirements to expand their agriculture.

Haramaya is finalizing reports or collecting data for the following research:

1. Comparative cost analysis of locally produced animal feed and fodder and opportunities for introduction of specialized feed and fodder crops in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas (IR1)
2. Assessment and Development of short-term teaching curricula and materials to animal health assistants and technicians in Eastern cluster (IR1)
3. Entrepreneurship incubation centers capacity assessment in PRIME intervention areas (IR3)

Key result 4.4: Information dissemination and coordination improved

Learning briefs and Case Studies

During the period under review, the team finalized a learning brief PRIME's market systems facilitation approach benefits vulnerable households, and a case study on PRIME's partnership with RENEW private equity services (Annex 7 and 8 respectively). Currently under review are two learning briefs: one on commercial de-stocking intervention during drought response and one on the nutrition soap opera drama.

PRIME (Mercy Corps and ECDD) submitted a profile of the project's work with people with disability for the "Market Based Solution for the Extreme Poor" call led by IDS and funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. The submission has been included in the short-list of projects that may be featured in this research. PRIME will provide feedback to questions from IDS during Q15.

Meetings, blogs, webinars and newsletter stories

BeamExchange conference and How-to-Notes

PRIME worked with the BeamExchange team to collaborate in their upcoming annual conference (May 2016). Netsaalem Bahiru, IR3 advisor, will moderate a session on challenge funds in development projects. His participation will be co-financed by the BeamExchange and PRIME. PRIME is also developing a How-to-note for a call for submissions from BeamExchange that will explain how the project operationalized the Innovation Investment Fund.

Feed the Future Newsletter

IR4 and IR3 teams worked together to collect stories on women empowerment to submit a contribution to the upcoming Feed the Future newsletter. PRIME shared the article with USAID's communication department and answered follow-up questions by USAID. The newsletter published several stories from PRIME in previous editions.

Internal communication and coordination

Intranet/Website

Kimetrica addressed all vulnerabilities USAID identified in the PRIME website, with the exception of one issue related to the presence of an administrative directory – which is normally

expected from a content management system such as WordPress. In order to address this issue Kimetrica would need to limit users from accessing the login page or restrict access only to a limited network. The IR4 leader suggested waiting for USAID's next vulnerabilities report to see if the risk score was low enough that it was bearable under their standards and to make sure that was the only vulnerability they encountered. The latest report from USAID gives low risk ranking to the PRIME website Annex 9.

Marking and Branding

IR4 provided a 2-hour orientation to the IR1 and IR3 teams on USAID branding and marking issues during a meeting the Economic and Market Development team had in Addis Ababa. A preliminary plan of activities in the clusters that need branding and marking was also developed in the session, which was further refined to guide the support of the Communications Specialist. At the end of the quarter PRIME participated in a Feed the Future branding and marking presentation delivered by USAID. The project is highly encouraged to start applying Feed the Future guidelines for branding. Mercy Corps has communicated this request to all partners during the last partners' meeting and will work with USAID to ensure the project follows these new guidelines.

During the quarter, the website continued to be updated with PRIME stories and briefs.

External communication and coordination

Presentation of Research

Three Haramaya University research reports were presented at a national workshop on "Building Resilience and Reducing Vulnerability in Moisture Stress Areas through Climate Smart Technologies and Innovative Practices" which took place in January 2016 and was organized by Haramaya University in collaboration with ZOA. The workshop had 130 participants from universities, national and regional institutions and NGOs. The papers presented were on climate change hazards, early warning indicators and user requirements for forecast information; policy analysis on land use and administration; and analysis on micro and small enterprise policy.

PRIME supported the 4th national conference on "Science and Technology for Sustainable Pastoral Development" which took place from 26-27 March 2016 at Jigjiga University. The conference had 110 participants from universities, research centers, regional bureaus, Federal ministry of Pastoralist Development Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, amongst others. Two researches were presented by PRIME; one on feed value chain and marketing and another on inclusive financial services.

Key result 4.5: Two-way communication channels strengthened

Creation of a repository library

The PRIME Afar team deemed important to have a repository in which staff could exchange information easily without the need to be online (as connectivity is an issue in Gewane). The repository library has now been created and will be maintained by the LKM field level advisor in Afar, though full access (reading and writing) will be given to managers and IR advisors, while other staff will have reading rights only. The repository will host all important project documents to be shared amongst staff, preventing their loss when staff leaves or computers are damaged, will centralize printing and will allow transfer of large documents.

IR4 Priorities for Q14

- Finalizing midline report and branding for AHS 2015 report, presentations and briefs.
- Finalizing the update of M&E plan based on results from AHS and Midline survey, while updating the new formats used for reporting (sub-activities, jobs)
- Provide refresher trainings to field staff on ki-projects and IDB.
- SenseMaker data collection for Somali region soap opera. Continued analysis of all frameworks
- PRIME systemic change pilot documentation
- Mercy Corps resilience study in Faafan zone data collection and analysis; monitoring of drought responses in Sitti and Afar.
- Finalize PRIME's exit strategy to update with partners and based on IR activities and regions

INTERMEDIATE RESULT 5: USE OF NUTRITIONAL PRODUCTS

Key result 5.1: Knowledge, Awareness and Practices around Household

Adoption of MIYCN Training Manual and training for MOH core members

PRIME engaged a private consulting firm to lead the development of MIYCN training tool kit. The consultants and PRIME maintained respective regional government health bureaus engaged, from formative research adoption to the contextualization of the Maternal Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) training toolkit. Oromia, Afar, and Somali regional health workers, health extension worker and community health volunteers will be the main users of the toolkit. The toolkit consists of the Trainer of Trainer manual, participant manual, community volunteer guide, and community volunteer counselling card.

In adopting the MIYCN training toolkit, the consulting firm has reviewed various Infant and Young Child feeding (IYCF) as well as maternal health manuals and guidelines directly related to the maternal infant and young child nutrition produced nationally and internationally. The consultants carried out pastoral-focused formative research to collect area specific cultural and social norms hindering proper uptake of MIYCN services by communities. The MIYCN toolkit development process was a four-tier process starting from top to bottom approach. The consultants developed the MIYCN Trainer of Trainers (TOT) manual that was validated by the MOH during the TOT training organized by PRIME in Addis Ababa for 25 core trainers from the three regions' health bureaus and PRIME's nutrition partners (3F).

The MIYCN TOT manual aimed at enhancing the knowledge, attitude and skill of participants on:

- Optimal breastfeeding
- Optimal complementary feeding
- Maternal optimal nutrition practices during pregnancy and lactation,
- Effective counseling skills in the pastoralist and agro pastoralist areas to promote maternal, infant and young child nutrition,
- Adult learning skills to cascade similar skill to the community level health workers/HEWs.

Based on this training strategy, the core groups cascaded the same training to woreda health office supervisors and the trained supervisors to HEWs. The HEWs will train the community volunteers and together they will offer real time and ongoing counseling services for community members on MIYCN. Due to the development of this manual, MIYCN interventions are harmonized and capacity of government health office staff built to enhance the provision of proper counseling on MIYCN for community members.

MIYCN woreda level health worker ToT training

The MIYCN TOT training for HEW Supervisors was conducted for four consecutive days in all the three geographical clusters. MIYCN trainers certified during the MIYCN core group trainings organized at Addis Ababa Mercy Corps office facilitated the training. The objective of the training was to provide basic skills and to facilitate further cascade trainings to HEWs. Woreda level supervisors will have additional responsibility in supervising the overall process of MIYCN and will act as focal persons for PRIME project. Through this training 80 HEW supervisor (9 Female and 71 Males) received this skills training in Afar, Oromia and Somali regions.



Woreda-level MIYCN TOT participant



MIYCN training for HEWs

A cascade MIYCN training for HEW in Somali region took place, reaching 180 HEWs (59 Female) using Somali translated MIYCN training guide. The training included both theoretical parts of MIYCN and practical cooking and counselling demonstrations. Additionally, the PRIME and ENGINE HEW flip chart Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) materials on MIYCN were used as teaching aids during the training.

Cascading the ENA Training to Community Level

Essential Nutrition Action (ENA) is an action approach to expand coverage of seven affordable and evidence-based actions to improve the nutritional status of women and children, especially those less than two years of age. Oromiya PRIME nutrition team in coordination with woreda-

trained HEWs facilitated cascade nutrition training to community level in project sites and reached 340 (208 F of which 85 were pregnant/lactating women).

Community-based cooking demonstration event

The PRIME Afar Nutrition team organized a community-based cooking demonstration and promotion of keyhole gardening (KHG) technology at household level. Afar households' consumption of vegetables is generally very low compared to the national average. The two overarching reasons behind this low consumption is limited access to fruits and vegetables as well as lack of knowledge or incorporation of vegetables in household food recipes. The PRIME project rolled out keyhole gardens to address the lack of access to vegetables in Afar. At harvest time for most vegetables, the team organised the cooking demonstrations to utilise them into various household high nutrient/energy dense recipes. The cooking demonstration event took place in Awash Fantale Woreda Doho Kebele and Amibara Woreda Worer High school. The KHG produce included green leafy vegetables like spinach and Swiss chard. These targeted cooking demonstration events were attended by 92 participants (23 Male and 69 Female). The participants (especially the pastoralist women) were grateful of the skills impartation that will help them improve the household nutrition. Participants were so motivated that they promised to include the cooking demonstration skills into daily cooking practice and build KHG in their households



Cooking and demonstration event in shool and community level using KHG technology products

Promotional events through Edutainment

Promotion of Hygiene and Sanitation for Improved Nutrition

Towards the end of the quarter the government of Ethiopia declared an outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) in some parts of Oromia region. The Regional Health Bureau coordinated partners working in these areas to support with a timely response. The PRIME nutrition and behavior change communication (BCC) team in partnership with a local theatre

group and in collaboration with local government and other non-government organizations organized a WASH campaign for the promotion of hygiene and sanitation, focusing on critical hand washing times. Live educational theatre performances; practical hand washing demonstrations; and question and answer sessions were the main messaging tools used for the campaign. Keynote addresses from the woreda health office experts in hygiene and sanitation, in relation to malnutrition marked the inception of each promotional event. The promotional events aimed at promoting awareness on critical handwashing times in order to break the cycle of bacterial; viral or parasites that cause AWD, which has a significant contribution to malnutrition.

So far, the campaign has covered areas around Guji zone and Moyale woreda of the Oromia region and Hudet and Moyale woredas of the Ethiopian Somali region. Field observation reports show improvements on local communities' awareness with regarding the critical handwashing times. PRIME will continue to organize such campaigns in its similar operational areas in the next quarter.

Promotional campaign on the 'First 1000 Days'
PRIME nutrition team, in collaboration with health offices of Liban zone, conducted eight promotional events on the first 1000 days care and nutrition to improve the community knowledge on the subject and improve child and maternal nutrition. The promotional events were conducted in partnership with a local theater group and benefited 4,050 (2,350F) local community members at Kadaduma, Hudet and Moyale districts. Live dramas and question and answer sessions were used to gauge if participants understood the conveyed desired behavioral messages. Any attitude and practice change of the 1000 days period care and nutrition that might result from the promotional events will be monitored by ongoing supportive supervisions of health posts, which is conducted by a joint team from zonal health office, woreda health office and PRIME nutrition team. For the supervisions, the team will use a standard monitoring checklist developed for this particular activity. Findings from these supervisions will be reported in the next quarter.



Live drama performance Liban Zone

Community Dialogue on Proper Practice of WASH

During the quarter, HAVOYOCO organized 14 community dialogues on nutrition and WASH. This dialogue conducted in different localities of Faafan, Sitti and Jarar zones with different existing PRIME established groups like rangeland council members, VSLA and Community Health Volunteers. The objective was to improve the water sanitation and hygiene practice in the households and to explore main barriers related to proper utilization of WASH practices. Through dialogue most participants reported as they learned more about importance of proper WASH practice and its relationship with good nutrition. 420 people were reached with key messages around WASH and nutrition. In all areas participants agreed to further discuss the key messages with their neighborhood and also to start the critical handwashing practice at their household level.

SOSC radio drama production and broadcasting

PRIME Soap Opera for Social Change Reflection Meeting

PRIME nutrition and SBCC team held a three day reflection meeting of Soap Opera for Social Change (SOSC) in Addis to draw the road map for SOSC season 2 based on the lessons learned during the course of SOSC season 1. All nutrition and key IR4 staff, along the PRIME senior gender advisor attended the reflection meeting. During the meeting, the strength and weakness of the three PRIME nutrition soap operas (Adoole Geel, Tekem and Mirgituu) production process, broadcasting and functionality of radio listenership groups (RLG) was discussed. The IR4 team also presented on the SenseMaker results for Mirgitu.

Regardless of some setbacks observed during PRIME soap opera season 1, participants suggested the production of season 2 improve in quality, highlighting that soap opera is a compelling SBCC tool if properly utilized for pastoral communities. Cluster specific group work and presentations set out strategies to repeat broadcasting of season 1 SOSC for more frequent and wider coverage listenership. All groups agreed to copy the soap opera episodes into the memory devices of the radio listenership groups so that they can re-listen to the drama through the solar radios offered by PRIME. In Somali region; in areas where FM Jijiga signal doesn't reach; people are receiving memory cards/Bluetooth technology.

Adoole Geel Soap Opera Drama

PRIME signed contract with ESRS mass media agency to air Adoole Geel nutrition Soap opera drama on FM Jijiga 99.1. Following the contract, Eastern Cluster has been promoting the drama in Faafan zone of the Ethiopian Somali region. Audio radio adverts have started airing on FM Jijiga, banners have been set in strategic public areas and distributing door stickers to PRIME community groups are the major promotion actions undertaken to pre market the drama before airing. The drama will start broadcasting early next quarter.

Refresher training for Adoole Geel radio drama listener group leaders

Eastern Cluster facilitated refresher training for ten Adoole Geel RLG leaders of Faafan and Jarar zones, and similar training will be provided to five RLG leaders of Siti zone in the next quarter. Key training components included group facilitation skills and key Maternal, Infant and Young child Nutrition (MIYCN) messages. Each trainee is expected to cascade the knowledge gained from the training to a maximum of ten listenership group members. Adoole Geel RLGs who live out of the reach area of FM Jijiga will follow the drama with the help of memory cards and solar radios provided by the PRIME project.



Refresher Training for Tekem Radio listenership Group Leaders

During the quarter, Afar cluster organized the refresher training for Tekem RLG leaders. The training was organized after the end of the broadcast of Tekem drama SOSC on Ethiopia Broadcasting Company (EBC) and Argoba community radio. The Afar cluster used also memory

cards to strengthen the reinforce the behavioral messages in the drama. This strategy also serves as an alternative to catch up with the drama series for those who missed the live broadcast on EBC and Argoba FM. The team facilitated RLG leaders' training for 26 group leaders of youth, women to women, radio listenership, rangeland council members, IFAL and SAA groups. The



26 trainees have cascaded the knowledge gained from the training to 267 RLG members.

SOSC season 2 development

PRIME is preparing to produce season two of the soap operas. Consisting of ten episodes and two feedback sessions, season 2 will be produced in Afan Oromo, Somali and Afari languages. As part of the preparation for season two productions, PRIME hired a radio serial drama production specialist. The TOR for selecting a production company has been

advertised. In the next quarter, a potential soap opera production company will be awarded the production contract marking commencement of the production process.

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

Improved Availability and Quality of Animal Feed for Nutrition

Community Dialogues on the use of Concentrated Feed

HAVOYOCO team with the support from development agents organized community level dialogue on use of concentrated feed. The objective was to create and increase the demand and utilization of concentrated feed for dry season. Concentrated feed promotion was on usage of the dried straws/stover mixing with urea or molasses and keeping the nutritive values for long time. Through this approach, households will have access to feed in dry season hence sustaining milk production from milking animal and guaranteeing milk access for children. The dialogues were supported by demonstration and experts' technical briefing sessions on how to prepare the concentrated feed. 280 pastoral and agro-pastoral model households were reached through these dialogues.

Key result 5.3: Strengthened Local Capacity for Supporting Improved Nutrition

TOT on PRIME Youth Drama Performance

PRIME collaborated with woreda education offices to organize a TOT training for local government staff to link PRIME drama with the school clubs as part of a sustainability strategy. An international consultant with experience in intergenerational theatre performance facilitated the training, which was held in Jijjiga town with 20 participants selected from Afar, Southern and Eastern clusters. The participants consisted ministry of education's Cluster Resource center (CRC) school club leaders, circus and theater group leaders, government education bureau experts and PRIME's social behavior change communication practitioners. Participants will cascade the skills they gained from the TOT to the school club members so that they perform dramas on PRIME's nutrition at behavioral messages for the school and communities. During the TOT, PRIME senior gender advisor also presented on how best the TOT can be gender

sensitive. Participants were given hard and soft copy of the PRIME youth drama handbook for their reference during skills cascading trainings. Cluster specific groups have also presented their action plan of cascading the gained knowledge during the TOT.

Nutrition Booth at International SBCC Summit

The first inaugural international Social Behavior Change Communication Summit was held in Ethiopia with the theme “Elevating the Science and Art of Social behavior Change Communication.” Three PRIME nutrition team members participated in the summit. PRIME had a booth to showcase its SBCC and the team had opportunities for cross-learning in the field of SBCC.

PRIME Nutrition sensitive initiative including WASH

School nutrition and health clubs are some of the institutional avenues the PRIME nutrition team uses as entry point to reach the vast majority of communities with basic nutrition messages. Equipping school nutrition clubs and drama/theatre group with basic nutrition-sensitive messages including promotion of backyard/keyhole gardening, animal husbandry, dietary diversity and significance of proper nutrition during the first critical 1000 days and WASH could contribute to improve nutrition. School nutrition and health clubs and drama/theatre group exhibit different shows/theaters to raise awareness of the communities on different nutrition-sensitive messages including WASH both at schools and at community level. 96 school clubs members (66 male and 30 female) were trained in nutrition-sensitive agriculture including WASH from Gota Garman, Baraaq, Shinile, Hadhigala, Biki and Bila schools located in Sitti zone of Somali region.

School Club members training on WASH& Nutrition

PRIME’s Nutrition team in Eastern cluster organized WASH and Nutrition training for school club members for Jarar zone (Ararso, Degahbour and Birqod to promote and enhance the importance of WASH in schools, safe water supply in schools and linkage between school health and nutrition for better nutrition outcomes. At the end of the training participants developed work plans for WASH activities within the school and community awareness.

IR5 Priorities for Q15:

- MIYCN training for Health extension workers and community volunteers
- Broadcasting of Adoole Geel radio serialized drama via Jigjiga FM 99.1
- Continue community dialogue through Season 1 of radio serial drama
- PRIME drama training for school teachers and club members
- Community level promotional events through the school club member and local theater groups
- Training on Nutrition sensitive agriculture
- Nutrition add-on training for group leaders of the existing PRIME established groups
- SOSC radio drama design for season 2
- Piloting food preservation technique on vegetable, milk and meat
- Training on Feed Production and Conservation for Pastoralists to support milk production.

INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT FUND

The US\$6 million IIF supports activities across PRIME through targeted investments in the form of technical assistance, matching grants, and service contracts with private sector, government and non-government stakeholders.

Jigjiga Export Slaughter House (JESH)

The Jigjiga Export Slaughter House (JESH) project, partly funded by a sub-grant from PRIME, completed the sheep and goat section of the facility and was officially launched on February 25, 2016. The facility was inaugurated with the presence of Her Excellency Ambassador Patricia Haslach, His Excellency the President of the Somali Regional State Abdi Mohamoud Omar and other senior delegates including the State Ministry of Livestock and Fishery.

The PRIME-funded refrigeration facilities are 100% completed and successfully commissioned. These include: seven chillers at 0°C, four blast freezers at -35°C and three storage freezers at -20°C. All the slaughtering machinery and support equipment and infrastructure are fully functional and commissioned: these include water supply and storage, electricity power, biogas plant, steam boiler and steam generation and water heating. Other essential infrastructures that have been completed include: staff changing rooms, wash rooms, cafeteria and kitchen, laboratory and goods loading zone. Animal receiving sheds and offloading ramp have also been completed. Overall, the JESH factory is ready to commence operations.

During this quarter there were about 120 workers getting wages at JESH. About half of these are new hires getting ready for the operations and other half are doing remaining construction related work (mainly finishing works, landscaping, waste water treatment facility, and cattle line related works)

JESH has completed procurement of refrigerated trucks out of Dubai and construction of insulated box containers, hooks, refrigeration equipment is ongoing. The first batch of trucks is expected mid May 2016. Export activities may not start before these arrive at JESH.

Project Finance

The total project balance sheet has now reached birr 172m (pending confirmation of Financial Report ending March 2016). A certified consultant was engaged to do full valuation of the project, which is required by Ethiopia Investment Commission for registration of increase in capital as well as to issue a business license, an issue that is still pending.

Challenges

1. The process to obtain business license is ongoing as the requirements include capital registration by the Ethiopia Investment commission.
2. Obtaining meat supplier permit for Middle East countries: the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has written to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE), introducing JESH as new export abattoir. JESH has submitted application to obtain supplier status to the UAE and is awaiting reply.

Both countries mentioned above require Food Safety (HACCP) Certification before they can accept to consider JESH as supplier. JESH will hire a consultant firm to provide guidance in this process and obtain the HACCP Certification. UAE Inspection officials are expected to come to Ethiopia in mid-May 2016.

Somali Microfinance Institution – Belcash

The HelloCash service was officially launched alongside JESH on February 25, 2016. SMFI launched the HelloCash service in partnership with Belcash technologies offering mobile and agent banking service. The National Bank of Ethiopia authorized the full launch of the service in Somali Region in June 2015.

HelloCash has reached:

- SMFI branches: 23
- Satellite branches: 17
- Number of agents: 148
- End users: 66,936
- Agent locations: 24 cities

SMFI and Belcash rolled out more marketing materials in this quarter including the recruitment of 75 on the ground recruitment agents. Different advertisements on the radio and TV were also launched.

Barwako Milk Processing Factory

Barwako is a privately owned milk (camel/cow) processing factory established in 2014 in Jigjiga town. The factory continues the milk processing and distribution activities, and has been conducting marketing activities since the end of 2015 to meet the increasing product demand from different parts of Ethiopia.

The factory is doing its maximum effort to meet the current demand. However, due to the effects of El Niño, the market has been affected negatively. Pastoralist producers and the raw milk supplier cooperatives located around Faafan have been hard hit by El Niño. On top of the routine milk collection, processing and distribution activities, the factory has been fully engaged in improving the daily amount of raw milk input. During the reporting period, two milk collection sites (Golahage and Kubijara) continued supplying camel milk only. However, following the shortage of pasture in the area of Kubijara, cooperatives had to relocate their sites.

Barwako completed the procurement of solar panels (cost ETB 348,075) and one electric boiler with 1500 liter capacity (cost ETB 107,207). Along with the PRIME team, Barwako will conduct research and due diligence in the coming quarter to determine which milk collection center will receive the equipment.

Challenges

The drought caused by the El Nino continues to affect livestock and pastoralists. In order to cope with the drought, pastoralists are forced to move far in search of available water and pasture. Therefore the factory faced difficulties in collecting sufficient cow and camel milk. Another challenge is the local informal individual retailers; since these retailers do not impose any quality

test procedures on the milk they collect, suppliers are more inclined to sell to them, even at lower prices than that offered by Barwako.

RENEW Investment advisors Plc. - Private Equity Leveraging Services

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

In Q14, the team focused on launching Project Juice, which was closed on November 2, 2015, and implementation of the company’s 120-day plan. This plan covers three broad areas: 1) Governance, 2) Financial Management, and 3) Marketing. The overall goal of the plan is to ensure the company has the management systems in place to scale.

- **Governance Accomplishments:** The Company officially setup their Board and has had four Board meetings.
- **Financial Management Accomplishments:** The Company has been setup on PeachTree and the team is in the process of developed their financial and HR manuals.
- **Marketing Accomplishments:** The Company conducted a market refresh to update their assumptions about the market – specifically with regards to their pricing, and the supply and other trends in the market.
- **Pre-production Accomplishments:** The Company made major improvements to their manufacturing facility, and have been in discussions the bank and the vendor to open the letter of credit for the machines to be imported from India to Ethiopia.

The team hosted several investors in Ethiopia, including several who have invested in Project Juice. The team also ran multiple investor meetings across the U.S. providing information on the overall investment climate in Ethiopia, current portfolio performance, and upcoming investment opportunities.

Key Achievements

Stages of Investment	Jan 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2016	TOTAL Q14
Companies evaluated*	10	3	3	16
Deals closed	0	0	0	0
Jobs created this quarter	0	2	2	4
Part-time jobs created this quarter**	31	0	0	31

* 16 companies were reviewed in Q14. Still considering the following projects for investment: Project Oxford; Project Salt; Project Pulse Cowboy for the Spring package. And Project Amazing; Project Texas; Project X; Project Box; Project Gluten-Free for the Fall package. Please see Annex 10.

**These are part time employees doing work on the facility, and part time staff for the company.

SME Pipeline Development

The team continued to develop the PRIME pipeline for the upcoming investment packages. The team has had multiple meetings with new companies, and screened, performed modeling work

and coached a number of deals under consideration. Broadly speaking, much of this work helps educate the Ethiopian business community on private equity and corporate finance, and how to properly evaluate an investment plan and model growth. Please refer to annex 1 for details on pipeline progress.

Challenge

The main challenge is pipeline; a steady source of quality opportunities that meet PRIME investment criteria. A secondary challenge is a dynamic and complex regulatory environment for investors in Ethiopia. The team tries to mitigate these challenges by actively cultivating its network for new deals, and having senior partners on the ground in Ethiopia that focus on building relationships with key government stakeholders that can help them overcome challenges when/if they arise.

AGP Poultry

The objective of PRIME's investment in AGP Poultry is to strategically expand the company's products and services into underserved woredas in Ethiopia's Guji and Borena Zones. Out of the 57 AGP Poultry agents who received training, 21 agents are operational. AGP achieved high productivity from its incubators and observed mortality rates below 5% among its agent groups' birds. Of the 21 agents currently in business, five have already finished the distribution of the first cycle, and another two groups are 80% complete on distribution. Furthermore, AGP Poultry conducted intensive training of government experts to facilitate market linkage for the agents, including 36 micro and small enterprises and Pastoralist Commission experts. AGP have also received their first credit repayment and subsequent deposit for the second round of chickens from agents in Moyale.

Breeding Facility

The Company's breeding facility is complete and is operating at capacity.

Incubators

The Chick Master setter and hatcher located in the South is currently producing 400,000 day-old chicks per month.

Veterinary Follow-Up

Follow-up by AGP veterinarians has reported an average mortality of less than 5% among agent groups' flocks (the goal was 5%).

Challenges

1. Distribution from agents to rural pastoralist households was delayed during the first cycle, resulting from lack of coordination with woreda experts and poor cash collection activities by government development agents. Unseasonal rains have also caused decreased demand among pastoralist households as farmers fear disease outbreaks and government experts do not have experience distributing chickens during rainy season. This was addressed through expert training in March 2016, and some positive progress has resulted from these trainings.
2. Smallholders in the Guji and Borena zones are traditionally pastoralist, and have little experience raising poultry. In addition, those poultry that are sold in Guji and Borena are

generally sold as one-month-old pullets, rather than day-old chicks. Moving forward, this will still require more in-depth training that does not assume any prior local knowledge.

3. A delay in providing a loan on the part of the Oromia Saving and Credit Agency continues to negatively impact potential agents.
4. The lack of availability of materials to build high-quality poultry houses also continues to be a challenge in Borena.

Addiskidan Milk Processing Factory

Addiskidan Dairy received their third tranche payment during the quarter and are waiting for purchased equipment to arrive from China. When the equipment is received during the upcoming quarter, the dairy will have everything in place to begin increased operations. Discussions were also held with the dairy and also with PRIME staff about what can be done to improve milk production in the target areas. Currently with drought conditions the dairy cooperatives and others have left the area in search of pasture, so feed and fodder availability is being considered a major area of focus.

USAID FORWARD

Mercy Corps visited Rays MFI to conduct a grant kick-off meeting focused on reviewing the agreement terms and conditions, donor regulations and reporting requirements and create a better understanding on the requirements during project implementation. Financial monitoring visit was conducted for Rays MFI in two days focusing on provision of technical support to Rays key staff on financial management specific to PRIME financial requirements.

Mercy Corps conducted a financial monitoring visit to ECDD at the end of March to review PRIME grant financial recording and providing direct technical support and coaching to ECDD finance team.

Capacity building support and follow-up continues to be provided to partners as part of USAID Forward. The key findings of the capacity building reflection and learning workshop show that local partners have improved their capacity as a result of various training interventions. The importance of conducting rapid assessments on three selected local partners for furthering them in the USAID Forward process was agreed upon.

CARE provided assistance to the Friendship Support Association (FSA) to conduct a self-assessment that has identified key gaps which will be addressed through capacity building interventions during the remaining project period.

Mercy Corps, CARE and ECDD discussed how to improve disability inclusion within the PRIME project. ECDD is taking the lead and will provide a guidance document as part of support to partners for better implementation of disability inclusion through the end of the project.

USAID Forward priorities for Q14

- Conduct meeting with FSA head office.
- Conduct rapid assessment with three partners to understand the USAID forward objective achievement/status.

- Provide support to ECDD to conduct a disability inclusion check with selected partners and present the findings to PRIME leadership.
- Conduct a supportive field visit to Jigjiga (HAVOYOCO) and Afar (FSA).
- Organize M&E training for partners.

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

Gender in Pastoralism presentation (Addis Ababa)

The gender advisor gave a presentation on “Gender issues in Pastoralism” for IR leaders and other PRIME staff. The purpose of the presentation was to share experiences and the importance of promoting gender equality among agro/pastoralists. Specific topics included economic and socio-political issues, labor organization in pastoralist communities, resource management, conflict, mobility and communal task structure and organization. Also discussed were: current changing patterns as pastoralists seek to adapt to climate change; evolving social, political and economic conditions; privatization of resources; the growth of private enclosures; urbanization; population growth; opportunistic farming; and threats posed due to rangeland degradation.

Due to emerging practices of alternative livelihood options such as income generating activities and a shift to agro-pastoralism, women bear more workload. During drought or other human/animal health hazards women’s susceptibility is by far higher in the pastoral areas where natural resources are in limited supply. As a coping strategy, women are involved in collecting and storing hay, carrying home-based forage for calves and small ruminants, and collecting wild food, all of which increase the burden of women.

Discussions were then held related to PRIME activities and various impacts PRIME's interventions have.

Gender Networking Meetings (Addis Ababa)

USAID Gender Champions Meeting

The gender advisor attended the USAID Gender Champions meeting and presented the preliminary findings of the rapid gender analysis in drought affected areas of Ethiopia.

Ethiopian Network for Gender Equality in Agriculture (ENGEA)

The Ethiopian Network for Gender Equality in Agriculture was initiated by the Women Affairs Directorate that is established by the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR) to ensure programs and projects mainstream gender. Establishment of the network at the national level was launched on December 19, 2015. CARE Ethiopia has been assigned with an advisory role along with nine other INGOs. The meeting included presentations on "women food heroes" - reflecting on the role and contribution of women in agriculture. The PRIME gender advisor participated in planning for the upcoming five years of the network.

PRIME SAA groups (Afar)

The gender advisor participated in an assessment of Afar SAA groups (including PRIME and other CARE Ethiopia programs) to develop a minimum standard for SAA. Preliminary results included concerns that gender is not as well integrated into NRM and CCA activities as it should

be. Recommendations for improving gender participation in SAA will be forthcoming in the next quarter.

DISABILITY

- Disability awareness training was given to participants from Amibara and Awash woreda on Alternative Feed Technology and disability participation in the market in Afar Cluster Awash town.
- ECDD in collaboration with Mercy Corps and SOS Sahel, provided disability adjustment equipment including wheelchair, crutch, and braces for 54 (31 F) trainees with mobility impairment who have been registered for short term skill training in Negelle and Yabello
- 34 (14 F) trainees with disabilities enrolled in Negelle Borena TVET College have successfully completed studies. Out of the total graduates 30 (12 F) saved Birr 10,000 from their monthly allowance during their training period and also organized by Medium and Small Enterprise Development Agency (MSE). Furthermore, 4 graduates started their own jobs in dress making businesses. Additionally, 22 (9 F) trainees with disabilities are currently enrolled in, Yabello Polytechnic College for short term skill in the field of Dress Making, Hairdressing, Furniture Making, ICT, Sanitary Installation and Welding.
- A scholarship for short term skill training has been started for 40 (5F) youths with disabilities in Afar Region Amibara Woreda, Werer Lucy TVET College. The field of training in which the trainees are enrolled is metal fabrication and the duration of the training will take 3 months. Moreover, the trainees will be provided with disability adjustment allowances during their stay in the training. Assistants are also assigned for wheelchair using trainees. Similarly, a scholarship on short term skill trainings for 25 persons with disabilities is under process to be launched in Somali Region, Jigjiga town and its outskirts. Identification of trainees with disabilities and discussion with concerned bodies such as Regional BoLSA and Jigjiga Polytechnic College has been done with particular emphasis on the type of training fields suitable for the trainees as well as the demanded in the market.
- Disability mapping was conducted in Gelealo, Amibara, Awash Fentale, Gewane, Argoba, Dulecha woredas of Afar region to make all PRIME activities disability inclusive. The mapping identified 4,320 (1,087 F) persons with person with disabilities where the average age is 30-45 years.
- Following a sub-award grant provided to TVET colleges to build their capacity by equipping them with teaching materials in alternative accessible formats and make their premises physically accessible for trainees with disabilities, Negelle Borena TVET College and Afar Lucy Polytechnic College has constructed ramps and walk ways from the college main gate.

Priorities for Q14

1. Basic Business skill training for entrepreneurs with disabilities
2. Sign Language training for stakeholders including Labor and Social Affairs, MSE, and Cooperative Promotion Offices to remove communication barriers with target beneficiaries with hearing impairment
3. Technical support for all IRs at field level will be strengthened at maximum effort

4. Provision of competitive grants for businesses expansion, shoat fattening, and milk processing run by cooperatives of persons with disabilities in Eastern, Southern, and Afar Cluster respectively.

V. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

PRIME EXPEDITURE SUMMARY REPORT	
AS OF March 31, 2016	
Per IR	AMOUNT (USD)
IR 1	11,825,769
IR 2	11,594,509
IR 3	7,989,813
IR 4	5,506,563
IR 5	2,686,758
Crisis Modifier	1,500,000
GRAND TOTAL	41,103,412

Per Funding Stream	
GCC	10,631,798
FtF	25,763,390
Nutrition	3,208,224
Crisis Modifier	1,500,000
GRAND TOTAL	41,103,412

List of Annexes

- Annex 1. MRR data
- Annex 2. Profile of PRIME supported agricultural input suppliers
- Annex 3. Ki-projects DQ report Jan-Feb 2016
- Annex 4. IDB Assessment Report up to March 15 2016
- Annex 5. Tracking purchases and sales from JESH
- Annex 6. Final report Mirgituu SenseMaker
- Annex 7. Vulnerable Households Learning Brief
- Annex 8. RENEW case study
- Annex 9. Assessment Report PRIME website
- Annex 10. PRIME RENEW SME pipeline
- Annex 11. Success stories