

# 2021

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## End term Evaluation

RESET II Project Promoting  
Resilient Livelihoods in Borana  
Final Report

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>ABC</b>	Assisting Behavior Change
<b>AHAs</b>	Animal Health Assistance
<b>ACF</b>	Action Against Hunger
<b>CAHWs</b>	Community Animal Health Workers
<b>CBNC</b>	Community Based Newborn Care
<b>CLTS</b>	Community Lead Total Sanitation
<b>CLTSH</b>	Community Led Total Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>CPI</b>	consumer price index
<b>CPO</b>	Cooperative Promotion Office
<b>CVCA</b>	Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
<b>CVCA</b>	Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis
<b>EQ</b>	Evaluation Questions
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FGDs</b>	Focus Group Discussions
<b>GAM</b>	Global Acute Malnutrition
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>HC</b>	Health Centers
<b>HDSS</b>	Household Dietary Diversity Score
<b>HEWs</b>	Health Extension Workers
<b>HP</b>	Health posts
<b>IGA</b>	Income Generating Activities
<b>IPLS</b>	Integrated Pharmaceuticals Logistics and Supplies
<b>IYCF</b>	Infant and Young Children Feeding
<b>KII</b>	Key Informant Interview
<b>KM</b>	Knowledge Management
<b>LF</b>	Logical Framework
<b>MCH</b>	Mothers and Children Health
<b>MFI</b>	Micro Finance Institutions
<b>MHCP</b>	Mental Health Care Practice
<b>NRM</b>	Natural Resource Management
<b>ODF</b>	Open Defecation free areas
<b>OECD</b>	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>PDO</b>	Pastoralist Development Office
<b>PLW</b>	Pregnant and Lactating Women
<b>PRCM</b>	CARE's Pastoralist Resilience Casual Model
<b>PSNP</b>	Productive Safety Net Program
<b>PSP</b>	Participatory Scenario Planning
<b>SAA</b>	Social Analysis and Action
<b>SPSS</b>	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
<b>VSLA</b>	Village Saving and Lending Association
<b>WASH</b>	Water and Sanitation Hygiene
<b>WCYA</b>	Women Children and Youth Affairs
<b>WEF</b>	Women Empowerment Framework
<b>WP</b>	Work Plan

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### ***Affirmation***

*This evaluation is supported by the European Union as contracted to CARE Netherlands and presented by team of evaluation consultants. The report does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the neither European Union nor CARE-Ethiopia*

*March, 2021  
Addis Ababa*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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**Purpose:** The purpose of this end line evaluation is to assess the achievements, constraints and lessons learnt and to produce sufficient evidence to show how the project performed against its overall objective.

**Overview of the project:** Funded by the European Union (EU) through its European Union Trust Fund (EUTF) with a total budget of €6,586,291, the Promoting Resilient Livelihoods in Borana RESET II Project was implemented by a consortium of CARE Ethiopia, Oromo Self Help Organization (OSHO) and Action against Hunger (AAH). The project focused in the geographic area of Arero, Miyo, Dire, Moyale, Dillo and Dhas districts in the Borena Zone within the Oromia region. The overall aim of enhancing the resilience of 100,000 PSNP beneficiaries, reducing irregular migration through improved access and coverage to provision of WASH, health and nutrition services, diversifying and increasing livelihood opportunities and incomes, improving Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) capacity, enhancing research and knowledge management systems as well as reducing barriers to women empowerment, the project begun implementation October 2016 and end in December 2020.

CARE's Pastoralist Resilience Casual Model (PRCM) using proven CARE'S Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLA), Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (CVCA), Social Analysis and Action (SAA), Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP) and AAH's as well as Assisting Behavior change (ABC) methods and approaches were utilized throughout the project.

**Methodology:** This evaluation was guided by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) evaluation criteria and principles and a mix of qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis tools were applied here. The quantitative data was collected from the project's beneficiaries consulted during this end line evaluation and a total 547 households responded to the survey. As for the qualitative data, it was collected through KIIs and 30 (3 female) key informants from relevant sector offices and implementing partners. Additionally, 24 focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with different project beneficiaries with a total of 168 (108 female) participants. To support the evaluation findings, the team undertook physical observations of selected project structures in order to identify the most significant changes that have been brought about by the project. Moreover, relevant documentations were consulted and FGD and KII checklist were developed to guide in-depth discussions with respondents.

**Limitation:** other Government's and other NGOs activities delivered prior and/or after the life of RESET II may have contributed and thus to reduce this effect, this evaluation has triangulated all findings with the different sources, probed in detail during data collections and took careful consideration during analysis. Moreover, this evaluation has been limited by the limited baseline data for some indicators as well as data gathered during the mid-term evaluation for comparative analysis of some indicators that have no baseline values.

### **Key Findings:**

#### **Relevance:**

- The project has mainstreamed gender in all result areas to address social norms and barriers that disempower women and girls by implementing activities under all the expected results with a gender lens, considering context specifically gender dynamics in its planning and implementation;
- The project results are interconnected, and the objectives are appropriate and coherent to the challenges that it seeks to address. Although the project has effectively designed indicators for measuring each result, it has however overlooked the development of indicators to gender equality and empowerment of women;
- The project objective appropriateness to respond to pastorals needs of marketing and value chain has limitation. Similarly, the project objective to respond to youth unemployment needs much attention as it has not been able to effectively consider the challenge in depth;
- The project strategy of employing VSLAs, SAA/ABC, Natural Resource Management (NRM), Community Led Total Sanitation and Hygiene (CLTSH), Participatory Scenario Planning

(PSP), CVCA etc... approaches was found to be relevant to address the needs of the community as well as the development priority of the area;

- The project management system and processes were responsive to the changing needs and to address priorities of the targeted pastoral communities;
- The project was found to be closely consistent with CARE's 2020 global development strategy;
- With regards to special needs and child protection mainstreaming into the project implementation, however, the evaluation team was not able to generate sufficient evidence to show the project's accomplishment with these themes. Neither mainstreaming strategy nor policy was found that could indicate that project worked on the inclusion of people with special need and child protection.

### **Effectiveness:**

- The project has been highly effective and has fully achieved the planned targets under each expected results and in some cases it has over achieved the planned activities and targets. When compared with the baseline value, most indicators show progressive positive results meaning that the project has been able to achieve its overall goal of increasing resilience and decreasing irregular migration;
- The project has contributed to reducing the number of children affected by severe malnutrition (measured through Global Acute Malnutrition GAM). The results show that the average GAM value has slightly been reduced from 7.5 baseline values to 7.3. The main attributing factor for this is the project effective awareness raising activities and education on nutrition and infant care practices which has led to parents giving food other than breast milk to their in their first six months has decreased from 58% (at baseline) to 25 % thus increasing their nutrition intake;
- The project support on HMIS has improved the access and retrieval of health information in targeted health intuitions;
- Household Dietary Diversity Score has improved and the result shows that there is a slight increase from midterm evaluation point from 3.1 to 3.3 score. Improved knowledge, income diversification through cash for work and IGA through VSLAs are attributing factors for this change;
- Due to flood 64.4% reported an average loss of 2.5 livestock (cattle, sheep and goats). The livestock death decreased from midterm value 62% lost 7 livestock on average. The livestock loss during evaluation equates at an estimated of 28,502.10 Birr per household which is slightly higher than the midterm point. This is in fact associated with the current price index linked to high inflation rate compared to 2017, the period where the midterm evaluation price was calculated;
- The project has improved Measles immunization coverage by strengthening the supply chain system. Births attended by skilled health staff in this evaluation was reported at 76.5% compared to the baseline value of 41% and midterm point of 55%. Community awareness raising through Mother to Mother support group, home to home health visit, improved service delivery of health initiations have all contributed to this positive change;
- The project has improved access to drinking water for both human and livestock. During the baseline 39% of the population could access safely managed water services, this number has increased 55% during this evaluation;
- The number of months the household was not able to satisfy their food needs has decreased. 72.4% of the responded have reported they have faced food gap in the last one year of which 21.9% have faced food gap from 3 to 4 months, interestingly this number is much lower than the midterm point of 81%. Households participation in VSLAs and accessing loan, as well as their engagement in IGAs and participation in cash for work have all contributed to allow households to diversify their income and enable to fill any Food gaps;
- Proportion of the population using improved sanitation facilities and latrines has improved from the baseline value of 39% to end line value of 67.3%. Although encouraging, however, this finding is lower to the project's target of 59%;

- 19.2% children are suffering with diarrhea when compared to the baseline value of 10.3%. This can be attributed to COVID-19 limiting households' access to health provisions and decreased use of sanitation facilities and/or latrines; this could be also associated with not properly maintaining using and managing some of the already established hygiene facilities as it was initially adopted.
- 94% of targeted HHs report having access to new source of income, this is a significantly higher than the results captured during the midterm value 26%. Furthermore, 27.6% of households surveyed are saving regularly, which is higher than the baseline value of 12%;
- 69.3% of respondents are implementing sustainable land and water management system, this is a remarkable achievement when compared to the baseline value of only 12%. The project has also brought about slight improvement to the average yield per hectare on dry land agriculture (crops), for example haricot bean average yield per hectare increased from 5.75qtl/ha baseline value to 5.9qtl/ha during this evaluation;
- The project has able to develop the community's capacity to protect 4,560 hectares of rangeland. The early warning system disseminated timely climate information enabling the community to respond accordingly;
- The project has built women's agency through their participation in VSLAs, SAAs as well as in taking part in different trainings and as a result, women have demonstrated strong agency leading their groups and proactively participating in different community groups.

#### **Efficiency:**

- The project was implemented effectively, and the implementation approach has successfully enabled the leveraging of project partners' technical resources;
- There were strong synergies with existing PSNP program for better resources utilization;
- The project was not started from scratch rather it built on the existing and proven approach such as SAA, VSLA, CVCA, PSNP and ABC which have all contributed to the efficiency of the project;
- Consultation was conducted to ensure technical uniformity. This enabled to the project to ensure that the construction of structures could be done at a low cost and with locally available materials, particularly the construction of animal livestock fodder storage and water structures both contributing to the project cost efficiency;
- The total committed budget was Euro 6,600,000 and the sum of Euro, 6,564,998 has been spent at a burn rate of 99%;
- Budget analysis by categories indicates that significant amounts of the Project budget were allocated to eligible costs of the action i.e. 93% and indirect cost's fees 7%;
- The Project concisely allocated more share to the Project results that brought better impact. The large shares allocated to these results are justifiable given that fact that the Project has brought in these areas.

#### **Impact:**

- The project has brought about positive effects on individual, communities and institutions by increasing their adaptive capacity to prepare and resilience to withstand shocks through diversifying their economic opportunities, rehabilitation of their natural resources, improving infrastructures for livestock and human health;
- The project has made positive intended long-term results on strengthening traditional system of natural resource management, enhancing knowledge and skills on economic diversification, nutrition and sanitation etc...

#### **Sustainability:**

- The project activities were aligned to the existing government PSNP project and priority areas. This ensured the continuation of the RESET II activities beyond the life of the project;
- The project approach built the capacity, ensured early engagement of community structures, enabled those who have developed their skills and knowledge lead their community development;
- The project approach and strategies were highly participatory and built on existing community structures and customary practices. Most of the project strategies, particularly the natural

resource management and water management committee, utilizing the already existing customary practices, engaged influential leaders and were thus received well by the community ensuring ownership and continuation of the action and obtained results;

- Some of the project activities followed a phase out approach, which increased community leadership when the project begun decreasing its support, preparing them for the project hand over. The project has therefore ensured community lead full management of project structures like VSLA, SAA, Water management committee, range management committee etc... However, some of the project activities like youth entrepreneurship development and underground solar water installation, in Omore Kebele, Dillo, were not properly nor effectively phased out;

#### **Visibility and Communication:**

- The communication and visibility of the project assessed against EU requirements shows that the visibility and communication plan developed and applied have demonstrated effective project visibility at different levels.

#### **Recommendations:**

- It is strongly recommended that during project designing marketing system approach should be considered in similar intervention to ensure that pastoralists benefited from the market and become resilient;
- Water points rehabilitated and constructed by any intervention, require strong management for sustainability. And thus, any future similar project should consider this and developing local skills, access to spare parts and maintenances as part of its activities;
- Proper phase in, phase down and phase out approaches are recommended for all aspects of the project to ensure the independency of project structures and sustainability;
- The positive social norms that promote gender equality and women empowerment need to be researched and promoted to maximize the gender equality results;
- There should be a follow-up for functionality of biannual PSP;
- New norm nurtured require strong follow up and monitoring until the norms are well nurtured and fully practiced otherwise the tendency that the community re-practice the deconstructed norms is high as observed in the CLTSH.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 Purpose and scope of the evaluation

#### Evaluation Purpose

The general objective of the evaluation was to assess the progress, achievements, constraints and lessons learnt from RESET -II Project and produce sufficient evidence, that would help achieve the Project overall objective, specifically, the evaluation has examined:

- The status of performance and progress of the Project implementation in line with the expected results and performance indicators set out in the Project log frame;
- Explore some new ideas or innovation behind the Project and learning beyond impact
- Generate evidence on how the Project is contributing to CARE's 2020 global strategy based on CARE's global impact and outcome indicators;
- Understand the difference that the Project activities have made in changing people's lives;
- Assess the contribution of the consortium approach in facilitating effective and result oriented coordination as well as other stakeholders in leading towards the envisioned final outcome, and also the synergies, harmonization and complementarities aspects with other similar interventions by both the government and other actors (INGOs, etc.);
- Draw and document lessons, both from best practices and gaps, learnt under each of the five Project components as well as coordination and communication between consortium members;
- Provide a basis for decision-making on necessary amendments and improvements in the designing of other related Projects.

The evaluation learning and its recommendations will be used by the consortium members as well as for EUD, Specifically:

- Consortium members: will take the main outcomes of the evaluation into account for future strategic planning;
- Project stakeholders: such as the woreda, Zone sectors offices will use the results and conclusions of the evaluation to scale up and continue the Project learning and results; and
- The donor (EU): in consultation with CARE Ethiopia, the EU will use the conclusions and recommendations to inform, develop and agree the way forward for future programming.

#### Evaluation scope

This evaluation assessed the Project implementation performance and results achieved from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016 to 30<sup>st</sup> December 2020. The results were evaluated on the basis of the information laid out within the Project logical framework (LF) and their effectiveness and impact were then compared to the original Project targets and baseline values. The available evidence on the quality, effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the Project activities and all relevant issues that may emerge during the evaluation process were reviewed, discussed and summarized. The evaluation scope focuses on responding to the key evaluation questions as stated in the ToR and the evaluation objectives including looking at issues related to:

- Assess the Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability and impact of the Project under all the Project results;
- Assess the strengths and constraints of the Project under all the result areas;
- Sustained coordination and complementarity of implementing partners and other relevant actors;
- Cover the work of the three implementing organizations: i.e. CARE Ethiopia, AAH and OSO;
- Capture the Project lessons learnt at different levels including how and why the Project results were achieved;
- Examine the external factors and the unintended results especially in view of drought and what impact this has had on households vulnerability;
- Assess and analyze the Project communication and visibility against EU requirements.

Following the introduction, methodology and context, this report is divided under the main evaluation criteria as defined in the terms of reference: relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability and impact. This report then presents the conclusions and recommendations which provide pathways for future similar programming. Annexes include the TORs, the evaluation Matrix, list of respondents, and data collection instruments. Furthermore, power point presentation of the main findings, SPSS data set and most significant change documents are available in a separate file.

## 1.2 Evaluation questions

This evaluation uses OECD evaluation criteria and evaluation questions (EQ) stated in the ToR. A list of the main EQ related to the evaluation criteria is shown in the below table 1.

Table 1: EQs and criteria

Criteria	Key Evaluation Questions
Relevance	EQ1: To what extent was the Project design and implementation strategy responsive to the need of the target pastoralist community? EQ2: To what extent was the Project able to adapt and provide appropriate response to changing local needs and the priorities of the pastoralist people? EQ3: To what extent is the Project design and implementation in compliance with CARE's 2020 global development strategy EQ4: To what extent are crosscutting issues such as gender, disability, environment, and child protection mainstreamed in the implementation of the Project?
Effectiveness	EQ5: What progress has been achieved to date against expected results and outputs? EQ6: How many male and female beneficiaries were reached directly and indirectly, as compared to planned numbers? EQ7: How is the effectiveness of Project strategies and approaches, to what extent has the Project addressed underlying causes of vulnerability?
Efficiency	EQ8: Were activities of individual organizations and for the overall consortium cost-efficient? EQ9: What is the adequacy and timeliness of inputs in relation to carrying out Project activities? Was the Project implemented in the most efficient way as compared to alternatives? EQ10: How is the existing Project management, and monitoring, evaluation and
Impact	EQ11: What were the wider effects of the Project - social, economic, technical, environmental - on individuals, gender, age-groups, communities, and institutions EQ12: What positive and negative, intended or unintended long-term results have been produced/likely to be so far by the Project either directly or indirectly? EQ13: What are the important lessons and best practices of the Project?
Sustainability	EQ14: How have been the communication, collaboration and coordination of CARE Ethiopia, AAH and OSHO one another and with other stakeholders? EQ15: To what extent have Project activities implemented so far been carried out in a context which takes longer-term and interconnected problems into account as well as reinforce the local development efforts?; EQ16: What is the likelihood of sustainability of the Project achievements and impacts, including financial, socio-economic and institutional framework? EQ17: Did activities contribute/likely contribute to individuals being more prepared, resilient and less at risk than before? EQ18: What is the level of community participation and ownership of local development efforts? How Project implementation strategies and approaches like Cash for work arrangement contributed towards that? EQ19: How is the participation of stakeholders, including regional and local governments in the implementation of the Project? EQ20: How is the Project is integrated with PSNP and similar interventions by other actors in the target areas;

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

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### **2.1 Evaluation Approach**

This evaluation was conducted from December to January 2021 and included 14 days of fieldwork. The evaluation was guided by OECD-DAC evaluation criteria and the data collection and analysis approaches shaped by the “Evaluation Matrix” prepared and developed specifically for this evaluation purpose derived from the evaluation questions indicated in the ToR. The matrix outlines the main questions and sub-questions as well as proposed data collection methodologies and data sources, the matrix can be found in annex-2.

In order to fulfill the evaluation objectives, respond to the EQs and reporting needs, this evaluation combined and used both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis methods. The qualitative methods (KII, FGD and Project beneficiary’s interviews) allowed for an in-depth understanding and illustrations of key issues while quantitative approaches (mostly applied for financial data) helped to identify the Project overall financial position and efficiency. Alongside the above-mentioned data collection, most significant change was conducted together with the Project staff, stakeholders and Project beneficiaries. Parts of these analysis findings are presented in the main body of this report and the full analysis can be found in a separate file.

During the data collection process, data collection instruments were designed and applied on the basis of the EQs, judgment criteria and consulting objectives and these can be found in annex 4. In addition to KIIs and FGDs, according to the evaluation requirements, relevant technical and financial documents provided by the Project office were reviewed and analyzed. Finally, after the data had been collected and prior to analysis the preliminary findings and key issues were presented to CARE Ethiopia Project staffs.

### **2.2 Description of methods**

#### **A) Quantitative method**

Here, a household survey structured interview questions were used with Project participants to capture issues related to change in the five expected results of the Project. A total of 547 respondents from female headed (FH) and dual headed households (HH) participated and predominantly quantitative information was collected. The household survey sampled beneficiaries of RESET II Project mirroring the baseline survey conducted by the consortium back in August 2017 and mid-term evaluation conducted in January 2019 making sure that the evaluation surveyed households are the same as in the baseline survey and midterm evaluation. Taking into account amendments to the Project indicators, similar data collection tools with some refinements to improve questions flow and clarity were used here. The evaluation team then piloted the refined surveys in the Project area. After receiving training and supervised by the evaluation team, the locally recruited enumerators collected the evaluation data using the Afan Oromo translated questionnaires from 22<sup>nd</sup> January until 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021.

This evaluation used a three stage cluster sampling design, district, then Kebele and households were selected. RESET II consortium partners purposely chose the Kebeles and households who participated in the baseline study and 100 households were selected from each Arero, Miyo, Dire, Moyale, Dillo and Dhas Project woredas. The baseline research team constructed their sample using a purposive sampling approach from household registers and sampled 600 households. Similarly the mid-term evaluation and this end line evaluation followed the same approach applied during the baseline survey and consulted the same number of beneficiaries. This evaluation was able to sample 547 households; Table 2 below presents the breakdown of respondents by woreda.

The evaluation team entered the evaluation data into Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) and carried out frequencies analysis, means analysis, and statistical significance testing to investigate the existence of statistically significant differences and produce the analysis. The full set of the SPSS data is available in a separate document.

Table 2: Breakdown of number of respondents by district

Woreda	Female		Male		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
• Dilo	64	16	34	23	98	17.9
• Arero	48	12	24	16	72	13.2
• Moyale	74	19	19	13	93	17
• Miyo	80	20	18	12	98	17.9
• Dhas	86	22	13	9	99	18.1
• Dire	48	12	39	27	87	15.9
• Total	400	100	147	100	547	100

## **B) Qualitative methods**

The evaluation team used a variety of qualitative data sources and methods as outlined below:

- **Documents and files review:** a review of relevant documents, including RESET-II Project proposals, baseline survey, quarter report, and financial report as of end of December 2020, case studies on SAA, PSP and SAA and other related documents such as DRR plan proposed for district were conducted.
- **Key informant interviews (KIIs):** here semi-structured interview questions were used and in-depth discussion were undertaken with selected government's officials who have had direct influence over and have knowledge of the Project. The purpose of the KII is to capture stakeholders' views on the relevance, sustainability and impact of the Project and to capture the level of integration in government structures after completion of the Project. The interviews included experts from Health Office, Pastoral Development Office, Women Children and Youth Affairs Office, Water and Energy Offices, DRM taskforce, Water Mineral and Energy Office, CARE Ethiopia, AAH, OSHO staffs. A total of 30 key informant interviews were conducted.
- **Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):** structured but open leading questions on key elements of the Project were used here. During the FGDs, participants discussed issues surrounding Project results, impacts, surrounding women access and control to productive resources, women leadership, women's right and Gender Based Violence. Most significant Changes interview techniques were used with selected FGDs to extract most significant changes that the Project has brought about under each expected result area. Amongst the total of 168 participants, 108 women took part (64.3 %) in the FGDs process.
- **Observations:** To support the evaluation findings and extract learning, the evaluation team undertook physical observations and visited rangeland, shallow well, Open Defecation free areas (ODF), health posts (HP), Health Centers (HC), roof water harvesting and water bank Project activities

For qualitative analysis, the team developed qualitative transcription framework based on the evaluation questions and as themes and issues were identified, the contents were analyzed against the stated evaluation objectives.

Table 3: KIIs and FGDs category and number of participants

Qualitative Method	Number	Number of participants		
		Male	Female	Total
Focused Group Discussions	24	60	108	168
Key Informant Interviews government stakeholders	20	17	3	20
KII with Project staffs	12	12	0	12

### **2.3 Briefing, debriefing and consensus building**

During the evaluation process, a detailed briefing on preliminary findings was discussed at Project level as well as discussions at partners' head office were conducted to substantiate the field findings.

The evaluation team have also shared their basic findings and elaborated issues regarding key findings at Project level. During this session the preliminary findings are validated by participants.

### 2.3 Ethical procedures

Ethical considerations, including protection of privacy, confidentiality and anonymity were an important part of this end line evaluation. Respondents were neither paid nor provided any incentives to participate and their involvement was completely on a voluntary basis. Prior to participation, all respondents were informed of the purpose of the evaluation, informed that they have the right to refuse to participate and were asked to provide verbal consent prior to interviews were conducted.

### 2.4 Limitations and constraints, potential bias and mitigations measures

The methodology and tools used had an appropriate balance between standardization and flexibility which allowed for adaptation depending on different needs without compromising data efficacy and analysis. During the evaluation process, OECD evaluation reference criteria, ethical guideline and code of conducts including “Do No Harm” principles were applied. As with any evaluations, there were a few considerations that affected this evaluation and these are listed in table 4 below.

Table 4: Evaluation limitation and mitigation measures

<b>Risks, assumptions and mitigations</b>	
Attribution effect and bias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is understood that, other NGOs and the government are implementing PSNP-4 and similar Projects in the area and this has helped to create better synergy and complementarities between RESET II and other Projects. As this complementarities and synergy may have had attribution effect, to reduce the mitigation effect, the consultant triangulated the findings from the different sources, actively probed during interviews and took due care during analysis</li> </ul>
Contextual constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To a certain extent, the Project stopped implementing its activities due to security issues and COVID-19 , this again limited the scope and coverage of the evaluation results; however, the team was able to extract some evidences from previous Project reports</li> <li>There were some data that the mid-term evaluation could not capture in one of the evaluation district Moyale, and thus this may make it difficult to compare the evaluation findings with the mid-term evaluation findings. However during analysis, the evaluation team used available document, baseline references and reports to identify relevant and useful data.</li> </ul>
Methodological factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As there were some data not gathered during the baseline survey for some indicators, it was difficult to generate comparative analysis. For instance, there are no baseline data for the number of households practicing dietary diversity, number of months of self-reported food insecurity. The evaluation team used the mid-term report to compare the findings with this end line evaluation.</li> </ul>

## 3. PROJECT CONTEXT ANALYSIS

### Project objectives

RESET II Project was implemented over 52 months from 1st October 2016 until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, with a total budget €6, 586,291. The Project was financed by European Commission through European Union Trust Fund (EUTF) and was implemented through a multi-stakeholders consortium which included CARE Ethiopia, Oromo Self Help Organization (OSHO) and Action Against Hunger (AAH).

RESET II was designed to address the root causes of displacement and irregular migration in Arero, Miyo, Dire, Moyale, Dillo and Dhas districts within the Borena Zone, Oromia region. With the above in mind, the overall aim of the Project was to enhance the resilience of over 100,000 PSNP

beneficiaries and other vulnerable communities, of which over 70,000 were women covering 21,476 households in total. As indicated in the Project results framework, RESET II was expected to achieve five interconnected outcomes:

- **Result 1:** Improved access and coverage of Health and Nutrition Basic Services to at least 21,000 households in six districts in Borana Zone by 2020. The result is expected to be achieved through WASH, health and nutrition activities.
- **Result 2:** Diversified and increased livelihood opportunities and incomes for at least 10,000 individuals in six districts in Borana Zone by 2020. The result is expected to be achieved by improving agricultural productivity, natural resources management and economic development
- **Result 3:** Improved Disaster Risk Management capacity, data systems, planning and action in operation in six districts in Borana Zone by 2020. The result is archived through capacity building
- **Result 4:** Enhanced Research and Knowledge Management systems established by targeted Government and NGO partners in Borana Zone by 2020
- **Result 5:** Reduced barriers to women's empowerment affecting at least 10,500 households in six districts in Borana Zone by 2020.

### **Implementation arrangement**

In order to achieve the above aim, the Project made use of CARE’s Pastoralist Resilience Casual Model (PRCM) using proven CARE’S Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA), Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (CVCA), Social Analysis and Action (SAA), Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP). Moreover the consortium organization harmonized the different approaches that were used by each organization, for example AAH’s approach “Assisting Behavior change (ABC)” approach harmonized with SAA approach and used throughout the Project implementation process, CLTSH and Mother to Mother groups were also applied.

With aim of providing strategic direction for the overall Project, a Project Management Committee (PMC) comprising of representatives from CARE Ethiopia, AAH and OSHO was established. The PMC meets every six months, discusses Project activities, progress made and decides on further course of actions. Besides, a monitoring and evaluation system (M&E) was developed based on CARE-Ethiopia internal M&E guidelines whilst taking into consideration EUD’s requirements. To track and monitor the Project results and activities, monitoring tools were developed based on the Project LF. The Project indicators, baselines and targets values were captured into the Project internal monitoring system. And finally, for learning, reporting and accountability purposes, the Project integrated a midterm and final evaluation.

### **Project participant’s profile and participation in the Project**

A total of 547 households were involved in the quantitative survey, out of which 400 (75%) were FHHs, 58 percent were PNSP beneficiary. Out of the total number of participants, 84.3 percent are unable to read and write, whilst the remaining have attended primary and/or higher education institutions. As they discussed, quite significant number of Project participants (77%) had participated in the Project Livelihood and NRM related activities.

Table 5: Project participant’s profile

Description	Female		Male		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Educational Level of the respondent						
• Unable to read and write	356	89	105	71	461	84.3
• Able to read and write	10	3	10	7	20	3.7
• Primary school(Grade 1-6)	13	3	19	13	32	5.9
• Secondary school(Grade 7-8)	9	2	5	3	14	2.6
• Above secondary school	12	3	8	5	20	3.7

Is there PLW in the HH?						
• Yes	213	53	96	65	309	56.5
• No	187	47	51	35	238	43.5
Is this HH currently enrolled in the PSNP?						
• Yes	240	60	79	54	319	58.3
• No	160	40	68	46	228	41.7
For the last 12 months , have you benefited from similar Project like RESET-II						
• Yes	110	28	48	33	158	28.9
• No	290	73	99	67	389	71.1
In which activities you have benefited from RESET-II						
• Health, nutrition and WASH related activities	225	56	82	56	307	56.1
• Livelihood and NRM related activities	305	76	120	82	425	77.7
• DRR/EW activities	242	61	105	71	347	63.4
• Women empowerment activities such as VSLAs, SAA/ABC	250	63	62	42	312	57

## 4. KEY FINDINGS

### 4.1 Relevance

**EQ1:** To what extent were the Project design and implementation strategies responsive to the need of the target pastoralist community?

*Finding 1: the relevancy of the Project design and implementation strategies responsive is assessed good, in addition to responding to the needs and interests of the direct Project participants, the Project design (LM) displayed good vertical consistency, and the implementation and design of the expected results of the Project are closely aligned with and relevant to the target communities at different level.*

**Project design:** it is the consultant’s view that the Project design was appropriate, because, i) the Project problem analysis and intervention logic model (as it is stated in the LF) were coherent; the five expected results were logically interlinked and contributed to the Project objective, ii) the Project planning approach was participatory and involve Project beneficiaries opinion, due to this process the Project result statement and corresponding activities had not been changed much during execution phase since all of these were originally based on the actual beneficiaries’ priorities and needs. And, in fact, the only revision to the LFM and Work Plan (WP) were made to deep bore water supply. Plans related to construct shallow well was changed deep water borehole construction. These revisions and changes did not affect the Project design.

In terms of planning the Project inputs such as human and financial resources, the Project clearly identified and quantified resources and finance. However, during this process Project participants’ contributions have not fully quantified or recorded, For instance, Project participants have pointed out that they actively participated in the Project design processes, implementation as well as in monitoring and evaluation, provided materials and labour for water points and as such these need to be acknowledged and recorded both in the designing and implementation period.

The overall objective of the Project “to address the root causes of displacement and irregular migration in Borana Zone, Oromia Region through the creation of economic opportunities and increased resilience capacity of vulnerable communities” was difficult to realize within the Project period. In fact, to realize this type of objective, full government commitment, longer implementation period and strong evidence derived from the Project implementation are required. In this regard, the Project conducted training or make awareness about the root causes of displacement and irregular migration to government officials and sector offices. Discussions with KIIs with government offices proved that, the offices supported the Project activities, understand and appreciated the Project results;

nonetheless government plan and effort to buy in and sustain the Project result was limited due to financial resources problems.

**Strategy:** the Project strategies under the five expected results are appropriate, because addressing the key underlying causes of vulnerability and strengthening the livelihoods of the target communities needs a strategy that integrated different intervention components and implementation approaches. Consistent to this, the Project adopted and deployed a comprehensive strategic approach that led to the diversification of opportunities; improve the quality and quantity of basic services; strengthen the local capacity for managing disaster risk; and increase relevant data and promote learning through knowledge management (KM) and research activities. The evaluator learned that, the Project strategy was indeed addressed the Project identified problem in particularly the issues surrounding pastoralist health and nutrition, livelihood diversification, natural resource management problems.

The Project implementation strategies of employing VSLAs, SAA/ABC, Natural Resource Management (NRM), Community Led Total Sanitation and Hygiene (CLTSH), Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP) CVCA were relevant to address the need of the targeted community. Many consulted government sector offices agreed that the Project strategy was appropriate and fit to the community need and capacity, as one KII said:

*“...RESET-II Project by itself was unique; it is not just a single Project rather it is like multiple Projects that have addressed most of the pastoral community problems. Strategies such as NRM committee, water management committee etc...are built on community traditional practices which are easy to sustain and relevant to the community’s needs ...”*

*A voice from government stakeholders KII*

For example, the Project NRM strategy to engage the community in the improvement of rangeland management, production and preservation of fodder was realistic in the project area. The target community agreed that the Project has undeniably built their knowledge and skills of rangeland management; they were able to see their land revived and providing them with enough quality fodder. The Project furthermore enabled the participating households to diversify their income sources through creating access to saving, credit and business development support through VSAL activities. The interviewed women and young members of the community have stated that the Project strategies, particularly VSLAs have enabled them to meet their cash needs for small business and during drought times. As a result they have not had to sell their livestock for cash.

Additionally, the community-based implementation strategy implemented by the Project has provided the target group the opportunity to proactively participate in the NRM activities. Discussions conducted with Project participating households and stakeholders revealed that most of the Project strategies, particularly the natural resource management and water management committee were utilizing the already existing customary practices and engaged influential leaders and were thus received well by the community. The Project first mobilized the community for action, built their capacity and engaged them in the process which then assured independency of the community structures and most of those interviewed have strongly stated that the Project enabled them to discharge their responsibility thereafter.

The Project strategy for addressing gender issues was appropriate. The Project begun by undertaking formative research to critically analyze and identify barriers to women empowerment while the SAA approach enabled the community to identify and take collective actions on social norms that restrict women’s engagement. Those who participated in this evaluation, both women and men, are of the strong opinion that the SAAs are highly relevant to addressing barriers for women empowerment and their community development have allowed them to realize and take action by themselves.

**EQ2: To what extent was the Project able to adapt and provide appropriate response to changing local needs and the priorities of the pastoralist people?**

*Finding 2: The relevance of the Project in adopting and responding to changing local needs and the priorities of the pastoralist people, is assessed good, the Project management structures and capacity adapted and provided appropriate responses*

The Project effectively responds to changing local needs. The evaluator learns that, the Project management and coordination team has been effective in organizing regular joint meetings and discussions on strategic issues. Additionally, the team has organized joint planning, supportive monitoring and consultative meetings to better understand the efficiency of the Project and its ability to address the needs of the communities. It is found that, the outcomes of the consecutive Project management meetings have been used as inputs for responding the community needs that were coming in between the Project implementation. For example, based on supportive monitoring and consultative meetings, the Project management improved the Project activities and supported the woreda Water Office schemes with 4 generators. This support was not in the original Project activity plan but made after consultations with the Project participants based on their changing needs.

The Project under expected result-4, component has established research and knowledge management systems. In this component, the Project has made a study and understands the changing needs of the community. The Project used the study findings and improved the Project activities and better aligns the activities to the changing needs and priorities of the community. For example, i) the Project used the water study findings for the use and maintenance of traditional and modern water sources, for the establishment of a water management committee and ii) the findings of gender study used to design gender responsive plan.

**EQ3: To what extent is the Project design and implementation in compliance with CARE’s 2020 global development strategy?**

*Finding 3: A review of the documentation and interviews of the Project staffs have confirmed that, the design and implementation of the Project results were highly relevant to CARE’s 2020 global development strategy*

Considering the five expected results of the Project intervention included in the Project document, the activities implemented, and final Project results in this evaluation, the Project implementation was found to be closely consistent with CARE’s 2020 global development strategy. It is important to highlight this strong alignment, as it is not only the result of a deliberate action taken when formulating the Project, and it is also an outcome of the CARE’s 2020 global development strategy document and its harmony with reality that responded to the country’s national development programme that focused on addressing resilience through multi-sectorial approaches. This relevance is specified below.

Table 6: Project objectives aligned with CARE’s 2020 global development strategy

Objectives	Aligned Project ER #:				
	1	2	3	4	5
<b><i>CARE’s 2020 global development strategy</i></b>					
1) Lifesaving and humanitarian assistance			●		●
2) The right to sexual, reproductive and maternal health and life free from violence	●			●	●
3) Increase food and nutrition security and resilience to climate change	●	●	●		●
4) Greater access to and control over economic resources	●	●			●

As it is shown in the above table, the Project has contributed to more than one of the above-mentioned CARE’s 2020 global development strategy. Particularly it actively contributed to 2, 3 and 4 outcomes of the global strategy by improving access and coverage of health and nutrition basic services, diversifying, increasing livelihood opportunities and incomes of poor households as well as reducing barriers to women’s empowerment and gender equality. As CARE was not operating in isolation it is expected that these achieved outcomes are cumulative result of action with other delivery partners. The evaluation team was able to note that the consortium partners have shared most of the indicators and their intervention aligned with and contributed for the global outcome indicators. This is a clear indication that the partnership selection has brought value addition in capitalizing gained experiences, pulling resources and creating synergy.

**EQ4: To what extent are crosscutting issues such as gender, disability, environment, and child protection mainstreamed in the implementation of the Project?**

*Finding 4: The relevance of the Project in addressing crosscutting issues assessed good, in addition to responding to the needs and interests of the direct Project participants, the Project sufficiently included and addressed gender, environment, but there is no evidence related to inclusion of disability and adopted child protection procedures*

The Project from the onset committed to mainstreaming gender in all result areas to address social norms and barriers that disempower women and girls. The Project therefore implemented women’s empowerment and gender equality activities under all the expected results with a gender lens, considering context specific gender dynamics in its planning and implementation. Gender mainstreaming specific strategies and guidelines were developed to guide implementers strategically address gender issues under each expected result areas. Guided by these strategies women’s and girls’ participation and benefit were given due attention by analyzing key gender issues under each Project expected results and developing strategies to address the gender issues. The evaluation has generated adequate evidence to strongly show that the Project intervention has gone beyond its target. For example, the Project managed to reach and engaged 70% of women into the Project activities; women were the primary target in the cash for work activities of the Project, VSLAs, SAAs etc. Additionally, the evaluator proved that, the Project used the gender mainstreaming strategies study made by the Project. By using this study, the Project increased women participation in the Project activities, for example women’s representation in the community leadership and their participation in the natural resource management committee, in the range land management committee, in the VSLA and in the SAAs were high. The evaluation analysis indicated that (see table7), 77% of women and 92% participated in cash for work activity and training respectively. Additionally, 72% and 68% participated in VSAL and SAA meetings, respectively. These participations proved that, the Project sufficiently mainstreamed gender in the implementation of the Project activities.

Table 7: Project participant’s participation

Description	Female		Male		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Have you attended one of the VSLA meetings to discuss in the past 5 years?						
• Yes	272	68	90	61	362	66.2
• No	128	32	57	39	185	33.8
Have you attended SAA/ABC group meeting to talk about gender in the past 3 years?						
• Yes	288	72	81	55	369	67.5
• No	112	28	66	45	178	32.5
If yes what kind of benefit						
• Seed	90	25	33	26	123	25.2
• Goat	156	43	29	23	185	37.9
• Cash for work	277	77	110	87	387	79.3
Have you attended any training session in the past 5 years?						
• Yes	369	92	133	90	502	91.8
• No	31	8	14	10	45	8.2

The Project has therefore contributed to a tangible empowerment of women and girls through enhancing their agency, engaging men for transformed power relation and transforming institutions response to providing gender equality and women friendly services as well as fostering women’s financial independency.

Discussions with Project participants and observations have shown that key environmental issues were integrated and concisely implemented as part of the Project activities. For example, the Project has implemented natural resource management activities and rehabilitated range land. During implementation the Project integrated community natural resource management system. These

integration approach plus the implemented activities were sufficiently responding environmental requirements.

Despite the slogan, *not to leave any one behind*, the evaluation team not able to generate sufficient evidence that shows the concern of people with special need and child protection is mainstreamed in the Project activities and plan. Here, neither mainstreaming strategy nor policy found at Project level.

## 4.2 Effectiveness

### EQ5: What progress has been achieved to date against expected results and outputs?

#### Achievements on planned overall objectives

*Findings 5: The degree of the Project overall objective achievement is considered satisfactory as measured by the Project indicators. This performance is seen as a contribution to the EU and government strategy to increased resilience of vulnerable communities and reduces migration in the Project area.*

Table 8: Project overall objective baseline points and end line values

Indicators	Baseline	Target	Mid-term point 2018 <sup>1</sup>	End line point 2020 <sup>2</sup>
Number of people and children affected by severe malnutrition measured through Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM), which is the presence of both MAM and SAM in a population.	7.5% <sup>3</sup>	Below 15% GAM	Average 7.4 (Range from 7.1 to 8.5% GAM, varies from)	Average 7.3
Value of economic loss when compared with previous similar disasters – measured through cost of animal mortality in 2016 per household	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Not available</i>	Birr 21,030 per households	Birr 28,502.10 per household Birr 17,784 (calculated with CPI)
Number of households practicing in dietary diversity (Household Dietary Diversity Score) <sup>4</sup>	Not available	Not available	HDDS=3.1	HDDS=3.3

**Number of people and children affected by severe malnutrition:** Taking into account the data from the monitoring system from the Project office, annual progress reports and Project verification sources, and comparing this information with interviews of Project beneficiaries, as well as field observations, this evaluation has verified that the degree of result achievement is satisfactory for the following reasons. The Project has contributed to reduce the number of people and children affected by severe malnutrition measured by Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM). The results shows, the average GAM value slightly reduced from 7.5 baseline values to 7.3 (see table 8). In fact, the Project target to lower Acute Malnutrition rates among Under 5 children (GAM) was below 15%. In this regard, the Project has achieved the planned target. The main attributing factors for this includes, respondents who have given their children food other than breast milk within the first six months

<sup>1</sup> Source: RESET-II mid-term evaluation 2018

<sup>2</sup> Source: RESET-II end line evaluation 2021

<sup>3</sup> Source: RESET-2 baseline survey August 2017: the prevalence of global acute malnutrition was 7.5% (5.7 - 9.8, 95% C.I.) and severe acute malnutrition was 1.1% (0.5 - 2.2, 95% C.I.), which fell slightly below the alert threshold.

<sup>4</sup> A Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) is a score based on the number of different food groups consumed over a given period. The HDDS is used as a proxy measure for household food security and socio-economic status, rather than the nutritional quality of an individual's diet. Calculate the HDDS for each household surveyed in the sample. A "1" is assigned if any food from a food group was consumed and "0" if not. These numbers are then summed to generate an HDDS for that household; the possible range is 0-12. Calculate the average HDDS indicator for the sample population by dividing the sum of all HDDS' in the survey by the total number of households surveyed multiplied by 12,

decreased from 58%(at baseline) and 31% (at midterm) to 25 % end term value. Interviewed households witnessed that the Project has improved their knowledge and skills in care practices of their children under five. For example, one of the mother to mother support group members at Miyo woreda stated that:

*“... the changes in my children are visible they are happy, healthy, and physically active ... all these was because of the care I made after the knowledge and skills that I gained.....”*

*A voice of women from Mother to Mother Support group*

Besides this, the Project has provided technical and logistic support for health facilities and capacity building trainings on SAM management, IMNCI, HMIS, supply chain management and integrated pharmaceutical logistics system and nutrition. The Project provided logistics support for the existing government structure and health facilities to conduct community mobilization for nutrition screening and health education programme. The support strengthened the health institutions capacity to reach more community with nutrition information and education. This again improved Project participant’s awareness about nutrition. Woreda health office staffs at Miyo, Das and Moyale agreed that the woreda health institutions have developed their outreach capacity and provide better services not only for Project participant but also to the wider communities. Similarly the discussion made with zone health office showed that the support made to the health offices improved the health care facilities, outreach and coverage area.

*“...the support provided improved the service capacity of health institutions. For example, medicines which were not available at health posts and health centers are now available. For instance...before the Project period, Oxytocin was not easily available but now it is readily available in all the health centers....”*

*A voice of Key Informant from Dhas district Health institution*

The Project has supported HMIS through provision of trainings and materials. This evaluation results proved that, the system has improved the health information access and retrieval system. For example, the health service users in the Project area has agreed that now the health centers are responsive and provided better service to their need without waiting too long. This proved that, the Project support has improved the health institutions information management system. Additionally, the solar refrigerator support made to Arero, Miyo and Dillo health institutions have improved the use of vaccine cold chains. The evaluator found out that, this support has significantly increased the vaccine supply and immunization coverage in the Project woredas.

**Number of households practicing dietary diversity:** the Project increased the number of households practicing dietary diversity. Measured by Household Dietary Diversity Score<sup>5</sup>, the result this evaluation analysis shows that there is a slight increase from midterm evaluation point i.e. from 3.1 to 3.3 score. This is because, the knowledge and skills on household dietary preparation has made improved. Women and men focus group discussant have witnessed that the Project has increased households knowledge to dietary diversification. For example Project participants in Miyo, Arero and Dire woredas emphasized that, now they have better understanding about the importance and ways of diversifying household diet with the available food supplies and income they do have.

*“Before the Project period...we do not have better understanding about the importance of nutrition.... the importance of feeding balanced diet to our children..... But now we have a better understanding...the Project has improved our skills about how to prepare a balanced food and diet at home with the food items available in the house.....even now... we are wise in which food item we should invest our income and diversify our diet, particularly for our children...”*

Most of the evaluation participants have witnessed that, the Project cash for work and VSLAs approach enabled the community to gain fresh cash within short time. This benefit has created food access, diversification and utilization.

**Value of economic losses as compared to previous similar disasters:** The evaluation team looked at the cost of animal mortality during 2020 and measured the economic loss based on the current price. Out of all the respondents approached, due to drought and disease 64.4% reported an average loss of 2.5 livestock (cattle, sheep and goats). The result showed the Project contributed decreasing livestock death compared to the midterm point 62% reported on average loss of 7 livestock. The evaluation result equated the loss of livestock an estimated of Birr 28,502.10 per household which is slightly higher than the midterm point. This is in fact associated with the current price index linked to high inflation rate as compared to 2017, the period where the midterm evaluation price was calculated. This evaluation further used the 2020 consumer price index (CPI<sup>6</sup>) and calculated the actual price rate equating to the level of the midterm pint. Following this, the economic loss per household is equal to Birr 17,784. This implies that, the Project has brought a remarkable achievement in supporting the Project beneficiaries for livestock improvement. The major attributing indicators include, the Project rehabilitated range land, support on livestock vaccination campaign and provided hay production training to Project beneficiaries, veterinary training and kits to Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) and Animal Health Assistance (AHAs)

### **Achievements on planned Result-1**

*Finding 6: Progress achieved against planned target to result-1 is assessed as satisfactory, the Project support has contributed to positive changes on improving access and coverage of Health and Nutrition Basic Services, the evaluation assessment in most of the indicators for the Project result-1 had a positive trend as compared to the baseline value, except its effect on children suffering from diarrhea*

Table 9: Result-1 baseline points and end-line value

Indicators	Baseline	Target	Mid-term point	End line point
% children suffering from diarrhea	10.3%	≤ 7.5%	6.8%	19.2%
% of Measles immunization in targeted woredas	92.7%	≥ 95%	91.4%	94.5%
Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	41%	Increased by 10% i.e. 51%	55%	76.5%
Proportion of population using safely managed water services	39%	Increased by 20% i.e. 59%	75%	55.8%
Number of months of self-reported food insecurity	Not available	Not available	81% <sup>7</sup> (3 to 4 months)	21.9%
Proportion of population using improved sanitation facility/latrine	46.5%	Not available	67%	67.3%

**Percent of Measles immunization in targeted woredas:** Measles immunization increased from 92.7% baseline value to 94.5%. The Project has improved Measles immunization coverage by strengthen the supply chain system. The support includes transport of CMAM commodities, medicines, vaccines and medical supply from the zonal and woreda warehouses to health facilities located. Besides, the Project supplied essential drugs to health facilities. Discussion with woreda health office indicated that, following a large-scale measles vaccination campaign began in Ethiopia from June 30 to July 24, the woreda health office has made massive immunization to children ages 9–59 months. The campaign was extended for long period due to Covid 19 to allow for more sessions and smaller crowd sizes. This again improved the scale of measles vaccination.

<sup>6</sup> <https://tradingeconomics.com/ethiopia/consumer-price-index-cpi>

<sup>7</sup> 81% reported they had food deficit from 3 to 4 months every year

**Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel:** Births attended by skilled health staff in this evaluation was reported 76.5% as compared to the baseline value 41% and midterm point 55%. The national average proportion is 34%<sup>8</sup>. The Project has brought a significant achievement. The key contributing factors include the Project and health office staffs has made regular home visits accompanying Behavior Change process and promote balanced diet preparation & household feeding habits, for instance AAH staffs addressed 1,182 (223 pregnant & 959 lactating) mothers through home-to-home visits in Dhas and Miyo. In addition, following home visits, referrals to different services arranged for 134 PLWs. Moreover the Project structures like Mother to Mother Support Group, VSLAs and SAA/ABC were the main contributing factors for improved community awareness on health and nutrition and increased utilization of health services. The community particularly pregnant and lactating mothers developed strong interest and trust in the health institutions services capacity. For example, during interview with pregnant and lactating mother, many agreed that, now health professional home to home visit and health institutions services have improved as compared to

**Proportion of population using safely managed water services:** The Project has improved access to drinking water for human and livestock from an improved source that is accessible on premises, available when needed and free from facial and priority chemical contamination. The improved water sources include piped water, boreholes or tube wells, protected dug wells and protected springs. The evaluation result indicated that, 55% of the target population using safely managed water services as compared to the baseline value 39%. The key contributing factors include: for both human and livestock consumption the project has made 2 traditional Ella, 2 motorized Scheme, 19 shallow well rehabilitations, 4 shallow well drillings, 5 underground water bank , rehabilitations of 8 Sumparsable water scheme, rehabilitations of 14 existing water schemes and 5 new constructions of water ponds in the intervention areas. Accordingly the project has constructed, rehabilitated and supported 90 different water schemes which has benefited 92743 (46003 F) in the life of the project. Besides theses, the project organized Water Management committee and scheme caretakers training, the management has 294 members (114 F). The water management committee is functional and effective. For example, the discussion made with Dire woreda community water management committee has witnessed that the committee collected water fee and allocated the money for maintaining traditional Ella's, as they said:

*"...we collect fee from the community mainly for spare parts and maintenance service for our water points. The money collected can cover all related cost however we do not get enough spare parts and technicians on time...."*

*Water management committee in Dhas district*

**Number of months of self-reported food insecurity:** In evaluating the food insecurity impacts, household food security was measured using a self-reported indicator called the food gap: The number of months the household was not able to satisfy its food needs. The evaluation results indicate 72.4% reported they have faced food gap for the last one year. Of this proportion 21.9% faced food gap from 3 to 4 months which is lower than the midterm point 81% which was measured by the same unit. This implies, the Project support has enhanced the resilience capacity of the households.

The qualitative findings also indicated that participation of the community in VSLAs has contributed for household economic diversification. The VSLA groups across the evaluation district were of strong opinion that their participation in VSLA enabled them to cover their household food gap particularly during drought times, as they said:

*"...in pervious time we do not have other alternatives to cover our household food need during drought time. But now we have income ....most of us even engaged in some IGA which help us to cover some of our food expenses...."*

*Voice of VSLA in Denbi Senbeta kebele, Moyale District*

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.who.int/data/gho/indicator-metadata-registry/imr-details/25>

The Project cash for work approach has also made contribution to decreasing the household's food gaps. Most of the household participated in the evaluation agreed that the income they obtained from cash for work are invested in covering household food while some reported that they invested in accumulating assets like purchase small ruminants.

**Proportion of population using improved sanitation facility/latrine:** Proportion of population using improved sanitation facility/latrine has improved from the baseline value 46.5% to end line value 67.3%. The Project target was 59%. The end line value is in fact slightly higher than the midterm value, which was 67.3%. The Project has improved the result from the baseline value because; the Project has conducted hygiene and sanitation promotion in the schools and health facilities, sanitation and hygiene promotion in the community and in the school. Additionally, health facilities made community awareness campaigns on personal hygiene and environmental sanitation. The evaluators from FGDs and KIIs learned that CLTSH has improved the community awareness on sanitation and ODF. As a result the community massively made efforts to construct norms that encourage the use of improve latrine. For example, in Renji Kebele, Arero woreda and Denbi Senbeta Moyale woreda the evaluator observed that many households are using improved latrine and some even constructed a shower.

**Percent of children suffering from diarrhea disease:** This evaluation shows that, despite the remarkable progress made by the Project in using safely managed water services and improved sanitation facility/latrine which is correlated with the causes of diarrhea the Project effect on reducing diarrhea was not maintained as it was targeted. Higher proportion of (19.2%) children are suffering with diarrhea as compared to the baseline value 10.3% or midterm value 6.8%., the evaluation made further analysis to the root causes associated to this increase. Discussion with health office staffs proved that, for the last once year, many mothers had limited access to oral rehydration therapy due to Covid-19, some women were hesitant to visit health facilities due to Covid-19. Additionally, as stated above the use of improved latrines in some household across the evaluation woredas were reduced. This directly contributed to the proportion of children suffering from diarrhea despite. The evaluator learned that, despite the good achievements observed on the use of improved sanitation facilities/latrine, to a certain extent, in few project areas the community not fully sustain the norm constructed not to use ODF. Further to this, some of the constructed latrines are not properly functional during the evaluation period.

### **Achievements on planned Result-2**

*Finding 7: Progress achieved against planned target to result-2 is assessed as good, the Project support has contributed to positive changes on improving diversified and increased livelihood opportunities and incomes, the evaluation assessment on the progress in all the indicators for the Project result-2 had a positive outcome.*

Table 10: Result 2 baseline points and evaluation values

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Mid-term point</b>	<b>End line point</b>
% of targeted HHs reporting new income sources	Not available	Not available	26%	94%
% of HHs average monthly income	200-500Etb 43% 501-1,000Etb 37% 1200-2,000Etb 15%	Not available	200 to 500Etb 67% 500 to 700Etb 33%	3367 (average) <500 birr 39% 501-1000, 39% 1001-2000 20%
% of targeted HH's reporting saving regularly	18%	10% increase from PY1	12% (this value is related to those engaged in IGAs activities only)	56.6%
Agriculture systems where sustainable land and water management practices have been	12%	20% increase	45.5%	69.3%

introduced				
% change in average yield per hectare from dry land agriculture (crops) <sup>9</sup>	5.75 qtl/ha	Not available	8.5 qtl/ha <sup>10</sup>	5.9qtl/ha
Pastoral ecosystems where sustainable land and water management practices have been introduced	0	Not available	28.4%	27.6%

**Households with average monthly income for new income sources:** the percent of targeted HHs reporting new income sources is 94%. This is a significant increase from the midterm value 26%. The Project participants are generating income from livestock, wage labor, crop production and IGA. This evaluation was able to deduce that 39% have generated 5001 to 1000 ETB from these activities. During the baseline survey, 37% were generating the same amount. Implies, the Project has slightly improved the proportion of Project participants generating income from the same sources. This is mainly because, more Project participants are engaged in IGAs after taking loan from VSLA groups during this evaluation period. The Project has established and strengthens 73 VSALs groups. These VSLA groups have 1,460 members. The VSLAs member has increased their saving and accessed more credit and engaged in IGAs. To further strengthening the VSLAs groups, the Project provides goat, bulls and business training. These support helped the groups to diversify their business, earn more income. The discussion made with VSLA members in this regards witnessed that members have engaged in different business activities and abled to generate better income:

*“...the VSLA helped me to engage in business... I received ETB 3000 loan and opined this shop.... I am earning good profit from this shop business....I covered some of my household expense ... I also bought some assets..... I and my husband discussed whenever we need cash for our home...so that he do not sell our assets...”*

*A voice of shop owner women, VSLA member in Denbi Senbeta kebele, Moyale district*

**Percent of targeted HH's reporting saving regularly and engaged in IGAs through the Project:**

The VSLAs enabled the Project participants to develop culture of saving which most of the respondents witnessed that they have no saving prior to joining VSLA group. The household survey in this regards indicated that, 27.6% are saving regularly, which is higher than the baseline value 12%. Most of evaluation participants agreed that their participation in VSLA has increased their business capacity. As a result they have accessed more loans and engaged in different income generating activities, enabled them to diversify their income sources and save regularly.

**Number of farmers using improved agricultural techniques:** The Project support has brought positive changes on promoting agriculture systems where sustainable land and water management are integrated. During this evaluation period, 69.3% are implementing sustainable land and water management system. This is a remarkable achievement compared to the baseline value 12%. This is because the Project provided drought resistant and early maturing improved seeds (maize and haricot bean) and dry land farming and improved agricultural practices training for model farmers. Discussion with the farmers has confirmed that they have applied the skills and knowledge they have gained from the Project, these are raw plantation, intercropping, organic compost preparation, and fruit tree plantation. These practices and the support they have received have improved the agricultural productivity. The interviewed farmers also witnessed that the practices of improved

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<sup>10</sup> Refer: Haricot bean crops, which is mainly cultivated by project beneficiaries, and interventions related to crop production made by RESET-project,

farming has brought positive effect on other farmers in the nearby area. Some farmers started practicing row plantation and prepare composite after learning and adopting from model farmers, the project has supported 2053 farmer with drought resistant seed and capacity building.

**Percent change in average yield per hectare from dry land agriculture (crops):** The Project support has brought slight changes in improving average yield per hectare from dry land agriculture (crops). Haricot bean average yield per hectare increased from 5.75qtl/ha baseline value to 5.9qtl/ha. This is because; the Project has introduced new ways of intercropping maize and haricot bean. As farmers reported, in most part of the Project area, maize-haricot bean intercropping has been practiced in traditional way and small-scale farmers growing maize haricot bean intercropping, without knowing the negative effect of the system on each other when the population of the crop increase beyond the recommended plant population per hectare. Here, the Project advice the recommend optimum haricot bean arrangement in maize rows and best intercropping practice. The application technique has brought slight yield increase per hectare.

Additionally, under this Project result, the Project supported youth engagement in livelihood activities and improved their economic opportunity. The Project supported targeted youth with entrepreneurship training and provided seed money for new business. With these supports, many youths engaged in bull fattening activity and generated substantial income. The evaluator learned that the Project has achieved remarkable results in Dire, Dhas and Miyo district. For example, the youth group participated in the evaluation has shared their story about how the Project approach and support enabled them to improve their income and livelihood, as they said:

*“...first the Project organized us in groups ..our group has 20 member..., second the Project improved our business skills and capacity through vocational training based on the business types we identified..... third the Project provided to the group a financial support (seed money)... the money was used to purchase bulls for fattening purpose. ...our group received 18 bulls.....since we are working in group no one assumed to dissolve the group because we cannot share the bulls per head rather... we rather kept working hard, made fattening and soled 3 bulls with good prices. We keep working hard and bought 5 additional bulls. The approach helped to form strong groups, benefit more from group work...now the group is active and working well..... Recently we sold some bulls with good prices after fattening...again we bought another small bull for fattening....and we also made a share out ....our group business is growing well...”*

*A voice of youth group in Miyo District*

This result is supporting the efforts of the Project in improving the livelihood and employment opportunities of the youth groups. More specifically, it help in addressing the root causes of destabilisation, forced displacement and irregular migration by promoting economic and equal opportunities, strengthening resilience of vulnerable people, security and development. Despite the above encouraging result in some woredas, the evaluator could not find similar results in Moyale, Arero and Dillo. In these woredas the planned youth entrepreneurship development activities have not fully realized.

**Percent of HHs produced livestock feed/fodder:** The Project supported the community to rehabilitate and conserve 4560 hectares of rangeland. Additionally, the Project provided NRM and hay making training to Project participants, supported the construction of 6 animal fodder storages and organized range land committee management. The support has improved community awareness and practices on NRM, the regeneration of grass in the protected area, hay making practices in the community. For example, some Project participants made bales from grass and saved for drought period. Discussion made with rangeland management committee in Renji Kebele, Arero woreda and Gololcha kebele, Dire woreda proved that, the community saved and stored bales of fodder and managed to feed their livestock for 3 months. This is a remarkable achievement; the practice supported the Project participants to feed livestock during drought period. This again improved milk production. The rangeland management committee members have strong opinion that the practice has improved the pasture availability, quality as well as quantity of feed species.

The fodder preservation practice is one of the government investment plans for importing fodder during drought seasons. The voice of government office has witnessed that the Project significant contributed in this regards saying:

*“... during drought the Ethiopian government agencies usually transport livestock fodder from central Shewa Zone to Borena. The knowledge and skills on rehabilitation, production and preservation of fodder was a critical gap which the Project addressed in the Project area ...”*

*A voice of KII zone government office*

### **Achievements on planned Result-3**

*Finding 8: Progress achieved against planned target to result-3 is assessed as good, as measured by the Project indicators, the Project realized the intended result target, but the woredas offices have limited capacity and budget to execute DRR plan*

Table 11: Result 3 baseline points and evaluation values

Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term point	End line point	Mid-term point
Number of local government Woredas/Kebeles that adopt and implement DRR contingency plans in line with national DRM	29%	Not available	100%	100%
Number of timely responses/early actions using EW systems	45%	Not available	100% <sup>11</sup>	100%

**Number of local government woreda/kebele that adopt and implement DRR contingency plan in line with national DRM:** The Project technically supported and provided training to the Zone and the Woreda DRR offices. The offices had developed Woredas DRR contingency plans (Woreda Disaster Risk Profile) and timely responses/early actions using EW systems (Contingency Plan).

The evaluator further analyzed the functionality and implementation of these developed plans against the national DRR policy. The current National policy on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) was enacted in 2013 by revising and amending the National Policy on Disaster Prevention and Management (NPDPM) of 1993. The revised policy provides a comprehensive framework on disaster risk management with a paradigm shift from emergency response to disaster risk management that follows multi hazard and multi sector approaches. The policy encompasses general directions and major implementation strategies, which includes; decentralization of DRM system, management of early warning and risk assessment, capacity building, and integration of disaster risk reduction into development plans.

To put the DRM policy into action, the government required woredas to develop Woreda Disaster Risk Profile (WDRP), Contingency Plan (CP) and Disaster Mitigation/ Adaptation Plan (DMAP). Consistent to this, the Project woredas had developed WDRP and CP, but missed developing DMAP. This implies that, the woredas still needs a DMAP component for full and complete DRR responses. The evaluator also observed that in many cases the plans are under-funded and the woredas have limited capacity to execute the DRM plans. In summary, the evaluation findings suggested that, the Project support improved local government woreda to partially adopt the DRR plan but the plan are not implemented as it was targeted by the Project.

**Number of timely responses/early actions using EW systems:** the Project provided training to woreda and kebele DRR offices. Additionally, the Project engaged the office in Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP). The PSP is a methods mostly conducted by kebele, it is regular assessments of hazard forecast and collect relevant information on animal and human health /diseases, market, weather, and emergency like flood, disease outbreak etc. and regularly reports to the woreda DRR office. The DRR training and PSP made and promoted by the Project has improved the woreda/kebele

<sup>11</sup> This value referee early warning action taken by the wereda, excluding responsive capacity accordingly all woreda responded to early warring emergency action mainly supported by the project

early warning system. Because, the DRR office early warning information management system is now more efficient and effective as compared to the period before the Project was implemented. For example now, woreda DRR office timely share early warning information to kebele representatives, consecutively the kebele representatives share the information to Project participants regularly and timely.

Additionally, the Project has made effort to link the traditional forecasters (“Ayantu”, “Uchue” and “Mera”) with modern weather forecasters (Ethiopian metrology agency) to jointly forecast the two main rain seasons that are “Genna” and “Hageya”. This effort has also improved sharing reliable weather and early warning information to the community. This community capacity for adapting to climate change reduces the impact of weather shocks on agriculture productivity and other factors. Interviewed early warning committee at Renji Kebele, Dhas and Miyo district witnessed that, the community demand for climate information increased as woreda/kebele DRR staffs proactively share reliable and relevant information. The community has also witnessed that the reliable weather information helped them to take timely action particularly during shortage of rain and floods period.

#### **Achievements on planned Result-4**

*Finding 10: the Project has conducted a number of studies that informed the Project implementation approaches, guide the monitoring and evaluation systems, inform the Project learning agendas, documented and communicated Project learning and best practices*

Under this result, the Project planned to conducted research to better understand the challenges in the existing situation and to identify realistic opportunities for securing positive change. Accordingly, the Project has conducted baseline, midterm and end line evaluation at different time and assessed and documented Project progress at different millstones. Moreover water availability study document and gender strategy research were conducted. These studies have informed the Project implementation approaches. For example the water study informed the Project management to implement shallow well than deep water, the gender study indicated to design local context gender ministered strategy. The kebele level baseline assessments helped to define interventions that address local conditions, design monitoring and evaluation system, conduct a midterm evaluation as well as this evaluation. During implementation, the consortium Project management team has been undertaking in-depth case studies and identified learning agendas and strategies. Accordingly the contribution of VSLAs, SAA’s, water supply have been consecutively studied and documented.

The evaluator learned that, these studies have supported the Project to identify and implement realistic activities for securing positive change, provide adequate data for effective and efficient Project management actions and make concrete recommendations during implementation.

#### **Achievements on planned Result-5**

*Finding 9: Progress achieved against planned target to result-5 is assessed as good, the Project support has contributed to decreasing barriers against women and girls empowerment and the Project sufficiently addressed women’s in household and community productive resource decisions.*

Table 12: Barriers to women empowerment

Description	Female		Male		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Inadequate basic education	175	43.8	1	0.7	177	32.4
Low Self esteem	164	41.0	1	0.7	165	30.2
Gender discrimination	141	35.3	3	2.0	144	26.3
Negative cultural norms like-Early marriage	101	25.3	2	1.4	103	18.8
Lack of leadership skills	94	23.5	1	0.7	95	17.4
Negative cultural norms-FGM	55	13.8	4	2.7	59	10.8
Physical violence and the threat of violence	54	13.5	1	0.7	55	10.1
Violence discrimination	53	13.3	1	0.7	54	9.9

Other roles like child bearing and bringing up	28	7.0	1	0.7	29	5.3
Unwanted/Unplanned pregnancies	26	6.5	0	0.0	26	4.8
Sexual harassment /violence	22	5.5		0.0	22	4.0
Defamation/Sexuality Baiting/Accusations	6	1.5		0.0	6	1.1

The Project promoted gender equality and women empowerment through mainstreaming women's participation across all the expected result of the Project. The mainstreaming strategies and guideline developed to effectively guide Project implementers analyze the gender issues and barrier for women's and girl's participation during implementation of each activities.

The Project has built women's agency and capacity for informed life choice through participation in VSLA, SAA and different trainings provided and as a result women have demonstrated strong agency leading their groups and proactive participation in different community groups. The VSLAs has given women opportunity to exercise and develop their leadership skills assuming different leadership position in VSLA, overall 413 women exercised their leadership skill. Moreover the VSLA is a forum for women and men to raise and discuss their pressing social and economic issues while gathering for saving which developed women's capacity and confidences and transformed men's supportiveness to women empowerment.

Beyond building women's agency the Project has also created conducive environment for women's participation and improved the community awareness on importance of gender equality and women empowerment. The SAA/ABC approach in this regards created massive awareness about barriers of gender equality particularly on importance of women's participation in household and community productive resources, prevention of harmful traditional practices (FGM, early marriage, wife inheritance etc). The evaluation result in this regards revealed that the intervention has significantly decreased GBV particularly sexual harassment and Defamation while inadequate basic education, low self-esteem and dissemination are mentioned the top three barriers for women empowerment which require further intervention. These are mainly interconnected with women's literacy level where 84.3% women have no literacy skill or cannot read and write at all.

The Project achievement raised community awareness and enabled community structures and norms supportive of women empowerment and as result women have represented in different community leaderships particularly in water management committee, natural resource management committee, VSLA and SAA management structures etc. Interviewed women witnessed that they have conscious of their right and developed strong capacity to challenge the power difference and resist denial of their right. Women represented in different community leadership structures has witnessed that the Project provided them opportunity to unleash their potentials and they demonstrated their capacity as quoted below:

*"...when I represented in the water management committee no one believed that as a young women I can perform the duties. As a women in Borena community it is obvious that women have no time to participate in public activities due to high workload. However CARE believed on women's capacity and importance of gender equitable participation in water decisions. The Project has therefore enabled me to utilize opportunities and unlash my potentials. There are two women represented in the water management committee that have seven members. Women's representation is still low but it is remarkable change compared to the pervious time where women have very limited participation and no say in community productive resources...."*

*The voice of female water management committee, Omore Kebele, Dillo District*

The SAA is found powerful community transformation approach enabled the community to re-think the cultural norms restrictive to their empowerment. Accordingly the SAAs across the RESET-II district has made remarkable changes transforming communities action against prevention of GBV and deconstructing social and cultural norms restrictive to women's empowerment. The SAAs confirmed that they have protected girls from GBV as quoted below:

*“...when the married women died the girls in the family obliged to marry the man as replacement. We learnt that this is our norm that disempowering girls. There are a lot of girls below 12 years who were going to marry in such practices but the arranged marriage canceled due to SAA action...”*

*Voice of SAA members in Chule kebele, Dillo District*

The Project has also improved institutions gender transformation to provide gender responsive and women friendly services. The Project therefore worked with the Women, Children and Youth Affairs Offices (WCYAO), the police, schools and local leaders and created community referral systems for gender norms and behavior change. The institutions have supported transformed to gender responsive services and prevention and response of GBV.

**EQ7: How is the effectiveness of Project strategies and approaches? To what extent has the Project addressed underlying causes of vulnerability?**

*Finding 10: the Project strategies and approaches was very effective, sufficiently addressed the underlying causes of vulnerability, the Project results have contributed for addressing the root causes triggering destabilization, internal migration and irregular migration*

The approach to the Project action is based on CARE's 'Pastoralist Resilience Causal Model'. The goal of this model is to have pastoralist 'communities make informed livelihood decisions that diversify risk and increase resilience. The causal model sees resilience as having four basic attributes that includes anticipatory, adaptive, absorptive and transformative<sup>12</sup>. As a strategy, the Project used proven CARE'S, VSLA, CVCA, SAA/ ABC and PSP.

Overall, the Project model and strategy has an overall positive impact on various indicators of the Project. The CVCA tool was effective to gather and analyze information on community-level vulnerabilities and capacities for climate change. It informs the identification of actions, at the community level or more broadly, that support communities in increasing their resilience to climate change. This exercise helps the woreda to develop woredas DRR contingency plans (woreda Disaster Risk Profile) and timely responses/early actions using EW systems (Contingency Plan), in addition to this the project has supported seasonal rain fall assessment on regular basis.

The Project intervention logic is to enhance economic productivity, addressing improved food and nutrition security, and increase access to basic services (such as health and water) that would contribute to effectively prevent and respond to tackling the root causes triggering destabilization, internal migration and irregular migration. Environmental factors and drought-induced food and nutrition crises lead to the depletion of livelihood assets and erosion of the resilience capacity among the vulnerable communities.

CARE Ethiopia Project study and assessments indicated that, livelihoods in the Project area increasingly vulnerable due to climate change and population growth. The natural resources that pastoralists depend upon to support their livestock are diminishing due to climate change extremes environmental degradation, invasive species (e.g. acacia sp.) reduced pasture, changes in land management and poor management of resources. Livestock management and disease is another major challenge. Increasing population and livestock levels put further pressure on the limited resources in the environment. The infrastructure is underdeveloped, and access to markets, quality of, basic services (e.g. health services, education, water and sanitation) is limited. To address these challenges the Project invested in economic opportunities and in long-term resilience building measures with strong links between emergency, recovery and long term development for multiple impacts in curbing irregular migration, in particular by preserving viable livelihoods through increasing productivity and

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<sup>12</sup> Anticipatory =anticipate crises through scenario planning, early warning systems),

Adaptive= adapt over time to an uncertain and changing environment through diversification of risk and local adaptive capacity building,

Absorptive= absorb and withstand the negative impacts of shocks and stresses without loss of assets, lives or livelihoods, transformative=Transform the structural environment policies, institutions, governance, social norms

income, and maximizing direct or indirect employment opportunities for asset-poor groups. The Project investment/implementation has brought positive changes on:

- Health and water supply services and improved measles immunization coverage, births attended by skilled health personnel, population using safely managed water and sanitation facility/latrines services
- Food security and economic status, i.e. reduced months of self-reported food insecurity, improve Project beneficiaries new income sources and average monthly income
- Agriculture and DRR management i.e. prompted sustainable land and water management practices and yield productivity.

Achieving creation of economic opportunities and long-term resilience in the Project area is a huge endeavor that requires tackling a whole range of risks and stress factors, as well as structural causes of vulnerability with effective packages of short and long term interventions. Explicitly, the Project integrated approaches and realized results have significantly contributed for addressing the underlying causes of vulnerability. The VSLA approach created saving and credit access to the Project participants, and with this credit some engaged in new business (IGA) activities and star saving. This approaches improved the resilience capacity of the Project participants. The capacity of the households to absorb the most common shocks, such as droughts, has increased as they have engaged in new business and become less reliant on a single source of income. This has also implications in improving the resilience of the community as a whole, as households are better able to provide informal support to each other.

### 4.3 Efficiency

#### EQ9: Were activities of individual organizations and for the overall consortium cost-efficient?

*Findings 11: The overall Project budget allocated was adequate. And with a high financial expenditure position, 99% burn rate, it is the conclusion of this evaluation that the costs incurred were reasonable to achieve the Project results accomplished.*

Table 13: Project budget and expenditure

Budget line	Budget reallocated	Cumulated costs	Burn rate%	Budget share%
Human Resources/Travel/Equipment	2,991,388	3,083,228	103%	47%
ER1: Improved Access to Basic Services	1,598,452	1,826,054	114%	28%
ER2: Enhanced livelihood income and diversification of opportunities	1,489,375	1,286,086	86%	20%
ER3: Improved Disaster Risk Management Capacity	194,928	222,752	114%	3%
ER4: Enhanced Research & Knowledge Management	113,000	60,837	54%	1%
ER5: Reduced Barriers to Women's Empowerment	146,440	151,181	103%	2%
Subtotal Other	3,542,195	3,546,910	100%	54%
Subtotal direct eligible costs of the Action	6,066,177	6,135,513	101%	93%
Indirect costs (maximum 7% of 7, subtotal of direct eligible costs of the Action)	424,632	429,486	101%	7%

10. Provision for contingency reserve (maximum 5% of 7, subtotal of direct eligible costs of the Action)	109,191	0	0%	0%
Total accepted <sup>1</sup> costs of the Action	6,600,000	6,564,998	99%	

The budget and expenditure financial statement received from the Project office until the end of December 2020 were analyzed for this end line evaluation. The total committed budget was Euro 6,600,000 and the sum of Euro, 6,564,998 has been spent at a burn rate of 99%, suggesting a full Project financial expenditure as a result of almost complete Project activities. All financial transactions were made according to the agreed Project budget plan. Budget analysis by categories indicates that significant amounts of the Project budget were allocated to eligible costs of the action i.e. 93% and indirect cost's fees 7%. It is the view of this evaluation that, these shares are very reasonable and justified as the Project achieved the tangible results, for instance the Project has brought significant impact on improving access to basic services and livelihood income and diversification of opportunities. The budget share to this result was 28% indicated that the Project concisely allocated more share to the Project results that brought better impact. The large shares allocated to these results are justifiable given that fact that the Project has brought in these areas.

**EQ10: What is the adequacy and timeliness of inputs in relation to carrying out Project activities? Was the Project implemented in the most efficient way as compared to alternatives?**

*Findings 12: the Project implementation approach and complementarity nature of its development with Project participants' needs and priorities are the key factors contributing to efficient implementation of the Project activities and results.*

The Project was implemented in the most efficient ways because during implementation of the Project, the below features were conducive to its efficiency:

- The Project implementation approach has successfully enabled the leveraging of Project partners' technical resources i.e. Project partners were using their own resources including staffs during implementation, for example AAH used their staff to train woreda health staffs. These synergies have directly led to a reduction in the costs associated with implementation of certain activities such as recruitment of trainer/consultant;
- The Project efficaciously complemented its stakeholders' plans and thus was able to achieve synergy for better resources utilization. For instance, the Project provided training to woreda health staffs or woreda veterinary offices as part of its capacity building activities and in turn, the woreda health staffs or veterinary staffs cascaded the training to Project beneficiaries following their plan;
- The Project outputs are coherent, interlinked and complemented each other in a positive and mutually reinforcing manner adding to the overall Project's effectiveness and efficiency;
- The Project management consecutive meeting made on the technical standards of construction of Project structures with low cost and locally available materials particularly construction of animal livestock fodder storage and water structures contributed for Project cost efficiency.
- CARE's reputation contributed in creating an enabling environment and smooth partnership with Project stakeholders at woreda level for effective delivery of the Project activities; and

**EQ11: How is the existing Project management, and monitoring, evaluation and reporting capacity of the Project?**

*Findings 13: The Project has developed a strong M&E system; the system contains basic M&E components. Cases on effectiveness of Project strategies have been identified and studied during the Project period. However monitoring formats to capture study outputs/outcome survey results were not developed and implemented.*

The Project monitoring and evaluation system has basic monitoring components: revised and updated

LFM, monitoring plan, monitoring tools and monitoring reporting format, corporate internal monitoring database system and is fully operational. Its functionality made it easy to obtain reliable, timely information about interim progress reports generally but also during this evaluation period.

It would, however, be useful if the Project could develop a learning framework to capture the Project learning that helps to provide information to the Project result 5. This is a missed opportunity.

During this evaluation visits and consultations, it was evident that Project offices of OSAH, AAH and CARE Ethiopia, have kept records, produced activity reports and shared these with the relevant stakeholders. This is a very good lesson. This would ultimately improve wider Project data gathering, the capturing of wider Project learning as well as allowing the Project to extract and produce evidence document which in turn inform the implementation process. The M&E system helped all to take informed collaborative actions, improve the Project accountability and learning system which could be sustained beyond the life of the Project.

At Project level, the Project made joint monitoring and evaluation but the support from head office by the steering committee was limited.. As one Project partners puts it: *“Joint monitoring and sharing across the Project consortium was not yet happening to a great extent.”* There was room to further maximize the comparative advantage of the Project and effectiveness of results through more timely review meetings and joint monitoring missions across all the Project partners. However, the head office support made by CARE LDM manager, CARE pastoral Unit head, CARE Netherland, water program unit was effective and vital. The support improved the project overall effectiveness, take management action on time and implement new ways of doing. Greater collaboration across the Project partners can help to swing interests and raise the potential of informed actions, future collaboration, funding avenues, and opportunities for cross learning and in some cases the chance to strengthen joint implementation. But this was not done to the extent possible.

#### **4.4 Impact**

##### **EQ11: What were the wider effects of the Project - social, economic, technical, and environmental on individuals (gender, age-groups), communities, and institutions?**

*Findings 14: The Project has brought positive effects on individual, communities and institutions capacity to adaptive to shocks through diversifying their economic opportunities and rehabilitation of their natural resources.*

The implementation of different interconnected activities has brought positive economic and technical impact on the targeted household through improved knowledge and skills on diversification of economic opportunities. This is evidenced that where 94% of evaluation participants confirmed that they got new income sources during the Project. The evaluation participants strongly emphasized that their new economic opportunities and additional income improved their capacity to withstand shock. The young generation have also developed business skills and engaged generating their own income through business development and financial support of the Project contributed to minimizing youth migration in search of better economic opportunities. Young married youth in Dhas, and Miyo witnessed that most of them were going to migrate in search of better opportunities and the Project has enabled them to secure their livelihoods.

Gender equality is promoted and social norms restrictive to women empowerment and gender equality has been challenged and brought wider effect on community gender transformation. Women and girls have therefore developed agency and confidence to resist violence against their rights. VSLAs are strong community institutions that provided opportunity for poor women to participate in public activities and access to micro finances to ensure their economic independency.

Service provider formal and informal institutions capacity developed through pastoral infrastructures development particularly water and pasture access and human and livestock health service. The Project has therefore improved responsive service delivery that meet the need and interests of pastoralist potential to reduced migration in search of better economic and service.

The concern of environment mainstreamed across Project results and accordingly the community developed strong capacity to protect their natural resources. The rangelands have been regenerated producing quality fodder and storage facilities introduced that contributed for the well-being of pastoralist livestock.

**EQ12: What positive and negative, intended or unintended long-term results have been produced/likely to be so far by the Project either directly or indirectly?**

*Findings 15: The Project has made positive intended long –term results on strengthened traditional system of natural resource management, enhanced knowledge and skills on economic diversification, nutrition and sanitation etc.*

The Project support has realized enhanced individual knowledge and skills on economic diversification, natural resource management and restrictive social norms that result long term changes in community adaptive capacity and ensured suitability of the action. The acquired knowledge and skills transformed to practices the household and the community to demonstrated new knowledge particularly diversifying their income sources, rehabilitating their natural resources, proper management of water schemes, deconstructing social norms that are disempowerment of women and girls, proper carrying and dietary diversification etc.

The Project has also brought positive intended results transferring skill to customary and traditional structures leading the Project activities. This structures has developed capacity to lead community development particularly water structures and natural resource management which ensure continuation of obtained results in water and pasture access. The VSLAs become strong community social institutions contributed for household resilience during drought providing alternative access to cash.

**EQ13: What are the important lessons and best practices of the Project?**

*Findings 16: The implementation of interconnected results and strategies of the Project has brought lessons and best practices.*

- The engagement of customary and traditional social structures in natural resource management and water structures and ensuring that they are in the driving sit at early stage of each activities is important lesson and best practices of the Project that ensured community ownership and management of the Project.
- Promoting traditional and customary fodder preservation the “Kallo” system and community livestock fodder storage is lesson and best practices of the Project that motivated and encouraged the community to prepare for shocks and disasters.
- The care practice of nutrition and sanitation through Mother to Mother support group is the best practices and lesson of the Project brining the common interest group to collective action and the practice improved the health status of children under five and pregnant and lactating mothers.
- The mainstreaming of gender equality and empowerment of women across Project expected results enabled women to have opportunities, representation and proactive participation in different community leadership positions.
- Working with National meteorologist and traditional climatic information forecasters while implementing PSP is one of best practices because trusted information will be documented and shared

#### **4.5 Sustainability**

**EQ14: How have been the communication, collaboration and coordination of CARE Ethiopia, AAH and OSHO one another and with other stakeholders?**

*Findings 17: Project partnership was effective and laid the foundation for the smooth implementation and sustainability of the Project, mainly because of the partner agreement signed between CARE, OSHO and AAH. Besides, each partner has a good Project organizational structure and was functioned as it was expected, especially in the area of Project management and operations, enabling effective, efficient implementation of Project activities. This progress is reflected in its good capacity to respond to initial delays.*

The Project uses the Partner Agreement as a Partnership Strategy Document. OSHO signed agreement with CARE-Ethiopia and AAH signed agreement with CARE-International, before implementation, in addition to bolster relationships, the Project managed to define reciprocal relationships, deliverables and budget within the agreement. These agreement documents have been used as bases to establish institutional commitments and are mutually beneficial alliances where roles and responsibilities have clearly been defined. Interviews with Project staffs have confirmed that, the partnership with CARE (the lead agency) was effective because of the agreement by facilitating trust, shared vision, commitment to the Project objectives and continuous two-way learning. The coordination includes joint planning, reviewing, experience sharing and cross learning, resource sharing, joint monitoring, reporting and budgeting.

At the start of the Project, implementation of activities were delayed due to the lack of key personnel. Yet, it is evident to this evaluation that the organizational structure and chain of accountability functioned as planned. It should be noted here that, the Project team revised the Project work plan and LF, which prompted effective and efficient implementation of the Project activities and outputs. Moreover, the Project team members have clear targets, outcomes and deadlines established in the revised WP and LF for each of the outputs for which they are responsible for and have applied a work approach that focused on compliance in a timely fashion. Thus reducing possible implementation deviations and optimizing resources and time devoted to performing the activities. The technical staff and the M&E officer successfully incorporated and implemented results-based monitoring and evaluation system, which prompted effective and efficient implementation and accountability system.

**EQ15: To what extent have Project activities implemented so far been carried out in a context which takes longer-term and interconnected problems into account as well as reinforce the local development efforts?;**

*Findings 18: The activities implemented by the Project are technically viable and easily be managed by the Project beneficiaries and government office and effective reinforcing the local development efforts.*

The implementation of the Project activities are community based that built on the capacity of existing community structures. Particularly for water structures and natural resource management, the Project has built on existing structures and customary practices. For example the Project promoted the customary system of “Kallo” that preserve and store fodder for weak and milking animals. Similarly the Project has given priority in enhancing the capacity of traditional water schemes like Ellas.

The Project strategies like VSLA, SAA/ ABC, CVCA are well communicated with local actors through capacity building trainings and the evaluation participants have witnessed that the approaches and strategies are technically viable and could easily be managed by the Project beneficiaries and government office. This is evidenced that where VSLAs have brought model effects and new groups established by themselves in most of the RESET operational districts. Interviewed VSLAs in Moyale in this regards witnessed that the Project has only established 3 VSLAs while new 9 VLSAs were established by their own initiation. The project has established new VSLA groups and strengthened existing ones. In total 73 VSLA groups were strengthened and established, in the groups 413 women benefited and exercised leadership role.

**EQ16: What is the likelihood of sustainability of the Project achievements and impacts, including financial, socio-economic and institutional framework?**

*Findings 19: The Project's overall design, approach and strategy have facilitated significant amount of results at different levels. As the Project consciously lodged itself into the Government's resilience strategies and Project participants' needs, this conscious decision has created an enabling environment for the work achieved so far to carry on beyond the life of the Project.*

The below outlined points explain why the benefits achieved will continue beyond the Project lifespan:

- Policy support: the fact that the Project has successfully aligned itself to governments' resilience program and policy, means it was able to create an effective and conducive space for the Project's activities and learning to impact the government's future plans, for example the already rehabilitated range land can be sustained and the government policy support the implementation and sustainably reserved the land for rangeland purpose;
- Project led capacity building: the Project through its integrated capacity building components has been designed as a sustainable initiative i.e. by training Project participants for example VSLA, crop management, sanitation and health etc. providing hardware support (VSLA kits, water supply infrastructure, bulls, goats) and directly supporting to mainstreaming of relevant approaches such as DRR plan, will mean that the capacity acquired during the Project will remain within Project participants and woreda offices and will continue to bring about relevant changes. For instance, evidences collected during interviews with woreda health offices strongly suggest that the skills and supports acquired by the Project will be embedded into their ongoing activities such as measles immunization and attending PLW
- Financial sustainability: it was encouraging to see VSLA groups continue the Project's activities with their own saving, for instance goat fattening VSLA groups planning to use the savings for new business such as bull fattening. However, some offices like water office, DRR offices may face difficulties in continuing the Project activities as their budget for repair and maintenance of water points, implementing DRR plan are very limited. Moreover the DRR office shared opinion that the sector have not allocated budget to continue coordinating the PSP forum for consolidated metrology and traditional weather forecasts. However, the Zone DRM is coordinating other NGOs operating in the zone, continuing the coordination and facilitation of the PSP workshop, which is a step forward from previous periods, for example the zone coordinated the PSP workshops on February after RESET II phased out. This is one of the key evidence that the zone office buys in the PSP approaches, sustained the PSP activities and allocated resources.
- Technical viability: Project activities promoted were in line with the Project participants' knowledge capacity for example the NRAM management and VSLA approaches were closely related their existing needs. According to feedback provided to this evaluation, it is evident that the NRM or the VSLA activities introduced by this Project will continue. Furthermore, the Project implementation approaches related to water management structures were technically viable and could easily be managed by Project beneficiaries, who are ready to continue the activities after the Project ends. But activities like use of improved latrine need strong follow up and attention by the health office.

**EQ17: Did activities contribute/likely contribute to individuals being more prepared, resilient and less at risk than before?**

*Findings 20: The Project has increased the adaptive capacity to prepare and resilience capacity to withstand shocks.*

The obtained results under each expected interconnected results explicitly conclude that the Project activities enhanced households and communities adaptive capacity and contributed to become resilient to shocks. The Project support addressed three broad and interrelated areas of community vulnerability to disaster that are material, social/institutional and attitudinal support. The Project intervention on NRM, improving access and utilization of health and water services, improving productivity of livestock and crops address the material vulnerability of pastoralists while the Project

establishment of community institutions particularly VSLA enhanced the social and institutional capacity of the community and as result the community is well organized and cohesive to withstand or recover from disaster better than those who are not organized.

In this regards the evaluation has noted that VSLAs members have better able to help each other at times of disaster than groups without such shared beliefs. Moreover the Project has enhanced positive attitude regarding vulnerability and this evidenced that most of the households developed knowledge and skills to diversify their economic opportunities as copying mechanisms during shock.

Systems for early warning developed capacity for providing timely and downscaled climate information while fodder production and reservation through community livestock fodder storage contributed for households and community more prepared to be less at risk and resilient.

**EQ18: What is the level of community participation and ownership of local development efforts? How Project implementation strategies and approaches like Cash for work arrangement contributed towards that?**

*Findings 21: The Project approach and strategies are highly participatory that built on existing community structures and customary practices that ensured ownership*

The Project implementation approach is highly participatory that engaged the community and government stakeholders at different level. Targeted community and stakeholders confirmed that they proactively participated since the inception of the Project activities while community group formation is mainly on voluntary bases. The Project approaches have given opportunities and alternative to diversify their livelihood and develop capacity to withstand shocks while the decision is left for the community. This is boldly reflected by the VSLA members where they witnessed saying:

*“... we voluntary organized our VSLAs and we also know that after a year we have the right to leave or dissolve the group. However with our decision to continue with VSLA our group is existed for the last four year and we never want to dissolve because we are benefiting from our VSLA to support our livelihoods...”*

*A voice of VSLA in Dire District*

To ensure the ownership of the development efforts local actors have been well trained on Project implementation strategies and approach. In this regards efforts made to transfer skills of VSLA, SAA/ABC group formation and facilitation of community discussion to respective government stakeholders through training and engagement in formation of groups and implementation of the activities are realized.

**EQ19: How is the participation of stakeholders, including regional and local governments in the implementation of the Project?**

*Findings 22: Government stakeholders at different level participated at different activities of the Project throughout the monitoring, implementation and supportive supervisions.*

Consecutive meetings and consultation have been made with regional and local governments' particularly on key strategic issues of the Project. Accordingly the Project has benefited from strategic direction of the consecutive consultations particularly harmonizing the Project approach with similar programs implemented by government. In this regards the RESET-II Project implementing partners made remarkable efforts to harmonize community labor contribution with PSNP approach accordingly standards set for payment of cash for work. To ensure the ownership of the Project targets the cash for work has been for 75% of labor contribution where the rest 25% is community contribution to the Project.

Moreover the key stakeholders at different level had proactive participation in joint planning, implementation and supportive supervision of the Project. The NGO desk in this regards strongly emphasized that the Project is highly participatory and consortium members were proactive

participants of the GO and NGO forum sharing best practices and lesson during the zonal GO and NGO forums.

**EQ20: How is the Project is integrated with PSNP and similar interventions by other actors in the target areas;**

*Findings 23: The Project has well integrated in the PSNP harmonizing working procedures. Project activities and strategies are complimented the PSNP and shared objective of improving livelihood and nutrition services.*

The Project activities were well integrated with the PSNP 4 program and contributed to the achievement of the PSNP objectives. This was done by ensuring that households who are included in the PSNP-4 are also engaged in the Project activities. The evaluation proved that 58% of the respondents are member of the PSNP-4 beneficiaries (ref: table 5). The aim of this collaboration was to strengthen and diversify household level livelihoods, improve household resilience, and support the graduation of clients from PSNP-4. This implies that the Project integrated PSNP beneficiaries and harmonized working procedures. For example, the Project approach for community social and economic empowerment like VSLA and SAA is also perfectly aligned with the government efforts to empower women and gender transformation under PSNP program. Additionally, PSNP 4 was an important pillar that the Project builds and expand upon through ongoing coordination with implementing actors in the Zone and woreda offices, for example the Project closely work with the woreda food security office and DRR offices. The Project strengthens these offices capacity with complementary approaches with PSNP 4 in implementing community DRR activities.

#### **4.6 Communication and Visibility**

*Findings 24: The communication and visibility of the Project assessed against EU requirements. The visibility and communication plan developed and appropriate visibility have been made at different level.*

The visibility of EU and implementing partners are well communicated at different level. Project implementing partners have clear understanding and knowledge regarding the application of EU Communication and viability. To effectively guide Project implementers' communication and visibility guide developed and activities that require visibility are critically identified and accordingly appropriate visibility made in all the identified activities of the Project. The evaluation team observation revealed that the visibility are made timely when the activities are started and are visible on the structures both the office and community level that are completed before close out of the Projects and recently completed.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

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### **Conclusions**

The designing of Project expected results and implementation of the activities are interconnected and highly relevant addressing the priority need of the community and the root causes of the problem in the targeted area. Particularly the objective are found appropriate responding to the problem of pastoralist health and nutrition, livelihood diversification, natural resource management and pastoralist infrastructure. However the relevance of the Project result responding to pastoralist marketing approach has limitation. Moreover despite the Project has clearly set of indicators to measure the expected results of the Project it lack clear indicators in the logical framework to measure or track progress on women empowerment and gender equality, under project expected result-5.

The relevance of the Project designing to priority need of the community and development programs in the area has increased community participation and ownership of the Project. The community and government actors proactively participated in the Project management sharing resources and experiences.

The Project is highly effective and fully achieved the planned targets under each expected results while in some cases over achieved planned activities and targets. Most of the indicators have shown

progressive positive results indicated towards achievement of the overall goal of the Project contributing of increasing resilience and decreasing irregular migration.

The Project has ensured the independency of community structures. However some of the structures were under implementation during the evaluation like solar water schemes and the evaluation team noted limitation in proper phase in strategy.

The implementation Project activity and approaches are efficient, the Project employed proven Project strategies and approach that easily integrated in the existing system. The Project management consecutive consultation on the standard and technical uniformity of Project structures enabled to accomplish activities particularly the physical structure of the Project with cost efficient ways.

The evaluation result has conclude that implementation of the different interconnected activities has enhanced the community adaptive capacity and resilience to withstand shocks. This is mainly evidenced that the Project support contributed to enhanced individual and community knowledge and skills on diversifying economic opportunities, natural resource management and promoting the empowerment of social institutions and women. Positive changes have been documented on children affected by severe malnutrition, economic losses are decreased, household dietary diversity score improved, successfully restored rangeland and improved pasture, improved agricultural and livestock productivity, improved livelihood diversification contributing to enhancing household greater resilience. The service provider institutions particularly health intuitions and DRR system supported by the Project provided responsive service.

There is strong indication of suitability of obtained results and Project structures. In this regards the Project has built the technical, economic and social capacity of individual, household, community and institutions through active participation and engagement in Project activities. Some Project structures like NRM committee, water management committee, VSLAs, early warning committee etc are independently working and ensuring the sustained impact of the Project.

### **Recommendations**

- This evaluation result indicted that Project design did not adequately address the marketing system approach to resilience. It recommended is highly recommended to consider marketing system approach in similar intervention to understand the pastoralist market system and where vulnerable people exist in this system to ensure that pastoralists benefited from the market and become resilient;
- The water points rehabilitated and constructed need strong follows up of maintenance by the respective government offices. It shall be the responsibility of the government office to assist the community in identifying local community agent's or dealer that supply spare parts and provide maintenances service;
- The evaluation result has revealed there is limitation in proper phase in, phase down and phase out approach in certain Project structures like youth entrepreneurship and water schemes. These are not fully completed and handed over structures to the respective community and government during the evaluation period. Particularly the youth business development activities and installation of solar underground water in Omore Kebele need strong follow up;
- The Project promoted gender equality and empowerment of women through mainstreaming across each results of the Project. Social restrictive norms are clary studied and accordingly strategies developed to address the identified gender issues. However despite Borena community have numerous positive norms that promote gender equality and empowerment of women this has not well researched and a missed opportunity to maximize the gender equality results;
- The Project has made efforts to link traditional and modern weather foresters through the PSP forum. Through, the PSP supported in the functionality of early warning system through provision of timely and relevant information, the action requires strong lobby with regional and zonal government for allocation of resources to sustained PSP activities;
- The Project enabled the community to deconstruct social restrictive norms to community development and gender equality while constructed positive norms that promote community

development and gender equality. As nurturing the new norm require time there should be strong follow up and monitoring until the norms are well nurtured and fully practiced otherwise the tendency that the community practice the deconstructed norms is high as observed in the CLTSH.

## **6. Annexes**

Annex-1: Terms of Reference

Annex-2: The evaluation Matrix

Annex-3: List of respondents

Annex-4: Data collection instruments