

ANNEX VI: FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT

OMO DELTA PROJECT: EXPANDING THE RANGELAND TO ACHIEVE GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION



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OCTOBER 25, 2022

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Acronyms

AAAR	African Agency for Arid Resources – AAAR
ADNIS	Animal Disease Notification and Investigation
AHA	Animal Health Assistants
Acacia EPZ	Acacia EPZ Limited - Gum Arabic Trader
AHP	Animal Health Post
BBS	Basic Business Skills
BMU	Beach Management Unit
CAHWs	Community Animal Health Workers
CBCU	Cross-border coordination unit-CBCU,
CCPP	Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia
CCU	Consortium Coordination Unit
CDRs	Community Disease Reporters
CEC	County Executive Committee
CfW	Cash for Work
CIFA	Community Initiative Facilitation and Assistance
CHV	Community Health Volunteers
CMDRR	Community Management Disaster Risk Reduction
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
DOVAR	Disease Outbreak Vaccinations and Activity reporting (DOVAR)
DLS	Desert Locust Scouts (DLS)
EMCs	Environmental Management Committees
EMFB	Ethiopia Micro Finance Bank
EPaRDA	Enhancing Pastoralists Research and Development Alternatives
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPZ	Export Processing Zone
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ETFRUIT	Ethiopian Fruit and Vegetables Corporation
EU	European Union
EUTF	European Union Trust Fund
FTC	Farmers Training Centre
F	Female
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GIRL	Girl Improving Resilience with Livestock (GIRL Model)
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
ICPALD	Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development
IDC	Internal Data Cooperation
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
IGA SPM	Income Generating Activities Selection Planning and Management
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
KALRO	Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization

KCB	Kenya Commercial Bank
KEFRI	Kenya Forestry Research Institute
KFS	Kenya Forestry Services
KMFRI	Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute
LMS	Livestock Market Systems
LSD	Sheep and goat pox and
M	Male
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MEALTWG	MEAL technical group-MEALTWG
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
M.O.U	Memorandum of Understanding
MC	Mercy Corps
MEAL	Monitoring Evaluation Accountability and Learning
MSD	Market System Development
MT	Metric Tonnes
NAIC	Net Attributable Income Change
NCE	No Costs Extension
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority of Kenya (NEMA)
NGAAF	National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF)
NRM	Natural Resource Management
ODP	Omo Delta Project
OMFI	Omo Micro Finance Institution
OSS	One Stop Shop
PACIDA	Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance
PACT	Partners for Community Transformation
PDS	Participatory Disease Surveillance
PHV	Public Health Volunteers
PMU	Project management unit-PMU
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal Approach
PPE	Personal Protective Equipments
PPR	Peste des Petits Ruminants.
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP)
PTC	Participatory Training Centres
PVP	Private Veterinary Pharmaci
PWD	People with Disability
REAP	Rural Entrepreneur Access Project
REAP	Rural Entrepreneurial Access Project - (REAP Model)
RAHLI	Regional Animal Health Laboratory Institutes (RAHLI)
RESULT	Resilience Building for Sustainable Livelihoods & Transformation
SECCCI	Support for Effective Cooperation & Coordination of the Cross-border Initiatives
SEEK	SELAM EKISIL - EC Program
SC	Steering Committee
SMEs	Small and Micro Enterprises
SMS	Short Messaging Service

SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region
ToT	Training of Trainers
TUPADO	Turkana Pastoralist Development Organization
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VICOBA	Village Community Banking
VSF G	Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Germany
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
VSLAs	Village Saving and Loaning Associations
VIP	Ventilate Improved Pit
WUAs	Water Users Association
WAPC	Ward Adaptation Planning Committees (WAPC)
WDP	Ward Development Plan
WDPC	Ward Development Planning Committee
WUA	Water Users Association
WHO	World Health Organization
WRA	Water Resource Authority (WRA),
YES	Youth Empowered for Success (YES Model)

1. DESCRIPTION

- 1.1. Name of Coordinator of the grant contract:** Eunice Obala
- 1.2. Name and Title of the contact person:** Christian J. Griebenow, Managing Director, VSF Germany.
- 1.3. Name of the beneficiaries and Affiliated entity (ies) of the Action:**
 - 1.3.1. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Germany (VSF Germany)
 - 1.3.2. Mercy Corps Europe (MCE)
 - 1.3.3. Vita/RTI Ltd
 - 1.3.4. EPaRDA – Enhancing Pastoralist Research and Development Alternatives
 - 1.3.5. CIFA – Community Initiatives Facilitation and Assistance (CIFA)
 - 1.3.6. TUPADO – Turkana Pastoralist Development Organization
- 1.4. Title of the Project:** Omo Delta Project Expanding the Rangelands to Achieve Growth and Transformation
- 1.5. Contract Number:** 0S-EUTF-HoA-REG-26 - T05.449 (T005)
- 1.6. Start date and End of the Action:** 52 months (28th December 2017 – 28th April 2022)
- 1.7. Target Country (ies) or Region (s):** Ethiopia (South Omo and West Omo Zones) & Kenya (Marsabit and Turkana Counties)
- 1.8. Final Beneficiaries & /or target groups (if different) (including members of women and men)**
- Not different
- 1.9. Country(ies) in which the activities take place (if different from 1.7) –** Not Different

2. ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES

2.1 Executive summary of the Action

2.1.1 Global overview of the action for implementation

Omo Delta Project “*Expanding the rangeland to achieve growth and transformation*”, was a cross-border (Kenya-Ethiopia) project designed to contribute to the EUTFs objective of addressing the drivers of instability, irregular migration, causes of poverty and displacement. It was implemented in five Woredas of the SNNPR (Dasanach, Hammer and Nyangatom Woredas) and (Surma and Maji Woredas in West Omo Zone) and in North West Kenya (Marsabit and Turkana Counties). The project ended on 30th April 2022). Out of the targeted 45,000 HH, the project reached 84% 37,591HHs (18,044 women, 2,631 men and 16,916 youth who demonstrated increased household income by Euros 1,059 in three years out of the projected Euros 600. The project further reduced the displacement and irregular migration from 52,930 households (at baseline) to 10,314 households (at project end), a decrease by 42,616 households (80.5%). The two overall project goals were achieved through the specific objectives below.

Specific objective 1; ‘*to promote the economic and private sector development and greater resilience, particularly among vulnerable groups (women, youths and displaced people)*’, the project increased the population with disposable income from by 84% from 435 as baseline to 37,591HH as result of expanding their options towards diverse social, economic roles. 2,995 individuals (1,393 women, 731 men and 868 youth took up leadership roles compared to 730 at the beginning of the project.

The specific objective was realised through three main outcomes/results;

- Result 1 - Increased wealth of young people in particular and especially young women: *The project created employment, job opportunities through entrepreneurship for 14,682 individuals (7,039 women, 1,018 men and 6,625 youths) who were reached with diversified wealth creation capacities through diverse and innovative approaches VSLA, YES, REAP, TVET, Basic Business skills, life skills, VICOBA and GIRL interventions. The beneficiaries’ women, men and youth have gained wealth by earning from paid employment or becoming self-employed.*
- Result 2 - Accelerated trade and collaboration nationally and cross-border areas. The capacity of 305 animal health experts was strengthened through trainings, start-up kits and 4 functional technology-oriented systems (ADNIS, DOVAR, Closed User group and County electronic disease surveillance and response), developed to support efficient surveillance, reporting and timely disease control responses for healthy livestock for trade. Trade and collaboration were also accelerated through productive sector development for increased quality produce through climate smart agriculture (crop, horticulture and fodder) production, fisheries, improved livestock breeds and strengthened value chain system.
- Result 3 - Increased stability to promote growth and protect gains: The project in collaboration with respective government departments and IGAD mapped out local natural resources, adopted market-based utilization of the natural resources and supported multi-stakeholder cluster framework of engagements. Cross-border dialogues, strategic water infrastructures, rangeland rehabilitation and sustainable management, protection of Acacia Senegal trees, fodder production, Ward Adaptation planning, mutual resource use frameworks and coordination mechanism created a conducive environment for effective collaboration, strengthening social networks, leveraged peaceful co-existence and dividends of livelihood security and economic growth.

Specific Objective 2: ‘*to strengthen coping capacity and resilience against negative effects of multi-phased crises (COVID-19 pandemic, cholera disease outbreak, locust invasion and floods) through access to accurate information, distribution of hygiene kits and personal protective equipment and safeguard livelihoods in cross-border areas*’ was realised through the main outcomes/results.

- Result 4: Strengthened awareness of COVID 19 pandemic and cholera disease outbreak, and better hygiene practices to reduce infections and manage fatalities. *A total of 36,506 HH were reached with IEC materials including posters, with an additional 161,415 individuals indirectly*

reached through radio broadcast. A total of 104 campaign sessions were organized to spread mass information and education.

- *Result 5: Increased access to appropriate hygiene facilities and protective equipment by communities and government institutions for prevention and control of COVID 19 pandemic and cholera outbreak. A total of 112 handwashing facilities were set up by the project and placed in 51 strategic public service places that increased access to hygiene services to 11,463 community members. The facilities provided included 2,200 litres of liquid soap, 6,000 bar soaps, 11,000 litres of sanitisers, 19,000 pieces of face masks and 100 boxes of gloves supported the COVID-19 response.*
- *Result 6: Improved financial and food security and well-being of VSLA groups and vulnerable households; the project improved food, nutrition and income security of 6,003 vulnerable households that were severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, cholera outbreaks, drought through food baskets, e-vouchers and multi-purpose cash transfers.*
- *Result 7: Reduced damage to the livelihoods by Desert Locust invasion and floods in ODP locations; The project supported 10 zonal and county desert locust control teams for desert locust surveillance, 12,090 beneficiaries reached with emergency veterinary interventions, water trucking, livestock feed supplements, and fodder production*

Emergency intervention integration in Omo Delta Project:

In course of the project implementation, the project areas experienced multiple and recurrent hazards (floods, drought, desert locust invasion, COVID-19 pandemic and cholera outbreaks) whose shocks impacted negatively on beneficiaries and their neighbouring communities thus increasing the level of vulnerabilities in their lives and livelihoods. The project responded to these shocks by activating the crisis modifier and the contingency budgets lines and implemented two cycles of emergency interventions (August 2020 to April 2021 and December 2021 – March 2022). The overall objective of the emergency interventions was to reduce risk exposure and cushion Project beneficiaries and their neighbours from multiphase crises and shocks on lives and livelihood resilience. The specific objective of the emergency interventions was to enhance; the project beneficiaries' coping capacity and strengthen their resilience from the negative impacts of the multi-phase crisis through; increasing access to correct information, distribution of hygiene kits and personal protective equipment, saving lives, safeguard livelihood and mitigation against crisis through recovery support locally and across the areas. The emergency interventions cushioned 32,005 households (Kenya 13,382 and Ethiopia 18,623) against the multi-hazards impacts and enabled their ability to bounce back and successfully engage in the implementation of livelihood resilience building interventions.

The program's central strategies focused on private sector development, creation of local and cross-border economic opportunities for exploitation especially by youth and women in their respective groups, strengthening of national labour force and markets, promotion of production and productivity of key livelihood sectors, and sustainable natural resource management. Similarly, the project sought to enhance regional and national coordination of state and non-state actors to accelerate trade and collaboration nationally and cross-border, and increase stability and peace to promote growth and protect gains. The adoption of gender and socio-economic transformative agenda built on the pastoral and agro-pastoral economy, social networks, structural and socio-economic equity, and climate change resilience created a future for the beneficiaries at home.

The Project contributed to improving the resilience of economic, environmental and social systems; opened economic opportunities and diversification of livelihoods for vulnerable pastoral and agro-pastoral households and persons (particularly women and youths); business groups; private sector entities and communities in selected target Woredas and sub-counties. The project interventions have enhanced their capacities to better manage risk and resources, and successfully transform their

livelihoods and socio-economic status. Overall, the project contributed to building the resilience of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities to the impacts of social, economic and environmental crises.

2.1.2 Achievements of Outcomes of Final Beneficiaries against the target group

2.1.2.1 Update on Overall Objective

Overall Objective 1: Increase the income of 45,000 HH direct beneficiaries by Euro 600 per HH during the life of the Project.

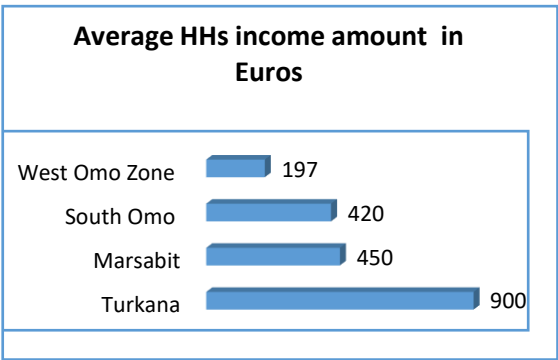
O.O.1 Indicator: # of household with increased income (>600 EUR by the end of the project)

The project had targeted to support 45,000 HHs (South Omo 16,351, West Omo 6,149, Turkana 13,760 and Marsabit 8,740) to increase their income by Euro 600 per year by the end of the project. Though all the targeted beneficiaries were reached, 84% 37,591HHs (18,044 women, 2,631 men and 16,916 youth) of them formally reported an accumulative increased household income average of Euros 1,059. In addition, the project in-directly created employment for 1,652 (803 women, 443 men and 406 youth) beneficiaries in Marsabit and Turkana counties and 191HHs (125 women and 66 youth) in Ethiopia. The in-direct beneficiary households reported increased accumulative income of Euros 406,346 and Euro 9,572 in Kenya and Ethiopia, respectively. The multiplier and spill-over effects were attributed to cross-border programming design of the project that promoted trade locally and cross-border areas and facilitated establishment of networks and mechanisms for coordination of the activities.

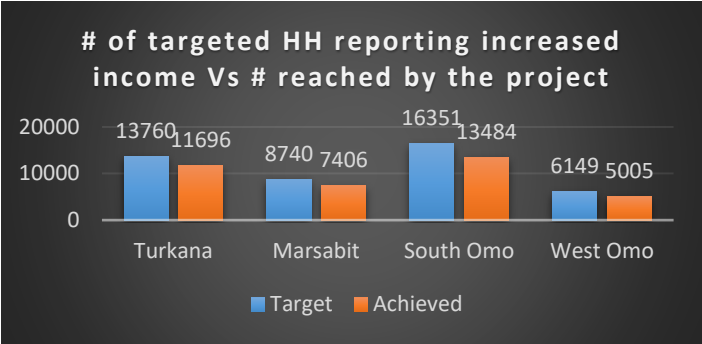
Co-funding projects contributed to more targets reached under livestock, Business/Trade, EMC/NRM and emergency interventions. These projects impacted 43,652 households (direct and indirect beneficiaries) through vaccination/treatments of 2,586,339 heads of livestock exceeding the target of 2,450,533 resulting in reduced disease prevalence, morbidity and mortality rates. Drivers of this achievement were enhanced emergency response, surveillance, extension services and established functional cross-border coordination mechanisms for livestock diseases control. Other key effects of the project activities were realised in; IGAs business groups, VSLA/VICOBA/REAP schemes and Yes business clubs, TVET entrepreneurship, job creation, climate-smart agriculture, livestock, pottery technology production, agriculture, e-Voucher digital trade value chain actors, fisheries enterprise actors through BMUs and Cooperatives and Gum Arabic Associations.

The increase in income at the household-level was attributed to beneficiaries’ engagements in diversified livelihood activities locally and in cross-border areas to generate income. The sources of income for the beneficiaries were realised through the following multiplier effect:

- Trade and IGA groups (*VSLA/ VICOBA/GIRL, TVET, REAP and Yes club groups*) for wealth creation increased incomes and employment.
- Climate-smart agriculture (irrigation and shed-net drip farming),
- Enterprise groups (commodities, grinding mill, livestock fattening, restaurants, pottery, retail shops, tour guide, livestock trade, TVET skills-based business),
- Fisheries enterprises (*fish cooperatives and BMUs*),
- Livestock cross-breeding and husbandry –Borana camel, Borana Cattle, Black Head Persian ram and Gala Bucks.
- Emergency cash injection (e-voucher system and PNSP cash envelopes), livestock production (CAHWs and PVP sales), and *Gum Arabic* and fodder production and trade.



Strategic economic empowerment and livelihood asset protection was adopted by the project. This improved gender equality and enabled women, youth and special groups to take up more leadership



roles and increased their access, ownership and control over productive assets and production. The project diverse interventions increased wealth creation and increased income, attitude change for entrepreneurship and local employment, livelihood value chain system, market system development, TVET, life-skills, incubatory services, financial literacy and

numeracy, financial institutions linkages, cash transfer, technology innovation, productive assets protection, commercial oriented rangeland rehabilitation, water resources and fodder production.

As a result of the project, cross-border trade thrived along the major corridors, namely: Marsabit-Dasanach- Hammer Woredas – Marsabit, Gabra-Borana, Turkana- Dasanach Woreda and Turkana - Nyangatom. These corridors enhanced cross-border trade despite being far from Moyale-Marsabit border where infrastructure for trade and migration between Kenya and Ethiopia is well established. Besides the thriving cross-border trade, small scale trade in items such as household goods and food stuffs, farm tools, fish, livestock, fuel, Gum Arabica and veterinary drug stores in established cross-border markets, only 40% of the trade volumes was formally recorded by respective government departments. Some of the goods traded informally, mainly fish sold in Lake islands and livestock trekked to primary and secondary livestock markets were not captured. This was due to limited number of government staff deployed in these areas.

Overall Objective 2: To reduce risk of exposure and cushion communities in Omo Delta from multiphase crisis (Covid 19 pandemic, cholera, desert locust invasion and floods) and shocks on lives and livelihood resilience.

O.O.2 Indicator: % Reduction in displacement and irregular migration by end of the project.

The number of displaced persons reduced from 52,930 households during baseline to 10,314 (1,050 Turkana and 9,264 South Omo, Dasanach Woreda). The reduction was attributed to reduced conflicts over grazing resources due to mutual resource-sharing frameworks developed, enhanced livelihood security, cross-border networks and improved resilience to the disasters as result of the project interventions. Most of the beneficiaries were affected by the common hazards including drought, Covid 19, conflict, cholera and floods. The project provided short-term relief using the Crisis modifier and Contingency budgets and delivered emergency interventions that cushioned them against severity of impact and urge to emigrate. Engagements in productive activities, economic empowerment and livelihood recovery initiatives also discouraged migration. Communities were able cope with the losses because of strengthened social fabrics, livelihood protection and recovery initiatives that reduced their stay in IDP camps by 6 months before they returned to their original locations in the project areas.

The integrated emergency interventions increased access to accurate information on early warning of disasters, timely responses and coping strategies that enabled beneficiaries to adopt appropriate measures that reduced their exposure to risks of infection and spread of diseases and invasion of Desert locust. A total of 36,506 HHs, 114% of the targeted 32,005HHs were reached through emergency response and strengthened their capacities and resilience against the negative effects of the multi-phased crisis. Of the total households Covid 19 awareness creation reached 6,421 HH, hygiene promotion, 11,463 HH, improved financial and food security 7,055 HHs and 11,567 HHs received information on how to mitigate negative coping strategies. They adopted risk exposure mitigation measures by using appropriate hygiene and sanitation facilities as well personal protective equipment.

The livelihood activities were negatively impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic. Prevention and Control measures instituted by the two countries disrupted household livelihood activities, reduced income sources, and food insecurity. The project supported 6,003 vulnerable households with basic food and essential hygiene supplies using e-voucher system and multi-purpose cash transfer. In Kenya, the food items were provided through 250 VSLA groups which had received business grants from the project and prepositioned food items. In Ethiopia, cash envelope for food distributed adopting PNSP criteria. This cushioned the beneficiaries against the impact of Covid 19 pandemic preventive and control measure. The emergency intervention increased household income and improved local economy through stimulated trade among project beneficiaries and the business chain actors (trader groups/vendors, transporters, whole-sellers, finance institutions and casual labourers).

The project enhanced livelihood safeguards by reducing damages and losses on key livelihood assets such as livestock, crops and businesses. These were achieved through enhanced livestock disease surveillance reporting system, early warning and responses to livestock diseases. Strengthened human resource and logistical capacity for community level and government stakeholders for prompt response, and investments in recovery activities. A total of 73 hectares of agricultural and fodder farms destroyed by floods were rehabilitated through reseeded and fodder production improved on barren rangelands while water access was improved through investments in livestock water infrastructures.

2.1.2.2 Update on Specific Objectives

Specific Objective 1: To promote economic and private sector development, and greater resilience, particularly among vulnerable groups.

The project enhanced economic and private sector development for resilience particularly among 37,591 households' vulnerable groups (e.g. women, youth and displaced person) who earned cumulative average income of Euro 1059 across the three main project result areas. In addressing the social inequality in the project considered gender, age, ethnic groups and disability issues and concerns during identification and selection of beneficiaries. The Project, worked with beneficiary selection committees, integrated gender sensitive targeting of groups and individuals with lower economic capacity. The beneficiaries were linked with actors in the trade and livelihood value chains, local and cross-border traders; a strategy that catalysed their economic growth. The project increased the technical and business skills for wealth creation of vulnerable households who engaged in diversified and sustainable livelihood activities; commercial livestock management, fisheries, agriculture, fodder, *Gum-Arabica* and pasture) and were able to access economic opportunities nationally and at cross-border levels.

S.O.1. Indicator1: % of the population with increased disposable income expanding their options towards diverse social and economic roles per year disaggregated by types of sources of incomes, gender and age (women and youth).

At least 84% (37,591HHs) of the 45,000 households supported, each reported having increased their disposable income by average Euro 353 annually compared to 435 HH in 2018. This was attributed to expanding their option toward diverse social and economic roles, enhanced ownership and control over economic and livelihood initiatives. The beneficiaries developed capacities and engaged in profitable income generating activities including, skilled employment, skilled self- employments, financial services and reliable markets and value chain networks locally and across the borders.

S.O.2 Number of youth and women taking leadership roles in their income-generating groups:

At inception, project selected 146 registered youth and women groups (76 in Turkana and 70 in Marsabit) with 1,898 members with 180 out of 720 women in 5 leadership positions (chairperson, treasurer, vice and secretary). By end of the project number of women and youths in 599 groups supported by the project stood at 2,995 (women 1,393 and youth 869 and 731 men) compared to the 730 members who held leadership position at beginning of the project in 2018. This showed a significant

improvement in capacity and economic empowerment of youth and women and changes in attitude, gender roles, ownership, access and control over household resources and assets. For example, youth and women now make strategic business decisions on profitable business and/or employments related to technical skills acquired and also compete for leadership positions. This is a breakthrough in changing existing cultural and gender barriers.

2.1.2.3 Project Outcomes Update

Outcome 1: Increased wealth locally for youth and women in particular.

The impact was attributed to project support on technical and business skills, access to incubatory services and linkages to trans-boundary markets and formal trade in cross-border areas. The project adopted diverse strategic approaches -VSLA/VICOBA, GIRL, REAP – YES, Basic business and life skills- tailored to needs of beneficiaries and consortium partners' expertise and aligned to needs and local dynamics.

Oc1.1. Increase in number (#) of employment/job opportunities created per year as a result of the project disaggregated by gender and age.

The project created employments and job opportunities for 14,692 individuals (7,039 women, 1,018 men and 6,625 youths) compared to 435 at beginning of the project through being employed or self-employed based on the skills acquired.

Project adopted diverse innovative approaches including VSLA, YES, REAP, TVET and Basic Business skills and life skills, VICOBA and GIRL for capacity building that enhanced beneficiaries capacities in to engage in profitable businesses. Various groups earned cumulative Euros 4,004,562 in 4 years of the project. Through the project, support 2,317 new business were opened by 6,740 people (4,051 women 1,431 men and 1,258 youth) and created direct employments for 1652 people (803 women, 443 men and 406 youth) which with in-direct beneficiaries offering services within the businesses value chain system in cross-border areas earned Euro 303,346 annually.

Outcome 2: Accelerate cross-border and national trade and collaboration.

OC Indicator 2.1 Increase in trade volumes (MT/Kg) in areas where peacebuilding and stability initiatives have been implemented disaggregated between "cross-border trade" and "local trade"

The project increased production and productivity in agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors for increased food security, nutrition and income at household level. The project introduction of improved and adaptable practices and technology.

Improved animal health service delivery:

The project accelerated cross-border and national trade and collaboration through animal health services. Access to animal health services was improved by established four (4) functional technology-oriented systems (*ADNIS, DOVAR, Closed User Group, County Electronic system for disease surveillance and reporting*) for livestock disease information, surveillance and control in South Omo / West Omo zone, Turkana and Marsabit. Functional animal health coordination mechanisms for service providers between Kenya and Ethiopia and; enhanced access to reliable 9 veterinary drugs supply facilities, one veterinary drug revolving scheme and extension services from strategically developed to strengthen public and private animal health supply chain and supporting infrastructure.

The functionality and efficacy in the animal health service delivery system and coordination mechanisms was realised as a result of enhanced human resource capacity through a robust team comprising of 305 (128 CDRs/102 CAHWs and 75 Veterinary Experts). The project achieved 133%, in this line. A total 305 of the target 230 public and private veterinary professionals and extension assistant's capacity built and supported between Kenya and Ethiopia. The project also enhanced access to reliable disease reporting system and veterinary drugs supply from public and private animal health supply chain and supporting infrastructure (9 (5 AHPs, 4 PVPs) and one veterinary revolving kit) located in strategic cross-border areas characterised by livestock migration routes and high livestock population grazing areas in cross-border areas.

The 75 veterinary experts (Kenya 35 and Ethiopia 40 (28 in S. Omo and 12 S. Omo Zone)) were trained on participatory diseases epidemiology tailored to local context and needs and established networks for regular information sharing and improved collection of accurate and quality information. Cross-border disease response harmonization triggered 50 PDS, annual disease calendars and regular surveillance reporting associations established during the project period. The 169 CAHWs/CDRs (67 in Kenya and 102 CHAWs in Ethiopia) and 82,202 livestock farmers contributed to improved and timely reporting as a result of increased capacities in detection of disease symptom, diagnosis and transmission of the report to respective governments for action. They have gained the confidence to share information on the detected symptoms and seek appropriate extension services from chain suppliers and extension services providers.

The turnaround from surveillance reporting and control responses was shortened from minim one month to less than one-week due value addition of the four digital technologies introduced during the project and successful transition from manual to real-time reporting systems in Kenya and Ethiopia. The project reduced disease morbidity and mortality through the vaccinations and treatments provided to 2,586,339 out of the 2,450,553 livestock in the revised targets. Out of the total livestock vaccinated and treated (424,619 were in Turkana, 325,000 in Marsabit and 1,801,000 in South Omo/West Omo Zones benefiting 113,592 livestock owners' households (86,034 MHH & 40,748FHH). The livestock assets were protected against TADs (FMD, PPR, CCPP, Camel Pox, Sheep/Goat Pox, Foot rot, Trypanosomiasis, Mange, Helminthosis, and Tick infestation amongst other internal and external parasites.



At least 82% , 82,202) (51,333 males and 25,059 female) out of the 99,795 livestock owners (32,774 in Turkana, 13,176 Marsabit, 36,425 South Omo, 17,576 in West Omo) who acquired knowledge on syndromic disease surveillance disseminated through awareness missions and extension service outreaches have largely contributed in disease reporting.

Livestock farmers in remote and hard-to-reach areas now have access to reliable and quality animal healthcare services through an effective public-private partnership (PPP) model for drug supply and extension services adopted by the project in areas with limited presence of veterinary experts. Besides the AHPs, 70 CAHWs and 4PVPs established sold drugs worth Euros 15,665.25

For example, in Turkana VSF Germany constructed a private vet pharmacy (PVP) in Lokamanyang, equipped with solar-powered cold chain system and prepositioned it with essential veterinary drugs and supplies. The border area, is known for high livestock concentration grazing and migratory route to Ethiopia. The PVP is managed through 'agent outreach business model'. Guided by implementation framework Memorandum of Understanding signed between Project, County Government of Turkana (technical quality control and oversight) and a female qualified and certified private vet practitioner selected through a competitive process to offer day to day management. The PVP offers regular and reliable outreach and extension services to beneficiaries at facility and through 150 agents spread in surrounding villages and grazing areas and linked to 18 CDRs to support in disease reporting and livestock vaccination.

The project interventions in animal health service delivery system were integrated with fodder production, rangelands rehabilitation and sustainable management. This improved the livestock health conditions, while the disease prevalence, morbidity and mortality rates reduced by 95% and livestock production and productivity increased.

- *The livestock mortality rate at baseline in 2018 was 249,434 (cattle 18.3% - 29.7% and shoats 12.7% - 20.2% in the project areas.*
 - *In Turkana, according to County Government of Turkana Veterinary Department, the average mortality rates livestock is 1-4% by end of the project indicating a reduction compared to 2018*
 - *Marsabit, the mortality rate for livestock reduced by 75% (62,358) attributed to the timely livestock diseases responses*
 - *South Omo –the mortality rate for livestock decreased above 95%. This is attributed to the impact of the strategic vaccination campaign and livestock treatment of 1,801,000 livestock*

Agriculture Development:

The project promoted sustainable climate smart agriculture production practices tailored to local context and dynamics for increased food security, nutrition, employment and income generation among 3,440HHs (100% target) in Ethiopia (South Omo and West Omo Zones) and Marsabit (Dukana Sub-County). In South Omo Zone, the project adopted climate smart irrigation agriculture practices optimising on the water availability at River Omo. In West Omo Zone, the agricultural production relied on rain-fed farming while in Marsabit, shed-net and water conservation drip farming technology were introduced and connected to boreholes. The project enhanced technical production and post-harvest management, business, financial, marketing, governance and management capacities, organized the beneficiaries in farming groups, mentorship and extension services, provided appropriate inputs and equipment's, governance, market information and linkages nationally and cross-border areas.

The agriculture producers transitioned from groups to cooperatives, diversified production with value



addition and optimised income through linkages to animal feed processing companies. Feed processors used raw materials (fodder and agriculture by-products) to make feeds. As a result, the project increased agricultural production, productivity and income from baseline (2018) 0.37MT to 2,015 MT in 2022 in areas where peacebuilding and stability initiatives had been implemented. At least 92% 3,181HHs out of the 3,440 HHs (1515 Women, 997 youth, 928 men) reached by the project reported increased income of Euros 465,660 from the 2,015MT harvest produced - maize,

sorghum, rice, vegetables, Banana and assorted fruits harvested from suitable land cultivated. Only 3,181 HH out of 3,441 reported This translated to an average Euros 146 per households.

- *2,300 HHs (1,005F, 715 youth 580 men) increased production of high value cereal crop (maize and sorghum from 0.37MT baseline to 1,728MT of cereals (908.5MT sorghum, 791 MT Maize and 28.5MT Rice) cultivated on 530Ha and generated cumulative income of Euros 398,769). Out of the 2,300 HHs (South Omo zone 1600 (768F) and West Omo Zone 700HHs (237F) with 200 in Surma and 500 in Maji.*

- *1,140 HHs (510 women, 282 youth and 348men) increased horticulture production from 0MT at baseline to 287MT - Vegetables 202MT, Banana and Fruits and realised income of Euros 66,801*



Linking of Fruity Process Company in Addis to the banana fruit producers in Dasanach Woreda for regular supply of good through negotiated partnership framework promoted bulk sales and better price deals increased income compared sales through brokers.



Fisheries development:

The project has increased fish production and productivity and income in Turkana, Marsabit and South Omo as a result of enhanced fishery capacities of fisher folk communities and local institutions (BMUs and Cooperatives) and adoption of appropriate fish harvesting techniques and storage facilities, quality fish handling and hygiene standards and sanitation practices, protection of fish breeding areas. Better governance and leadership, strengthened local and cross-border value chain system, access to markets and financial institutions nationally and cross-border areas. Enhanced cross-border collaboration among fisheries actors, reciprocal agreements for mutual fish resource utilisation resulted to establishment of functional value chains actors' networks. As a result, the project realised increase in fish volume and trade from baseline 1,890 MT to 220,075 MT, while income increased from Euros 1,129,707 to Euros



4,143,889 by the end of the project, benefiting 1,102 HHs (BMUS and Cooperative members) in areas where peace and stability have been restored. This increased their average cumulative household income of Euros 3,760. *For example, in South Omo Zone 180 members of 3 fish cooperatives that were not involved in fishing activities before the project harvested 203MT of fish and generated cumulative income of Euros 19,736.*

Improved fishing practices, use of appropriate gears then enhanced access to deep water with high fish population led to harvesting of mature fish sizes. Proper fish handling and hygiene during processing, drying, storage (fresh and dry fish stores), proper disposal of wastes and transportation to the market reduced wastages, improved fish quality and value, and increased income, a game changer in the industry.

Fish trade is thriving along cross-border corridors of between Marsabit (Ileret)- Bubua, Dasanach Woreda, Marsabit – Kisumu, Marsabit & Turkana – Busia (Uganda), Turkana – Nyangatom, and Nyangatom/Dasanach Woredas – Other cities in Ethiopia (Jinka, Addis Ababa). This is attributed to the impacts of capacity building, cross-border coordination and reciprocal agreement on fish resource utilisation and conflict resolution mechanisms, financial and market linkages, financial literacy, established value chain networks, good governance and sustainable management practices. The project only targeted a portion of the fisheries group and therefore more gains can be achieved through future replication of these successes, best practices, lessons for multi-plier effects as cross-border activities.

Improved access to markets and market information, and value chain networks eliminated exploitation by brokers and increased profit margins e.g. Fish traders in Turkana and Marsabit linked to regional and international markets (Lodwar, Marsabit, Eldoret, Kisumu, Addis Ababa) and international markets (Busia-Uganda, Congo) reported increase in income from sales by 30%.

Livestock Improved cross breeding

The project improved livestock production and productivity among the targeted beneficiaries through the introduction of quality cross breed species for improved quality of local breeds and produces; and husbandry practices e.g. breeds adaptability, housing, signs of disease and their treatment, feeding and watering, production, milking, common Diseases and prevention and breed quality control.



The project introduced 675 out of 650 targeted improved cross breeds livestock to 2,075HHs of 2,050HHs comprising 104% and 102% respectively in Kenya and Ethiopia for improved, food insecurity, nutrition and income of beneficiaries. The introduction of cross breed animals was based on their suitability to adapt to the local ecosystem and environment and

beneficiary's preference. Improved production and productivity were achieved through capacity building, appropriate husbandry skills transfer, marketability, practical demonstrations, mass education (radio talk shows) cross learning, exposure visits on improved husbandry, mentorships, fodder production, access to extension services.

Intensive awareness, participatory and gender sensitive transformative approaches were adopted in the process of selection of beneficiaries, capacity building and management, strategic targeted engagements of culture and government rights holders and local influencers (decision makers), joint review and reflections on the existing traditional norms, reconstruction of norms and practices that addressed barriers and support sustainable implementation of the cross-breeding interventions. Gender issues and barriers to livestock ownership, access and control especially by women and youth were exhaustively discussed; and right holders and influencers commitments obtained with them staking more significant role as change agent and protection of the women beneficiaries of camels and leading to socio-political transformations.



The project adopted gender sensitive and transformative approaches that informed strategic engagements and lobbying with rights holders and opinion leaders in Nyangatom Woreda where the community had initially rejected women and youth's involvement and ownership of camels. As a result, the project realised changes at personal and socio-political levels through women and youth considerations in livestock asset ownership, control and access, role division and inclusivity. The beneficiaries, opinion leaders, custodians of culture and local authorities were capacity build through gender sensitive awareness, trainings and learnings acquired from exposure visits to neighbouring Hammer Woreda VSWG RESET camel beneficiaries which solidified their commitment to embrace of inclusivity. As a result, 50 women and 8 youth out of the 250 camels' beneficiaries targeted benefited and were motivated with monitoring indicating that the husbandry practices and production was best among women and youth camel owners.

The project supported vulnerable, poor and livestock drop outs with 675 (250 heifers & 25 bulls' camels) and 200 cattle in South Omo, Ethiopia; 50 gala bucks and 50 black head Persian sheep in



Turkana and; 100 gala backs in Marsabit, Kenya. The beneficiaries equipped with appropriate skills on each species. In Additionally, 360 livestock owners in Marsabit were capacity build on improved camel husbandry, camel milk value chain, exposure visit, market linkages and provision of appropriate inputs and equipment's

The project, the beneficiaries realized a sense of food security, better nutrition, increased income and livelihood resilience to climate shocks.

Increased Production

- *Cross-bred sheep in Turkana sells at 40 Euros compared to local breed £ 25- 30. The differences in prices is attributed to body sizes.*
- *In Marsabit, cross breed gala bucks were bigger in sizes and fetched between Kes. 7,000-9000 (£58.58 - £75.31) compared to local breeds that goes between Kes. 2500- 5,000 (£20.92 - £41.84*
- *Local breed cattle milk is 0.5 – 1.7 litres compared to 3 – 4 litres per day from cross breed cattle.*
- *eight of cross breed gala-backs and black head Persian rams doubled compared to local breed with local goats weighing 15kgs Vs 30kgs for cross breed while local rams weighing 14kgs against 21kgs of Galla backs.*
- *In Ethiopia cross breed camel milk per day from 0.5 – 1.5 cattle compared to 8-10 for camel selling @ 4Euros 42 per litre.*
- *Goats produced 0.25 -1.5 litres compared to cross breed 2 – 3litres*



By the end of the project 68 bulls had mated with the local cows/heifers and produced 68 improved breed calves. 13 out of the 250 camel heifers had given birth while 49 were heavily pregnant.

The beneficiaries reported that the camel breed introduction was most appropriate considering the frequent and shorter circles of drought episodes triggered by global warming and changing environmental conditions that results to deferred and depleted forage for livestock.

Outcome 3: Increased stability to promote growth and gains

OC Indicator 3.1. Increase in produce (MT) from productive sectors (farm produce in MT/meat/MT and fish/MT) in areas where peacebuilding and stability initiatives have been implemented”.

Omo Delta project was implemented in conflict-prone areas as a result of inter-community conflict (Borana–Gabra, Hammer–Dasanach, Turkana–Nyangatom and Gabra– Hammer). Conflicts have been key drivers to forced migration in the project areas that hosts internally displaced people, returnees and host communities. The project adopted conflict sensitive programme approach ‘Do no Harm’ to ensure that the project interventions did not escalate the existing political and socio-economic tensions. To prevent more conflict and displacement, the project in collaboration with respective government departments and IGAD engaged the local communities in digital mapping of natural resources locally and cross borders to inform the design and implementation of the resilience building activities. Multi-stakeholder cluster framework of engagements created conducive environment that enhanced effective coordination, strengthened social networks and leveraged synergies among implementing partners, local institutions, government departments (national and local), and communities internally and cross-border dialogues level.

The project adopted the strategy of market-based utilization of natural resources. Market-based mechanism to improve natural resources management not only improved resilience through sustainable adaptation to climate change but also improved productivity and income generation at household level. For example, protection of Acacia Senegal trees to increase Gum Arabic production, harvest and sale to generate income. Peaceful co-existence and mutual resource utilisation has been achieved through the social capital impact resulting from networks and contacts built through cross-border dialogues that created synergies for conflict prevention and resolutions. Project thematic partnerships, formal

coordination mechanisms (including M.o.U and joint plans) and management structures established nationally and cross-border levels created a platform and recipe for nurturing peace and stability. Sustainable peace and stability achieved under the project was influenced by the opening up of cross-border operations and social capital of the cross-border trade, animal health services and networks, fisheries, water and natural resource committees established. Other drivers for peace included inter-community and cross-border dialogue meetings, joint trainings, joint planning, peace caravans, exchange visits, shared infrastructures developed (3 boreholes, 7 ponds, 2 dams, 3 underground tanks), market facilities, and veterinary interventions (vaccinations and treatments).

For example, the 15 water structures developed have provided have reduce water resource based conflicts among cross-border areas due to increased daily water yield of 84,350Cm3 for the 3 boreholes throughout the year and cumulative storage of 190,320 litres for domestic use by 12,814HHs (8,403MHH & 44,11 FHHs) and 3,370,850 livestock. The water shortage period was reduced from 8 – 9 months to between 3 – 4 months annual cushioning the transition between wet and dry seasons. The trekking distance reduced from over 40km to lest than 1km (20minutes). While daily water while daily water consumption increased from 20litres per day to 50-60 litres daily.

Cross-border services utilisation through negotiated access rights by neighbouring communities strengthened peace. Commercial approach to pasture and fodder/hay production and Gum Arabic trade, conservation, pasture reseeding and fodder production practices created tangible employment opportunities for youth, women and men. The project increased acreage of pasture lands under sustainable and effective rangeland management through community engagements, trainings, provision of inputs, intra-inter community user agreements frameworks, planned grazing, removal of invader species and pasture seed bulking for next season, and rangeland conservation mechanisms.

By end of the project 2,428 HHs rehabilitated 1,293 hectares, harvested 3,348.76 MT of hay and fodder and generated an income of Euros 1,465,560.36 (average income Euros 603.61). 40HH HHs from 28 Gum Arabic traders' associations harvested 49.726 MT whose sales increased household incomes by Euros 50,905 and additional trees extract and honey sold at Euros 728. The 28 Gum associations are linked to EMCs/NRMs for protection of acacia Senegal trees. Increase in production was achieved from trainings on protection and bylaws developed, harvesting, financial and business literacy, packing,



storage and transportation and market linkages. Besides the harvest by the 28 gum traders' associations, gum Arabic traders from Ethiopia were attracted to the Kenyan Gum markets due to better prices and sold the gum to Ethiopia traders who crossed border into Kenyan border due to increased demand on inadequate supply by Kenya gum Arabic traders linked to the markets (private sector GIZ-EPZ) for processing and further sale to international markets e.g. (Saudi Arabia and Dubai)

Through VSF Germany, TUPADO and the co-financing project for Mercy Corps (Livestock Market System programme) supported the process that established 4 Ward adaptation planning committees composed of persons with disability, women, youth and community elders, developed 4 community led ward development plans in Lake Zone, Kaaleng’/Kaikor, Kibish and Lapur Wards. The process was facilitated by the County government led and facilitated by the Omo Delta Project. The ward adaptation planning process and mentorship strengthened the capacities of beneficiaries to assess their risks, developed risk measures (preparedness and contingency plans). The beneficiaries through the process became the drivers of their development and setting the agenda for governments and NGOs to fit into and support their priority development focusses areas. The committee from Northern Lake Ward (Lowerengak) and Southern Lake Ward (Lomekwi); Kaaleng/Kaikor requested Mercy Corps to support their priority initiative of construct 2 fish stores and rehabilitate one fish cold chain) to revamp their fish quality and value addition for higher demand prices.



As a result, Mercy Corps supported the implementation of the prioritized plans in Lake Ward. The construction of the stores have improved quality of fish through value addition, preservation for bulk sales and reduced spoilages increasing income of the 75 ward committees and 3115 BMU person (770HH) members of 7 BMUs out of 2,400 targeted. The fish stores are benefiting 7BMUs comprising of comprised of boat owners, fishermen, and health committees. The community’s contingency plans also included natural resource management and frameworks for the utilisation of 3stores by the 7BMUs and The constructed fish stores are aggregation centres for dry fish in the 7 BMUs which link the fishermen directly with the buyers.

Specific objective 2: To strengthen coping capacity and resilience against negative effects of multi-phased crises.

Multi-faced hazards and shocks from drought, Covid-19 pandemic, cholera outbreaks, desert locust invasion and floods negatively affected the livelihoods of vulnerable households. Covid 19 pandemic prevention and control measures included restricted social gatherings, including closure or markets in border areas, movement lockdowns limiting access to markets, low supply and high demand of goods and services resulting in sharp prices and reduced purchasing power of locals, job losses and reduced remittances, paralysed livelihoods e.g. fishing activities mainly done at night when weather is cooler in arid areas. Floods led to forced displacement of populations, destruction of community social amenities and infrastructure and increased disease prevalence due to poor hygiene and sanitation conditions. Dessert locust invasion destroyed pastures, fodder and agriculture crops leading to increasing food insecurity. Drought triggered pasture and water resources depletion, increase in resource-based conflicts, vast migrations by livestock resulting to poor livestock conditions and low productivity while water shortage for domestic use comprised hygiene and sanitation practices. The project activated the crisis modifier to address these hazards and reached 36,506 HHs out of the planned 32,005 HHs. Covid 19 pandemic awareness creation reached 6,421 HHs, hygiene promotion 11,463 HHs, improved financial and food security 7,055 HHs, while and 11,567 HHs received information on how to mitigate negative coping strategies.

Outcome 4: Strengthened awareness of Covid -19 pandemic and cholera disease outbreak, and better hygiene practices reduce infections and manage fatalities.

OC Indicator 4.1 - # Of target population aware of Covid19 pandemic, cholera disease outbreak and are applying hygiene practices to reduce infection and manage fatalities.

Through emergency response interventions, 36,506 HHs out of the 32,005 HHs targeted with Covid-19 pandemic and cholera outbreaks were reached through 480 posters, 1,000 IEC materials and outreaches. Additionally, 161,415 direct and in-direct individuals were reached through the media, mainly FM Radio stations broadcast with 24,056HHs (120,320 persons) being the direct target. In the second phase

of the emergency project (contingency project), 104 campaigns were organized to spread mass information and education to 70,509 HHs (352 person) through FM radios, public address and outreach services in Kenya and Ethiopia. IEC materials were designed, printed jointly and posters distributed to 1,961HHs (including 35PWD, 40 IDPs) in collaboration with the County and stakeholders.

The information on Covid-19 pandemic and cholera outbreaks (causes, prevention and control), hygiene and sanitation practices reduced the spread of infections and fatalities through targeted awareness creation, outreaches by community health volunteers for mass education and campaigns. Awareness campaigns that emphasised social distancing, avoiding crowded areas, regular washing of hands with water and soap or sanitizers, proper wearing and disposal of facemasks and use of gloves reduced risks of exposure to infections and transmission of the diseases. In addition, the change in attitudes and health seeking behaviour improved as people who presented with symptoms sought medical attention at available local health clinics for treatment unlike before.

There was improved uptake and application of new practices influenced by access to accurate information on infectious diseases (causes, prevention and control) and availability of hygiene kits and personal protective equipment by households that could not afford them. Access to accurate information by beneficiaries also improved levels of hygiene practices at personal and household levels evident from general cleanliness, boiling of drinking water, regular hand washing or sanitizing, keeping social distance, avoiding crowded areas and proper use of masks (including use and disposal of gloves) used for taking care of patients at home and health facilities.

Outcome 5: Increased access to appropriate hygiene facilities and protective equipment by communities and government institutions for prevention and control of Covid 19 pandemic and cholera outbreak.

OC Indicator 5.1- Target communities have access to facilities and equipment that support prevention and management of Covid-19 cases.

Host countries overwhelmed by the daily growing numbers of Covid 19 and cholera outbreak infection rates and increased demand for personal protective equipment, hygiene and sanitation supplies. However due to the remoteness of the project areas from main towns, the beneficiaries had minimal access to services as the government health service delivery systems were overwhelmed. The project Through the project support, 11, 463 community members had access to facilities and supplies provided to help prevent, control and management resulting to only 19 infection cases reported among project beneficiaries. 480 posters and 112 Hand washing facilities (hand washing tanks and sanitizers) were prepositioned in 51 strategic places accessible by 7,499HHs (44,994 persons) e.g. at the entrance of



public institutions (schools, markets, water points, hospitals, faith institutions, police stations, Kebele etc.) thus complementing the efforts of the County/Woreda/Zone 19 technical task force and emergency response teams.

Exposure and infections among 6,421 HHs communities who display improved knowledge about Covid 19 and cholera disease prevention reduced through appropriate utilisation of hygiene and sanitation equipment (22,00 litres of liquid soap, 6,000bars of soap, 11,000 litres of sanitizers, 19,000 pcs of facemasks and 100boxes of gloves) and use of IEC materials and messages. They adopted improved hygiene and sanitation practices through regular washing of hands with soap or sanitizers, and proper use facemasks and gloves received from the project.

Outcome 6: Improved financial and food security and wellbeing of VSLA groups and vulnerable households.

Oc Indicator 6.1- Project beneficiaries report an improved sense of food security and wellbeing at the end of the project, disaggregated by age and gender

The project improved food, nutrition and income security of 6,003 vulnerable households severely impacted by Covid 19 pandemic, cholera outbreaks and cyclic droughts worth Euros 333,656.18. As a result of these interventions, their vulnerabilities were reduced through direct support to access food and income generation opportunities. In Ethiopia, 2,752 had access to food provided using PNSP criteria (cash envelop) worth Euros 77,524. In Kenya, 2,221 received food packages distributed through e-Voucher system worth 125,322.18 received from 250 food supply vendors contracted by the project and multi-purpose cash transfer for 1,030 by TUPADO Co-funding worth Euros 130,810.

The project improved food, nutrition and income security of vulnerable households severely impacted by Covid 19 pandemic, cholera outbreaks and cyclic drought. The vulnerabilities of communities was reduced through access food provided using PNSP cash envelop in Ethiopia and e-Voucher system food distribution and capital grants to food supply vendors in Kenya. Direct and indirect cash injection through PNSP, e-Vouchers for food and business boosting grants to business groups improved local economy, enhanced purchasing power and financial security among the vulnerable households and the 250 contracted food vendors. Project enhanced coping capacity and ability for beneficiaries and government stakeholders as they engaged in regular surveillance and dissemination of early warning information that triggered activation of livelihood safeguard interventions that in turn curbed the spread of desert locust invasion, drought and floods. These included targeted awareness and trainings on integrated indigenous and modern control measures, provision and repositioning of inputs and tools and logistics to support desert locust control measures.



VSF Germany in collaboration with Partners contracted Myfugo (an IT solutions expert) to develop and manage the hybrid E-voucher based food distribution, E-Trade and Cash Transfer E-system, capacity build TOTs and staffs and provide operational support distribution.

The e-food and e-food voucher technology provided options for undertaking trade and transactions using safe transactions that provided real-time notifications and context friendly e.g. transparent, verifiable and accountable manner. Beneficiaries were protected from exposure to infection and transmission through time allocations for collation of food from specific vendors and access to handwashing tanks strategically place and face masks. 101 TOTs, staffs and vendors received training to administer the E-voucher redeeming process.

Direct and indirect cash injection through PNSP, e-Vouchers for food and business boosting grants to business groups improved local economy, enhanced purchasing power and financial security among the 2,221 vulnerable households and the 250 contracted food vendors. Most of the vulnerable households received monthly e-Vouchers for food for between 2-3 times through their linked VSLA vendors to cushion them against starvation. The 250 VSLA/ VICOBA businesses groups contracted as food vendors during the disaster time increased their incomes and expanded their businesses due to increased sales and business boosting grants disbursed and income generated from e-voucher redeeming worth Euros 80,686.19 through the project. 99% of the vendors were able to repay their loans that had been

in arrears for between 2- 5 months due to low operating capital and poor sales arising from low purchasing power of vulnerable communities. In Ethiopia some of the vulnerable households received unconditional cash transfer for work which they used to purchase essential food commodities that sustained households for 2 – 3 weeks for each cash transfer cycle.

Outcome 7: Reduced invasion and damage to the livelihoods by Desert Locust in ODP locations.

Oc Indicator 7.1 - Coping capacities of registered beneficiaries improved as a result of applying the skills and inputs acquired to protect and rehabilitate livestock-based assets.

The project enhanced mechanisms for livelihood assets protection safeguards resulting to reduced damage and losses from desert locust invasion. The project enhanced coping capacity and ability for 12,090 beneficiaries and government stakeholders (2,015HH) as they engaged in regular surveillance and dissemination of early warning information that triggered activation of livelihood safeguard interventions that in turn curbed the spread of desert locust invasion. These included targeted awareness and trainings on integrated indigenous and modern control desert locust control measures, provision and prepositioning of inputs and tools and logistics to support desert locust control measures.

The damages and losses to beneficiary livelihoods due to desert locusts were reduced through emergency interventions aimed at livelihood assets recovery. Livestock health and production improved through enhanced livestock disease surveillance and emergency veterinary interventions, water tracking, feed supplements, fodder production and development of feed banks. Agricultural production was revitalized after farming groups affected by floods were able to rehabilitation their destroyed farms using seeds and tools supply to prepare their farms afresh. The project supported 12,090 individuals (2,015 HHs) with livelihood recovery interventions tailored to their lives. Ten (10) Zonal and County Desert Locusts control teams were supported to strengthen desert locust migration surveillance, early warning and forecast system through training and provision of inputs (protective clothes, boots, goggles, masks and gloves and 200 litres of chemicals).

Additionally, 760 HHs accessed desert locust impact, control and coping mechanisms through FM Radio broadcasts with a catchment of up to 11,905 HHs. 6,404 HHs reported being prepared to respond to and cope with desert locusts' invasion through skills acquired and support provided with protective gears -



gloves, boots, face shields, goggles, field tents and 325 litres of Diazinon. Targeted support was provided to beneficiaries who lost their critical livelihood sources like livestock, fodder farms and grinding mills through provision of grass seeds and. Tools. As a result, 300 HHs planted fodder in 18.8 hectares of land, harvested and sold at Euros 9,276. Other 200 HHs sold their 500 bales of hay to livestock fattening

groups to feed weak and malnourished animals to 14 bulls fattening groups and restock cattle worth Euros 1,837. 5,000 HHs that had no access to water were supported to access to water through rehabilitation of water sources in Marsabit during drought period.

For example, project promoted value addition in the agriculture production chain through establishment of localized animal feed processing



enterprise using fodder produced and agricultural produce bi-products. For example, seven (7) groups of 300 youths fodder producer groups in Nyangatom (Napsimuria) and 250 fodder producers' group in Dasanach (Borkonech and Akudongole) were organized by Vita/RTI and VSF Germany respectively to produce fodder to cushion losses of livestock from drought shocks e.g. inadequate forage/pasture. The groups were further linked to 22 youth organized into animal feed processing group in Jinka town, Ethiopia. The group was trained on animal feed processing, cooperative management and provided with processing machine to generate income through commercial oriented value addition on fodder. The group in collaboration with the fodder and crop farmers are currently using the fodder produce and cereal crop bit-products to produce animal feed. The strategy has proved very successful as it enhances farmers and traders' access to cost effective quality feeds while motivating the producers and processors who generated income from better sales return from the processed products

2.1.3 Intervention Logic of the Project

The project intervention logic was developed and included at the inception phase of the project after review of the action and laid the pathway for understanding result chain and realisation. The drivers of both 'voluntary' migration and forced displacement have negative impact in all dimensions of people's lives, including economic, social, political and environmental ones.

The Theory of change (intervention logic) of Omo Delta Project is that; **If** pastoral and agro-pastoral economies organise their social networks as a strategy of exploiting and expanding rangelands, **if** they harness economic opportunities sought across multiple geographies, and transition greater numbers for young women to new and diverse and resilient livelihoods, education, economic opportunities and a life outside the village transformed beyond their traditional gender and economic roles for individuals and their community, **if** there are institutions to help them to mitigate and manage risk, and they can accelerate economic and social factors to increase supply and demand on both sides of the border, as well as incentives for cross-border collaboration, then women will access better economic, income generation and employment opportunities at home that mitigate against drivers of instability, irregular migration and displacement.

The assumptions for the Action are that the project areas experience political stability with maximum peace and are thus accessible; the magnitude of climate-related shocks does not disrupt the livelihood or cause economic uncertainties and politically motivated irregular and forced migration and displacement do not occur.

Implementation of interventions would increase wealth. These in turn enhanced economic/ private sector development and greater resilience particularly among vulnerable groups. Peace was promoted through mitigation of the consequences of climate change using climate-resilient sectoral interventions and enhanced institutional frameworks for addressing employment. These were pillars for accelerated trade, increased stability and protection of gains to promotion of economic growth and greater resilience.

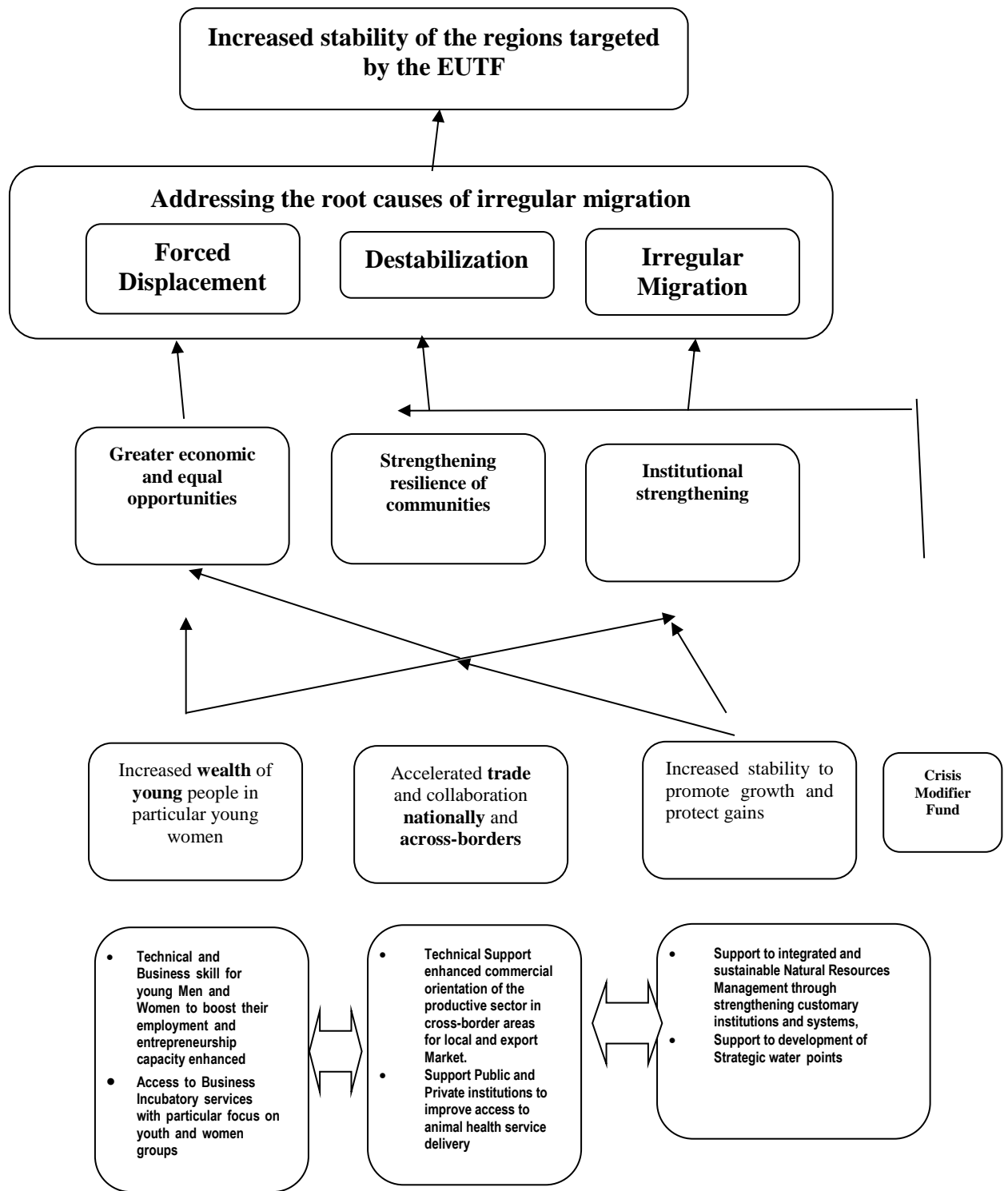


Figure 1. Schematic representation of the Intervention logic

The intervention logic was proved to be relevant from the outcome of the project implementation. The impact pathways demonstrated that there were inter-linking sequence and output that created a multiplier effect in line with the project logical framework. There revisions in the logical framework targets and indicators was aligned to the revised technical action. Indicators of the project were integrated with those of Altai the M&E company contracted by EUTF to perform monitoring and evaluation functions. The indicators were clearly defined and made it easy to collect data and the targets were able to be achieved.

The project focussed on bringing the inequalities that disfavoured women, youth and special needs people in the socio-economic sphere through special focus to them and gender considerations in the design and implementation of the project. Wealth creation was used as central strategy to catapult socio-economic transformation nationally and across borders areas. The project integrated various approaches (*VSLA / VICOBA, REAP-YES, GIRL and Basic business skills and life skills*) that leveraged synergies successfully and promoted vibrant business and entrepreneurship ventures. Women and youth were organized into economic-social networks (groups, cooperatives, associations) and supported with incubatory services (*technical skills, business and entrepreneurship trainings, financial literacy, inputs and grants, advise and mentorships*) that enabled them to tap into and exploit opportunities through diversified livelihood nationally. Beneficiaries were further linked to cross-border opportunities (markets, value chain networks) through formal structures (cross-border trade committees) and implementation frameworks (M.o.U and actions plans) anchored on existing bilateral agreements and regional policies and protocols. These helped re-energise, revamp and scale up their investments and returns.

Cohesion in cross-border areas were enhanced through pastoral social networks and safety nets that encouraged social reciprocity through peaceful co-existence and mutual sharing of natural resources through community led joint management systems and structures. Cross-border coordination structures established (NRM, livestock/fisheries and agriculture and trade committees) led cross-boundary dialogues and implementation of joint action plans, cross-border livestock disease surveillance coordination, livestock marketing and information sharing, trade in goods and commodities (fish and agriculture inputs and produce, household and food-stuffs) as well as creating a conducive environment for the growth and transformation of the rangelands.

Participatory Disease Search (PDS) exercises and livestock surveillance and reporting by CDRs and CAHWs in the project cluster areas for instance triggered prompt responses by respective governments that are critical in control and containment of spread of TADs in cross-border areas. Explicitly, livestock disease outbreak reporting, harmonised cross-boundary disease vaccination and livestock treatment calendars jointly developed informed agreed joint action plans that led to implementation of two rounds of harmonised livestock vaccination and treatment in Kenya and Ethiopia, resulting in decreased occurrence in transboundary animal diseases (TAD). Animal health services delivery were complemented with fodder production, sustainable rangeland management practices (*including development of grazing patterns and rangeland utilisation modalities*) by cross-border communities. Fodder production groups were linked to livestock fattening groups (*Borana fattening scheme, Delemunyung fattening association*) for sustainable economic production. The holistic management approach adopted resulted to reduced disease prevalence, lowered mortality and morbidity rates, improved livestock health and attainment of better animals' productivity. This in turn, raised family's income and well-being.

The intervention logic clearly reflected how NRM sharing and exchanges of information at a cross-boundary level conducted within four years of project reinforced the initiatives by customary institutions such as developed rules and regulations on NRM watering and grazing plans that promoted peaceful resource sharing locally and cross borders. Similarly, trade of agriculture produces (cereal crops – maize, sorghum and rice and horticulture - banana and vegetables) harvested from irrigation farms in Dukana sub-county, Nyangatom and Dasanach Woreda to other towns and cross-border markets in Kenya (Illeret, Sieslich, Turkana) and Ethiopia (Bubua, Jinka, Arbamich and Addis) was successful through market linkages. Access to six (6) markets opened up (with market days) through project support to cross-border markets in Bubua, Sieslich, Hoboq, Gorai, Dillo and Teltele to promote peaceful co-existence and expanded investments and returns. Derele market constructed by Mercy Corps, improved livestock and commodities trade through formal linkages and cross-border cooperation. Similarly, At the same time, the project tried to maintain the natural mobility of the pastoral production system by

constructing and establishing strategic water infrastructure along the migration and trade corridors across the international boundaries. This was perceived to promote mutual sharing of resources and enhance cohesion of the borderline communities.

Cross-border mobility is influenced by the relationships between indigenous communities living on both sides of the border. For example, the Borana, Gabbra, Turkana, Elmollo, Dasanach, Merille communities who have strong livelihood, trade and rangeland use, inter-community inter-relations with in Marsabit County and Turkana on the Kenya side border with the Dasanach, and Nyangatom on the Ethiopian Side while Hammer, Albore, Nyangatom and Dasanach in Ethiopia. The Gabbra (with a small mix of Borana) inhabit both sides of the common border, Dasanach on Kenya and Ethiopian sides at Illeret. The Gabbra or Borana though share language and culture have had series of conflicts attributed to political factors. The project understood the dimension of the indigenous groupings which helped in successfully navigating through the cross-border dynamics in terms of trade, conflicts, natural resource use, and migration routes. The Action was keen in selection of these communities as target beneficiaries since the success of ODP was pegged on this understanding at the border region. Therefore, it is true to say that the final targets of the intended beneficiaries have been reached by the impact of the project.

2.1.4 Update on Modifications that affected Log-frame

Contract Period No Cost Extensions - The project implementation period was extended twice from original 40 months to 52 months. This followed the EU approval of two No Cost Extension (NCE) requests submitted by VSF Germany for two six (6) of 6 months each. The No cost extensions were necessary for the completion of pending project intervention that delayed due to partners' compliance with the Covid 19 pandemic prevention and control measures and protocols enforced by Kenya and Ethiopia governments. The restrictions on social gatherings activities (meetings, training, workshops etc.), local and cross-border movements highly impacted on the completion period.

Activity Targets and Budget modifications - *The Project submitted three modifications on the technical action and financial budgets that were approved by EU during the project inception report 2018, Interim reports for Year 2 and Year 3. The modifications were informed by outcome of baseline and mid-term review assessments, adjustments to changes and challenges experienced in the project operational areas related to socio-political and insecurity issues, consideration for cost effective investments, shifting priority needs of the beneficiaries, impacts of national inflation and global warming shocks, and compliance to revised guidelines or declarations by the host countries. See below some of the major modifications.*

In year 2 the project Logframe was modified to capture approved changes resulting from technical and financial modifications requested by the implementing partners' activities that were not possible to implement considering appropriateness in-terms of high-level investments against very low returns or sustainability following changes on the local context and priority needs of the targeted beneficiaries. Sections in the Logframe amended included in the table above.

In Year 3, the logfram was revised to include information from the emergency response intervention project logfram which were developed following activation of crisis modifier fund and use of savings from contingency budget to cushion impact of disasters on beneficiaries. The inclusion included (overall objective, specific objective, results, outputs, activities and indicators). Please see annexed NCE log frame sections highlighted in blue.

Sections modified	Modification made	Explanation for the modification
Op2.1.2 – 2,450,553 heads of livestock from livestock health services.	Increased the target from 350,000 livestock to 2,450,552	<p>Increase was informed by local priority needs and the demand from beneficiaries and stakeholders to respond in order to control outbreaks and spread of TADs reported as a result of migrations from South Sudan (Toposa and Nyangatom communities) into beneficiaries’ areas. There were increased influx of unvaccinated and non-treated livestock migration from Toposa and Nyangatom communities into project areas in Turkana and Nyangatom areas respectively. The migration was attributed to search for pasture and water available in project areas during dry season. The demand was triggered by the farmers’ awareness on disease symptoms and confirmed reports obtained from functional disease surveillance and timely reporting.</p> <p>- systems established by the project and ability to generate budgets through co-financing</p>
Op 3.1 323 Ha of rangeland rehabilitated and under joint community management 2250 trained	- A3.1.3 indicator target reduced from 775 to 323 hectares	<p>Reseeding was not found to be feasible in Marsabit and Turkana due to high investments costs incurred in the phase one of the activities undertaken through CFW to remove invader species and reseeded and fencing of reseeded areas. Lessons from failures from other partners that implemented same intervention on reseeded but were unsuccessful due to high cost and low generation rate further informed the decision.</p> <p>Low returns – rangeland reseeded relied on rainfall which was either inadequate or completely missed (recurrent drought) limiting grass growth and maturity. Invasion on reseeded but not fenced areas by neighbouring communities (Toposa, Nyangatom and Borana communities in South Sudan and Ethiopia - Dillo Woreda) not targeted by project discouraged targeted beneficiaries.</p>

<p><i>Op2.1. Support to public and private institutions to improve access to animal health services delivery</i></p>	<p><i>1.2.3 Activity - Replaced 1 PVP to be constructed in Surma Woreda with Vet Drugs Revolving Kit</i></p>	<p>The projected targeted to construct one Private Veterinary Pharmacy in Surma Woreda, however due to conflict no vet expert was willing to take up management of a PVP in the conflict prone areas due to insecurity risk. The project was unable to organize for construction of the facility. However due the local need and demand for veterinary drugs; and in consultation with the Surma Woreda and West Omo Zone authorities and veterinary department, establishment of drug revolving fund kit was prioritized under oversight management of the established task force.</p>
<p><i>Op3.2. Support to development of strategic water points shared by cross-border communities</i></p>	<p>Opt 3.2 indicator target for water structures rehabilitated /constructed were reduced from 16 to 13</p>	<p>Pond reduced from 10 to 7 due to inflation due to currency devaluation and shortage of construction materials, the unit costs for constructing ponds increased making it impossible for EPARDA to achieve the target.</p> <p>Inflation and actual unit cost of work required to complete rehabilitation of 2 dams exceeded CIFA's available budget. This made it impossible to rehabilitate a 3rd Dam.</p> <p>VSF Germany constructed 2 boreholes that were unsuccessful in Kenya due to no water in Sieslich Marsabit resulting to replacement with Alaibura Borehole. In Turkana project experienced emission of gas that polluted water upon completion of drilling forcing VSF Germany and County government to seal the borehole immediately. Communities and government requested for savings on borehole to be used for rehabilitation of 3 underground water tanks for same beneficiaries. This was approved to EU.</p> <p>Two boreholes constructed and equipped in Marsabit and South Omo Zone.</p>
<p><i>Emergency Interventions</i> <i>Four (4) new outcomes and outcome indicators were added-4 -7</i></p>	<p>Six (6) outputs, and thirteen (13) output indicators, and activities were included into the log-frame.</p>	<p>Emergency response interventions implemented to respond to multiple disaster hazards (COVID 19, Cholera, flood, desert locust invasion and drought) whose shocks impacted negatively on the lives and livelihoods of the project beneficiaries reducing their coping capacities and increased vulnerabilities. Interventions helped minimize the direct impact of the hazards shocks on the gains made under livelihood resilience building project. <i>See annex on revised logfram.</i></p>

2.2 OUTPUT AND ACTIVITIES UPDATE

2.2.1 Output updates

Op1.1. Technical and business skills for young men and women to enhance their employment and entrepreneurship capacity enhanced.

Opt 1.1 Average increase in the income from skilled and non-skilled employment disaggregated by job/position/sector and by sex and age

The project increased income of 13,272 (6328 women, 575 men, 6369 youth) reached with diversified project intervention from 435 HH and an average of 8487 HH reported 65% increase in household income.

Out of 13,272HHs, 8,487 households (3,898 women, 509 men, 4,090 youth) reported an increase in their household income. The 8,487 HHs increased their income by Euros 410 out of the targeted Euros 600 has demonstrated the impact of the project compared to the 435HHs at the beginning of the project. This means 80% of the targeted 10,578 households generated cumulative income of Euros 3,480,439.06 from skilled and non-skilled employments. The beneficiaries were engaged in self-employed skilled enterprises due to skills acquired through TVET trainings that enabled them to establish sustainable diversified business enterprises. These are attributed to the impact of the varied innovative approaches adopted by project partners for enhancing capacities of beneficiaries for job creation, entrepreneurship and self-employment such as (GIRL/REAP/YES/ VICOBA/VSLA, REAP, TVET, pottery production etc. The table below shows disaggregated data on jobs created.

Outputs	Total	Women	Men	Youth	Income in Euros
Output 1.1 indicator 1.1	5,870	2,538	19	3,323	1,036,418.26
Output 1.2 Indicator 1.1	2617	1360	490	767	2,444,020.80
Total Output 1.1 & 1.2	8,487	3,898	509	4,090	3,480,439.06

The beneficiaries' financial capacities were also enhanced through provision of incubatory services, business boosting grants and linkages to financial service

institutions and market locally and in cross border areas. Collective efforts to engage in profitable business /trade and financial risk shared were enshrined through their organizations into business or enterprise groups and cooperatives. In Ethiopia, the project adopted basic business skills, technical training and advise and technology inclusion (e.g. Pottery and TVET skills) and life skills strategies for wealth creation. The strategies were informed by the local context and beneficiaries' priorities striving for their economic empowerment, job creation, and entrepreneurs capacity development. In Ethiopia, as a result of attitude change through awareness raising, 700 unemployed youths developed interests and registered for 3 months TVET technical trainings. Upon graduation with technical skills and expertise they started enterprises in various skilled field such as masonry, carpentry, electronics, plumbing, welding, wood work, brick making, mechanical and pottery, fish nets making, bead making, energy saving stoves, catering, saloon etc which they established in relation to their skills.

Op 1.1.2: Number of persons employed, or self-employed based on their skills disaggregated by type of employment, sex and age.

The project enabled 8,487 HHs (3,898 women, 509 men and 4,090 youth) out of 10,578 HHs targeted to increase their household incomes through engagements in self-employment, unskilled employment and business entrepreneurship.

Total	Total	Women	Men	Youth
Output 1.1 Beneficiaries	5,870	2,538	19	3,323
Output 1.2 Beneficiaries	2617	1360	490	767
Total	8,487	3,898	509	4,090

They were able to exploit business and employability opportunities available locally and in trans-boundary markets through access to incubatory services (technical trainings and advise, financial and business skills, life skills, VSLA/VICOBA skills, start up and business boosting grants, inputs, credit and financial services and mentorships). Financial linkages and partners with marketing networks and financial institutions strengthened financial capacity, and business skills for employment and entrepreneurship and access to incubatory services and business boosting or start up

grants. Some of the enterprises and businesses undertaken included e.g. transport (boda boda), pottery production, bee keeping, livestock fattening, livestock trade, fodder sales, grain trade, commodities trade, catering, commercial showers and latrines, currency exchange, petrol sales that were not implemented earlier. Other diversified businesses, entrepreneurships and employment activities included livestock trading, goat fattening, goat trading, poultry production, dairy farming, local food preparation and grinding mill and grains trade, saving and loaning, sale of airtime, cereals/pulses, detergent, hay, agrovets drugs, soaps, perfumes, liquid detergents, tealeaves, vegetables, butchery, petrol, pottery production, showers/toilets, assorted retail shops, donkey cart water transport, cafeteria, saloon/barber shops, recreational services, tyre repairs, vegetables, butchery etc.

Op1.2. Access to business incubatory services (finance, entrepreneurial skills training and mentoring, advisory services and technical assistance for diversified businesses), with particular focus to youth and women groups

Op. 1.2.1. Number of women and youth who effectively accessed credit as a result of the project disaggregated by gender and age.

10,033 (4,632 women, 1,533 men and 3,868 youth) out of 10,578 HHs accessed credit as a result of capacity building provided to improve their knowledge on financial literacy, organised familiarization workshops with existing financial institutions and how to access the credit services, and establish networks and partnership frameworks as strategies to trigger economic growth, financial literacy, employability and increased income. Awareness raising and trainings enabled the beneficiaries to meet the requirements for accessing credit to start new or expand businesses locally and cross border markets.

Financial linkage workshops organized with existing financial institutions in Ethiopia helped change attitudes of the beneficiaries with more interests to venture into profitable skilled business opportunities noted. As a result, 700 people enrolled for TVET trainings as a means of increasing employability opportunities or initiate profitable business enterprises. Unskilled beneficiaries were capacity build on IGAs, savings and credits through diverse innovative approaches adopted by partners such as VICOBA, VSLA, YES and REAP tailored to local context and needs. The group-based savings and credit initiatives created an alternative option to bridge the gaps related to absence of the formal MFIs which were either located in main towns away from remote hard to reach project areas or unable to meet their requirements to access the services. Village savings and loan schemes, business groups, cooperative and trade associations established by the project created formal platforms for learning and mentorship of members to cultivate and nurture savings, credit and financial literacy service culture practices. This enabled the beneficiaries to have faster access to financial services.

Incubatory services including start kits and grants provided by the project increased the capital base for the local structures to loan out their members. Financial linkages and strategic partnerships with available financial institutions such as OMFI, KCB Bank, Uwezo Fund in Marsabit and County Government of Turkana led to their opening banking accounts and accessing negotiated products. Though most beneficiaries accessed credit from localised savings and credit schemes e.g. VSLAs, VICOBA, Cooperatives, formal partnerships and linkages increased their financial volumes; expanding the capacity of groups to loan more members at negotiated rates to expand their working capitals. Capacity building, organizing individuals into collective groups enabled them to fulfil pre-requisites requirements for accessing credit, gainful business, start new or expand. In Kenya, majority of the beneficiaries accessed credit services from village savings and loan groups, followed by County funding opportunities (Uwezo Fund in Marsabit and County Women and Youth Fund then formal bank - KCB bank compared to Ethiopia. In Ethiopia, majority of the beneficiaries' access credit services against their savings at formal financial institutions such as Omo Micro-Finance Bank. Linkage to informal and formal financial service institutions (VSLA, Cooperatives, Associations, Banks – KCB/OMFI) government funding opportunities opened up opportunities for competitive negotiations.

Op 1.2.2 - % of income increment by target households through involvement in income diversification by end of the project.

The project increased average income per household by 65% from 16.71 Euro at baseline to 410 Euros by end of the project. The increment though seem moderate was quite high among some beneficiaries. This staggered the increment rate across different diversified activities implemented under result 1 as some business and entrepreneurship initiatives are low hanging with immediate revenue returns e.g production and sale of pottery in 2 days compared to those that took longer to show evidence of impact such as livestock fattening for sale that takes 3-4 months. Secondly the Covid 19 pandemic negatively impacted on trans-boundary trade and social gathering related project activities in compliance with host government protocols (closed borders, no meetings, nigh curfews that paralysed fishing activities for fisher folks).

<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Youth</i>	<i>Income in Euros</i>
<i>Output 1.1 Beneficiaries</i>	5,870	2,538	19	3,323	1,036,418.26
<i>Output 1.2 Beneficiaries</i>	2617	1360	490	767	2,444,020.80
TOTAL	8,487	3,898	509	4,090	3,480,439.06

Four hundred (400) youths trained and supported generated income from cattle fattening, cereal crop trade, vegetable production and trade, beekeeping, dairy farming and goat fattening. Employments have been created for 1,652 people generating income of Euros 303,346 as result of impact of the project-initiated business. For example, In Marsabit, 424 out 466 business owners employed 1,120 (435M and 685F) earning cumulative gross income of Euros 11,251.21. In Turkana, cross border trade opportunities in Kibish corridor between Turkana – Nyangatom has created employment for 290 with a total monthly income of Euros 11,297 and cumulative Euros 112,970) for the past 10 months they have been operating. VSLAs in Turkana also created employment to 242 people (92 women and 150 youth) generating accumulative salary of Euros 23,347. The new cross border business includes forex exchange, boda border transport for traders, mobile money transfers, vet drugs sales, Gum Arabic importation from Ethiopia to Kenyan markets, fish and agriculture produce, food and household item, fuel import from Ethiopia etc.

Op.1.2.3 Number of new businesses and start-up in project areas operational disaggregated by age and gender by end of project.

The project started 2,317 new businesses during the project period. This included 1,652 employments created through the diversified and cross border trade opportunities owned by 6,740 people (4,051 women 1,431men and 1,258 youth).

<i>Partners</i>	<i>Business</i>	<i># of new business</i>	<i># women owners</i>	<i># of men owner</i>	<i># of youth owner</i>	<i>Total Owners</i>
<i>Vita - Eth</i>	<i>Youth focused</i>	14	81		269	350
<i>Vita - Eth</i>	<i>Women focussed</i>	36	950			950
<i>MCE</i>	<i>Awareness</i>	63	490	494		984
<i>MCK</i>	<i>REAP</i>	76	228			228
<i>EPaRDA</i>	<i>IGAs</i>	51	188	321		509
<i>VSF Mar</i>	<i>VSLA IGAs</i>	310	281		29	310
<i>VSF Tur</i>	<i>VSLA IGA</i>	413	351	20	32	403
<i>VSVG Tur</i>	<i>Cross border</i>	290	26	8	256	290
<i>CIFA</i>	<i>VSLA IGA</i>	664	419	20	225	664
<i>TUPADO</i>	<i>VSLA</i>	400	234	125	41	400
<i>New Employments</i>	<i>Jobs created</i>	0	803	443	406	1652
	Total	2,317	4,051	1,431	1,258	6,740

The VICOPA, VSLA, TVET, business groups and cooperatives established and trained, and provided with start-up grants or business boosting grants under the project created opportunities for beneficiaries to start new business. Groups that performed well were used as mentorship groups providing opportunities for peer learning and exchanges and showed evidence of economic growth and resilience by overcoming the barriers from total exclusion to being key actors/ stakeholders in private and public financial service sector chain and wealth creation. The project provided leadership and governance support, legal registration and economic legitimacy to informal cross-border trade through exchanges, established cross border structures and network, MoUs for domestication of bilateral agreements between Kenya – Ethiopia and regional protocols on trade, sustainable management of natural resources and control of trans-boundary animal diseases. This strategic engagement of regional bodies like IGAD, ICPALD was critical as they play essential coordination role and provide enabling policy environment and legal framework to regulate cross-border dynamics and collaboration. For example, in Marsabit out of 424 business, 310 are newly initiated while 114 were expanded and employed 1,120 (435M and 685F) earning cumulative gross income of Euros 11,251.21. In Turkana, cross border trade between Turkana – Nyangatom created employment for 290 with a regular income with accumulative monthly income of Euros 11,297 for 10 months of operation.

425 business groups comprising 74 men and 351 women supported by the project created employment for 242 people (92 women and 150 youth) to undertake sales, trekking of livestock for trade, boda boda transport, butcher attendants etc generating accumulative income of Euros 112,970,000 by end of the project.

Op2.1. Support to public and private institutions to improve access to animal health services delivery in cross border areas.

Op. 2.1.1: # of livestock owners that have knowledge of disease reporting system by end of the project.

<i>Disease Reporting System</i>	<i>Turkana</i>	<i>Marsabit</i>	<i>South Omo</i>	<i>West Omo</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Livestock owners</i>	226	13,176	36,425	17,596	99,795

In Turkana, TUPADO created awareness on 226 HHs (196 MHH and 30 FHH) whose livestock were vaccinated. They were educated through the awareness raising undertaken by the trained 61 CDRs. 32,548 community resource persons (livestock owners/herders) (men 16,745 and female 15,803) were educated through awareness and sensitization meetings to know how to identify livestock diseases and report to County Vet teams for timely response. They also participated in participatory disease search missions. **In Marsabit**, 64,700 livestock owners / herder 13,000 HHs (10,800 MHH and 2,200 FHH) gained knowledgeable about disease reporting systems and active involvement in reporting the diseases through established system which triggered vaccination and treatment of 325,000 goats, sheep, camels, cattle and donkeys. 12,400 households’ out of the 13,000 are working closely with the CDRs. Additional 176 participants (144M, 32F) from Kenya and Ethiopia participated in 4 cross border meetings between Vet teams and CDS/CAHWs where they shared experiences on disease surveillance, developed disease seasonal calendar, harmonized reporting tools and developed joint work plans for disease responses.

In Ethiopia, the project extension workers sensitized and educated 17,596 HHs (13,823 MHHs and 3,773 FHHs) whose livestock were vaccinated and treated in West Omo. In addition, 71 CAHWs and 905 livestock keepers who embraced the ADNIS and DOVAR digital system submitted real-time reports from 36,428 HH (29,434 MHHs & 6,994 FHH) whom they sensitised on the system and information to be reported in South Omo. The livestock owners acquired knowledge on disease reporting system by the end of the project through services offered by 303 trained animal health extension service delivery providers, 50 awareness raising and participatory disease search missions conducted in Kenya and Ethiopia. This enabled them to seek services from available animal health delivery infrastructures, CAHWs and Vet Expert services or individual own treatments. Overall, the project reached 524, 319 livestock through regular extension treatments while 2,481,106 livestock benefitted from coordinated mass vaccination campaigns during emergency responses.

Op. 2.1.2: Number (#) of livestock owners that use disease reporting system by end of the project”.

<i>Partners</i>	<i>Total livestock owners #</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Females</i>
<i>TUPADO</i>	<i>226</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>VSFG Turkana</i>	<i>32,548</i>	<i>16,759</i>	<i>15,803</i>
<i>VSF Mar -</i>	<i>13,000</i>	<i>10,944</i>	<i>2,232</i>
<i>VSFG Eth – S. Omo</i>	<i>36,428</i>	<i>29,434</i>	<i>6,994</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>82,202</i>	<i>57333</i>	<i>25059</i>

A total of 82,202 livestock owners, 82% of the 99, 795 used there reporting system by the end of the project. **In Turkana**, 32,548 livestock owners (16,759 males and 15,803 females) trained and involved by VSFG through sensitization and awareness creation meetings undertaken by trained 30 CDRs and 24 County vet officials and participated in ten (10) passive and active participatory disease

surveillance use the knowledge to identify livestock disease and use reporting system to report them to CDRs and Sub-County veterinary officers. TUPADO beneficiaries, 226 reported (196 males and 30 females). As a result, timely vaccinations and treatment and deworming of 434,619 livestock, 246,256 livestock were reached under ODP project while 188,363 livestock were reached through co-funding by UN FAO in Turkana

In Marsabit, 64,7000 livestock farmers 13,000 HH (10,800 MHH and 2200 FHH) are aware and use information disease reporting system. The project in collaboration with the County veterinary department carried out 7 vaccination / mass treatment responses triggered by outcome from 29 PDS missions undertaken which were informed by disease calendar seasons and monthly regular 44 CDRs surveillance. The 64,700 pastoralists were reached through awareness by CDRs/Sub-County Veterinary experts and 29 PDS missions that triggered treatments/ deworming and vaccinations of 325,00 animals against common TAD reported (FMD and PPR, CCPP, Camel Pox, Sheep and goat pox and LSD) and benefitted 12,400 households’ owners. **In Ethiopia**, awareness of communities on disease reporting have highly improved. Through the project period 71 community animal health workers and 3,443 livestock keepers were involved in animal disease reporting by communicating to 36,428 HHs (29,434 MHHs and 6,994 FHHs) and livestock death reduced by 96% by taking immediate action based on the regular disease reporting.

Op 2.1.3. Reduced rate of livestock mortality by end of the project.

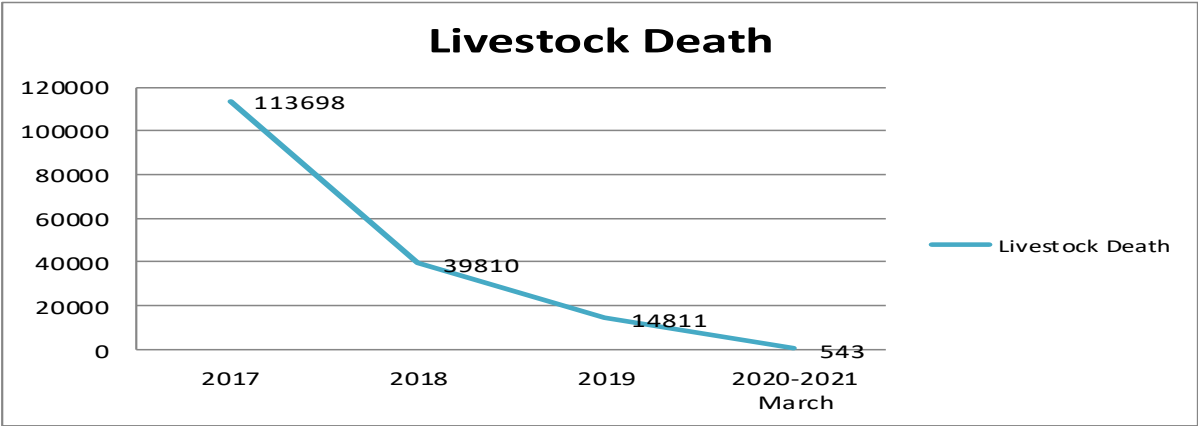
The project reduced livestock mortality rate by an average cumulative of 95% across all the project clusters (Marsabit, Turkana, South Omo/West Omo ones. The mortality reduced as a result of the livestock vaccinations and treatments undertaken from baseline of 249,434 in 2018 to 2,586,339 end of the project The project baseline also indicated “the absence of veterinary intervention, 30% of the calf crop, kids and lambs succumbed before the end of the first year, the project intended through regular vaccination and treatment campaigns to reduce this by half to 15%”.

In Turkana, the disease mortality in April 2022 had reduced compared to baselined data. According to the County Government of Turkana veterinary department reports, the average mortality rate was 1-4% for all species that died compared to cattle 18.3-29.7% and shoats 12.7-20.2% in 2018. This is attributed to real time disease reporting and prompt and timely vaccinations, treatment and deworming of 434,619 livestock (246,256 livestock reached under ODP project and 188,363 livestock through co-funding by FAO). The emergency response saved the animals from death, improved their body condition and consequently improving livestock production (milk, meat and ghee) thus improving food security to households. Additionally, TUPADO reported reduction on mortality as a result of 30,066 treated and vaccinated in Turkana North. These included 12,206 goats vaccinated against CCPP, 4,856 shoats vaccinated against shoaat pox, 3,529 goats 5,034 sheep 62 camels treated against various diseases and 6 cats and 27 dogs vaccinated against rabies. The sheep and goats also benefitted from vector control services. The interventions benefitted 226 HHs (196 MHH and 30 FHH).

In Marsabit, the mortality rate for livestock was reduced by 75% as a result of timely livestock diseases responses that reached 325,000 livestock through treatments, deworming and vaccinations and other

intervention such as extension advise, fodder production and sustainable rangeland management. The project in collaboration with the County veterinary department carried out 7 responses (vaccination / mass treatment) triggered by disease detections picked as alerts from the regular surveillance reporting by 44 CDRs with participation of 64,700 livestock owners and outcome of 29 PDs missions informed by disease calendar seasons. The responses that were activated when the report’s findings were confirmed resulted in vaccinations of 325,000 animals against common TAD reported (FMD and PPR, CCPP, Camel Pox, Sheep and goat pox and LSD) and benefitted 12,400 households’ owners.

In Ethiopia, the mortality rate was decreased in livestock by over 95%. The impact is attributed to strategic vaccination campaign and livestock treatment assisted by trained CAHWs; 1,874,344 cattle, 881,979 shoats and 43,677 equines) were vaccinated against different diseases and benefitted 26,739 HHs (23,878 MHHs and 2,861 FHHs). The figure below shows the trend is reduction of livestock mortality in Ethiopia.



Op2.2. Technical support to enhanced commercial production and productivity of the productive sectors in cross-border areas (specifically livestock, fishery, fodder, staple and horticultural crops) for local and export markets.

Op 2.2.1: % Increase in crop production (MT) by beneficiary households by end of the project.

The project promoted increased agricultural food production from 0.37 MT in 2018 baseline to 2,015 MT in 2022 harvested by 3,740 people on 3,481 hectares; generating an income of Euros 465,660. Out of the 2,015 MT, there was increased production of high value cereal crop (maize and sorghum) production by 467,027% from 0.37 MT baseline to 1,728 MT of cereals (908.5MT sorghum, 791 MT Maize and 28.5MT Rice). These were sold at Euros 398,769.30 in Dasanach and Nyangatom South Omo Zone. According to the baseline report, North-western Kenya - Investments on irrigated crop production was not applying well with minimal returns except in Illeret (farming on Lake Turkana flood wet lands) and Marsabit town highlands (rainfed). In South Western Ethiopia, on average household harvested sorghum and maize production was estimated at 2.57 0.26MT and 1.11 0.11MT respectively. Other agricultural produces harvested included vegetables (58.25 MT) and banana (143.9MT). The increase in food production has contributed to food security and increased income. Sold produce realised accumulative income of Euros 450,985.32.

The project, through the participation of 3,481 beneficiary households increased agricultural production to 2,015 MT of harvest for cereals, vegetable, fruits and fodder for livestock fattening or feeds. The produced have been used for home consumption and commercial purposes. The increase in MT is 100% due to the fact that the beneficiaries were not involved in agriculture before the start of the project. As a result of farming they have increased their household income through sale of the produce and generated accumulative income of 465,660 Euros. The table below summaries that different type of produce and the corresponding MT at the end of the project.

Partners	Type of Produce	Target	HH	Hectares	Harvest in MT	Income in Euros
Vita/RTI	Cereal Crop	2300	2300	530	1,728	398,769
Vita/ RTI	Vegetables	1000	573	21.9	45.75	11,057
Vita/RTI	Banana		168	18	143.9	25,664
Vita/RTI	Forage	300	242	32	63.9	10,596
Vita/RTI	Fodder/livestock		58		20.5	4,079
CIFA	Vegetables	140	140	(12m*12m) x 5 plots	12.5	15.495.32
Total		3,740	3,481		2,015	465,660

Climate smart agriculture: Twenty (20) farmer groups comprising of 2,300 farmers increased their household income and improved household food security through diversified cereal crop farming (maize, sorghum and rice). Among the 2,300 (1300 F HH) pastoralist households, 1,600 (741F) are in South Omo Zone (Dasenech 900/424F households, Nyangatom 700/317F households). The remaining 700 (237F) were from West Omo Zone (Maji 500/137F and Surma 200/100F). The farmers were capacity build and supported to engage in climate smart agriculture technology (cereal agronomic practices, pests and diseases control, weeding and associated farm management, and post-harvest handling). They irrigated 530 hectares for production of variety of cereal crops (sorghum, maize and rice) in Tum and Balt Kebeles in Maji woreda and Nyangatom and Dasanach Woredas in South Omo using inputs and farming equipment provided. As a result, they harvested accumulative to 1,728 MT of cereals (908.5MT sorghum, 791 MT maize and 28.5MT rice) and sold at Euros 398,769.30. They also applied skills acquired on business, marketing and farming group formation to streamline their group farming and to thrive on commercialised rice, maize and sorghum production and diversifying their livelihood from pastoral to agro-pastoralists. They were organized, trained and supported by Vita/RTI and applied the skills and inputs (farm tools, high speed irrigation pumps, high quality seeds and fertilisers) to engage in appropriate high value crop production in Dasanach and Nyangatom South Omo.

Horticulture production: 286 households organized, trained and supported by Vita/RTI on climate smart irrigation horticulture production successfully engaged in commercial production of assorted vegetables i.e. onion, tomato, paper and cabbage on a total 11.15 hectares of land in South Omo Zones. They produced a total of 30.15MT and sold it for income of 7,378.42 Euros.

Fruit production: 556 (380M, 176F) households organized, trained and supported by Vita/RTI used the skills acquired and inputs (farm tools including, irrigation water pumps, fuel, seeds, fertilizers etc) to engage in banana production on a total 34.5 hectares of land in South and West Omo Zones. They produced a total of 143.9MT of produce and sold at national market for an income of Euros 17,847.5

Fodder production: 300 households in Dasenech and Nyangatom Woreda engaged in irrigation-based forage production. From the sale of hay bales, the groups gained an income of Euros 4,079.08. They also harvested and sold 0.4MT of forage seed for Euros 551.02. A part from the sale of hay bales and forage seeds, the groups also fed the fodder to their own animals, thereby improving productivity.

Op 2.2.2: % Increase in productivity in fishing (MT) and number of livestock D species and beneficiary households (against baseline) by end of the project

The project realised 11,644% increase in fish production from baselined data 1,890 MT to 220,075.22 MT and generated an income of Euros 4,143,889.00 for 1,102 HHs. This translated to increased average income for the 1,102 beneficiary HHs from Euros 42 at baseline to Euros 3,760 by the end of the project. According to the baseline report, in Marsabit County, fish production volumes from 2019– 2021 was estimated at 1,890 MT and income of Euros 1, 133. Turkana County estimated 0.25MT in 2018 and South Omo Zone – Zero as all beneficiaries were not involved in fish production before project.

Partner	# of HHs	# of quarterly monitoring	MT fish harvest	Income Generated
CIFA	263HH – 4 BMU	18	18,335	2,188,056
VSFG Marsabit	500HHs – 3 BMU	10	189,511	1,585,871
Mercy Corps	159HH – 5BMU	35	12,026	369,962
VSFG Ethiopia	180 – 3 cooperatives	10	202	19, 735
		73	220,075	4,143,889

The Project conducted 73 out of targeted 80 quarterly monitoring of fish stocks in 15 out of 23 BMU (12 BMUs in Kenya and 3 Cooperatives in Ethiopia) located in fish breeding grounds. The collected data were mapped against the baseline benchmark information to assess changes in the fisheries resource. As a result, the project noted increase in number of fish production /harvested by 220, 075.22 MT, fetching an income of **Euros 4,143,889** from sales by 1,102 BMU/Cooperative members; and indicating an average income per HHs of Euros 3,760. **In Turkana**, Mercy Corps carried out 35 out of targeted 40 quarterly fish stock monitoring of 5 BMUs out of the 15 BMUs who are located in the main fish breeding grounds (5 BMUs- Todonyang, Lowarengak, Nachukui, Nariokotome and Nariemet) along Lake Turkana in Turkana North and Central. The prioritization of the 5 BMUs were informed by availability of their data during baseline assessment (June 2019 data) that provided a benchmark for monitoring and assessing any changes in the fisheries resources in the project areas. Each BMU has a fish stock monitor representative recording monthly BMU fish stocks (amount of fish harvested and its costs). Accumulative fish harvest volume of 12,026MT and sale income of Euros 369,962 was recorded over the project period.

VSF Germany Ethiopia conducted 10 quarterly fish stock monitoring in 3 Fish Cooperatives supported and recorded total harvest of 198 MT of Tilapia fish which was sold for Euros 10,619.57 Euros and 4.64 MT of Nile Perch sold for Euros 9,116.25. The 180 members of 3 Fish cooperatives harvested 202.87 MT earning an accumulative income of Euros 19,735.82. In Marsabit, CIFA conducted 18 quarterly fish stocks monitoring mission to 4 BMUs (263 members) and recorded fish harvests of 5,053MT that generated Euros 1,510,13. VSF Germany in the same county conducted 10 quarterly monitoring meetings to 3 BMUs reaching 500HHs (290M, 210F). The fish harvest for 500 HHs from 3 BMUs supported improved in volumes and sizes by an average of 189,511 MT generating Euros 1,585,871 and an average income per household of Euro 3,171.742 by end of the project.

Op 2.2.3: % Increase in productivity of Meat (MT) and number of livestock species and beneficiary households (against baseline) by end of the project”.

The information on livestock production, measurement of livestock productivity in metric tonnes is not largely used at county levels, and data was lacking during baseline. However, the project used animal health and production and marketing of livestock products to estimate increase in production. The project introduced cross breeding practices to improve productivity of local breeds and promote access to diversified climate resilient species of camels, cattle, sheep and goat and improved quality of extension services for the targeted beneficiaries. 2,435 HHs out of targeted 2,410 (101%) were capacity build through participatory, practical and income driven training approaches and extension services to transfer skills on best livestock production practices for increased livestock production, marketability and income generation.

Extension services were improved through adoption of improved husbandry practices provided through the government, CAHWs, CDRs sensitization and awareness, demonstrations and mass education platforms such as radio talk shows and exchange visits. Improved quality breeds of livestock species were procured and distributed to selected beneficiaries to promote cross breeding. 275 Borana and Somali camels (250 heifers and 25 bulls), 200 Borena cattle, 50 black head Persian sheep and 150 gala buck goats were procured and distributed to targeted beneficiaries for crossbreeding purposes. The selection of cross procured and distribution was informed by beneficiaries’ priority demand (production and market), suitability of the breeds to adapt to the local environment and technical advice from respective governments. The table below summarises the achievements under livestock breed improvement intervention.

<i>Interventions Undertaken</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Targeted</i>	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>% Achieved</i>
Improve extension services and local breed to increase productivity, marketable products and income (200 Bucks)	200	animals	200	100%
Camel and cattle husbandry support (procurement, training, distribution) (250 camels/ 200bulls (450HHs))	450	animals	475	106%
Total	650		675	103%
Training camel husbandry	360	HH	360	100%
Extension services and local breed to increase productivity, marketable products and income (200 Bucks (1,600HHs))	1600	HH	1600	100%
Camel and cattle husbandry support (procurement, training, distribution) (250 camels/ 200bulls (450HHs))	450	HH	475	106%
Total	2,410		2,435	101%

The health and production of cross breed and offspring were better than local breeds due to their higher survivability rates, availability of browse trees and improved husbandry practices applied. The 13 camel's off springs born during the project showed explicit huge body size compared to local breeds of same age. Communities are enjoying milk from the female camels confirmed to have increased production from 5litres to 8 litres per day per cow compared to indigenous cattle breed milk production of 0.5- 2 litres per day per cow. The regular produce and consumption of the milk has improved their household nutrition. The income from sale of sale surplus milk earning households an average of Euros 42 per litre, thus increasing their household income. Camel breed introduction was most appropriate considering the frequent and shorter circles of drought episodes triggered by global warming and changing environmental conditions that results to deferred and depleted forage for livestock. The 275 camel cross breeds distributed to the 3 woredas (Hamer 100, Dassenech 85 and Nyangatom 65 Woredas) have provide to most viable alternative livestock livelihood. There has been increase in camel milk production from zero to 8-10 litres per day due to plenty of forage trees and shrubs appropriate for camel nutrition.



Additionally, from the distributed Borena cattle, bulls 68 bulls' mate with local cows/heifers and produced 68 improved breed calves. Cattle milk production from the off springs of the cross breed local breeds improved from 0.5 to 1.7 litres of milk per day per cow This is still 5 to 7 times lower than camel milk production per cow per day. The project introduced cross breeding practices to improve productivity of local breeds and promote access to diversified climate resilient species of camels, cattle, sheep and goats through improved quality of extension services for the targeted beneficiaries. 2,435 HHs out of targeted 2,410 (101%) were capacity build through participatory, practical and income driven training approaches and extension services to transfer skills on best husbandry practices for increased livestock production, productivity and income generation. The off springs of the black head Persian sheep and gala buck goats have also shown good potential in production and productivity.

Op3.1. Support to integrated and sustainable Natural Resources Management

Op. 3.1.1: % Increase of pasture lands under sustainable and effective rangeland management i.e. with community user agreements being implemented (against baseline) by end of the project.

The project increased production of pasture lands under sustainable and effective rangeland management by 100% against 0% baseline. The intervention targeted deferred grazing areas following a process of engagements with communities and inputs provision. A total of 2,428 HHs participated in the rehabilitation and reseeded for pasture production of 1,293 hectares of land from which a total of 3,348.76MT of pasture was produced, harvested, baled and sold, generating an income of Euros 1,465,560.36 (average income Euros 603.61). This was achieved through intra-inter community user agreement frameworks, planned grazing, removal of invader species, grass reseeded and seed bulking for the next season, and rangeland conservation mechanisms. There has been improved productivity of livestock through feed availability and sustainable management of degraded rangelands through integrated and strategic management of *Prosopis* and introduction of drought tolerant grass, fodder and plants. This was achieved through organization and capacity building of community institutions (Customary, NRM and EMCs) in collaboration with respective governments. The project rehabilitated deferred or degraded rangeland through provision of capacity building, farm inputs, cash for work or conservation rangeland management practices and introduction of suitable drought tolerant fodder /hay grasses and plants. The table below summarizes fodder production by different partners and areas.

FODDER AND FORAGE					
Partners	Type of Produce	HH	Hectares	Harvest in MT	Income in Euros
South Omo - Vita	Vita Fodder/forage/fodder groups	300	32	148.3	29347.42
Marsabit - VSFG	Value of pasture harvested – 58ha	150	58.5	130.5	22,444.68
Turkana - VSFG	Value of Pasture and seed harvested – 25.5 Ha	480	25.5	112.5	39,225.00
Turkana- TUPADO	Value of pasture generated in 650Ha	280	650	2,437.50	1,300,000.00
South Omo - VSFG	CFW rangeland rehabilitation	718	512.8	445	62,305.28
South Omo EPaRDA	Moringa and elephant grass	500	14.6	74.96	12,237.98
		2,428.00	1,293.40	3,348.76	1,465,560.36

Gum Arabic Trade and protection of acacia Senegal trees

The production of pastures through the use of fast maturing grass varieties, harvesting and baling and selling to livestock keepers and traders has become an exciting commercial venture that is self-sustaining. Besides pasture production, the project strengthened the capacities of Gum Arabic producers and traders on sustainable production, management and commercialization of Gum Arabic and other extracts of *Acacia senegal* trees as an alternative livelihood source of generating household income. This was achieved through training to 640 members (mostly youth and women) on business skills to enhance gum arabic trade. Training covered topics such as organization in producer and trader associations, gum harvesting, collection, processing, packaging, marketing and linkages to local and cross border markets. As a result, the 400 gum traders and producer groups supported harvested 49.73MT of gum and sold at Euros 50,905; thus, increasing their average household income by Euros 79 annually. The table below summarises the production and sale of gum arabic as promoted by different partners in different project areas.



Partners	HH reached	# HH	MT	Kes	Euro
Mercy Corps xxx	20 GUM producers and traders	400	6.23	5,191,667.00	43,091.00
VSFG Marsabit	8 Gum producer and trader groups	240	43.5	892,800.00	7,086.00
	trees extracts& raisins and honey		Lump	87,000.00	728.00
	Total	640	49.73	6,171,467.00	50,905.00

Sustainable and effective rangeland management was improved through natural resource use planning, negotiated access rights and reciprocal agreements. Sustainable and effective NRM practices among neighbouring communities have improved security and optimised the utilisation of cross border resources and trade. For example; cross border communities like Hammer-Gabraa, Borana-Gabra whose capacities were enhanced by the project are now able to reciprocate utilization of shared grazing areas. Grazing plans have considered both local and cross border areas with Ethiopian highland areas demarcated for wet seasons while Kenyan lowland grazing are reserved for dry season grazing.

Cross border trade, NRM and inter- community dialogue meetings supported by CIFA's co-funding peace building project in Marsabit–Hammer border corridors have remarkably contributed to enhanced mutual sharing of dam water resources constructed in Garwole and Sele-Gabaro and improved relations between the Gabra of Kenya and Borana of Ethiopia. This has been achieved through CIFA's contribution in Marsabit County Ministry of Water, Environment and NRM policy review initiative that ensured formal mechanisms for integrating ECMs are anchored in the policy framework. The EMC committees are entrenched into Ward adaption committee structures.

Further, the interventions in NRM that strategically strengthened the capacity building of beneficiary communities through trainings has led to a change of focus by communities which has now shifted from previous engagement in resource and ethnic conflicts to inclusivity and appreciation of ethnic diversity and resource sharing through negotiated access rights and mutual water resource sharing mechanism. Virgin opportunities created through resource maps prepared by borderland communities in Kenya (Gabraa and Dasanach) and Ethiopia communities (Oromia Borena, and Dassenech, Maji and Surma) and reciprocal agreements that require further exploitation. The exercise provided directions and platforms to conduct inter and intra community discussion to resolve resource sharing problems.

3.1.2 - % increase of pasture lands/availability of livestock feed/forage under sustainable and effective range land management

The project has increased pasture land/ availability of livestock feed / forage under sustainable Commercial oriented fodder / hay production. As a result, a total of 2,428 HHs participated in the rehabilitation production of fodder in 1,293 hectares of land from which a total of 3,348.76MT fodder was harvested, baled and sold, generating an income of Euros 1,465,560.36 (average income Euros 603.61). This was achieved through organization of fodder production groups to undertake commercial oriented fodder production, capacity building training, provision of inputs, and value chain linkages. The fodder producers improved availability of livestock feeds to supplement own stocks feeding and

FODDER AND FORAGE					
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		2,428.00	1,293.40	3,348.76	1,465,560.36

generation of income from sale to pastoralist, livestock fattening groups, and traders locally and in the neighbouring areas, value chain actors' linkages. The intervention has improved productivity of livestock through feed availability introduction of drought

tolerant grass, fodder and plants. The table summarizes fodder production by different partners and areas.

Op3.2. Support to development of strategic water points shared by cross-border communities.

Op 3.2.1 % increase on availability of water/person/day

The project constructed and rehabilitated 15 water sources (2 dams, 7 ponds, 3 boreholes and 3 underground water tanks) in strategic areas to improve access to and availability of water throughout the dry year including during the dry season for domestic and livestock use. Access to reliable water in livestock migration routes and grazing areas has improved utilisation of pastures in strategic grazing areas leading to increased livestock production. The construction of water sources achieved 100% outcome as all planned sources were constructed and are fully functional. The table below summarises the different types of water sources constructed in different project areas by different partners and the available water capacities in cubic meters.

Cluster	Targets	Water sources and volumes achieved
Marsabit-CIFA	2 dams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 water dams constructed in Garwole and Selebaro, Marsabit with a carrying capacity of 12,000 cubic meters and 7,000 cubic meters respectively. In Elhadi 8 cubic and Alaibura boreholes 12 cubic in Marsabit with an average yield of 2 cubic meters per hour based on the analysis of the test pumping results
South Omo-VSFG	3 boreholes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 boreholes were constructed. Fejeh borehole in South Omo, 148.8 M deep with a water discharge capacity of 5.86 litres per second.
South Omo-EPaRDA	7 ponds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 ponds with carrying capacity of between 8,000 cubic meters (2 ponds) and 10, 000 cubic meters (5 ponds) totalling to 66,000 cubic meters.
Turkana - VSFG	3 underground water tanks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 underground water tanks in Turkana with a capacity of 150 cubic meters each, totalling 450 cubic meters.

The project has increased availability of water as a result of water structures constructed that increased availability of water from between 4 – 6 months for storage facilities like ponds and dams and supply throughout the year through boreholes.

- Marsabit - Two Water Dams constructed with storage capacities 12,000 cubic meters and 5,000cubic meter in Garwole and Selebaro in Marsabit. (accumulatively 17,000cm³)
- Elhadi Borehole in Marsabit - Average discharge yield is 2m³/hr based on the analysis of the test pumping results for 12 hours equivalent to 24m³/hr – 24,000litres per day.
- Alaibura Borehole in Marsabit - Average discharge yield is 8m³/hr based on the analysis of the test pumping results for 12 hours equivalent to 96 cubic meters = 96,000 litres per day.
- South Omo, Feject Borehole– 5 Elhadi Borehole in Marsabit - Average discharge yield is 5.86m³/hr based on the analysis of the test pumping results for 12 hours equivalent to 24m³/hr – 70.32cubic meters = 70,320 litres per day.
- South Omo zone - 7 ponds – Between 8,000cubic meters (2 ponds) to 10, 000cm³ (5ponds) totalling to 66,000 cubic meters
- Turkana - Water tanks capacity in Turkana 150cubic meters each x 3 tanks = total 450cubic meters

The project strengthened customary institutions and systems for Natural Resource Management as a strategy that enhanced their capacities to contribute to sustainable and effective use of natural resources

in cross border areas. This was achieved through identification of customary institutions located in strategic border areas and livestock migratory corridors, engaged them on participatory reflective evaluation of their NRM activities and practices, gaps and recommendations. Trainings were conducted on community based sustainable and effective natural resource management, reciprocal agreement negotiations and facilitation of reciprocal agreements and their administration.

The customary / NRM institutions applied the skills to facilitate communities resource mapping in cross borders to identify their mutual natural resources, migratory routes and neighbouring communities to support the development of rangeland use plans, grazing patterns, by-laws and action plans to guide natural resource mutual sharing. These outputs were validated by larger communities through community awareness and dissemination where NRM committees were endorsed. Maps of border resources for mutual utilisation, holistic grazing plans, proposed access rights, NRM by-laws to govern and regulate access and utilization of natural resources were validated and endorsed at intra-community level. They were presented, reviewed, negotiated during inter-community cross border dialogues meetings where the approved final products (reciprocal agreements) were formally integrated for joint cross border implementation and managed through a cross border NRM committee established.

Op 3.2.2 reduced number of days of water shortage per months.

The project improved water access and availability through construction of 15 water structures as summarised in section 3.2.1 above. These included high capacity water discharge and recharge boreholes that served the communities throughout the year and mega water storage facilities (ponds and dams) and underground run-off water holding tanks that have the capacity to avail water for use for over a minimum of 4 months into the dry season. The community developed a sustainable water conservation management system that was integrated with the livestock migration patterns, and rangeland utilization framework, and reciprocal agreements implemented through established governance structures (Water User Committees, NRM and Water Maintenance). These contributed to improved rangeland and sustainable ecosystem as communities on both territorial borders were engagement in the project process including development of structures, co-manage and shared benefits that create harmony and security, and were able to bridge grazing seasonality transitional shocks due water scarcities. The table below summarizes water availability, access and use for domestic purposes and for animals.

<i>Clusters</i>	<i>Domestic use</i>	<i>Animal use</i>	<i>HHs reached</i>
Fejch borehole– South Omo	Trekking reduced from 4 hours to 30 minutes, 50 litres of water available per household per day.	600,000 heads of livestock (sheep, goats and cattle) access water throughout the year.	650 HHs
Elhadi and Alaibura boreholes in Marsabit	50lts - 60litres of water /HH and 110 litres /HH respectively. Reduced trekking from 11Km- 500m, reduced waiting periods from 8 hours to less than 30 minutes.	500 donkeys, 2,500 camels and 600,000 shoats access water for 8 months - last 1½years	650HHs (47 FHH)
South Omo – 7 ponds	500 HHs (222F) access 50 litres a day for domestic-watering vegetation gardens, cover grass and plants (elephant grass and moringa)	1,050,000 livestock (350,000 livestock per ponds) daily for over 4 - 6 months each year	4,003 HHs

2 Dams	Established since October 2020, serves 1,020 HHs (Selle-Gabaro 810 HH and Garwole 210 HHs) during dry seasons. Water utilisation is 50 litres per household per day. Trekking time reduced from 2 hours to less than 20 minutes.	Selle-Gabaro; 350,000-700,000 daily during drought and 2,900 cattle, 200 camels, 2,000 shoats during rainy season Garwole: 2,050 herds (300 cattle, 250 camels and 1,500 shoats)	5,861HHs (5,098 MHHs and 763 FHH)
3 Underground water tanks	60-80 litres per household per day, reduced trekking from 3 hours over 8km to 10-20 minutes per day	59,000 heads of livestock	950HHs

Output 4.1: At least 6,750 persons are reached with accurate information on Covid-19 pandemic and cholera disease (infection prevention and control measures and hygiene and sanitation practices)

Opt 4.1.1 % of target communities who display improved knowledge about Covid-19 and cholera disease prevention through use of IEC materials and messages disseminated

The project reached 6,421 HHs (38,527 individuals) out of targeted HHs. This was achieved following a multi-stakeholder approach adopted in raising awareness in Kenya and Ethiopia. For example, in Ethiopia, multi-stakeholder approach was adopted involving 66 sixty-six (18F) government stakeholders from Health, Administration, Livestock and Fishery, Pastoral Affair and Early Warning Office from Zone woreda departments to enhance effective coordination and accurate messaging. This increased number of beneficiaries reached. The households reached displayed improved knowledge about Covid 19 pandemic and cholera infection prevention and control measures following intense engagements through the use of IEC materials for awareness and sensitization messaging. Support to awareness creation on Covid 19, desert locust and cholera targeted 26, 900 individuals but reached 27, 657 individuals representing 103%. Support mass education and awareness campaigns targeted 11,205 individuals but reached 10,870 individuals, representing 97% achievement.

Opt 4.1.2 Number of households with increased knowledge on Covid-19, cholera disease and desert locust preventative and management measures

Partners	Intervention	# HHs reached
<i>Turkana Partners</i>	<i>Posters, radio, pub address</i>	<i>8,028</i>
<i>TUPADO/MC</i>	<i>Radio – 21 spots</i>	<i>2,413</i>
<i>Mercy Corps, VSFG Turkana, VSFG Ethiopia</i>	<i>Awareness</i>	<i>11,339</i>
<i>VSFG Turkana</i>	<i>Outreach</i>	<i>2,266</i>
Total	HH	24,046
Total	People	120,230

A total of 24,056 HHs (120,320 individuals) increased knowledge on Covid 19, cholera disease and desert locust preventative, control and management measures

In Turkana, 8,028HHs were reached through participatory processes confirmed that they acquired information through different awareness raising and

education forums, channels and methods adopted by VSFG, Mercy Corps and TUPADO in collaboration with the County Government of Turkana. They received information on causes, prevention, control, referrals to healthcare units for treatments, personal hygiene and sanitation and

environmental safety. This enabled them to adopt appropriate practices that prevented and mitigated infection, transmission and spread of Covid 19 pandemic and cholera diseases and desert locusts. The beneficiaries mentioned that they accessed the information from the following sources adopted by ODP partners; face to face discussions, IEC materials (posters) distributed, public address systems, vernacular radio talk shows that were hosted through local vernacular FM stations (Kiswahili, Turkana) and messages disseminated through awareness activities undertaken by trained CDRs and governments officers.

Opt 4.1.3 # of campaign sessions supported to mitigate the spread of Covid-19, cholera diseases and desert locust invasion.

The project conducted 104 campaigns to spread mass information to 70,509 HHs, creating awareness and sensitizing them on the Covid 19 pandemic, cholera outbreaks and desert locust invasion. In Kenya, TUPADO and Mercy Corps sponsored 21 FM Radio talk shows (Radio Sports) in Turkana disseminated in three local dialects, reaching 120,230 people, representing 24,000HHs that were targeted in the villages, towns, BMUs and schools. In Ethiopia, Vita/RTI sponsored 52 FM Radio campaign disseminated in 11 local dialect languages reading 2, 600 HHs (15,600 individuals). 52 listening groups were organized and educated on when and how to access the information through radios.



In Kenya, the project in collaboration with the extension workers (30 CDRs and 66 CHVs) and 15 NRM committees conducted 16 villages to village outreach awareness and education sessions and distributed 3,400 IEC materials reaching 2,914HHs (1,422FHH, 1,492HMM). Public address system outreach modality was also used to conduct 15 outreach meetings and forums to disseminate the messages during awareness campaign sessions to mitigate the spread of Covid 19, cholera and desert locust invasion. The sessions reached people in strategic areas like water points, markets, beaches and grazing areas and 2,413 HHs (12,065 individuals) per session for session equivalent to 36,195HHs.

Improved access to the information prepared beneficiaries for the appropriate use of personal protective equipment and hygiene and sanitation kits and supplies distributed by the project. The improved access to information contributed to the beneficiaries' proper use of the appropriate hygiene and sanitation and safety practices among fisher communities and pastoralists, hence no incidences of cholera outbreaks in 2020 and 2021 and effective prevention of infection and spread of Covid 19 pandemic diseases. In Kenya, 13,600 people in Kibish Ward gained knowledge on early warning and preparedness to common disasters through awareness and mass education supported by VSWG. Mercy Corps conducted awareness creation for 5,000 persons (3,245F) in five events organised within the Woredas in Ethiopia. Mercy Corps in Kenya supported 69 (41F) community health promoters (30 CHVs and 39 BMU members) trained under ODP on hygiene promotion to raise awareness about the importance of good hygiene practices in prevention of Covid 19 transmission as well as to curb the spread of cholera disease to undertake awareness campaigns targeting BMUs.

Opt 4.1.4 # of households with improved hygiene practices disaggregated by location

The project reached 10,870 households that demonstrated improved hygiene practices across the project areas.

Output 5.1: Human and animal health workers and key stakeholders supported in their efforts to contain contagious diseases (Covid-19 pandemic and cholera disease)

Opt 5.1.1 # of community institutions and healthcare service units with equipment to scale up Covid-19, cholera and locust surveillance and reporting activities

The project procured 112 out of planned 132 hand washing facilities (85% achievement). These were distributed and installed in strategic public places with high human movements and or interactions such as service provision institution to enhance easy and indiscriminate access by all. The hand wash facilities' installation sites were selected in consultation with beneficiaries and local authorities. The project supported 51 public institutions such government departments (Ministry of Health, Water and Sanitation Public Health) at Woreda /Kebeles and Sub-county/Ward levels. Others were veterinary pharmacy, markets, schools, police stations and health centres accessible to 7,499HHs (44,994 individuals). The items distributed included 51 hand wash equipment distributed in Kenya and 480 posters distributed to serve 2,961HHs.

In Ethiopia, Mercy Corps procured 15 packets of protective face masks face masks for health personnel and hygiene promoters (chemical protection masks), 12 sets of safety clothes, 12 pairs of safety shoes, 12 pairs of protective gloves (chemical protection gloves) and 200 litres of chemical insecticide (Diazinon) and 100 boxes of surgical gloves.

In Kenya, Turkana County: VSFG procured and distributed 20 handwashing (50-litre) water tanks mounted on a fabricated metallic stand with a soap holder to strategic areas in Turkana county project sites to promote handwashing for improved hygiene. These services reached 943HHs. Each facility was provided with 10-litre detergent soap for effective handwashing with soap to prevent spread of Covid19 and diarrhoeal diseases. Mercy Corps also supported the County government's effort in improving access to hand washing facilities in public places and provided equipment and supplies to scale up Covid-19, cholera and locust surveillance and reporting activities. The project thus procured 22 appropriately fabricated hand-washing facilities which were installed in strategic places in schools and public. The facilities were accessed by approximately 22,000 people living in the vicinity of the community institutions and healthcare service units

In Kenya Marsabit County: VSFG procured 39 handwashing equipment that were installed in strategic high human traffic public utility locations targeting 857 households to curb transmission of Covid 19 and prevent spread cholera disease. Additionally, CIFA procured and distributed 56 handwashing facilities to serve 2,033 HHs.

In Turkana, TUPADO provided logistical support for sensitization sessions and distribution of 480 posters produced (240 for desert locust control, personal and environmental safety; and 240 for Covid 19 prevention and control). The distribution of IEC materials was done in collaboration with the Turkana County Government Ministry of Health, and Desert Locust Task Force under the Ministry of Agriculture, Pastoral Economy and Fisheries), who enhanced access to critical information and messages on Desert Locust and Covid 19 prevention and control measures. TUPADO designed and printed out and distributed the posters in conjunction with the above line ministry counterparts. Distribution was done through Desert Locust Scouts (DLS) and Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) in the following areas; Kataboi, Karebur, Sasame, Kokuro, Meyan, Liwan and Kaikor. The CHVs and DLS posted them at strategic places and used them to educate/sensitise the beneficiaries. 1,961 HH- (577 women, 591Female youth, 440men and 353 male youths) were reached by the interventions. They also reached 35 People with Disabilities) (15women, 20men) and 40 Internally Displaced Persons (37 women, 3 men).

Output 5.2 Availability and access to appropriate hygiene kits and personal protection equipment to promote personal hygiene practices at household level and strategic public institutions

Opt 5.2.1 # of households who have access hygiene kits like gloves, face masks and sanitizers

In collaboration with the respective government departments (Ministry of Health, Water and Sanitation Public Health) at Woreda /Kebeles and Sub-county/Ward levels, project procured and distributed personal protective equipment and hygiene supplies benefiting 7,499 vulnerable HHs (44,994 individuals). Distributions were done at strategic public places accessible by all such as veterinary

pharmacies, markets, schools, police stations, health centers, BMU offices etc. The items distributed included 22,000 liters of liquid soap, 6,000 pieces of bar soaps, 11,000 liters of sanitizers, 19,000 pieces of mask and 100 boxes of gloves. Distribution was accompanied by trainings on appropriate use. The table below summarizes the supplies procured and distributed to beneficiaries.

<i>Assorted hygiene and sanitation inputs/kit</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Targeted</i>	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>% Achieved</i>
<i>Liquid Soap -</i>	<i>Litres</i>	<i>3000</i>	<i>22,002</i>	<i>733%</i>
<i>Bar soap</i>	<i>pc</i>	<i>6000</i>	<i>6,000</i>	<i>100%</i>
<i>Sanitizers</i>	<i>Litres</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>11,000</i>	<i>1100%</i>
<i>Masks</i>	<i>Pcs</i>	<i>19,000</i>	<i>19,000</i>	<i>100%</i>
<i>Gloves</i>	<i>Boxes</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100%</i>
Total		20,100	581,002	390%

In Marsabit, VSF Germany procured and distributed 2,000 masks and 3600 bar soaps to 1,000 HHs (730MHH, 270FHH) and 36 public institutions in Dukana and Illeret Wards (North Horr sub-County) and Loiyangalani Ward (Laisamis sub-county). CIFA also provided 2400 bar soaps to 750 HHs. Mercy Corps in Ethiopia reached 1,371 (674F and 697M) vulnerable households with 6,000 bars of body soaps as a package to the Covid 19 protective items for hygiene promotion.

In Ethiopia, through Vita/RTI and Woreda Water, Mines and Energy offices beneficiaries were supported with 3,000 liquid soap, aluminium sulphate, Wuha agar and Bishan gari to reduce the risk of infection and spread of cholera and other water borne diseases. On the other hand, the project also financed rental for one vehicle to carryout surveillance and monitoring activities of Covid 19 for three months. Similarly, EPARDA procured and distributed hygiene materials (1,000 litres of hand sanitizer,



2,352 litres of liquid soap and 7,650 litres of liquid soap) for use to mitigate the spread of pandemic and IEC materials for awareness raising. The hygiene materials were distributed to the three project woredas in South Omo, namely: Hamer, Dassenech and Nyangatom. Due to beneficiaries and government demand for soap and sanitizers as they were critical in prevention of Covid 19 pandemic, the quantities procured exceeded the planned.

In Ethiopia, Mercy Corps reached 1,371 (674F and 697M) vulnerable people in Dasanach, Hammer and Nyangatom with this intervention as they received 6,500 reusable face masks, protective facemasks to better equip them with Covid-19 protective gears and sanitary items to control and reduce cholera disease outbreak spread. In collaboration with woreda stakeholders, health experts and Covid-19 taskforces members 1,176 (577F) individuals received awareness raising training on cholera prevention and proper use of Covid-19 protective equipment in Hammer and Dasanach woredas. VSFG procured 19,000 masks and 100 gloves distributed to 1,700HHs. his activity was not carried out in Kenya as the government together with other international NGOs were undertaking this in the program area and there was no need for duplication. The program however supported the activity through CHVs working for the project area to carryout extension messaging to communities in villages.

Output 6.1: Vulnerable households under lockdown measures get access to predictable basic food and non-food services e.g. food, water trucking services, emergency transport fuel and detergents.

Opt 6.1.1 # of households and/or individuals receiving unconditional cash support packages

The project supported 6,003HHs with unconditional cash transfers (1,030 multi-purposes cash transfer through co-funding project implemented by TUPADO in Turkana County, Kenya, e-Voucher cash for food and sanitizer/soap 2,221HHs and Cash envelop through PNSP criteria in Ethiopia 2,752HHs. This exceeded the original planned target of 3,154 by 190% as summarised in the table below.

Project Interventions	Cash transfer modalities and cycles	Units	Achieved
<i>Phase 1 - Unconditional cash transfers VHHs - Ethiopia PNSP Criteria</i>	<i>PNSP Criteria - MCE - 1096 (cash transfer for 3 months)</i>	<i>HHs</i>	2,752
<i>Phase 1 - Provision of unconditional cash transfer VHHS - Myfugo E-Voucher in Kenya</i>	<i>MCK (896 VHH x 2 months) VFG Turkana- (185 VHHs for 3months), VSFG Marsabit (200 HH x 3 months, CIFA - 250VHHsx 3 months), TUPADO - (200VHHs for 1 month), MC - 896</i>	<i>HHs</i>	1,727
<i>Phase 2 - Cash-food Transfer - Myfugo E-Voucher in Kenya (491)</i>	<i>VSFG Turkana - 185 pax, VSFG Marsabit - 200HHs CIFA - 106 HHs - All Partners redeemed for 2 months</i>	<i>HHs</i>	494
	Total HHs Supported		4,973
<i>Offline cash transfer</i>	<i>TUPADO – Multi-Purpose</i>	<i>HH</i>	1,030
	Final Total		6,003

My-fugo digital trade platform provide a safe, secure, transparent and verifiable means of delivering e-Vouchers to vendors for a cashless transaction to access goods and services. This technology was the best during Covid 19 pandemic where infection and transmission was mainly through contact and crowding. The food delivered through an electronic platform provided by a digital system app was programmed by the consultant service provider (My-fugo) contracted by the project. The beneficiaries redeem e- vouchers to selected IGA groups to access essential food packages (sugar, rice, tea leaves, beans, green grams, cooking oil, maize flour and detergents (bars of soap, sanitizer, and detergents).

In Ethiopia, Mercy Corps supported provision of **unconditional cash**, protective facemasks, sanitation items, training for woreda and zone experts and desert locust control items and chemicals to reduce impacts of Covid-19, cholera and desert locust infestation respectively. Mercy Corps in Ethiopia increased the number of beneficiaries to meet local needs for food from many and reduced the number of months from 3 to 2 at a cost of Euros 77,524. The beneficiaries were increased from 1,096 HH to 2,752 HHs to respond the growing number of households that were unable to have a meal a day due to impact of drought and Covid 19. Mercy Corps reached 1,393 (615F, 761M) severely affected households in Dasenech (990/432F), Hamer (299/142F) and Nyangatom (104/54F) woredas through unconditional cash transfer. Income generated was Euros 22,310 (Kenya) and Euros 26,144 (Ethiopia) for two months. In Kenya, Mercy Corps Kenya provided e-Voucher for food access worth Euros 44,752 for two (2) months to 892 out of planned 896 planned beneficiaries in in phase one of the emergency intervention funded under the crisis modifier. The number of beneficiaries reduced due to double targeting of four (4) beneficiaries with TUPADO. This led to their removal from MC master lists once the system detected the error.

TUPADO provided one-month e-Voucher for food access support to 200HHs (50men, 77women, 73 youth) @ cost of Euros 5,021. The 200 beneficiary households were included in the 1,030HHs who received subsequent multi-purpose cash transfer interventions worth Euros 64,315 under the co-funding project. TUPADO obtained co-funding from Oxfam GB who got funded by Germany Federal Foreign Office to implement multi-purpose cash transfer activity in Turkana North sub-County. 1030 most vulnerable households were targeted and reached: Kataboi location: 55, Nareng'ewoi:140, Kaalem: 211, Losajait: 188, Kokuselei: 231, Kangakipur: 122 and Kaemongor: 83. Each of the 1030 households received Euros 63.5 per month for two months (November and December 2021). The cash disbursement was done via M-pesa platform. Overall, the project surpassed the 2,216 HHs targeted under emergency response in Phase 1. The phase 2 emergency intervention targeted 1039HHs (9 HHs were increased by CIFA, 1030HHs supported through TUPADO cash transfer activities.

In Kenya, Myfugo technology digital trade platform facilitated the 250 VICOBA/VSLA / food vendors to reach 1,816 vulnerable HHs with 3,418 HH food baskets worth Eur 23.12 in a safe manner that reduced their exposure to infection. In Turkana, VSFG distributed food basket to 185 HHs (38M,147F) for two-month cycles trough Myfugo digital platform. The food basket contributed to food security to

185HH. Each beneficiary received food items worth Euros 24 per month for 2 months which translated to total income of Euros 8,800 in phase 2 of contingency emergency.

Opt 6.1.2 Total value of cash (Euros) transferred to beneficiaries

The project achieved a total cash transfer value of Euros 289,020.19 through different cash transfer modalities that targeted a total of 6003 HHs. Cash transferred through e-Voucher for food and Covid 19 supplies access targeting 2221 HHs was Euros 80,686.19; multi-purpose cash transfer targeting 1030 HHs was Euros 130,810 while unconditional cash transfers targeting 2752 HHs was Euros 77,524.

Opt 6.1.3 Number of women and youth businesses supported with conditional grants



The project supported 250 VSLA groups/vendors with a total of Euros 80,686.19) business boosting grants to support prepositioning foods for e-Voucher food basket redemption through the Myfugo (IT solutions Firm) digital platform. VSF Germany in collaboration with implementing partners contracted Myfugo to develop and manage the hybrid e-voucher for food, e-trade for vendors and e-cash for and cash transfer digital platform systems, capacity build Trainers of Trainers (TOTs) and staff; and provide operational back office support to monitor and

evaluate the accuracy, reliability, efficiency and effectiveness of the system. The cashless and Covid 19 safe e-food distribution targeted 1,767 vulnerable beneficiary households adversely affected by Covid 19 pandemic, floods, cholera, conflict and desert locust and 250 VSLA groups (food supply vendors) to cushion them against the adverse effects of the disaster shocks.



Myfugo developed a hybrid e-system digital platform that integrated e-food, e-trade, e-cash and e-reporting system in one platform. The beneficiaries' and vendors' bio-data were mapped according to proximity to facilitate efficient access of the e-system coupons dispatch and timely redeeming online and offline e-Voucher system for food distribution.

The Covid 19 safe e-food voucher technology provided options for mobile network and safe off network e-voucher redeeming (context friendly) in timely, transparent and accountable manner. The processes of redeeming the e-voucher for food basket ensured safety of the beneficiaries, TOTs, staffs and vendors to minimize exposure to Covid 19 infection. This complemented by awareness raising and education, masks distributions and appropriate handwashing facilities strategically installed near vendor shops.



Myfugo trained **101** s-System management TOTs (73 in Turkana and 28 in Marsabit) which comprised of VSLA TOTs and staffs who further trained the selected vulnerable households and **250 vendors** on e-voucher redeeming process and procedures resulting to successful redemption of the meeting. In addition, in Ethiopia 1,393 (615F & 761M) households severely affected by Covid 19 pandemic, floods, cholera, conflict and desert locust were identified for cash envelop distribution through adoption of PNSP Criteria implemented in Ethiopia.

Output 7.1: Curbed spread of desert locust and protection of livelihoods in targeted Woreda in South Omo Zone.

Opt 7.1.1 – Number of households supported to protect their livelihood assets (crop farms, grazing areas and bee colonies) from desert locust shocks.

The project enhanced mechanisms for livelihood assets protection safeguards resulting to reduced damage and losses from desert locust invasion. The project enhanced coping capacity and ability for beneficiaries and government stakeholders as they engaged in regular surveillance and dissemination of early warning information that triggered activation of livelihood safeguard interventions that in turn curbed the spread of desert locust invasion. These included targeted awareness and trainings on integrated indigenous and modern control desert locust control measures, provision and prepositioning of inputs and tools and logistics to support desert locust control measures.

The damages and losses to beneficiary livelihoods due to desert locusts were reduced through emergency interventions aimed at livelihood assets recovery. Livestock health and production improved through enhanced livestock disease surveillance and emergency veterinary interventions, water tracking, feed supplements, fodder production and development of feed banks. Agricultural production was revitalized after farming groups affected by floods and desert locusts were able to rehabilitate their destroyed farms using inputs (seeds and tools) supplied by the project to prepare their farms afresh production cycles.

The project supported 12,090 individuals (2,015 HHs) with livelihood recovery interventions tailored to their lives. Ten (10) Zonal and County Desert Locusts control teams were supported to strengthen desert locust migration surveillance, early warning and forecast system through training and provision of inputs (protective clothes, boots, goggles, masks and gloves and 200 litres of chemicals. Additionally, 760 HHs accessed desert locust impact, control and coping mechanisms through FM Radio broadcasts with a catchment of up to 11,905 HHs. 6,404 HHs reported being prepared to respond to and cope with desert locusts' invasion through skills acquired and support provided with protective gears - gloves, boots, face shields, goggles, field tents and 325 litres of Diazinon.

Opt 7.1.2 – Number of households whose livelihoods are safeguarded through support with early livelihood recovery services and inputs.

Targeted support was provided to beneficiaries who lost their critical livelihood sources like livestock, fodder farms and grinding mills through provision of grass seeds and tools. As a result, 300 HHs planted fodder in 18.8 hectares of land, harvested and sold at Euros 9,276. Other 200 HHs sold their 500 bales of hay to 14 bulls fattening groups to feed weak and malnourished animals and restock cattle worth Euros 1,837. 5,000 HHs that had no access to water were supported to access water through rehabilitation of water sources in Marsabit during drought period.

2.2.2 Activities updates

Op1.1 Technical and business skills for young men and women to enhance their employment and entrepreneurship capacity enhanced.

Activity 1.1.1 Participatory livelihood, market mapping and value chain analysis baseline assessment.

The project baseline assessment helped in validating the Omo Delta Program's objectives and interventions. The project undertook three baseline assessments on participatory livelihood, market mapping and market value chain systems. The baseline findings were used as bench mark information to update the Logframe activities, targets, indicators and assumptions; and to assess project progress and impact during mid-term and final evaluation. Assessment findings informed project planning updates.

Mercy Corps Kenya and Ethiopia carried out a participatory market and value chain assessment on livestock, fish and labour. A baseline assessment across the border region was led by VSF-Germany with both Mercy Corps offices providing support functions. The assessment team was trained in Bench Maji and South Omo Zones in Ethiopia, and Turkana County in Kenya. The assessment findings were shared in a joint forum in Ethiopia and have since informed the approach to interventions proposed in this program.

One of the key challenges during the baseline assessments was the lack of reliable data in the livestock, crop and fish value chains, and especially in cross-border areas e.g. meat quantities sold in the local

markets in metric tonnes. Value chain actors prior to the commencement of the project operated in a dysfunctional and disorganized way with no clear trace of records of production, productivity and marketing. Cultural sensitivities and tussles between target beneficiary groups and authorities on taxation regimes hindered disclosure of quantitative information e.g. on livestock numbers. In such instances, proxy indicators were used to estimate data required e.g. number of bulls sold in local markets.

Activity 1.1.2 Support to trans-boundary markets and linkages for participation in formal cross-border trade by women and youth (18,723HHs)

The Project accelerated socio-economic growth among targeted beneficiaries across Kenya-Ethiopia borders by strengthening their capacities to exploit cross-border trade opportunities and markets. This was realised through creation of cross-border networks, formal cooperation, construction and linkages to cross-border market infrastructures, and establishment of cross-border trade management systems and mechanisms for effective cross-border trade. Capacity building and strategic linkages or organized trade groups and trade chain value actors improved their business acumen skills and interactions enhancing commodities supply – demand that is critical to exploit opportunities for flourishing trade investments and returns. These were achieved through integrated interventions implemented by the partners such as women focused cross-border and local businesses, asset ownership and increased income, training awareness for unemployed youths to engage in business/entrepreneurships and technical employments (including TVET), promotion of local cross-border trade markets, facilitating new and expand existing businesses and strengthening public and private institutions. Through the project, 99.9% of the beneficiaries targeted (18,660 HHs) out of 18,723HHs increased their household income and realised economic growth through gains from formal linkages to cross-border trade and access to transboundary markets in Kenya and Ethiopia.

Women and youths (3,110 HHs) strengthened and supported with diversified interventions to access to cross-border markets and linkage to formal cross-border trade.			
Strengthen women focused opportunities in Ethiopia	1,000	1,000	100%
Asset ownership and increase income in Kenya	1,150	1,240	108%
Training and awareness raising and grants (TVET) in Ethiopia	3,465	3,675	106%
Promote local /cross-border trade, workshops, visits Eth 10,985, Kenya 415 (Mercy Corps 10,800, TUPADO 200, CIFA 400)	11,400	11,312	99%
Expansion of new and existing business (722 Kenya & 268 Ethiopia)	990	988	100%
Public and private institutions strengthened Kenya	718	445	62%

Strengthen women focused opportunities in Ethiopia (1000): In South Omo Zone, 40 women's business groups ranging between 25-75 members (1000 HHs - *Dasenech 250, Hamer 300, Nyangatom 250, Maji 100 and Surma 100 women*) trained and supported by Vita/ RTI have increased their income through business opportunities, through engagements in intervention areas like cereal trading, grinding mill, poultry production, dairy farming, goat and sheep trading, local food preparation and vegetable production. Vita/RTI organized the groups and trained them on trade and business concepts and life skills which enabled them to develop business plans considering available opportunities and capacities before they started the businesses. A total of 882 women out of 1,000 engaged in cereal trading, goat fattening, goat trading, poultry production, dairy farming, local food preparation and grinding mill groups generated Euros 28,211.57 as income. The table below summarises the business data.

Beneficiaries	Groups	#HH	Seed Capital		Profits and Savings		Total	
			ETB	Euro	ETB	Euro	ETB	Euro
Women	40	1000	210,670	4299.38	1,075,000	24,512.19	1,285,670	28,811.57

Additionally, Vita/RTI organized and trained 20 business groups as per the table below;

Business Type	# of groups	Location	Seed capital
Grinding mill cooperatives	5	Hamer-2, Nyangatom-1 and Dasenech-	Purchased 5 grinding mills 1,750,000 ETB (46,052.63 Euro)
Eight (8) crop trading	8	(Dasenech-2, Nyangatom-3, Maji -2 and Surma-1),	360,000 ETB (9473.68 Euro)
Dairy production group	2	(Hamer-1 and Dasenech-1),	240,000 ETB (6315.78 Euro)
three goat trading groups in Hammer	3	Hammer	210,000 ETB (5526.31 Euro)
Local food preparation groups	2	(both in Hamer)	50,000 ETB (1315.78 Euro)
Poultry farm	5	Hamer Nyangatom, Dasenech, Maji & Surma.	280,000 ETB (7368.4211 Euro) for poultry farm groups
Total			

The grinding mill groups contributed/mobilized saving ETB 201,670 (5307.10 Euro) that was deposited at the group's account before they could access the seed money and purchase of the grinding mill by the project aimed at strengthening the cooperative and promote their ownership of the business. In addition to the seed capital release, the project constructed 17 shades (houses) for different business groups; for five (5) poultry farms, two (2) dairy farms, five (5) grinding mills and store for (5) five crop trade groups with varied designs according to their nature of business. Among the organized 40 women business groups, 36 business groups were promoted into primary cooperative organizations. The project supported the cooperatives with preparation and documentation of all necessary financial records already distributed to respective cooperatives in Hamer, Dasenech and Nyangatom woredas. The table below provides the summary of the women groups engaged in business opportunities initiated through the project seed capital.

Woreda	Beneficiary HHs			Contribution	Seed capital by the project	Entity	
	F	M	Total			Cooperative	Group
Hamer	275	0	275	100,250	450,000	9	
Dasenech	250	0	250	60,270	280,000	7	
Nyangatom	150	0	150	29,350	205,000	6	
Maji	75	0	75	9800	140,000	0	2
Surma	50	0	50	10,000	0	0	2
Total	800	0	800	209,670	1,075,000	22	4

Asset ownership and increase income (950 + 200CIFA): In Kenya, Mercy Corps promoted asset ownership and increased income activity through GIRL model that involves identifying 1,040 most vulnerable girls aged 16-21 years and out of school in the rural areas who are brought together into a social safe space group with the aim of improving their socio-economic status as well as social cohesion. Through this approach, 1,040 girls divided in 2 cohorts (780 and 260 respectively) out of targeted 950 underwent several training modules namely; Safe Space Identification, Basic Literacy and Numeracy, Financial Literacy Skills, Life skills and Health Training being led by a mentor. The girls were clustered in groups of 30 each forming a VSLA group which were supported with a VSLA kit for their weekly savings and were exposed to the VSLA model. All the 40 girls/women were exposed to mentorship and business incubator services through Income Generation Activity Selection, Planning and Management) IGA SPM) training to enable them to systematically assess the appropriateness of several potential IGAs, comparing each to their specific skills and resources. The trainings were intended to help the girls to select, plan and manage IGAs, thereby increasing the demand for loans so that no funds are left idle at any point in time. We envisage that the training will improve girls' business skills and acumen so that they borrow from the group fund and invest in their IGAs, increase income and repay the loans on time. As an exit plan, the forty GIRL Groups are all registered with the Ministry of Gender and Social Services and have opened bank accounts with Kenya Commercial Bank for financial support and mentorship.

During the reporting period, the 30 GIRL groups initiated saving and borrowing for IGAs start-ups. 918 (88%) girls have been saving, of whom 894 girls (86%) were able to access credit/loan facilities for the purpose of IGAs start-ups. Out of the total number recruited, a few girls have dropped out for various reasons or are totally unable to save within their VSLA groups. The 918 girls cumulatively had saved a total of 8,694,300 KSH (€ 72,163) as at the end of the program in addition to the grants injected to the VSLA groups by Mercy Corps. This indicates that the girl's savings has been increasing tremendously over the months. On average each girl has saved about 9,470 KSH (€79). Mercy Corps injected a grant of 3,545, 000 KSH (€29,424) to the groups saving to increase the amount available for borrowing by the girls. The 918 Girls accumulated KES 12,239,300 (Euro 101,587).

Asset Ownership - GIRL	Income in Kshs	Income in Euro
Savings 918 GIRLS	8,694,300.00	72,163.00
Grants	3,545, 000.00	29,424.00
Total	12,239,300.00	101,587.00

In Kenya, CIFA supported 18 groups of 225 women and 116 youth out of 200HHs targeted through trainings on VICOBA savings and credit approach, IGA business selection and planning, effective management of business, marketing, financial literacy skills to improve their business acumen, aspects

Asset Ownership CIFA	Income in Kshs	Income in Euro
Savings	71000	594.14
Grants	2362750	19771.97
shares	770650	6448.95
Profits	222,200	1859.41
Total	3,426,600	28,674.48

of marketing strategies, computation of profits, risk management in business and group dynamics. Training to groups were undertaken 40 trained VICOBA TOTs. The groups applied skills acquired to develop business plans, start IGAs, obtain legal registration and undertake regular meetings. As result, 54 diversified businesses were established (saving and loaning, livestock trade, sale of airtime, cereals/pulses, detergent, hay, agrovet drugs, soaps, perfumes, liquid detergents, tealeaves, vegetables, butchery, petrol). The groups were linked to financial institutions (County Department of Trade and KCB- Marsabit Branch). All groups developed by-laws, got their legal registration, opened bank accounts and are operational with a group worth of Euros 28, 674.48. All the group members are the engaged in cross-border trade activities.

Training awareness raising and grants support to strengthen women-focused cross-border and local business opportunities (3,465HH): The project focused on raising awareness of 2,145 (973F, 1,172M) unemployed women and youths on business to adopt positive attitude change to generate income through engagement in entrepreneurship and employment opportunities. This was achieved through technical and business skills capacity building and sensitization of 3,675 out of 3,465 unemployed pastoral women and youths on basic business skills, life-skills, financial linkages, legal registration and mentorship delivered through trained TOTs, and provision of business grants. They were organized into 58 business groups for economic growth and investments. The skills acquired has boosted their employment, entrepreneurship and financial literacy capacity, increased access to finance and financial services (saving, credit etc.). They were trained and organised into business groups and provided with business start-up capital following assessment of their business plans and budget.

Summary of achievement under this activity	
●	984 (490F, 494M) women and youths established 63 business groups and enterprises, and trained and engage in business and employment locally and across the border.
●	677 (343F, 334M) unemployed youths and women, from 26 kebeles, who are interested in start-up new businesses trained on basic business skills (BBS), life skill, entrepreneurship, and bookkeeping
●	20 (6F, 14M) government sector offices experts received ToT training on BBS, life skills and entrepreneurship were focal persons for skill transfer to the beneficiaries, established, and strengthened 63 business groups and developed 58 business plans.

- 3,783,000 ETB (Eur 71,877) business start-up grant transferred for 58 business groups, to help start-up of new business activities.
- 150 (75F) members of business groups trained on livestock fattening and supplementary animal feed production.
- Training provided for 5 (1F,4M) members of Lemlem poultry production business group in poultry production and management.

Promote cross-border to local and cross-border (Ethiopia/Kenya) market (cross-border trader workshops/visits) (MCE 10,800 +TUPADO 200 + CIFA 400)

In Ethiopia, Mercy Corps, created linkages and established networks for trade among key market actors that improved their business relationships and business performance for increased grains/profits. This was achieved through business meetings, workshops, trade forums, consultations and trainings of trade actors where existing opportunities and major market system constraints were discussed and possible solutions or systemic interventions identified. The **10,897** HHs out of **10,800** HHs targeted were engaged through the varied approaches that resulted to creation of networks and trade coordination units, joint action plans, trade opportunities and resource frameworks. This fostered good business relationships, sustainable utilisation available market infrastructure, enhanced inclusive market system for increased income.

The project organised workshops, trade forums, business meetings, consultation meetings and trainings for **2,922 (563F, 2,359M)** participants from terminal market actors where they discussed existing market system and developed mechanisms for improving trade and business relationship for increased gains. A market assessment reflective discussion was held with **73 (5F)** where major findings of the livestock market system, opportunities, constraints, possible intervention ideas and way forwards were identified to improve the market system. As a result, livestock traders in Dasenech, Hamer and Nyangatom woredas established livestock trader's association comprising of **34 (3F & 31M)** local active livestock traders. In addition, ODP facilitated a workshop for **55 (3F, 52M)** local livestock traders and key gov't stakeholders to establish livestock traders' association. The project supported process for legal registration (certification) of the **two (2)** livestock trader's associations with **19 (1F, 18M)** members in Darfur – Hamer Woreda and 19 (**11M, 8F**) in Nyangatom woredas.

ODP organised business-to-business meetings for **59 (44M, 15 F)** two livestock trade associations, village livestock traders, micro-small enterprise and woreda stakeholders to improve business relationships and market linkages for livestock sales in Hamer and Nyangatom woredas. As a result, **7 (4 in Nyangatom and 3 in Hamer)** business agreements/contracts were signed between the livestock trade business groups and livestock traders' associations. The agreements have improved business relationships and enhanced supply of livestock and sharing of market price information.

The ODP organised field visit and on-site discussion to create market linkage for fruit and vegetables products. Team of **13** delegates from governments, traders and the manager of Ethiopian Fruit and Vegetables Corporation (ETFURIT) visited banana plantations in Delegnemur kebele of Dasenech woreda. Market linkage enabled local producers to supply banana to ETFRUIT processing company with transport subsidies from the project. Two (**2**) tracks of banana products were transported from Derelere kebele by production groups supported by Vita/RTI to Addis Ababa market. In total the producer's groups supplied more than eight (8) tracks/640 quintals (64 MT) of banana to ETFRUIT.

ODP in collaboration with South Omo Zone Enterprise and Industry Development Department also supported **30 (2F, 28M)** women and youth members in Hamer, Dasenech and Nyangatom woredas to participate in experience-sharing visits to **11** enterprises where they shared practical experiences on production and supply chains, record keeping, market linkages, challenges encountered and problem-solving methods besides several individual and group discussions.

The project procured and distributed seven (7) laptop computers to trade and market development offices of all operational woredas, in South and West Omo zones. This was informed by the need identified in the findings of the livestock market mapping and analysis which included lack of access to market information on prices, input supplies and market as the major bottleneck in the livestock market system.

ODP provided material and technical support to key government sector stakeholder offices to help collect, analyse, and disseminate market information.

A secondary level livestock market centre was constructed in Derelere kebele of Dasenech woreda, that is benefiting **6,849** individuals/households in six kebeles and also visited by neighbouring cross-border communities from Dasenech Kenya and Turkana. Meetings were held in six beneficiary kebeles communities on livestock market construction and access rights attended by **400 (280M, 120F)** people to ensure mutual access and sustainability. Furthermore, Mercy Corps facilitated woreda level workshop for **70 (60M, 10F)** officials and community representatives from each kebeles witnessed by relevant woreda sector experts. This clarified expectation of livestock market centres, roles, and responsibilities of the government sectors, kebele officials and the community members, fixed market days and competitive prices of key commodities, revenue collection, human resource for market management and security. The participants disseminated the outcome to their community members. The facility is operational and management by livestock marketing committee through set by-laws to enhance mutual and sustainable utilisation. It was handed over to woreda trade and market development office for oversight and technical support. The availability of the facility has addressed market assessment finding of lack of livestock market in South Omo Zone and recommendation to construct a mega-market to improve cross-border trade and relationships.

Mercy Corps organised a trade fair and business-to-business meeting involving **95 (11F, 84M)** local producers, SMEs (medium sized businesses), traders, services providers, and consumers from Hamer, Dasenech and Nyangatom woredas in Turmi town. The event promoted marketing and sale of products, established business relationships and created value chain systems for improved business relationships. For instance, Omo River fish retail enterprise sold **60** kilograms of fish for restaurant owners during the event. Participants also discussed, shared contact information, and interacted with consumers, buyers, market actors, suppliers, and key stakeholders.

Trans boundary markets and cross-border trade in Marsabit:

CIFA supported 23 groups (ODP 8 groups and Co-funding 15 groups) comprising of 690 members (20M, 17PWD male youths and 651 women) through capacity building interventions to exploit cross-border trade and market opportunities. VICOBA approach was adopted in the trainings that enhanced their capacities in savings, loans, IGA operation, business and financial literacy complemented by grants provision. VICOBA and business trade activities were key strategies for the asset ownership and increased income. Through cross-border trade income of the 690 beneficiaries generated Euro 58,201.

Asset Ownership	Income in Kshs	Income in Euro
savings	841,000	7037.66
Grants	1,008,000	8435.15
shares	533400	4463.60
Profits	4,572,600	38264.44
Total	6,955,000	58,200.84

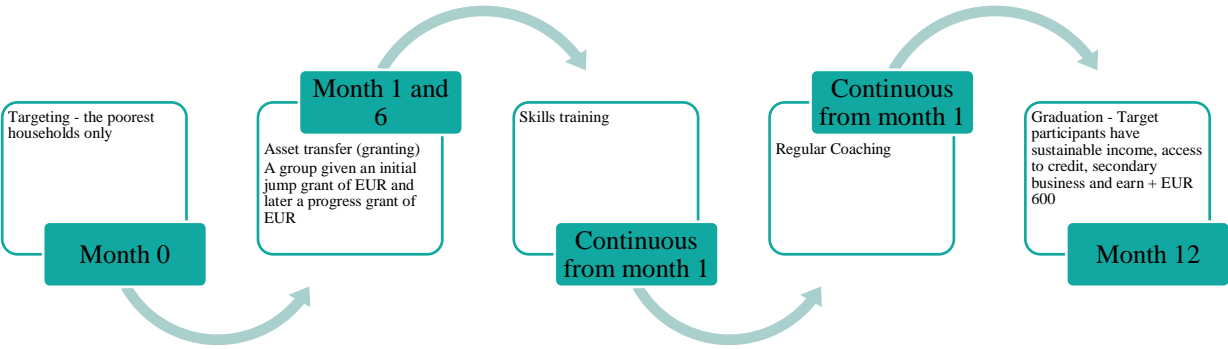
Cross-border trade opportunities: 300 cross-border traders were linked to 8 border markets that mushroomed due to vibrant cross-border trade improving profits and income generated from business enterprises. 24 traders were linked to three markets in Ileret and Sieslucho and Bubua situated at border of (Marsabit- Dasenech woredas) of Kenya-Ethiopia border which are now accessible to Dasenech cross-border communities’ resident in Kenya and Ethiopia. Other 276 traders were linked to five markets e.g Dukana and Balesaru in Kenya and Dubluq, Hoboq and Dillo markets in Ethiopia border (Telele and Dillo woredas). The markets are now fully exploited with designated market days known to cross-border traders and Gabraa and Borana communities. The access to these markets were not possible before the project intervention, thanks to cross-border dialogues, cross-border natural resource sharing protocols, training of VICOBA business groups on enterprise development, business and financial literacy, and linkage to cross-border markets and access to business loans.

Facilitate expansion of existing business and establish new (270 MCE and 720 MCK)

In Kenya, Mercy Corps provide opportunities for alternative livelihoods for **720** women through Rural Entrepreneurial Access Project (REAP) model approach. Ultra-poor women were identified through a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) wealth ranking process, and organised into 240 **groups** (3 each per

group) where consolidated financial efforts and skills to start joint business. The business groups were thereafter federated to village saving groups and trained on village savings and loan (VSLA) approach. Through co-financing project Livestock Market System (LMS, 228 women underwent a 2-year poverty graduation model and established 76 business start-ups in Kataboi and Katiko in Turkana North. The groups were taken through 18 months' period series of interventions, and are running their businesses. The 228 women have formed five (5) savings groups, which provided a mechanism for women to access credit to expand their businesses and meet other household needs.

Additionally, 492 women were identified and supported under ODP to establish 164 business group in Namukuse and Longech villages in Kangatotha ward and Nachukui, Nariokotome, Lowarengak/ Todonyang villages in Lake Zone Ward.



They were provided with Ksh 3,280,000.00 (€27,224) as seed capital. After six months of growing their businesses, they received business boosting grants worth Ksh. 1, 640,000.00 (€ 13,612). All the groups were mentored and coached before receiving first seed capital and second progress grants based on the same criteria. 20 women from the 492 participated in the REAP fund innovative, feasible and scalable business competitive models and each received Ksh 50,000 (€ 415) accumulative to Ksh, 1,000,000 (Euros 8,300). The 720 REAP/ODP beneficiaries generated income worth Ksh 4,920,000 (€ 49,136) for all four locations of Namukuse, Nachukui, Lowarengak and Todonyang.

In Ethiopia, Mercy Corps enhanced the capacities of 268 (105F, 163M) out of 270 youth and women businesses owners to expand their existing businesses and increase income. They received technical, business and financial management trainings and mentoring. Skills development included awareness raising to 104 (24F, 80M) women and youths on diversified local business and employment opportunities. 141 (50F, 91M) youths and women received trainings on BBS and life skills, entrepreneurship, technical, financial literacy and mentorship that enabled to successfully engage in livestock fattening businesses in Lochaber, Akodongole and Delegnemur kebeles.

Mercy Corps assessed the capacities of four (4) groups of 127 (55F, 72M) members from (Borkonech, Lotobolo and Madboren livestock fattening and Omo River fish retail business groups) in Dasanach Woreda and transferred to them 380,000 ETB (Euros 7,220) grants after they met grant transfer guideline pre-requisites e.g legal registration, savings (matching funds) and functional business. The enterprises withdrew 340,000 ETB (€ 6460) from their savings and purchased cattle, improved supplementary animal feed, animal health medicines, water pumps (for irrigable fodder production), refrigerator, tables, chairs, power generator, fuel, and other needed items. As a result, they generated Euros 43,664.

Strengthen public and private institutions (718): The project forecast to strengthen cooperation for public and private sector actors for promotion of cross-border trade. The project stakeholders and coordination structure were strengthened through involving individuals across the project areas to jointly reflect on trade issues and opportunities, develop systems and coordination mechanisms for formal cross-border market and trade. This created conducive environments to optimise cross-border trade opportunities, social and economic collaboration and cohesive relationships, improved economic gains of the pastoral women and youth. The project also contributed to reduced conflicts and youth migration and displacement due to competition over livelihood resources increases. ODP engaged **445 (91F, 354M) out of 718** through various consultation, cross-border coordination and intergovernmental coordination meetings, which led to development of MoU on cross-border trade and collaboration, established multi-level coordination unit and cross-border trade committees. Multi-stakeholder forums

were organized for 55 (17F, 38M) one stop shop (OSSs) actors' experts, key government sector officials, SMEs members, partners and OSSs to assess business activities, strengths, challenges and suggest possible solutions. The forum strengthened capacities of local structures in supporting establishment and strengthening of SMEs that can exploit the cross-border market.

ODP organised consultation meeting for **109 (25F, 84M)** public and private sector actors in major market and trained them on MSD approach to create understanding and enabling environment for trade which contributed to enhanced cooperation. In addition, **70 (5F & 65M)** representative participated in cross-border intergovernmental coordination meetings on trade, movement, NRM, livestock diseases and water resources development where they harmonised cross-border plans and established multi-level coordination units and stakeholders from both Ethiopia and Kenya. They validated and signed cross-border agreements/protocols and MoUs between Ethiopia and Kenya on cross-border trade and movement.

A coordination unit of **11 (2F, 9M)** members and key stakeholder offices was created in south Omo zone to facilitate creation of enabling environment for cross-border trade and movements. A higher multi-level unit was created together comprising **18 (2F, 16M)** experts and heads of offices to facilitate establishment and strengthening of the woreda level trade coordination unit. The units discussed key issues that hinder cross-border trade and collaboration, prepared a joint action plan on cross-border trade, movement, NRM and livestock disease surveillance. These activities improved institutional capacities of local structures to create an enabling environment and enhance cross-border trade and collaboration.

Mercy Corps also organised a five (5) cross-border coordination meeting involving **193 (42F,151M)** cross-border trade committees (Kibish–Turkana corridor), County governments, zone and woreda stakeholders from both Ethiopia and Kenya (Nyangatom and Turkana corridors). They developed a formal reliable and efficient trade system relevant for cross-border areas that harmonized interactions among trade actors with detailed collaboration strategies and joint activities integrated in cross-border MoU on cross-border trade and collaboration. The cross-border engagements were anchored on the existing bilateral agreements and protocols signed between Kenya-Ethiopia countries. Cross-border trade committees play key roles in creating an enabling environment, ensuring security, smooth business relationships, building trust and common market/market days.

Activity 1.1.3 Support to sustainable and diversified livelihoods, employment and economic opportunities in cross-border areas.

The project supported and empowered **90% (5,679 persons) (947 HHs)** out of the targeted **6,320 persons (1,053 HHs)** enabling them to generate household income through sustainable and diversified livelihoods, self- employed and employment opportunities and viable entrepreneurship activities as summarised in the table below.

Interventions Undertaken	Targeted (Persons)	Achieved (Persons)	% Achieved
Establish, train and equip youth business groups in Ethiopia	500	500	100%
Youth local business opportunity & diversification in Ethiopia	1,400	1,100	78.57%
Empowering Local institutions for accelerating business	1,300	1,361	104.7%
Business boosting grants to Small scale traders/aggregators	3,120	3,113	100%

Establish, train and equip youth business groups: In Ethiopia, 500 HHs (188F,312M) established by EPaRDA secured employment opportunity through diversified IGAs (pottery production, showers/toilets, assorted retail shops, donkey cart water transport, cafeteria, welding, saloon/barber shops, recreational services, tyre repairs) enabling them to generate Euros 303,057 with average household income of Euros 606. As a result of their engagement in diverse IGA activities they improved health standards of their households and communities through access to water, hygiene and sanitation facilities, access to food and other household commodities. This was achieved through trainings on life skills, basic business, IGA and business, pottery technology, provision of inputs (shower/toilet kits and business plan kits), linkage to markets and financial service institutions. They have been engaged in diversified income generating activities such as pottery production, metal work, beauty salon, donkey Cart, recreation service provision, barber shop, café service, shower/bath service, ire repair, secretarial

and photo copy service and assorted retail shops (fuel and lubricant distributors, cereal sales, and pottery) sales). They have also received technical support and mentorship.

Unemployed youth and women groups were selected, trained provided with inputs, supported to develop leadership and governance systems (by-laws, management structures), engage in savings, obtain legal registrations, open bank accounts, develop business plans, record keeping, financial literacy, and offer in kind contributions (time, labour), and cash where appropriate. 40 pottery trained on modern pottery techniques and constructed for pottery moulding centre equipped with pottery mould machines in Basheda- Dimeka enabled the traditional clay producers to acquire new techniques of clay products with 11 diverse designs which are more preferable in the local markets than their original 2 traditional design of clay products. Improved production quality and quantities resulting to better prices, more sales and profits thus increased income per household. The operation showers and toilets facilities constructed and equipped with supplies for 4 groups in major towns (Turmi, Kangaten and Omorate) offering commercial services to communities, residents and traders have improved access to hygiene and sanitation service that was lacking previously. The table below summarises the different kinds of businesses and incomes generated in Euros.

	IGA Business Types	# groups	Male	Female	Total	Total Income - Euro
1	Pottery Production	5	0	50	50	30,147
2	Metal Work	2	16	4	20	5,539
3	Beauty Salon	2	0	15	15	20,134
4	Donkey Cart	9	71	2	73	71,034
5	Recreation Service	4	78	2	80	15,849
6	Barber Shop	4	31	9	40	13,585
7	Café Service	8	13	57	70	43,007
8	Shower/bath Service	5	68	9	77	49,945
9	Tire Repair	1	9	1	10	7,171
10	Secretarial and photo copy service	1	7	3	10	1,132
11	Retail Shops (Fuel, Lubricants, Cereal and Pottery Sales)	9	19	36	55	45,514
	Total	50	312	188	500	303.057

The project increased income of 1,100 out 1,400 youths (78.57%) by enhancing their engagements in youth focussed local business and diversified livelihood activities. In Ethiopia, Vita/RTI supported 400 youths while mercy corps supported 700 youths with capacity building trainings on entrepreneurship and business, provision of seed grants, technical advice, and linkages to financial institutional services that enabled them to engage in diverse profitable income generating activities. In Ethiopia, **Vita/RTI** organized and supported **16 youth focussed business groups** (400/95 females (Dasenech 100, Hamer 100, Nyangatom, Surma and Maji 50 youths each) on different business opportunities informed by capacity assessment and business plans they developed using the skills acquired during groups formation and trainings on the trade concept, life skill and business as summarised on the tables below.

Type of groups	# of groups	Locations
Cattle fattening	8	Hamer 2, Dasenech 3, Nyangatom 1, Surma 1 and Maji 1)
Cereal crop trading	3	Hamer 2, Dasenech 1)
Livestock trading	2	Hamer and Dasenech
Vegetable production	1	Surma
Beekeeping youth group)	1	(Nyangatom
Dairy farming youth group	1	Maji
Goat fattening	1	Surma

Beneficiaries	Groups	#HH	Seed Capital		Profits and Savings		Total	
			ETB	Euro	ETB	Euro	ETB	Euro
Youth – MC	12	94	3,355,550	62,769.00	63,857	1,214.00	3,419,407	64,883
Youth – Vita	16	400	163,375	2,926.00	630,000	15,366.00	793,375	18,292
Total	28	494	3,518,925	65,695.00	693,857	16,580.00	4,212,782	83,175

Ten (10) out of 16 groups received seed capital amounting 790,000 ETB (17,555.55 Euro) from the project. Bee keeping groups in Kushuru, Nyangatom received inputs (25 modern bee hives, 25 transitional and 40 local bee hives trap) worth ETB 280,000 (800 Euros). A two weeks practical training on apiculture and bee keeping was provided to 25 (3 females) members of bee keeping group on the apiary site. Vegetables seed and farm tools were provided to vegetables production youth group in Surma woreda of West Omo zone. The business groups are entry-point to strengthen their capacity to engage in business. Ownership was obtained through groups contribution of 20% of the seed fund 123,375 ETB (3,246.71 Euros) value of the total cost of the business plan developed and memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed with the project. Eight groups (5 bull fattening and 3 group groups) out of the 16 groups established were promoted into primary cooperatives after they fulfilled all legal regulations for cooperative organization as required by the government. Details of the groups are summarised in the table below.

Woreda	Beneficiary HH			Contribution	Seed Capital	Entity		Remarks
	M	F	Total			Cooperative	Group	
Hamer	129	21	150	71,250	270,000	8 promoted into cooperative	6 groups	2 groups in Surma not provided with seed money
Dasenech	68	32	100	37,000	270,000			
Nyangatom	36	14	50	15,125	90,000			
Maji	36	14	50	40,000	180,000			
Surma	36	14	50	0	0			
Total	305	95	400	163,375	810,000			

An assessment was conducted on all implementing partners and concerned government sectors in relation to the thematic activities Vita/RTI has engaged in, the agricultural sector and other livelihood resources like income-generating activities. This formed the bench mark for initiating their engagements on cross-border trading e.g banana fruits and cereals produce sale on cross-border destinations like Ethiopia-Moyale-Kenya border. A cross-border trade workshop was organized for 5 institutions in the livelihood value chains (agriculture, trade, transport, finance and fisheries) where discussion covered opportunities and challenges and measures to enhance the cross-border trade partnerships and networks. Respective woreda offices of Cooperative development, water and mines, Livestock and fishery resources development, agriculture and natural resources development, Vita/RTI supported stationeries, materials (vegetables seed) were involved to tap their resources and strengthen quality of extension services provided with support from zonal level sectors.

Enhanced youth focused local business opportunity and diversification (1000 – Mercy Corps)

This activity focused on improving income of youth through entrepreneurship and trade initiatives. The project enhanced the capacities of youth through practical, technical/vocational trainings and business skills development targeting unemployed women and youths in collaboration with available TVETs. Mercy Corps organized consultation meetings with 1,000 youths, women, elders, and influential individuals to create attitudinal change on employment and skills trainings; met with employers for better understanding of minimum required skills; provided material and financial support to two technical and vocational training institutions (TVET colleges) in Turmi and Tun in Hammer and Nyangatom woredas through third party grants to enable them provide various technical skills trainings; provided competitive innovative business awards for some of the graduates to pursue self-employment or initiate own business enterprises. The TVET skill gaps were identified in the labour market during the employability and market labour assessments undertaken by ODP.

The unemployed youths could not access opportunities in labour markets due to lack of required skills, inability to access materials and financial resources acquired to obtain the technical and business skills trainings required by employers or job market. ODP transferred 1,701,000 ETB (€ 32,326) third party grant to two (2) TVETs (Turmi -1,490,000 ETB- €28,310 and Tum -211,000 ETB-€ 4,010) based on findings of capacity gap and training needs assessments and increased purchasing power of the institutes for practical training materials. TVET income generated income from fees for 700 youths trained, start-up grants and profits generated from contracts undertaken by **12** vocations -based enterprises of **94 (3F, 91M)** members, with small business start-up grants.

A series of 10 consultation discussions/forums reaching **594 (108, 486M)** government stakeholders, unemployed youths and women, elders, and influential individuals. women, youths and stakeholders discussed attitude change on practical skill trainings, employment, and businesses. This led to **700 (646M, 54F)** out of **1,000** women and youths successfully completed their 3 months' technical trainings and graduated from Turmi and Tum TVETs colleges in South and West Omo Zones respectively. They acquired skills on Metal works, electric installation, construction, brick production, livestock production, garment etc. The project catered for the cost of basic needs for the trainees during the three months training. The graduates were also linked through job-matching workshops and eventually to available labour market and employing agencies for employment.

In addition, the program established and supported **12** vocation-based enterprises of **94 (3F, 91M)** members, with small business start-up grant of **1,580,000 ETB (€30,200)**. The grant was transferred to the non-withdrawable savings accounts of the 12 enterprises in Dasenech (**2**), Hamer (**8**) and Nyangatom (**2**) woredas articulated in the grant transfer guideline and agreement. The entrepreneur withdrew more than 765,000 ETB (€14,535) to purchase machinery, equipment, tools, production materials, and operational, in areas of metalwork, brick production, masonry, construction materials supply.

Job creation through TVET training and boosting grants for enterprise

The project monitored the operation and performance of 12 vocation-based technical enterprises established and generated income that was worth Euro 1,331. The table below summarises the status of the enterprises as case studies.

Type of Enterprise	Progress status
Befikir metalwork enterprise	The enterprise is located Turmi town of Hamer woreda and is jointly owned by 5 members. Core services provided include motorcycles repairs, fabrication of metallic doors and windows, visibility signboards, donkey cart frame works and French doors, simple welding and maintenance works. The enterprise eight contracted works that generated Euros 894 of income. Besides the contracts, the enterprise generates Euros 51 euros daily from routine day-to-day business activities from which members have made savings of Euros 101 from which they purchase their consumable materials. Member were able to increase their income to Euros 78 in one month.
Andinet brick production enterprise	Located in Turmi town of Hamer woreda and has 5 members, produced and sold 410 bricks with for183 Euros and made a profit of Euros 69 and increased average household income of 5 male members by Euros 13 euros in one month
Selam brick production enterprise,	Located in Turmi town of Hamer woreda, has 6 members, produced and sold 350 bricks with for Euros, 156 , making a profit of Euros 55 Euros and increased average household income to Euros 9 in one month
Edget construction work and construction material supply enterprise	Located in Turmi town, earned 254 Euros from the sales of different construction materials during the month. Those construction materials are paints, nail, brush, hammer, measuring tape, conduit etc. The enterprise made gross profit of Euros 59 Euros and thus recorded average household income increase of Euros 8.4 among the 7 members of the enterprise.
Bricks production	Located in Dasenech woreda, Omorate and Dasenech, produced more than 1,500 bricks and sold 650 bricks for Euros 348 Euros over two months' period.

Empowerment of local institutions for accelerating sustainable business initiatives:

TUPADO established and supported 20 business groups of 444 members (444 (242 young women, 142 adult women, 41 young men and 19 adult men) through trainings on VSLA approach, business/entrepreneurship skills, financial literacy, market and financial linkages and provided them with boosting grants of **Euros 16,736**. The groups are engaged in savings and loan activities and operate diversified IGAs that enabled them to increase their average household incomes of from 42 Euros from baseline to 405 Euros. As at March 2022, the groups had accumulated Euro 148,474 comprising of savings shares valued at **71,976 Euros** and outstanding credit to members at Euros 79,498. Members accessed credit service from group savings and boosting grants and loans to start new and expand existing business valued between Euros 8.37 – 41.84 payable at 10% interest per month to increase their working capitals.

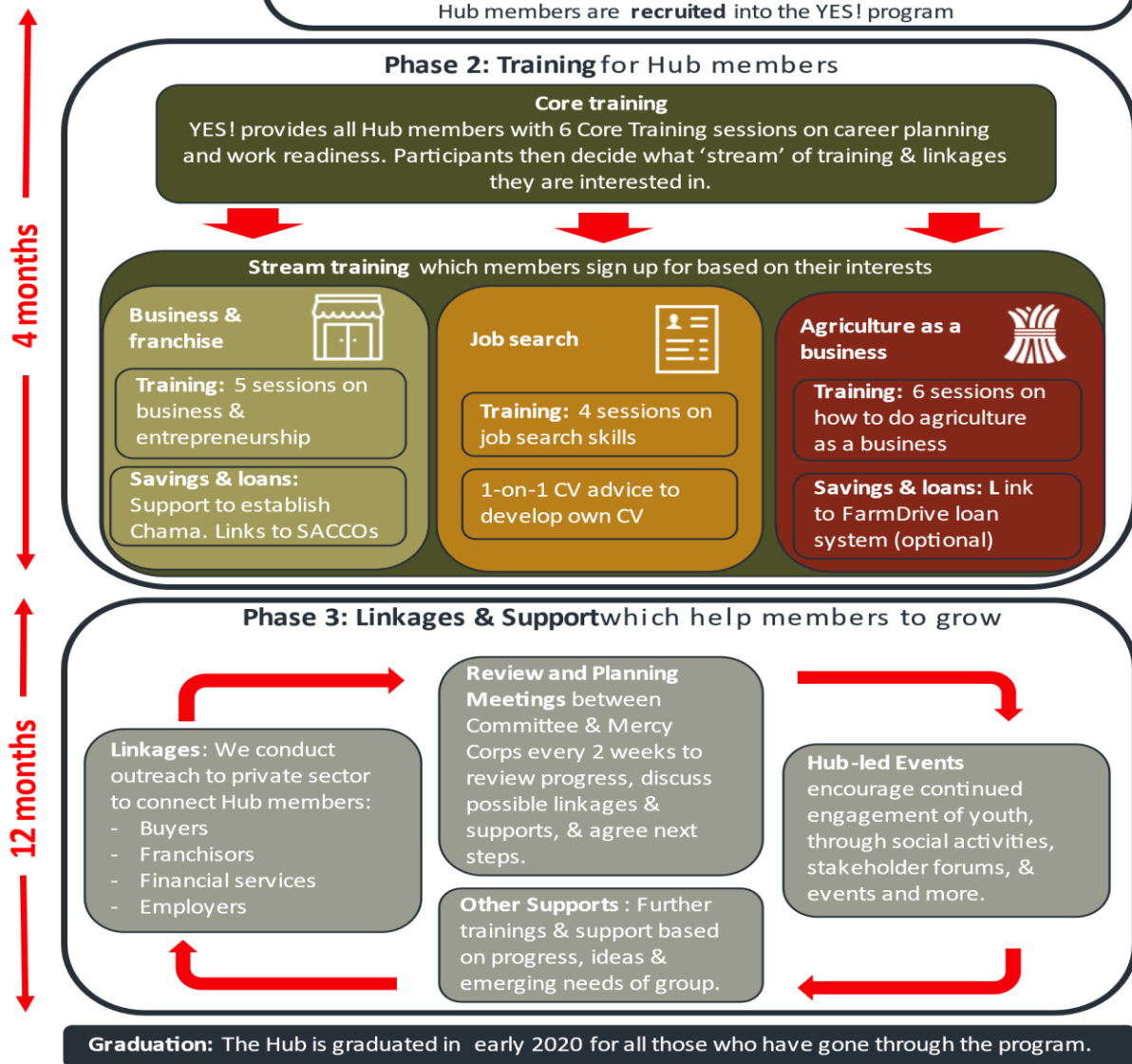
Social security funds contributed regularly were also paid to members facing unforeseen challenges such as deaths, medication to cushion their impacts. Two (2) of the 20 business groups linked to County Women and Youth Funds successfully received soft loans of Euro 1,674 to boost their working capital payable at 0.08% interest rate per annum. Two groups also applied for and received loan Uwezo Fund run by the National Government worth Euro 1,674 with an interest of 0.08% per annum. None of the 444 members have had their loans written off indicating positive commitments financially and socially. Youth and women were selected to key leadership positions (chairpersons, secretaries and treasurers) enabling them to bring into action/develop their leadership skills. Out of the 60 leadership positions, there are 23 female youth, 18 women, 8 male youth and 6 men.

Empowering Local institutions for accelerating and sustainable business opportunity (20 groups of 500 persons)

In Kenya, the Youth Empowered for Success (YES) activity reached 517 (248 F) youths out of the targeted 500 organised in three cohorts for easier management of those who graduated from their phased approach training. Youths were trained through five (5) naturally convening points (hub-at a community centre for meetings); Training improved their skills on marketing, business and financial management. Project undertook private sector engagement based on labour market assessments and research to realign the youth skills to available and most viable opportunities. They were supported to acquire technical skills and risk mitigation. As a result, the learning programme improved their entrepreneurship skills, secured portfolios of work among youth, increased meaningful employment and entrepreneurship, improved employability, income and savings, youth through established networks and mentorships.

This activity has created jobs for 167 youth (74F) through new and expanded entrepreneurs income sources. 75 individuals were boosted with grants from competitive fund - YES fund innovative, feasible and scalable business models' worth Euros 58,100 across five hubs of Kalokol, Kataboi, Nachukui, Lowarengak and Kaaleng. In addition, Mercy Corps through the Omo Delta Program supported 20 qualified groups with Euros 15,812 following capacity assessment in Kalokol, Kataboi, Nachukui, Lowarengak and Kaaleng. The groups received between Euros 125 - Euros 2,117. Mentorship and coaching continued to ensure proper management of the grants. The 167 youth (74F) generated accumulative income of Euros 76,029). The figure below illustrates the YES Conceptual Framework.

ODP- YES activity



Op1.2. Access to business incubatory services (finance, entrepreneurial skills training and mentoring, advisory services and technical assistance (for diversified businesses) with particular focus to youth and women groups supported.

Activity 1.2.1 Linking women and youth to financial schemes and expanding women's access to financial services.

The project promoted women and youths' equitable access and control over economic and financial resources to enhance their economic growth, poverty alleviation and wellbeing through financial inclusion and access to savings and credit facilities and opening up of economic opportunities nationally and cross-border areas for trade and markets. The financial inclusion support to groups reached 95% (2,961 individuals) out of the targeted 3,120 individuals targeted. Linkage of small-scale traders to public and private sectors reached 165% (992 individuals) out of the 600 initially targeted. Linkages with the financial service institutions targeted 2,520 individuals but reached 2,608 individuals, an achievement of 103%.

VSLA groups linkages to formal financial institutions (Banking and County Financing Opportunities)

In Turkana, VSF Germany supported 16 VSLA groups with 425 members (47 men, 147 women and 231 youth) through trainings on business enterprises, VSLA approach, financial literacy, legal registration, leadership and governance and provided with them business boosting grants. The VSLA groups' business activities generated a total income of Euros 46,922.80.

No	Item	Amount (Ksh)	Amount (EUR)
1	Groups Savings	543,850.00	4,350.80
2	Groups Income	2,562,300.00	20,498.40
3	Boosting Grants	2,359,200.00	18,873.60
4	Government Loans	400,000.00	3,200.00
	Total	5,865,350.00	46,922.80

The groups were linked to KCB Bank and County Government of Turkana women funding opportunities to increase their access to formal financial services. Private sector partnership was formalized between KCB Bank and Project Implementing Partners; and witnessed by County governments through signed MoUs and implementation frameworks articulating roles and responsibilities of parties, services and products, and conditions tailored to the needs of beneficiaries. Seven (7) groups of 365 members (29 men, 113 women, 195 youth and 28 disabled) out of the 16 groups from Turkana North and Kibish sub-Counties were linked to KCB Bank and trained on financial literacy and how to access available banking services and products and started using the mobile banking and agent products. The groups have been competitively applied and secure loans to boost their businesses. Four (4) groups of 105HHs out of the 16 groups were linked to County Youth and Women Empowerment Fund where they successfully acquired zero interest loan of Euros 3,200 to boost capital for expanding existing business and starting new ones.

In Marsabit, VSF Germany increased wealth of 540 women and youth (18 VICOBA groups) who were capacity build through an integrated approach of VICOBA methodology (savings and loaning) and IGA-SPM. 36 ToTs were trained on VSLA approach by Department of Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development. Kenya Commercial Bank trained the members on banking facility financial literacy, monitored performance, assessed their capacities and offered tailored training, mentorship and technical support to access bank loan facilities. The project enhanced capacities of 54 VICOBA's management and loaning committees on IGA-SPM who transferred the skills to 540 members resulting to their development of business plans. The 18 groups (540 members - (410F and 130Y) saved accumulative Euros 264,770 from group assets, members contributions, social fund, grants, loans, interests on loans, profits investments. The group received business boosting grants from project worth Euros 89,414. The grants enabled the 460 members (420F and 40Y) to access loans worth Euros 65,523 repayable at 10% interest. Through access to loans the # of group and individual members' businesses increased from 156 to 466.

Out of 466 businesses, 424 businesses, 310 were newly started while 114 were old businesses that were expanded using business boosting grants and bank loans. The 466 businesses created employment for 1,120 individuals (435M and 685F) earning cumulative gross income of Euros 11,251.21 over two years' period. The members have diversified their activities as a result of training skills acquired and exploits of trade opportunities locally and in cross-border areas and markets such as livestock (cross-border) trade, food and household items trade, trade in clothing, KCB agent services, M-Pesa agents, hotels and accommodation services and cleaning services. VICOBA members brought trade services closure to their customers, improved their HH

No	Item – VSFG Marsabit	Amount (Ksh)	Amount (EUR)
1	Groups Savings	31,640,000	264,770
2	Salaries for Employee	1,344,520	11,251.21
3	Boosting Grants	10,685,000	89,414
4	Government Loans	7,830,000	65,523
	Total	51,499,520.00	430,958.21

incomes, increased their disposable incomes, capacity to meet household needs (food, medical services and take their children to schools/colleges) and cushion drought risk through diversified livelihoods.

Linkage of small-scale traders to public and private financial facilities (traders' meetings & market)

In Marsabit County, 18 groups of 523F were linked to financial services though signed MoUs for partnership agreement with KCB Bank to provide tailored financial services. Through this arrangement the groups have been receiving variety of negotiated products and services including financial literacy trainings and opening of 523 savings accounts for members and 13 groups mobi-chama accounts that facilitate mobile transactions services (loans, deposit shares). In addition, one group (Illeret Mazingira Youth Group) competitively got awarded 'KCB Mtaani Agent' shop dealership for KCB through which real time commercial transaction services (paying fees, purchase of goods and services, cash transactions) to members/ community are offered. The agent is paid a monthly commission by the bank.

6 VICOBA groups of 180 (F) members supported by VSF Germany actively engaged in cross-border trade selling livestock and fish in the cross-border markets of Hobok, Dilo, Saru, Sabarei, Sieslucho/Ari/ and Bubua and Fejej located in Ethiopia. Cross-border trade has enabled them to access better prices for their goods e.g cattle whose prices are better; earning livestock trade groups between Euros 1255.23 - 2,510.46 per month. Fish traders sell Nile perch in Ethiopia where demand is high fetching better prices while Tilapia traders opt for Kenyan markets for better sales. Easy access to cross-border markets have improved cross-border inter-community relations and peaceful co-existence, increased income levels for traders who have the opportunities to decide based on market information and price competitiveness.

In Turkana County, the project supported two cross-border trade and committees; Kibish to serve Turkana and Nyangatom of Ethiopia and Todonyang border corridor to serve Turkana and Dassenach). In collaboration with other ODP partners and County Government of Turkana 6 cross-border trade meetings (2 intra and 2 inter-community meetings); resulting in the establishment of two (2) cross-border trade committees along Kibish–Nyangatom and Todonyang–Dasanach Corridors were facilitated. The committees were jointly trained on trade policies, cross-border informal trade protocols and operations anchored on bilateral agreements signed between Kenya and Ethiopia. The formal cross-border collaboration contributed to revival of cross-border trade and opening up of 4 cross-border markets (Kibish and Lowarengak in Kenya) and Omorate and Kangaten in Ethiopia) that were previously not accessible to local communities and business community due to insecurity and mistrust. The access to these markets has opened up business opportunities to over 90 traders and 200 motorbike operators who cumulatively earn an average of Euros 11, 297 per month in income.

Trade between Dasanach Ethiopia– Turkana corridor: TUPADO and Mercy Corps Ethiopia escalated gains on capacity building done for VSLA and Entrepreneurship groups in Kenya and Ethiopia through promotion of formal cross-border trade. Cross-border dialogue meetings organized in this corridor resulted in the establishment of inter-governmental trade task force, cross-border trade committees and development of an MoU to guide on cross-border trade activities. The MoU was validated and are in use though formal ratification by inter-governments which borrowed from the Karamoja cluster MoU postponed due to insecurity. These protocols restored cross-border trade between Turkana, the Nyangatom and the Dassanech. The Turkana are purchasing onions, cosmetics, coffee husks, mineral water and beer from the Ethiopians while Ethiopians on the other hand are purchasing clothes, soaps, sugar, necklaces, beads and utensils from Kenyans. Some traders from both countries also benefit through the currency exchange business. With support from the inter-governmental task force, the cross-border communities resolved to establish open air markets and set up market days at Todonyang' and Salany border areas in order to scale up the informal trade and achieve sustainable peace and growth.

Activity 1.2.2 Provision of business incubatory services Business boosting grants to small scale livestock traders/aggregators/ final linkages and youth support.

Mercy Corps Ethiopia targeted 2,520 individuals with business boosting grants, and by end of the project, 2,608 persons out of the targeted 2,520 were reached through their engagements in consultation workshops organized between unemployed women, youth and existing financial services institutions (OMFI) aimed at improving their access to available financial services. Two (2) consultation events were organised in Hamer and Nyangatom woredas attended by 191 (125F, 66M) women, youths and

stakeholders where they were linked to Hamer and Nyangatom woredas OMFI branches, cooperative development, enterprise and industry development and women, children and youths' affairs offices.

The discussion enhanced knowledge and understandings of unemployed pastoral women and youth and traders on the existing financial services (rules and regulations, saving/credit rules and regulations), opportunities for business and employment. As result, there were evidence of attitude change through their acceptance to the financial services, rules and regulations, activation of 191 dormant savings accounts at OMFI in Hammer and Nyangatom woredas where they deposited accumulative Euros 699. The program provided **Euros 8, 873** business-boosting grants to 2 livestock traders' association and 1 local tour guide associations (**Euros 1,780**) to boost working capital for their business locally and in cross-border areas and improve livestock trade and services provision businesses. The **191** women and youths' accumulative income generated was estimated **Euro 9,572** at the end of the project.

Mercy Corps also organised ten (10) consultation forums where **1,227 (703F, 524M)** women and youth were linked to financial services institutions services and products (major rules and regulations regarding saving, credit, loan, loan repayment, interest rates, penalties, and available services) where 1,241 and 58 saving accounts were opened at OMFI and CBE branches and 567,560 ETB (€10,784) deposited. The project promoted equitable access to financial capital and economic power by women and youth. Partners and stakeholders, business groups members, sector offices experts, heads of offices and OMFI branch offices staffs joined the events. The business-boosting grant motivated the enterprises, and traders' associations, and improved their business literacy. 42 (8F, 34M) livestock trade association in Darfur and Hamer benefited. For instance, Rate local tour guide association in Omorate town of Dasenech woreda, gained net profit of **22,700 ETB** through services related to refreshment and camping. This has increased the average household income of **23** members of the group by **987 ETB (€19)**.

Youth support through aggregators and producers on entrepreneurial skills, (business skills training and mentoring) and financial linkages

The project through **Mercy Corps** focussed on building the institutional capacities of key government sectors to provide business development services and technical and entrepreneurial skills development trainings to 2,520 aggregators and producers. The project reached 2,608 youths through diverse capacity building approaches for aggregators and producers on entrepreneurial skills, (business skills training and mentoring). 785 (280F, 505M) out of 605 women and youths were engage on awareness changing consultation meetings, experience sharing visits, provision of business incubatory services and business boosting grants. Project carried out institutional capacity needs assessment for One Stop Shops (OSSs) followed by training 18 (5F, 13M) OSS staffs as ToTs on financial management skills, business skills, book keeping, business plan development and entrepreneurship. They transferred their business incubatory services skills through material, financial and technical trainings to 341 (111F, 230M) youths including business plan development, mentoring, follow up and monitoring.

Mercy Corps also organised training and consultation meetings for 379 (132F, 247M) key livestock market traders, SMEs members, youth groups, cooperatives, trusted tax collectors, livestock fattening and livestock trading groups focusing on BBS, life skill and bookkeeping. Mercy Corps in collaboration with SNNPR Enterprise Bureau, Dilla and Halaba town administrations and enterprise development offices organised an exposure and experience sharing visit for 47 (32M, 15F) selected members and leaders drawn from livestock fattening, livestock trade, metalwork, and poultry production businesses to share experience, best practices and lesson learned and establish networks for market linkages. They visited activities of 7 enterprises engaged in dairy farming, metalwork, poultry production, woodwork and plastic equipment manufacturing industry located in Dila and Halaba Kulito towns. The event also included government stakeholders, in Gediyo Zone (Dila town) and Halaba Zone (Halaba Kulito town) of the SNNPR.

Mentorship and entrepreneurships for the youth: In Kenya, the project planned to provide business incubatory services to **857 beneficiaries** through mentorship and entrepreneurship interventions for youth (Mercy Kenya 250 and Mercy Corps Ethiopia 607). **In Kenya**, 1,467 women and girls (youths) were reached by Mercy Corps GIRL (950) and YES! (517) phased capacity building program approaches (training, support, and mentorship) before being organized into groups and trained in VSLA approach to enable them start own enterprises. The mentors were provided through ToTs mentors identified and trained by the program to facilitate the learning program. The three approaches were

geared towards enhancing the participants' entrepreneurship skills and linkages to financial services and markets. **In Ethiopia**, Mercy Corps organised capacity building training for 720 (243F) youths (*same as youth support target*) on effective business management, marketing and financial skills for multi-purpose women and youth cooperatives in Bubua and Omorate kebeles in Dasanach woreda. The trainings were facilitated by Dasenech woreda stakeholder offices; cooperative promotion and trade and market development offices to improve their business acumen of key market actors, computation of profit and design market strategies for market systems for producers, traders' groups, and cooperatives.

Challenges with business incubatory services	
1. <i>The mobi-chama mobile technology is only functional where there is internet connectivity.</i>	<i>Internet connectivity through the lead service providers was gradually expanding and is expected to provide full coverage to the project sites in the next 1-2 years</i>
2. <i>Bank agent contracts was awarded to few groups due to KCB Bank policies that limits agent deployments in specified geographical radius irrespective of need.</i>	<i>Negotiations were initiated with the banks to re-evaluate the needs within the context and relax rules to open up the opportunities for the interested parties.</i>
3. <i>Formalization of cross-border foreign exchange services undertaken by VSLA groups located in Kibish border with Ethiopia through linkages with KCB Bank was delayed by the daily fluctuation in exchange rates in Ethiopia that was outside the Kenya Central Bank policy governing banks.</i>	<i>VSLA groups opted to use batter trade for financial exchange than monetary exchange. More research is required and multi-stakeholder engagement on how to stabilise cross-border forex services.</i>
4. <i>Inaccessible seasonal rural roads (roads to the project Kebeles-South Omo Zone case and roads to kebeles and woredas-West Omo case) cut off the connections of kebeles for couple of months in the year hence delaying planned activities.</i>	<i>The projected adapted by re-planning the activities, optimizing on access windows and intensification of activities during the dry season</i>
5. <i>Conflict experienced in all project areas affected trade and slowed project operations. In West Omo Zone, the project implementation was heavily interrupted by conflict incidences. Some areas like Surma and parts of South Omo Zone temporarily inaccessible.</i>	<i>The project implementing partners engaged the zone and woreda administration to negotiate and relocate activities to areas that were relatively peaceful.</i>

Op2.1 Support to public and private institutions to improve access to animal health services delivery in cross-border areas.

Diverse actions were undertaken to accelerate trade and collaboration nationally and across-borders which contributed to improved access to animal health service deliver in cross-border areas. This included harmonization of cross-border disease control; capacity building for animal health service providers; strengthening public and private animal health services delivery (disease surveillance, vaccination, treatments); improved access to veterinary and extension services (drug supply infrastructure development, outreach and extension), breed improvements and husbandry practices.

Activity 2.1.1 Support establishing of a livestock disease information, surveillance system and control in cross-border areas.

The project supported and strengthened livestock disease surveillance, reporting, information management and coordination on prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases in cross-border areas through a range of interventions. This included harmonization of cross-border livestock disease surveillance and control initiatives, capacity building for animal health service providers, and control responses triggered by surveillance reports. The project planned to raise awareness through 24 missions, train 160 para-veterinary professionals (CDRs/ CAHWs/Vets/AHA/PVP) and 70 public and private veterinarians providing animal health services and support the treatment of 144,000 heads of livestock; and vaccinate 2,450,553 heads of livestock belonging to at least 10,000 livestock keeping

households to reduced livestock morbidity and mortality of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and increase production and productivity of livestock as the one of the key livelihood assets in the project areas. At the end of the project, a total of 50 missions were carried out, 230 animal health service providers trained, 70 public and private veterinarians capacity build, 171,761 heads of livestock treated and 2, 586, 339 vaccinated against various endemic diseases, 75,928 livestock keepers reached as summarised in the table below.

Output	Intervention measures undertaken	Targeted	Achieved	% Achieved
<i>Harmonization of cross-border surveillance & control initiative</i>	<i>Missions</i>	24	50	208%
<i>Capacity building for animals' health service providers and control responses triggered surveillance reports</i>	<i>CDRs/ CAHWs/Vets/AHA/PVP</i>	160	230	144%
	<i>Private and public Vets</i>	70	75	107%
	<i>CAHWs / AHAs/PVP treated livestock</i>	144,000	171,762	119%
	<i>Livestock herder/keepers</i>	10,000	75,928	759%
	<i>Mass vaccinations and treatments</i>	2,450,553	2,586,339	106%

Livestock disease information, surveillance system and control harmonization in cross-border areas and strengthened capacity for the delivery of animal health services.

The project supported the establishment of livestock disease surveillance systems through harmonization of cross-border disease control initiatives (regular surveillance, participatory disease surveillance and regular disease calendar planning), capacity building of animal health services providers locally and cross-border areas of Kenya and Ethiopia, creation of functional animal health networks and coordination of disease control interventions. The outcome of the surveillance initiatives facilitated by the project triggered control responses through extension treatments, mass treatments and vaccination campaigns against notifiable diseases and transboundary animal diseases (TADs).

In Kenya, TUPADO contributed to decreased livestock mortalities and observed increase in production



Lowarengak-Todonyang CDR Association refresher training ongoing in Lowarengak on 14.04.2020

due to improved livestock health as result of training of 61 (13women, 29men, 19 youth) Community Disease Reporters (CDRs) in Turkana North sub-County and linked to the County Government Closed User Group free communication network. They used the skills acquired to undertake regular disease surveillance and adopted the established reporting mechanism to provide real-time reporting of notifiable symptoms of TADs through established County livestock diseases reporting system. The reports also covered vectors populations, livestock movements and general livestock body conditions. The information shared were analyzed and verified by the County government. The outcomes of the analysis triggered prompt responses mostly against PPR, CCPP, Sheep

and Shoat pox, Foot rot, Trypanosomiasis, Mange, Helminthiasis and Tick infestation. TUPADO in collaboration with the County Government Directorate of Veterinary Services conducted one (1) PDS mission informed by disease detected from CDRs regular reports triggering one (1) vaccination and treatment campaign for 30,666 cattle, sheep and goats against CCPP, shoat pox and vector control and treatments of 8,5658 livestock (3,529 goats 5,034 sheep 62 camels, 6 cats and 27 dogs against rabies) in Turkana North. This benefited 226 HHs (196MHH, 30FHH).

In Turkana, **VSF Germany** supported ten (10) passive and active Participatory Disease Surveillance (PDS) undertaken by 30 trained CDRs and 25 government vets with the participation of 32,548 livestock keeping HHs (16,759MHH, 15,803FHHs) reached through awareness raising on livestock diseases' symptoms detection, reporting and extension services referral channels through CDRs and vet officers for services (treatments and vaccinations). The 25 vets were trained on participatory epidemiology disease search and provided with tailored manual for training CDRs. They transferred the skills through training of 30 CDRs on livestock disease early warning information and migration, diagnosis, collection of livestock disease case reports, use of County electronic disease surveillance and reporting tools and capacity of livestock farmers.

Trained CDRs were provided with mobile phones uploaded with County disease surveillance and reporting application that enabled them to submit real time information leading to faster analysis. This triggered timely veterinary interventions (vaccination, treatment and deworming) that reached 434,619 livestock (246,256 under ODP project and 188,363 through co-funding by FAO).

In Marsabit, strengthened coordination mechanisms enhanced timely detection of livestock diseases triggering prompt response. The project trained 10 government vets and 37 CDRs. In collaboration with the County veterinary department, 29 PDS missions were conducted; informed by seasonal disease calendar plans and outcomes of monthly regular surveillance reports from CDRs. The detected diseases were validated by sample testing triggering 7 vaccination / mass treatment responses that reached 496,300 heads of livestock against common diseases reported (FMD and PPR, CCPP, Camel Pox, Shoaat pox and LSD) and benefitted 12,400 households. The responses were coordinated jointly with County livestock cluster partners (4 ODP partners and 3 Concern worldwide, PACIDA and RPLRP Project).

In Ethiopia, VSF Germany in collaboration with Regional Animal Health Laboratory Institutes (RAHLI) in Jinka and Mizan, Zone Livestock and Fisheries Development Department trained **40 (South Omo-20, West Omo-12)** Animal Health Experts (veterinarians, vet assistants, technicians, coordinators and M&E officers) from Nyangatom, Dasanach, Hammer, Maji and Surma woredas on livestock disease investigations protocols and sampling procedures for laboratory diagnosis.

Trainees were provided with training materials and tablet phone and introduced to two applications for disease surveillance and reporting. EU funded FAO PPR project facilitated the training on Animal Disease Notification and Investigation (ADNIS) and Disease Outbreak Vaccinations and Activity Reporting (DOVAR) before the tools were integrated in the Woredas disease reporting system. The introduction of ADNIS and DOVAR digital application tools addressed the human resource capacity gaps identified in the manual reporting at the beginning of the project. After the training, the ADNIS and DOVAR network system were installed in three Woredas (Hammer, Dasanach and Nyangatom) in South Omo Zone, activated and currently operational and used by the vet experts at woreda levels. The project in collaboration with 26 (3F) animal health experts and RAHLI branches in Jinka, South Omo and Mizan Aman conducted **10 PDS missions** in strategic livestock concentrated and cross-border areas of Kenya-Ethiopia (Bubua-Nebermus Cluster in South Omo and six kebeles in Maji woreda, West Omo Zone (Tum, Olukut, Keykokeb, Balt, Gebarku, Ore and Kella).



VSF Germany organized trainings both refresher and basic for 102 CAHWs (20F) in Dassenech, Nyagatom and Hammer, South Omo Zone and 20 (1F) from Maji woreda, West Omo Zones in collaboration with woreda and Zone Livestock and Fishery Resource Department. The trainings focussed on identification of clinical signs of healthy and sick animals, management of veterinary drugs, operation and handling of vet equipment, diagnostic procedures, treatment and prevention of livestock diseases, and livestock disease reporting mechanism and systems. Seventy (70) trained CAHWs were linked to all existing Animal Health Posts (AHPs) 5 under ODP and 4 Private Veterinary Pharmacies (PVPs) - 3 PVPs established by VSF Germany under RESET Project and 1 PVP in Tum, Maji to replenish their dug kits and maintain quality of drugs they sell or administer during treatments.

Overall, the use of real time livestock disease surveillance system has reduced the turnaround period in livestock disease outbreak responses. Trained CAHWS/AHAs have been linked to all available AHPs and PVPs and increased outreach coverage and extension services to livestock keepers. The project increased capacities of pastoral communities in livestock health that enabled them to identify livestock diseases, know where and how to access quality and affordable drugs and eliminated exploitation by unqualified brokers in the drug supply chain. The emergency responses reduced livestock mortality and morbidity, resulting in increased production, productivity and off-take for markets. Increased availability of animal source food (milk, meat and ghee) leads to improved food security, nutrition and incomes at the household.

Challenges in strengthening livestock disease surveillance and animal health services delivery	
1. <i>Poor internet connectivity which delayed uploading and submission of surveillance data, affecting the real-time effect</i>	<i>Expanding network coverage by the main mobile telecommunication service providers in Ethiopia and Kenya will address the challenge in the next 1-2 years.</i>
2. <i>Cyclic re-infection of livestock by endemic disease, some of them TADs after vaccinations treatments</i>	<i>Cross-border collaboration by team established disease seasonal calendars and developed joint vaccination plans that follow disease patterns and trends to reduce incidence</i>
3. <i>Recurrent drought resulted frequent migration of pastoralists to far places in search of water and pasture hence disrupting community engagements</i>	<i>Investments in livestock water infrastructure, rangeland rehabilitation, reseeding to restore pastures and fodder production helped to reduce frequencies of livestock migrations.</i>
4. <i>During the project period, there were recurrent intra- and inter-clan conflicts that threatened the gains made in the project, most rampant at the beginning of the project.</i>	<i>Sustained community engagements to resolve conflicts through peace building initiatives-cross-border community resource use protocols and frameworks helped to de-escalate the tensions and restored peace and stability.</i>

Activity 2.1.2 Establish and strengthen coordination mechanisms between the countries on cross-border animal health.

The project strengthened animal service coordination mechanisms at national and cross-border areas by addressing the gaps in veterinary coordination systems through establishing systems for information dissemination and reporting. This was achieved through cross-border meetings and workshops, information exchange systems, knowledge and experience sharing forums and action plans. This enhanced real-time understanding of cross-border trans-boundary disease information for better responses among public and private veterinary services providers (government vets, private vet practitioners and vets, CAHWS and CDRs) involved in the project in Kenya and Ethiopia. The table below summarises the outcomes of the cross-border coordination meetings at the end of the project.

Interventions Undertaken	Units	Targeted	Achieved	% Achieved
Cross-border coordination meeting / workshops for (Private Vets/ CAHWS/CDR)	Meetings	22	22	100%
Cross-border coordination meeting / workshops for (Private Vets/ CAHWS/CDR)	Persons	301	301	100%
CDR Associations for Cross-border Disease Control Coordination (6 Associations)	Persons	61	61	100%
No of people reached	Persons	362	362	100%
No of HHs reached	HH	60	60	100%

Cross-border coordination meeting / workshops for (Private Vets/ CAHWS/CDR) In Kenya, the project organized three (3) cross-border coordination meetings in Turkana attended by Government

Vets, Private Vet practitioners, CAHWS and CDRs from Kenya (Turkana and Marsabit Counties) and Ethiopia (South Omo Woreda). In Marsabit, four (4) cross-border meetings were organised by the project between Vet teams and CDS/CAHWs attended by 176 participants (144M, 32F) from Kenya and Ethiopia. They shared experiences on disease surveillance, developed disease seasonal calendar, harmonized reporting tools and developed joint work plans livestock emergency responses. In Ethiopia, eight (8) joint cross-border meetings were organized between livestock stakeholders from Kenya (Marsabit and Turkana counties) and Ethiopia South Omo Zone attended by IGAD, respective government departments and ODP partners. Out of the eight meetings, 3 were conducted in Kenya (Ileret and Lodwar) while 5 were held in Omorate, Kangaten and Jinka towns in Ethiopia. The government stakeholders' representatives from livestock health and production, fisheries, Regional Animal Health Laboratory in Jinka, trade and industry, agriculture and NRM attended.

The forum held discussions on animal health service delivery, weaknesses and gaps, opportunities and solutions, and established cross-border coordination systems for diseases surveillance and control response mechanisms, plans and including task force that facilitated implementation of agreed actions. One (1) cross-border meeting was held in Addis Ababa facilitated by IGAD- ICPALD where stakeholders planned for cross country ring vaccination campaign between June – July 2020. As a result of these cross-border meetings six (6) cross-border ring vaccination campaigns were undertaken through multi-stakeholders collaboration (RPLRP, County Veterinary governments in Kenya, Woreda, Regional and Zone Livestock and Fishery Resource Office, Pastoral and Special Support Coordination Bureaus, Regional Animal Laboratory Jinka Branch, Farm Africa, Catholic mission and VSF Germany, CDRs/CAHWs in Hamer, Nyangatom, Dassenech, Borena woredas in Ethiopia, Turkana and Marsabit Counties.

As a result of improved and strengthened coordination mechanism between the countries in cross-border areas achieved through face to face meetings/workshop forums supported by the project; the following key milestones were achieved;

- a) Networks and contacts were established among private and public animal health service delivery professionals and community extension providers (CDRs/CAHWs) that improved exchange of information, and sharing of knowledge and experiences.
- b) Common cross-border policies and strategies on surveillance and control of trans-boundary diseases were harmonized. This enabled strategic engagements and planning to contain and prevent spread thus reduced prevalence, morbidity and mortality rates.
- c) Sharing of knowledge and understanding of the digital surveillance and reporting systems adopted in Marsabit, Turkana and West Omo Zone improved efficiency in request for information or utilisation of cross-border TADs information disseminated among CDRs/CAHWs, public and private veterinary professionals operating in the cross-border areas.
- d) Taskforce committee and virtual platforms established e.g Livestock Thematic WhatsApp Group for key livestock stakeholders enhanced informal/formal engagements and access to real-time trans-boundary diseases information, formal exchanges and understanding of situation and actions taken. This facilitated quick decision-making processes and coordination of response actions e.g synchronized or ring vaccinations to prevent or contain spread of TADs outbreaks.

One of the key challenges to the strengthening of the cross-border livestock disease surveillance and coordination mechanisms was the exclusion of South Sudan in the EUTF programming. South Sudan remains a porous corridor to the spread of TADs into Kenya and Ethiopia. For example, non -vaccinated nor treated livestock from the Nyangatom communities in South Sudan migrated into Nyangatom woreda in Ethiopia during dry seasons thus re-infecting the animals already vaccinated and treated through project support. Similarly, livestock from Toposa, South Sudan crossed into Turkana County in search of pasture and water thus increasing the risk of infecting animals in Kenya. This are the reasons the livestock response target was increased from original 350,000 at the beginning of the project to over 2 million to accommodate the need for wider vaccination coverage, including herds from neighbouring countries. Project exploited the bilateral agreement signed under the Karamoja cluster to propel and improve cross-border coordination and leverage multi-stakeholder engagements on extended services.

Activity 2.1.3: Support public and private animal health service delivery through animal health infrastructure development /rehabilitation.

The project improved access to public and private animal health service delivery through the establishment of 9 functional animal health infrastructure facilities and one (1) veterinary drug revolving fund in Surma. Five (5) Animal Health Posts (AHPs) were established in Ethiopia and 4 Private Veterinary Pharmacies (PVPs) were established in Kenya (Turkana-1, Marsabit-3) and Ethiopia (Tum, Maji-1) benefiting 13,750 HHs. Strategic PVPs sites were selected in cross-border areas with high livestock concentration and migration routes to contribute to the purpose of Kenya–Ethiopia bilateral agreement on animal health and IGAD regional protocol on transhumance and IGAD Centre for Pastoralist Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) animal health strategy 2017-2022 and framework that support animal health and trans-boundary diseases control.

In Kenya one (1) PVP was constructed and equipped with affordable quality drugs, equipment and cold chain facilities for prepositioning vaccines in Lokamarinyang, a strategic livestock migration route serving pastoralists in Kibish sub-County and neighboring cross-border settlements of Nyangatom community in Ethiopia. The facility serves 2,903 livestock keeping households. In Marsabit, the project constructed two (2) PVPs in Dukana (1) and North Horr (1) and rehabilitated one (1) in Illeret. The management of the PVPs replicated the approach in Turkana benefiting cross-border communities in Hammer, Borana and Dasanach of Ethiopia.

The PVPs improved access to reliable and quality animal health delivery services resulting to sale of drugs and extension services provided at the PVPs during outreaches. Drugs and vaccines prepositioned at the PVPs were informed by regular disease surveillance information (CDRs and PDS) and disease seasonal calendars of occurrence. A private veterinarian was sourced through a competitive process and deployed to provide daily management through Public-Private- Partnership (PPP) model with roles and responsibilities articulated in an MoU signed between the private practitioner, county government of Turkana and VSF Germany. Management oversight is provided by County Director of Veterinary Services to ensure efficient operation, quality control and sustainability. The CDRs were linked to the PVPs to facilitate dissemination of information on disease surveillance reports and marketing of services at the facility. They also undertake joint awareness outreach and extensions services. Through PVP agents and CDRs, the facility services were decentralized to remote grazing areas, villages and migratory grazing areas enabling more livestock owners to access the extension service and buy drugs.

In Ethiopia, the project rehabilitated/constructed **5 AHPs** (Dasanach-1, Hammer-1, Nyangatom-2, and Tum, Maji-1) and established **1 PVP** in Surma Woreda in collaboration with Woreda and Zonal Livestock and Fishery Resource Offices and Pastoral and special support coordination offices. Two of the AHPs were



rehabilitated in South Omo (Kuctchuru-Nyangatom and Bubua-Dasanach), and 2 constructed in Erbore Kebele-Hammer and Kakuta Kebele – Nyangatom). The two (2) new AHPs were equipped with drugs, incinerator, cattle crush, pit latrine and fenced. The government already deployed personnel to all the AHPs who are offering the services under the supervision of the woreda Livestock and Fishery Resource Offices.



Established veterinary drugs revolving kit: The project established a veterinary drug revolving fund at Surma woreda to ensure sustainable access to quality drug supply and extension services at the Surma Woreda Livestock and Fisheries department managed by a veterinary drug revolving scheme technical committee. This was critical after the project was unable to construct a PVP or get a private veterinarian willing to deploy in the woreda due to prolonged insecurity and protracted inter-ethnic conflicts. An assessment conducted in collaboration with Zone and Woreda Livestock and Fishery Resource Office on potential experts confirmed that no veterinary professional was willing to involve in this business due to high security risks. Upon formal requests, VSF Germany procured and distributed start-up veterinary drugs kit containing essential very drugs prioritised according to disease prevalence and disease seasonal calendar in the area. The drugs are sold and income generated used to replenish the drugs kit under the supervision of the Surma Woreda LFRDO. The main challenges in establishing AHPs, PVPs and operationalizing the drug revolving kit were; fluctuations in the cost of goods, services and works due to inflation and hard currency shortages resulting in contractors varying their costs and delaying implementation, and insecurity hindering access to project sites thus delaying works and access to services.



Op2.2. Technical support to enhanced commercial production and productivity of the productive sectors in cross-border areas (fodder, staple and horticultural crops) for local and export markets.

Activity 2.2.1 Promotion of climate smart conservation agriculture practices using extension workers.

The project promoted climate smart conservation agriculture practices through adoption of Lake water high speed pump irrigation, borehole water shade-net drip irrigation and short-term high yield rain-fed farming in high moisture retention farmland. The farming techniques adopted were designed based on local context with aim of minimizing the impacts of climate change on pastoralists and agro-pastoralists production livelihoods and resilience building. The different climate smart conservation agriculture practices adopted contributed to increased production, productivity and returns for the beneficiaries. The project enhanced production and productive of 93% (3,481 HHs) out of 3,740 HHs targeted; increasing their income by Euros 456,660. **In Ethiopia**, 3,481 households in West Omo Zone increased production/productivity and income within the project through climate smart irrigation agriculture and rain fed short-term high yield crop farming in wetlands in Ethiopia. In Kenya 140HHs (60M, 80F) engaged in shade-net drip irrigation technology appropriate for water scarce areas. Stakeholders (government and extension workers) were trained as trainers of trainers (ToTs) on sustainable climate smart agriculture techniques for production of cereal crops, vegetables and fruits. The ToTs transferred their skills to the beneficiaries organised into farming groups with focus on appropriate site selection, market-oriented cereal and horticulture production, post-harvest management, pest control and use of by-products. They were provided with one off-farm inputs (tools and equipment, fuel and transport subsidies, entrepreneurship skills, market and financial linkages, and advisory services on marketing. The table below summaries the different types of produce, acreage, harvests and incomes earned.

Partners	Type of Produce	Target	HH	Hectares	Harvest in MT	Income in Euros
Vita/RTI	Cereal Crop	2300	2300	530	1,728	398,769
Vita/ RTI	Vegetables	1000	573	21.9	45.75	11,057
Vita/RTI	Banana		168	18	143.9	25,664
Vita/RTI	Forage	300	242	32	63.9	10,596
Vita/RTI	Fodder/livestock		58		20.5	4,079
CIFA	Vegetables	140	140	(12m*12m) x 5 plots	12.5	1 5495.32
Total	91%	3,740	3,481		2,015	465,660

In Ethiopia, the project supported 3,300 pastoralist households to engage in cereal crop production (2,300 HH/1300F) and 741 HHs to do horticulture farming. A ToT training was conducted for 15 crop production and agricultural extension workers/experts at kebele and woreda level on extension systems and crop diversification. The ToTs cascaded the trainings to other kebele extension workers and project beneficiaries covering topics related to cereal and horticultural crop production (vegetable and fruits) at five project woredas. Climate smart agriculture (CSA) and conservation agriculture was implemented among communities in four woredas; Dasenech and Nyangatom woredas (South Omo zone) and Surma and Maji woreda (West Omo Zone). Eight (8) pastoral training centres (PTCs) were established to promote practical learning on climate smart agricultural system through trials on the shortlisted crop varieties (cereal, vegetables and fruit crops like banana, mango, moringa). Besides PTC demonstrations and extension technical support, agro-pastoral field days and public engagement strategies were adopted for beneficiaries to share their experiences and peer learning. 180 HHs (50FHHs) farmers were involved in field days between kebeles and beneficiaries to share experience in cereal crop production, vegetables production and fruits production.

A total of 2300/1300 FHH households (*Dasenech 900/424F households, Nyangatom 700/317F households, Maji 500/137F and Surma 200/100F households*) were involved in both irrigation-based (Dasenech and Nyangatom) and rain-fed agriculture high value crop production. They selected suitable irrigable farmland with good soil fertility management in South Omo and West Omo Zones. The 2,300 cereal crop farmers were organized according to their crop variety (maize, sorghum and rice) preference around the PTCs learning centres for peer and practical learning and provided with appropriate technical trainings, business, marketing and financial literacy and supplies with farming inputs and equipment. The project also established multipurpose nurseries establishment in Nyangatom Napsimuria PTC and Dasenech Alkatakach PTC. They prepared 530 hectares and canals, and planted, applying skills acquired on agronomic practices, pest and disease management, post-harvest management resulting to harvesting of 1,728 MT (sorghum- 908.5MT, maize- 791MT) and rice-28.5MT). They sold the produce and generated income of Euros 398,769.23.

On tree nurseries, the project trained and supported 100 (45F) youths in Dasenech and Nyangatom enabling them to establish tree nurseries. They were organized into 20 youth groups and provided with assorted inputs (*seeds, polythene bags, watering cans, hand carts, knives, hoes, protection clothes*). As a result, they planted 15,000 assorted seedlings (*moringa tree 2500, papaya 7500, mango 1000, nim trees 2500, and Lucina-fodder tree 1500*) aimed at improving food security, shades, vegetation cover and fodder. In addition, youth volunteers in South Omo Zone (Dasenech, Nyangatom, Hamer) and West Omo Zone, Maji woredas were provided with inputs for Euros 3, 478.94 and established two more nurseries.

In Kenya, 5 groups of 140HH (60M and 80F) supported by CIFA engaged in climate smart water conservation drip irrigation using shade-net farming technology linked to available boreholes water supply that is adaptable to the drought situation in Marsabit. The groups applied skills acquired on climate smart conservation, marketing and business entrepreneurship to successfully produce the vegetables and fruits which they sold to generate income. They established 5 plots mounted by 12m x 12m shade-nets and planted assorted drought resilient high yield vegetables such as tomatoes, capsicum, kales, spinach, passion fruits and a few water melons. CIFA supported the farmers' groups to access solar powered water pumping from nearby boreholes to the shade-net farms that reduced time taken by the women to carry water to the farms allowing them to engage in productive activities. The solar powered water supply was implemented under co-funding project Sign of Hope, a German Charity organization funded by BMZ Germany in Dukana and Illeret.

As a result; the groups increased their harvests and income from 1.4MT and income of Euros 12,803 in 2019 to 12.50MT and Euro15,495.32 by April 2022. This activity has been unique and a game changer in improving food security, improved nutrition and increased income for beneficiaries. The residents that never believed vegetables could grow in such a dry and unproductive area learned from the project and started replicating similar initiative e.g four (4) groups of women and youth supported food production and sales to generate income by other actors in Dukana and Balesa. Catholic Mission supported two groups to establish two shade-nets while Caritas Marsabit has supported two more groups to set up shade-net farms adjacent to the ODP sites in Dukana and Balesa for cross learning.

Challenges: Balesaru farmers were forced to migrate to Dukana for 6 months due to insecurity along their border between Gabraa (Marsabit) and Borana (Telete and Dillo woredas of Ethiopia). Over flooding in River Omo that was abnormal compared to previous years after government opened up the Gibe Dam to avoid their burst caused some farmlands to be swept away (approximately 32Ha).

Activity 2.2.2: Procurements and distribution of agricultural inputs to improve efficiency of irrigation schemes.

<i>Summary of interventions undertaken</i>				
<i>Interventions Undertaken</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Targeted</i>	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>% Achieved</i>
<i>Agro-pastoralist household on irrigation based high value crop production and soil fertility management</i>	<i>HH</i>	<i>2,300</i>	<i>2,300</i>	<i>100%</i>
<i>Agro-pastoralist households engaging in horticulture and fruit production</i>	<i>HH</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,100</i>	<i>110%</i>
<i>Total # of HH reached</i>		<i>3,300</i>	<i>3,400</i>	<i>103%</i>

In Ethiopia, Vita/RTI trained and supported 2300/1005 FHH to engage in cereal crop farming. 1,600HH (768F) from South Omo Zone (Dasenech/ Nyangato) engaged in river irrigation farming while 700HH (237F) in West Omo (500 Maji and Surma 200) were involved in rain-fed farming. The project builds their capacities on climate smart high yield crop production technology, provided high-speed irrigation water pump worth Euros 61,296.145 and assorted tools (*shovel, three fingers hoe, machetes cutting blades, Wogel and other ploughing implements*) worth Euros 8879.43. 680HHs whose farms were affected by pests received climate smart pesticides (Diazinol 100 litre) worth Euros 4591.8. For sustainable maintenance of the pumps, 16 youth pump operators were trained. Though the project planned to procure seeds from Jinka agricultural research centre for seed multiplication, this was changed due to availability of adequate and reliable supply of sorghum seeds from seedbank established in Dasenech and Nyangatom woredas. One grain store was constructed to serve cereal farmers in Dasenech and Nyangatom woredas. This helped to reduce losses from wastage and rodents during market price instability and low demand.

Horticulture production: The project enhanced capacities of 6 groups of 573 households (436HHs in South Omo Zone (Nyangatom and Dasenech) and 137 in West Omo Zone (Maji 212HHs, and Surma 75HH). They were provided with 0.088 MT of different assorted varieties of vegetable seeds valued at Euros 3,858.39. The 412 vegetable farmers (212 in Maji and 200 in Dasanach) received climate smart trainings covering topics on horticulture agronomic practices, post vegetable produce harvest handling, packaging, transportation and irrigation water management and pump operation techniques, and two irrigation water pumps worth Euros 7,632.03 to increase their production for consumption and income generation. As result, the farmers cultivated 21.9 hectares of assorted seeds (tomato, green pepper, cabbage and onion) and harvested 45.75MT which they sold, generating Euros 11,056.63 in income over two to three production seasons. Market access for producers in Maji, Surma, Dasenech and Nyangatom woredas was improved through provision of packaging and transportation equipment e.g hand carts and packaging box worth Euros 1,696.84. Summary of the inputs purchased are presented in the tables below.

<i>Types of materials</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Supported woredas</i>				<i>Total support</i>	<i>Prices</i>	
		<i>Dasenech</i>	<i>Nyangatom</i>	<i>Maji</i>	<i>Single price</i>		<i>Total price</i>	
Onion	Kg	20	10	10	40	2,645	105,800	
Cabbage	kg	10	5	6	21	918	19,295	
Pepper	Kg	0	5	5	5	281	2,817	
Tomato	Kg	0	10	5	15	3,174	47,610	
Grand Total		30	25	26	71		175,523	

Vegetables seeds purchase and distribution to vegetables producing groups

<i>Zone</i>	<i>Woreda</i>	<i>Kebele</i>	<i>HHs</i>	<i>Land in Ha</i>	<i>Varieties</i>	<i>Yield in quintal</i>	<i>Sold for (birr)</i>	<i>Used for home (Q)</i>
<i>South Omo</i>	<i>Dasenech</i>	<i>Alkatakach</i>	200	6	<i>Onion</i>	70	105,000	5
<i>South Omo</i>	<i>Nyangatom</i>	<i>Napsimuria</i>	31	2.5	<i>Onion</i>	105	175,000	5
<i>West Omo</i>	<i>Maji and Surma</i>	<i>Chigte and Balt</i>	75	3.25	<i>Onion, Green Paper, Cabbage</i>	41	65,207	0
<i>West Omo</i>	<i>Maji</i>	<i>Tum, Maji, Chigte, Balt</i>	106	7.5	<i>Onion, pepper, cabbage</i>	114.5	144,568	
<i>South Omo</i>	<i>Nyangatom</i>	<i>Napsimuria</i>	55	2.7	<i>Onion, tomato</i>	35	52,000	8
<i>Grand total</i>			467	21.95		365.5	541,775	

Activity 2.2.3 Enhance post-harvest handling, management and practices.

Vegetable production: In Ethiopia, 573 horticulture beneficiary farmers (Nyangatom 86 HHs, Dasenech 200 HH, Maji 212 households, and Surma 75 households) from six groups (Nyangatom 1, Dasenech 2, Surma 1 and Maji 2) applied the skills they acquired on climate smart horticulture agronomic practices, post vegetable produce harvest handling, packaging, transportation and irrigation water management and pump operation techniques. Vegetables being highly perishable produce was handles safely, packaged and sold with very minimal losses to the farmers.

Banana production: Four (4) banana production cooperatives groups comprising of 209 HHs (3 in Dasenech, Nyangatom, Hamer woredas and one (1) group in Maji woreda, West Omo zone were trained on banana production, cooperative management, fruit agronomic practices (including weed control) irrigation water management, transportation, financial and market and then provided with irrigation equipment. They received 37,000 suckers which they planted on 18 ha of land (Hamer-2.5ha, Maji-2.5ha, and Nyangatom-13ha). With technical and market linkages support from project and woreda offices of agriculture, natural resources and cooperative development, the Banana groups of 68HHs (100HH Dasanach and 68HH Nyangatom) harvested 143.9MT which they consumed party increasing their household food security but sold majority to local market (Nyangatom and Dasenech Napsimuria and Delegnemur cooperatives), national markets (e.g Addis Ababa, Bahirdar, Dessie, Adama, Moyale) and neighbouring Marsabit and Turkana counties in Kenya generating income of Euros 17,847.53 without losses of the produce due to mishandling or lack of markets, thanks to the project intervention.

Forage and seedlings production: Vita/RTI, supported 300 households (Dasenech 250 youth and Nyangatom 50 youths) to engage in strategic forage and fodder development in 32 hectares of land through inputs (one IVECO brand 6 inches and 2 Robin brand 4 inches) with different sets of farm tools to help the groups in fodder production. The fodder groups in Dasenech, used fresh forage or fodder to feed their cattle but sold surplus fresh grass, hay, forage seeds to bull fattening groups (privately) to generate income. Stores were constructed to hold baled hay being sold to the livestock keepers during the dry season. The Borkonech kebele (50 youths, 8 female counters) group earned Euros 4,079 from different sales of fresh grass, forage seed and dried hay. The fodder/forage production group efficiently used cereal crop residues to feed animals, a strategy that improved resilience of their animals to drought shocks or inadequate feeds thus improving health condition, nutrition and productivity of the animals. In collaboration with relevant line ministries and departments in South Omo Zone and woreda, a group was established to operate the animal feed processing at the Zonal centre. As a result, Vita/RTI was allocated a site to install the animal feed processing machine. The feed processing machine is managed

by 22 youths organized as an association and trained on cooperative principles, business management and animal feed processing and management.

Activity 2.2.4 Provision of livestock extension and cross breeding services.

The project introduced cross breeding practices to improve productivity of local breeds and promote access to diversified climate resilient species of camels, cattle, sheep and goats and improve quality of extension services for the targeted beneficiaries. 2,435 HH out of targeted 2,410 (101%) were capacity build through participatory, practical and income driven training approaches and extension services to transfer skills on best livestock production practices for increased livestock production, marketability and income generation. Extension services improved through adoption of improved husbandry practices provided through the government, CAHWs, CDRs sensitization and awareness, demonstrations and mass education platforms such as radio talk shows and exchange visits. Improved quality breeds of livestock species were procured and distributed to selected beneficiaries to promote cross breeding 275 Borana and Somali camel (250 heifers and 25 bulls), 200 Borena cattle, 50 black head Persian sheep and 150 gala buck goats.

The selection of cross procured and distribution was informed by beneficiary’s priority demand (production and market), suitability of the breeds to adapt to the local environment and technical advice from respective governments. The table below summarises the different interventions.

<i>Interventions Undertaken</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Targeted</i>	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>% Achieved</i>
<i>Improve extension services and local breed to increase productivity, marketing and income</i>	200	<i>animals</i>	200	100%
<i>Camel and cattle breed improvement (procurement, training, distribution)</i>	450	<i>animals</i>	475	106%
<i>Training on camel husbandry practices</i>	360	<i>HH</i>	360	100%
<i>Extension services and local breed to increase productivity, marketable products and income</i>	1600	<i>HH</i>	1600	100%
<i>Camel and cattle husbandry support</i>	450	<i>HH</i>	475	106%
# of Households	2,410	HHs	2,435	101%

In Marsabit, 653 beneficiaries out of 800 HHs supported with 100 Gala bucks breed benefited from 1,962 dows served and 2,650 crossbred off-springs kids born in 710HHs (525MHH, 185FHH as a result of application of improved husbandry practices. Productivity of cross breed is evident with 46% of the 1,962 offspring’s having delivered first degree cross breeds. The crossbreed gala bucks were bigger in sizes and fetched between Euros 58.58 to Euros 75.31) in the local markets compared to local breeds that go for between Euros 20.92 and Euros 41.84. The price difference is due to breed type and higher resilience, adaptability and productivity. Through the project 7,800 listeners (beneficiaries) accessed information on appropriate husbandry management practices on cross breed and indigenous breed disseminated through 12 interactive radio sessions (Chalbi FM) covering topics on animal health, animal husbandry, livestock diseases symptoms diagnosis and treatments, feeding, reproduction, housing, etc marketing and value addition of products etc. The radio messages were reinforced through outreach awareness services undertaken by CDRs using 40 livestock extension manuals produced and distributed to CDRs and Veterinary teams.

In Turkana, 800HHs were provided with 50 Gala bucks and 50 black head Persian sheep by TUPADO to improve their cross breeds. In the first cycle, 50HHs living in the highland areas of Lokitang best for sheep breed adaptation received 50 sheep while 50 HHs residing at dry and hotter lowland in Lowarengak received 50 bucks. In collaboration with County livestock department, farmers were organized into cohorts of 8 HHs with the lead-farmer being the host of the buck. The 7 cohort members brought in their ‘does’ on heat for mating on rotational basis. By the end of the project, 949 off springs (over 496 kids and over 453 lambs) have been sired by the Gala bucks and black head Persian rams distributed. The weight of cross breed Gala-bucks and black head Persian rams doubled compared to local breed with local goats weighing 15kgs vs 30kgs for cross breed while local rams weighing 14kgs against 21kgs of galla bucks.



A breeding buck beneficiary, on a wheelchair holding her breeding buck happily in Lokitaung



A photo of a beneficiary, a crossbreeding buck and its 3 kids in Lokitaung



In South Omo Zone, the project provided technical support and enhanced commercial production and productivity of the productive sectors in cross-border areas specifically livestock and fishery sectors for local and export markets. The project contributed to improving production and productivity of local livestock breeding through introduction of improved cross breeds and promotion of

sustainable cross breed husbandry practices. Improved productivity was assessed in terms of meat production (growth rate and size) and increase in quality of milk production. A total of 450 HHs were supported with improved species of livestock 275 camels (250 heifers and 25 bulls) and 200 Borena breed cattle. 250 HHs (200MHHs, 50FHHs) received 275 camels while 200 HHs (144MHHs, 56 FHHs) were provided with 200 cattle breeds in Hamer, Dassenech and Nyangatom woredas. For sustainability and ownership, the project adopted a cost-sharing modality for cost of camels and bulls where beneficiaries paid 20% and project 80% of the cost of buying the camels and cattle. This demonstrated their commitment and sense of ownership. Total cost of 20% cost share for the camel and cattle contributed by beneficiaries was Euros 13,392.85 and Eros 5,714.28 respectively. The beneficiaries' 20% contribution were deposited to their accounts at Omo Micro Finance Institution before they could receive the cross breed. The cross breeds were hardier and easily adapted to local environment compared to local cattle and shoats' breeds. Camels had more trees to browse compared to the scarce pasture and fodder consumed by sheep and cattle during the dry season. The project enhanced capacities and skills on improved husbandry in collaboration with Woreda and Zonal Livestock and Fishery Resource Department.



Cattle husbandry training: A 10-day basic cattle husbandry training was conducted for 200 cattle beneficiaries (144MHHs, 56FHHs) from Hamer (50M and 10F), Dassenech (37M and 33F) and Nyangatom Woreda (58M and 12F). The training focused on types of improved breeds, cattle cross breeding, housing, signs of common disease and their treatment, feeding, housing and watering, and common diseases and their prevention and control mechanisms.



Camel husbandry training: 250 HHs (200MHHs, 50FHHs) beneficiaries of the 275 camel from 3 woredas received 8 days training focused on camel adaptive mechanism, productivity, camel breeding, signs of sickness and treatments, feeding and watering and ways of milking and quality control. The trainees were also linked to the local network of CAHWs and service referral points (AHPs and PVPs) for ease of access to livestock healthcare and extension advisory services to support production and productivity.

Experience sharing visit for camel beneficiaries - husbandry and production: The project carried out experience sharing and learning visits for 250 HHs (50 FHHs) camel beneficiaries from Dasanach and Nyangatom woredas considering it was their first time to engage in camel breeding. They had practical learning experience from their neighbouring Hamer woreda camel farmers in Areya Kayisa kebele supported under RESULT project implemented by VSF Germany. The communities had practical experiences on how to milk camels, management of camel and calves, how to mate camel bull with heifer and identifying symptoms of sick camels. Besides nutritional value of the camel milk, they learnt of its medicinal value in treating stomach illness. The communities confirmed that milk production for camel- 8 litres was higher compared to 2 litres from cattle. All Covid 19 pandemic protocols were followed during the visit to minimise risks. Regular monitoring report confirmed that all camels were in good health condition, plenty of tree leaves for browse, beneficiaries practiced improved husbandry skills (disease identification, treatments, feeding, housing, care and milking). 13 out of the 250 camel heifers had given birth (12 in Hammer and 1 in Dassanech) while 49 were heavily pregnant.



Cattle breed improvement: The project distributed 200 Borena cattle breed bulls to 200 HHs (144MHHs and 56FHHs) in Hamer 60, Dassanech 70, and Nyangatom 70. Cattle beneficiaries contributed 20% of value (Euros 5,714.28) saved in beneficiary account at Omo Micro Finance Institution. 68 local cows/heifers' mate by the bulls produced 68 improved breed calves. Local breed cattle milk is 0.5–1.7 litres compared to 3- 4 litres per day from cross breed cattle. Camels produce 8-10litre per day and has greatly contributed to increased availability of milk in the households.

Challenge in promoting livestock breed: Due to the failed rainfall, some female animals were reported to abort due to the effects of the drought and those that have survived the drought gave birth to weaklings, some of which died shortly after birth. Cross breeding was delayed from 2018–2019 in Turkana and upto 2021 in Marsabit due to breeding seasonality and availability of feeds that required that animals are introduced after rains when pasture is sufficient. Drought experienced in these areas interrupted the project plans as partners had to wait for the favorable conditions to bring in new breeds. Disease outbreaks and market conditions also affected implementation. Cross breeding in Marsabit and South Omo Zone was delayed due to control measures against livestock disease outbreaks in livestock market zone resulting to quarantine and restricted livestock movements imposed in major local markets and routes e.g the case of Isiolo, Borana and Moyale. By the time the restrictions were lifted, and breeding seasonality favorable, there were low supply of goats, cattle and camels in the market and markets prices had shot up, resulting in long negotiations with vendors to conform to their supply tender conditions.

Activity 2.2.5 A baseline assessment on fish potential, hygienic standards and the capacities of producers, vendors and /or processors.

The project undertook two baseline assessment on fish potential, hygienic standards and the capacities of producers, vendors and /or processors in Lake Turkana and River Omo Kenya and Ethiopia. Another baseline was jointly undertaken with RESET Project on fish stocks in River Omo in South Omo. This assessment was conducted in collaboration with RESET Project and fish experts of SNNPR Regional

Livestock and Fishery Bureaus. The Omo Delta Project used the assessment report to inform project design and planning, benchmark for assessing progress and impact. The project adopted a holistic approach in addressing challenges facing fish value chain with reference to the outcome of the baseline assessment reports. This involved capacity building to Beach Management Units, fisher folks; provision of fishing gears; linkage to markets and input provision for sustained income generation and through which production improved by 50% and incomes doubled as a result of increased production, improved handling hygiene and value addition.

A2.2.6 Training on quality assurance, food hygiene and safety practices and procedures.

The table below summarises the number of beneficiary households (vendors, producers, community (BMU) and cooperatives members) trained on fish quality assurance, food hygiene.

<i>Interventions Undertaken</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Targeted</i>	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>% Achieved</i>
<i>Fish, milk, and meat producers and vendors trained and mentored on hygienic standards and practices.</i>	<i>HHs</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>343</i>	<i>214%</i>
<i>Community trained on hygiene and sanitation</i>	<i>HHs</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>634</i>	<i>127%</i>
<i>Cooperative members trained on value chain addition</i>	<i>HHs</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>260</i>	<i>87%</i>
<i># of Households reached</i>		<i>960</i>	<i>1,237</i>	<i>129%</i>

Hygiene standards and practices adoption training and mentorship on fish, milk and meat producers and vendors.

The project has built the capacities of 149 out of 80 fish producers and vendors on appropriate fish hygiene standards and practices through trainings on hygiene, sanitation and safety, appropriate fish processing and handling standards, proper storage and preservation and transportation regular follow up and mentorship to reduce losses from contamination and spoilages and increase their market value and demand. As a result of hygiene and safety trainings, they assessed the sanitation conditions and BMUs that did not have latrines, fish processing slabs and drying racks their construction were prioritized. Adoption of appropriate food handling and hygiene practices in turn increased the quality and quantities demanded (sale volumes), promoted better prices and increased income generated.

In Marsabit, CIFA trained 4 BMUs and 1 cooperative (406 HHs) on food hygiene and safety practices, fishing net making, fish handling and quality, quality assurance standards (hygiene and safety), fish inputs use, fish production and management, post-harvest handling, business skills and stock management including monitoring.

Mercy Corps supported 80 (58F) target fish vendors and traders to reduce their post-harvest losses through trainings on hygiene, fish handling, management and fish enterprise along beaches, fish landing sites at Lowarengak, Todonyang, Nariokotome and Nachukui in Turkana, Kenya. The BMUs trainings were conducted in collaboration with the Public Health and Fisheries Department Officers from County Government of Turkana. Follow-up and mentorships on hygiene and sanitation practices were carried out by 69 (41F) Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) trained in Kataboi, Nachukui, Nariokotome, Lowarengak and Todonyang in response to cholera case detection during the rainy season of the year 2021. The interventions improved fish quality and increased fish value and unit prices.

In Marsabit, VCFG trained 83 sub-committee members from 3 BMUs on hygiene standards like drying areas constructions, improvement of storage facilities. The beneficiaries adopted appropriate fish handling and hygiene practices, fish value addition and specialization on fish value chain using the skills acquired. This contributed to improved fish quality and variety resulting to increased demand and better prices and income from sale profits. Increased income from fish enterprise created confidence among beneficiaries to engage and invest on fish enterprise as key livelihood diversification option and

improved financial independence and ability to meet household needs, e.g Nile perch from Euros 0.08 – 0.59; gollo, kara and juse from Euros 0.08 – 0.41 and Tilapia from Euros 0.08- 0.84.

Fish value addition

In Ethiopia, trainings were provided to 3 cooperatives (180 members, 52FHHs) from Shonkora in Nyangatom, Yeriker and Fejej kebeles, Dassenech woreda on fish net making and supported with required materials to make nets such as ropes, needles, timber and blades. The net making trainings conducted in collaboration with Livestock and Fishery Resource and Cooperative and Marketing Office incorporated other topics such as basic business skills, cooperative management, quality assurance and leadership delivered using pictorial, lecturing and practical learning methods including experience sharing with RESET VSF Germany Fish cooperatives. The fish cooperatives developed by-laws, established management structures, shared role and responsibilities, obtained legal registrations, identified logos and printed stamps, legal receipts for business transactions and group members’ contributions. Cooperatives members contributed membership fees and share capitals accumulating Euros 792 which was deposited in their bank accounts at Omo Micro Finance Institution.



CIFA in collaboration with Fisheries Department in Marsabit developed a Training Manual contextualised to training of illiterate fisher-folk groups on fish value chain, enterprise development and management. A total of 206 HHs out of the 263HHs recipients of fishing gears were trained on fish value chain and BMU management in line with the Kenya Fisheries (Beach Management Unit) Regulations, 2007.

Activity 2.2.7 Enhance fish production and management through provision of input for efficient utilization of fish harvest.

The table below summarises the interventions planned and corresponding achievements at the end of the project. Overall, the targets were over achieved by 139%.

<i>Interventions Undertaken</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Targeted</i>	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>% Achieved</i>
<i>BMUs/ Cooperatives supported with fish harvest inputs / capital investments</i>	<i>BMUs/ cooperative</i>	23	29	126%
<i>Cross-border fish resource utilization and management forums supported</i>	<i>Forums / meetings</i>	4	3	75%
<i>Dialogues/ exchange visits</i>	<i>Forums</i>	6	9	150%
<i>Monitoring of fish stocks missions undertaken (Marsabit, Turkana and South Omo)</i>	<i>Missions</i>	80	73	91%
<i>BMUs/Cooperatives with enhanced fish production and management - governance and leadership</i>	<i>BMU/ cooperative</i>	22	17	77%
<i>BMU/cooperative members provided with fish harvest Inputs / capital Investments 22</i>	<i>HHs</i>	750	1047	140%
<i>BMUs/Cooperatives enhanced fish production and management - governance & leadership</i>	<i>HHs</i>	480	660	138%
<i>Total Beneficiaries</i>	<i>HHs</i>	1230	1707	139%

Fish harvest inputs and capital investments provision for improved fish production and harvest.

The project provided appropriate inputs and value chain capital investments support to 29 out of 23 targeted BMUs/Cooperative to increase their capacity to contribute to food security, creation of employment, generation of income and economic empowerment of the fisher folks, fishermen and fish

traders around Lake Turkana in Kenya and River Omo in Ethiopia. The fishermen and fish traders' knowledge and skills were enhanced to enable them practice to promote conservation of cross-border fisheries resources.

Appropriate fish harvesting equipment and assorted fishing gears identified by the beneficiaries through participatory processes were procured and distributed, followed by tailored technical trainings to enable them address their fish harvest capacity gaps and priority needs aimed at increasing their fish production (fish catch volumes) and income. The project provided standardized fishing gear (hooks, twins, manillas, polyethene ropes etc) and equipment (wooden boats and engine boats) approved by respective governments to help access deep waters away from the breeding grounds to protect harvesting of undersize fish and prevent destruction of breeding areas. Value chain capital investments were provided by the project to prevent fish spoilage and ensure appropriate fish processing and storage facilities for improved fish quality and safety. A total of 8 boats were provided to the beneficiaries (2 metal and 3 wooden boats in Ethiopia, and 3 wooden boats in Kenya.



Fish cold chain at Yerika Cooperative Store, Dasanach Woreda

The project provided 8 fish drying racks (2 per BMU) and 2 fish processing slabs equipped with waste draining pit in Ileret, Nangolei and Seislucho in Marsabit. In addition, 4 latrines (1 each per BMU) were also constructed. Project constructed/rehabilitated six (6) cold chain fish stores- three (3) cold chain stores equipped with solar fridges in Ethiopia, one (1) cold chain store rehabilitated and two (2) dry fish stores in Turkana and one (1) dry fish store in Marsabit). These have improved quality assurance and food

hygiene practices among the beneficiaries and reduced incidences of diarrhoeal disease outbreaks. The fishing gears were provided to selected beneficiaries and exchanged for illegal-substandard nets that harvested under size fish.

The project contributed to increased fish prices due to increase in fish sizes, fish quality, good governance and sustainable fisheries resource management. Through collaboration with ODP Partners, local stakeholders, Dasanach woreda and Marsabit fisheries departments and administration successfully controlled use of illegal fishing gears due to enhanced governance capacities of BMUs/Cooperatives and adoption of appropriate practices. This was achieved through sensitization, joint monitoring and surveillance in critical fish breeding areas, transit check points and arrest of dealers in these illegal fishing gear.

In Marsabit, VSF Germany supported 500 (347M, 153F) fisher folks with assorted fishing gears (2,000 fishing nets, 30,000 hooks, 20,000 floats, 3000 manila twines; 1500 of 2.5 manila and 1,000 polythene ropes, 3 boats to 3 BMUs and constructed one (1) fish stores constructed in Moite improving fish production and harvest. CIFA in collaboration with respective government in Kenya and Ethiopia contribute to reduced use of illegal nets mostly smuggled by traders from Ethiopia and Kisumu which was a threat to fishing industry as the illegal nets harvested undersize fish, thus destroying fish breeding cycles. They harvested 2,061 MT of fish and generated accumulative Euros 83,861 in income.



In Ethiopia, three (3) fish cooperatives, with 180 members were capacity build by VSF Germany on basic business skills, life skill, leadership and governance, fish handling, hygiene and sanitation skills, financial literacy, net making and provided with assorted inputs and equipment (4 wooden boat, 2 metal boat engine capacity of 40 HP, fishing gears and nets). They also benefitted from 3 fish stores constructed and equipped with six solar freezers) and were linked to financial institutions and markets. They are applying the skill acquired and using fishing inputs received to increase the harvest volumes and sales income.

As a result, they have harvested total of 202.88MT (Tilapia 198.23MT, Nile Perch (4.64MT) which were sold at Euros 19,735.82. The increase in production of quality Nile Perch has created high demand in national markets and the sale for Tilapia is mostly sold in cross-border markets of Bubua, Sieslucho and Ileret in Marsabit.



Strengthened cross-border utilisation, management and exchange visits (including resource sharing mechanisms)

The project supported cross-border fish resource sharing and utilization dialogues meetings organized in collaboration with Ethiopia and Kenya governments for the 8 BMUs in Marsabit and 3 South Omo Cooperatives in South Omo. The participants were sensitized on fisheries policies in Kenya and Ethiopia enabling them to acquire appropriate knowledge on the local and cross-border fisheries policies and by-laws. The new knowledge enabled them to reflect on existing fisheries management and resource sharing practices, identified key gaps or challenges affecting fisheries enterprise and came up with solutions, cross fisheries coordination committees and action plans.

In Marsabit, one (1) cross-border visits were organized for 78 participants (government staffs, BMU and fish cooperative members from Turkana and Marsabit counties and Ethiopia. Information on sustainable fish management was shared. They covered fish breeding grounds protection, quality assurance, monitoring and control of illegal fishing, fish harvesting and marketing, challenges and relevant solutions. At the end, a joint work plans for collaborations and linkages was developed and implemented that resulted to reduced accidental encroachments on breeding areas, conflicts and losses. In addition, two forums were organised in partnership with the other ODP partners to address conflict arising from differences in utilisation of the water resources. The 4 forums brought together 168 (54F) from the Kenya territory.

In Kenya, fisheries resource management and utilization in Lake Turkana by neighbouring communities residing in Counties of Marsabit and Turkana in Kenya with Dasanach Woreda, Ethiopia, has been crucial to the realisation of sustainable gains through engagements of the cross-border communities (Dasanach Kenya, Turkana, Elmolo and Dasanach Ethiopia. **Mercy Corps** in collaboration with other project partners organized **four cross-border** fish utilisation, production, governance and value chain management forums. These included two exchange visits with Marsabit County and Ethiopia bringing

together the Beach Management Unit officials, community representatives and the government officers from the respective regions. They were able to deliberate and agree on cross-border rules and regulations governing the management of fish resources as well as looking at trade opportunities and established governance structures to facilitate their implementation.

Monitoring of fish stocks (Marsabit, Turkana and South Omo) for enhanced production and income generation

The table below summarises the trends in fish catch between 2020 and 2022 and the total income earned by the different BMU sites supported by the project through VSF Germany.

VSFG Marsabit	Kgs Per Year			Total in Kgs	Total in MT
	2020	2021	2022		
Loyangalani BMU	284,452	686931	227795	1,199,178	1,199.18
Elmolo BMU	40,520	115041	46064	201,625	201.63
Moite	40,520	305482	148311	494,313	494.31
Total in Kgs	365,492	1,107,454	422,170	1,895,116	1,895.12
Total Income Euros	36,549,200	110,745,400	42,217,000	189,511,600	1,585,871

The Project conducted 73 out of targeted 80 quarterly monitoring of fish stocks in 15 out of 23 BMU (12 BMUs in Kenya and 3 cooperatives in Ethiopia) located in fishing breeding grounds. The collected data were mapped against the baseline bench mark information to assess changes in the fisheries resources. As a result, the project noted increase in quantity of fish production /harvested by 220, 075.22 MT. This generated an income of Euros 4,143,889 from sales by 1,102 BMU/Cooperative members indicating an average income per HHs of Euros 3,760. The increase in fish harvest and income generated are attributed to effectiveness of the use of inputs provided and management practices adopted following skills acquired through trainings to sustain fisheries services in cross-border areas.

In Turkana, **Mercy Corps** carried out 35 out of targeted 40 quarterly fish stock monitoring of 5 BMUs out of the 15 BMUs which are located in the main fishing breeding grounds (Todonyang, Lowarengak, Nachukui, Nariokotome and Nariemet) along Lake Turkana in Turkana North and Central. The prioritization of the 5 BMUs were informed by availability of their data during baseline assessment (June 2019 data) that provided a benchmark for monitoring and assessing any changes in the fisheries resources in the project areas. Each BMU has a fish stock monitor representative recording monthly BMU fish stocks (amount of fish harvested and its costs). Accumulative fish harvest volume of 12,026MT and sale income of Euros 369,962 was recorded over the project period. The data of the monitoring activities informed the effectiveness of the management practices promoted by the Omo Delta Project and any required adjustments in the strategies and practices to sustain the fishery resources in cross-border areas. In the over 4 years, each of the five BMUs generated 16 quarterly reports which informed the fish volumes and sales. This was replicated by other BMUs in the region.



In Marsabit, VSF Germany conducted 10 quarterly monitoring visits to 3 BMUs reaching 500 members (570M and (210F). The fish harvest for 500HHs from 3 BMUs improved in terms of volumes and sizes by an average of 189,511 MT generating Euros 1,585,871) and average income per household of Euro 3,171.742 by end of the project. **In Ethiopia**, VSF Germany conducted 10 quarterly fish stock monitoring in 3 fish cooperatives supported and recorded total harvest of 198. 23MT

Tilapia fish and sold for Euros 10,619.57 and 4. 64MT OF Nile Perch and sold for Euros 9116.25. The 180 members of 3 fish cooperatives harvested MT 202.87 earning an accumulative income of Euros 19,735.82).

In Marsabit, CIFA conducted 18 quarterly fish stocks monitoring mission to 4 BMUs (263 members) and recorded fish harvests of 5,053MT that generated an income of Euros 1,510,126. Overall, the support provided to the BMUs across the project sites resulted in increased fish catch and better incomes for members.

<i>Year - CIFA</i>	<i>MT</i>	<i>Income in KES</i>	<i>Income in Euros</i>
2019	206	3,352,270	28,052.47
2020	6,924	41,499,541	347,276.49
2021	1,385	42,123,330	352,496.49
2022	653	43,761,180	366,202.34
	9,168	130,736,321	1,094,027.79
Total	18,335	261,472,642	2,188,056

Enhanced fish production and management to Cooperatives/BMUs (Turkana and South Omo)

The Project supported commercial oriented production of fish along Lake Turkana and River Omo through strengthening of fishermen’s efforts in the management of fisheries resources and adopting capacity building strategies that motivate them to embrace sustainable conservation practices and promotion of government fisheries policies and regulations governing the BMU and Cooperative institutions operation. In Turkana, **Mercy Corps** strengthened governance structures and management of 6 BMUs - Kanamkuny, Lokitonyiala, Impresa, Naremiet, Longech and Namukuse through trainings on fisheries resource management, leadership and governance and supported the transition of newly elected BMU management structures. In collaboration with Turkana County Fisheries office the project trained the 6 BMUs on leadership and governance and supported review of by-laws and fresh elections of new BMUs following end of incumbent’s term.

The training focussed on appropriate practices in managing fisheries resources including required gear, seasonality, fisheries policies and regulations, BMU management and governance skills, fish resources management and utilisation, collective marketing of fish through trade established network of like-minded BMUs, safety and security of fisher folk in Lake Turkana, financial management, introduction of VSLAs scheme concepts, fundraising and general management on BMU rules and regulations. As a result, BMUs selected new executive office bearers have demonstrated good performance in terms of clear direction, visions, leadership and financial management of resources, legal registration, opening and operating bank accounts and promoted sustainable conservation practices and fisheries enterprises. The project strengthened value chain system of 7 BMUs organized into 2 Cooperatives through support to their ward adaptation plan in terms of construction of 2 dry fish stores equipped with latrines facilities and wastage drainage system and rehabilitation of one fish cold chain installed with solar powered cold chain storage. Access to the infrastructures have improved hygiene and sanitation that contributed to reduction of post-harvest fish spoilage, ensured quality and safe fish thus increased demand and sale volumes and income generated critical in alleviation of poverty and improved food security of the fishers along Lake Turkana.

In Marsabit, CIFA also increased capacities of 263 BMU members on fisheries policies, governance and leadership to empower them in good governance and discourage use of illegal monofilament nets that harvested undersize fish destroying breeding sites. 176 HHs (163 HH direct beneficiaries and 13 fisherfolk HHs) supported by CIFA with government exchanged their illegal monofilament nets with government approved nets, a strategy deployed to attract collection and discourage the use illegal nets. The illegal nets were collected and burnt in an event attended by the County Governor of Marsabit as symbol of change in fishing practice for improved productivity and fight against use of illegal fishing. The strategy to replace illegal nets with standard approved successful in eliminating use illegal nets.

Challenges in promoting fisheries sector: In the year 2020 and 2021, the project areas in South Omo, Turkana, Marsabit experienced very heavy floods from River Omo and Lake Turkana following heavy rainfall in the highlands with steady rising water levels. This displaced some beneficiaries in Moite and Elmolo who were forced to migrate to safer high grounds and affected construction of fish store in Elmolo where the fish store site was flooded. Construction works only resumed after the flood waters had receded.

Op3.1: Support to integrated and sustainable Natural Resources management (NRM).

Activity 3.1.1 Strengthening customary institutions and systems for NRM.

The project has strengthened customary Institutions and systems for Natural Resource Management as strategy that enhanced their capacities to contribute to sustainable use of natural resources in cross-border areas. This was achieved through identification of customary institutions located in strategic border and livestock migratory areas, engaged them in participatory reflective evaluation of their NRM activities and practices, gaps and recommendations, trainings on community based sustainable NRM, reciprocal agreement negotiations and facilitation of reciprocal agreements. The customary / NRM institutions applied the skills to facilitate communities map cross-border natural resources, migratory routes and neighbouring communities and draft rangeland use plans, grazing patterns, by-laws and action plans. These outputs were validated by larger communities through community awareness and dissemination where NRM committees were endorsed. Maps of border resources for mutual utilisation, holistic grazing plans, proposed access rights, NRM by-laws to govern and regulate access and utilization of natural resources were validated and endorsed at intra-community level. They were presented, reviewed, negotiated during inter-community cross-border dialogues meetings where the approved final products (reciprocal agreement) were formally integrated for joint cross-border implementation and managed through a cross-border NRM committee established. The table below summarises the customary institutions and systems strengthened.

<i>Strengthening customary institution and systems for NRM</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Targeted</i>	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>% Achieved</i>
<i>VSF Turkana and Marsabit -14 Groups</i>	<i>HHs</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>324</i>	<i>360%</i>
<i>CIFA - 6 Groups</i>	<i>HHs</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>261</i>	<i>87%</i>
<i>TUPADO - 9 Groups</i>	<i>HHs</i>	<i>280</i>	<i>280</i>	<i>100%</i>
<i>VSF Germany Ethiopia 275 persons</i>	<i>HHs</i>	<i>275</i>	<i>173</i>	<i>63%</i>
<i>Total HHs</i>		<i>945</i>	<i>1038</i>	<i>110%</i>

In Turkana, VSF Germany organised and supported seven (7) NRM committees (210 members) to engage their community in sustainable natural resource management practices in Kibish Sub-County. This led the communities in adopting the knowledge acquired that have strengthened their customary management of natural resources practices. The NRM committees reached 3,798 HH (1,874 males and 1,924 females) pastoralist in settlements (kraals) in Kibish ward where they validated the by-laws and rangelands management and reciprocal agreements and have been actively engaged in their implementation.

TUPADO on the other-hand supported 280 NRM members to adopt sustainable rangelands management practices in Turkana. The 280 members trained on sustainable community based NRM management established 9 NRM committees in 2019 (7 NRM Committees in Turkana North under ODP and 2 NRM Committees in Turkana Central through co-funding project). The trained NRM committees applied the skills acquired on community managed rangeland management to facilitate their communities to develop and validate their sustainable rangeland management plans and adopt new rangeland use practices (including resource sharing reciprocal agreements and community action plans).

In Marsabit, the 7 EMCs/Customary institutions of 210 (124M, 86F) trained and supported by VSF Germany participated in mapping of cross-border resources between Marsabit and Ethiopia borders following collaboration between the Project, IGAD and County government. The outcome of resource mapping informed their development of grazing plans, design of the action for protection and rehabilitation of natural sources in degraded rangelands. The EMCs promoted adoption of alternative environmental way of constructing livestock kraal shades by cross-border communities (include Gabbra in Kenya, Dasanach in Kenya and Ethiopia and Hammer in Ethiopia) e.g. use of stones or Prosopis instead of indigenous trees.

In Marsabit, CIFA trained 261 EMCs (M-176, F85) customary institution members on sustainable natural resource management nationally and cross-border areas which included community-based mapping of natural resources, roles and responsibilities, where they identified gaps in customary and

EMC practices and provided recommendations and actions. They are applying the skills acquired to sensitive and educate community members which has promoted implementation of sustainable rangeland management practices. They spearheaded intra and inter-community dialogue and sensitization meetings resulting to the development of rangeland use plans that guide seasonal utilisation of resource across-border (water and pasture) and negotiated access rights reciprocal agreements. The project supported environmental policy review through technical contribution and payment of accommodation Euros 1,568.89 for the County government environmental policy task force. As a result, transitional policies adopted ward adaptation planning model that enhances participation and planning strategies, and establishment of ward adaptation committee structures critical in improving NRM and environmental management.

In Ethiopia, through VSF Germany the project strengthened 120 (38F) individuals in Dassenech, Nyangatom and Hamer Woredas on sustainable management of cross-border natural resources as a strategy for mutual resource utilisation and conflict resolution mechanisms. The Ethiopia communities were linked through cross-border meetings organized at Bubua, Kibish and Sieslucho where they negotiated access rights and agreed on modalities for water resource with Dasanach and Turkana



NRM Workshop in Maji, West Omo Zone

communities in Kenya. Through four cross-border meetings organized, the communities were able to develop their cross-border bylaws, MoUs, set rules and regulations and elected joint cross-border committees to ensure mutual resource sharing, sustainable management and optimal utilisation of water structures, grazing areas, PVPs/AHPs and markets located in border areas. The common culture and shared language reinforce the gains developed in strengthening peace and security along the border areas. Future project could leverage on this gain for multiplier impact.

The project strengthened capacities of 9 customary institutions of 135 members in Hamer woreda (3 customary institutions), Nyagatom (1 Institution) Dassenech Woreda (2 customary institutions) and Maji Woreda (3 customary institutions). Each training took four (4) days. In Maji woreda, West Omo Zone, 30 (13 Female) NRM experts and community members were trained on sustainable natural resource conservation management. The training focused on pastoral rangeland management and water conservation, nursery site preparation, seedling plantation technique and GPS technology application on NRM.

Challenges encountered in strengthening customary institutions and systems in NRM.

- a) Three missed rainy seasons experienced between April – September 2021 and below normal rainfall between March to April 2022 threatens the adoption of planned grazing patterns and rangeland use agreements developed. So far livestock depleted pasture in wet season grazing areas and dry grazing, and currently consuming pasture reserves to cushion impact of drought.
- b) Covid 19 Pandemic led to closure of Kenya -Ethiopia borders from March 2020–August 2021. This delayed cross-border activities and social gatherings. Movements of participants and staffs were limited and social gathering meetings were postponed or slowed down due to smaller groups permitted to socialize. This increased the cost of operations and slowed down implementation pace.
- c) The gains of cross-border activities realised in last years of the project requires second phase to address teething issues. For example, due to eruption of insecurity along Turkana_Dasanach woreda, the cross- border reciprocal agreements /instruments (bylaws, M.o.U, joint plans) developed and cross-border customary institution networks established between Hammer, Nyangatom and Dassenech Woredas in Ethiopia and Kenya (Marsabit and Turkana) were not endorsed by respective governments.
- d) Ethiopia cluster around Neberemuse have plenty of rangeland around the border between Ethiopia and Kenya Turkana. However, due to conflict between the two communities both communities they

were unable to exploit them. A second phase of the project could build on current trust being cultivated in cross-border areas in collaboration with Woreda Administration, elders and youths.

The figure below Resource mapping and Customary Institution discussion and Trainings



Activity 3.1.2 Support Environmental Management Committees (EMC) to implement rules and actions to protect Acacia Senegal (source of Gum Arabic).

Strengthened capacities of environmental management institutions to enhance protection and Acacia Senegal trees.

The table below summarises the achievements under this activity- support to EMCs to implement Rules and Actions in the management of natural resources.

EMC implementing Rules and Action	Units	Targeted	Achieved	% Achieved
VSGF Mar - 4 EMCs Implementing Rules and Action	Persons	25	210	840%
CIFA - 6 EMCs - Implementing Rules and Action	HHs	-	69	(100%)
TUPADO - 9 EMCs - Implementing Rules and Action	HHs	200	210	105%
VSGF Eth - 75 EMCs - Implementing Rules and Action	HHs	400	150	38%
Capacity Building of EMCs on rules & protection - MCK – 20 groups 400 HHs (2400 persons)	HH	400	400	100%
TOTAL		1,025	1,039	101%

The project worked strengthened capacities of 114 EMC/NRM groups of 1,039HHs members out of targeted 1,025 HH to embrace the commercial nature of Acacia Senegal trees and coordinate the formulation of rules and regulations for protection of the Acacia Trees. These were achieved through trainings on formulation of rules and regulation applicable to local context and cross-border areas aimed at protection of natural resource aimed at enhancing their economic value and financial returns.

Capacity Building of EMC and NRM institutions on rules and actions to Acacia Senegal

The project strengthened the capacities of Gum Arabic producers and traders on sustainable production, management and commercialization of Gum Arabic and other extracts of Acacia Senegal trees as an alternative livelihood source of generating household income. This was achieved through trainings to 640 members (mostly youth and women) on business skills to enhance gum trade covering topics such as organization in producer and trader associations, gum harvesting, collection, processing, packaging, marketing and linkages to local and cross-border markets. As a result, the gum traders and producer groups harvested 11.16MT of gum sold at Euros 50,905, increasing their average household income by Euros 79 annually.

Income generating from Gum Arabic and other resources extractions

Partners	HH reached	# HH	MT	Kes	Euro
<i>Mercy Corps</i>	<i>20 Gum producers and traders</i>	400	3.72	5,191,667.00	43,091.00
<i>VSFG Marsabit</i>	<i>8 Gum producer and trader groups</i>	240	7.44	892,800.00	7,086.00
	<i>Trees extracts and raisins and honey</i>		Lump	87,000.00	728.00
	Total	640	11.16	6,171,467.00	50,905.00

In Turkana, Mercy Corps in collaboration with Kenya Forestry Research Institute organized and trained 20 group of 400 Gum Arabica producers and traders on commercialization of gum Arabic. Training covered topics on protection of Acacia Senegal trees, harvesting, collection, sorting, packaging and marketing and financial literacy (VSLA approach). After training, they were provided with tools and protective inputs (200 pairs of hard gloves, 60 pairs of secateurs, and 4 weighing scales). The protective gears were critical in harvesting the thorny plants. The capacity building of the environmental management committees (EMCs) involved development and enforcement of rules and actions to protect Acacia Senegal (source of Gum Arabica). The trained groups developed rules on management of acacia senegal that produce gum Arabic. Application of skills acquired on gum harvesting and storage techniques improved the quality and market value (pricing strategies) of the commodities. **Mercy Corps** facilitated gum Arabica stock monitoring among the collectors and traders by provision of data collection record books. The quality of gum harvested and value addition was enhanced as a result of use of assorted tools and protective gears. The 400 traders and collectors harvested 3.73MT of gum which they sold at Euros 43,091 thus increased their household income from zero (0) in Kaaleng', Ekicheles, Kaikor, Long'olemwar and Kaakelae Communities in Turkana North, Kenya.



In Marsabit, 14 EMCs (210 members) organized and trained by VSF Germany on Acacia Senegal facilitated their communities to develop and implement rules and actions to protect Acacia Senegal. This was enhanced through commercialization of acacia Senegal trees and enforcement of regular surveillance and punishment on those who cut and burn the trees for making charcoal, land clearance for kraals, homes or commercial investments. The project established and trained 8 Gum Arabic producer and trade groups (240 members - 96M 144M) involved in production and marketing. They were trained on gum harvesting, proper management, hygiene and quality control, business and marketing skills, and financial literacy to enhance their capacities and exploit the business opportunity. They were linked to markets and provided technical support from KEFRI, Acacia EPZ, African Agency for Arid Resources – AAAR). As result they harvested 7.44MT of gum arabic and sold at Euros 7,086. Further, some EMCs community members 210HHs (88F, 122M) engaged in other means in extraction of

resources such as (timber and non -timber) branches, honey harvesting and resins, honey, medicinal drugs, traditional toothbrush from *Salvadora spp* generated income from sales Euros 728.



Acacia Senegal trees protected in Kaaleng- Kaikor Ward

In Turkana, TUPADO organized and trained 210 EMC members to spear head the sensitization on commercial value and protection of *Acacia Senegal* trees and supported their communities to develop bylaws that guide regular surveillance and protection of the trees. The EMCs with support from customary institutions and local authorities enforced the bylaws resulting to punishments of violators. As a result, they recorded incidences of trees destroyed or cut by the communities. The

number of trees cut or destroyed reduced to zero between December 2020 – April 2022. The trained EMC committees were linked to Mercy Corps interventions where they were integrated into the Gum Arabic trading associations.

CIFA, sensitized communities and trained 240 EMCs (160M, 80 F) on protection of *Acacia Senegal* trees and commercialization of Gaum Arabic. The training resulted to successful development of bylaws articulating rules and regulations to protect the trees. Environmental management committees and scouts were delegated with the responsibility of looking after any defaulter who will be fined a head of goat for every plant cut. The EMCs were linked to the ward and county adaption committees who facilitate the process of common hazard risk assessments and development of prevention (preparedness) and response plans (contingency) and Nawiri project funded by USIAD. As a result of enhanced surveillance system and punishment for violator of the bylaws developed, acacia trees are being conserved with zero tolerance for anyone cutting them down for construction of houses, fencing cattle sheds or charcoal burning. The trees were few and could not support commercial production of gum Arabic.

Activity 3.1.3 Support rangeland rehabilitation by promoting, planting of spineless cacti, and grass reseeding in deferred grazing lands in cross-border areas.

The project improved productivity and sustainable management of degraded rangelands through integrated and strategic management of *Prosopis* and introduction of drought tolerant grass, fodder and plants. This was achieved through organization and capacity building of community institutions (Customary, NRM and EMCs) in collaboration with respective governments. The project rehabilitated deferred or degraded rangeland through provision of capacity building, farm inputs, cash for work or conservation rangeland management practices and introduce of suitable drought tolerant fodder /hay grass and plants. In Turkana VSF Germany and TUPADO introduced *Cenhrus ciliaris* grass seeds, while EPaRDA provided elephants grass, moringa and cassava. The table below shows summary of the interventions on rangeland rehabilitation.

Rangeland rehabilitation – invader species and reseeding	Targeted Ha	Achieved Ha	% Achieved
<i>Rangeland rehabilitation by VSF Germany Turkana (25 Ha, VSF Germany Marsabit - 63.5Ha and TUPADO 200 Ha)</i>	289	733	254%
<i>Rangeland rehabilitation by VSF Germany Ethiopia - 324 Ha</i>	234	265.8	114%
<i>Rangeland rehabilitation introduced grass and plants</i>	15	14.6	97%
No of hectares rehabilitated	538	1013.4	188%

In Marsabit, the project through VSF Germany aimed at improved Natural Resource Management and rangeland rehabilitation across the border areas; border resource mapping and development of plans to improve natural resources with customary institutions was undertaken, development of rules and actions to protect *Acacia Senegal*, rehabilitation of 58Ha of degraded rangelands, cross-border reciprocal grazing agreement meetings between Kenyan customary institutions and Ethiopia. Through these initiatives, pasture land was increased by 5% as plots with pasture/forage availability.

Rangeland rehabilitation - Cash for Work (CFW) – VSFG Turkana	Target HHs	Achieved	% Achieved
<i>Cash for Work - CFW Rangeland Rehabilitation - VSFG Tur & Turkana</i>	300	390	130%
<i>CFW Rangeland Rehabilitation -VSFG Eth - 750 CFW</i>	750	718	95%
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,050</i>	<i>1,108</i>	<i>106%</i>

Rangeland Rehabilitation- alternative utilisation	Target	Achieved	% Achieved
<i>Rangeland rehabilitation by promoting alternative utilization of invasive and spineless cactus - EPaRDA</i>	500 HH	500	100%
<i>Total</i>	<i>500 HH</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>100%</i>

FINAL FODDER AND FORAGE					
Partners	Type of Produce	HH	Hectares	Harvest in MT	Income in Euros
South Omo - Vita	Vita Fodder/forage/fodder groups	300	32	148.3	29347.42
Marsabit - VSFG	Value of pasture harvested – 58ha	150	58.5	130.5	22,444.68
Turkana - VSFG	Value of Pasture and seed harvested – 25.5 Ha	480	25.5	112.5	39,225.00
Turkana- TUPADO	Value of pasture generated in 650Ha	280	650	2,437.50	1,300,000.00
South Omo - VSFG	CFW rangeland rehabilitation	718	512.8	445	62,305.28
South Omo EPaRDA	Moringa and elephant grass	500	14.6	74.96	12,237.98
		2,428.00	1,293.40	3,348.76	1,465,560.36

Pasture Husbandry (training & inputs)	Units	Target	Achieved	% Achieved	# of HHs
Communities/EMCs - Pasture husbandry KEN	EMC	14	19	136%	420
Communities/EMCs on Pasture husbandry	EMC	75	120	160%	648
Communities & EMCs on Pasture husbandry MC Kenya - 20 groups (2400pax)	Group	20	15	75%	770
Total EMCs		109	154	141%	1.032

In Ethiopia, EPaRDA contributed to increasing stability to promote growth and protect gains through integrated and sustainable natural resource management (NRM) activities. Fifteen, 15 NMR groups (300 HHs trained on fodder production, harvesting of seeds/grass, business skills and provided with inputs (farming tools, grass cuttings and moringa seedlings) planted 29,000 elephant grass and 400 moringa trees that are drought tolerant (high moisture retention). The elephant grass planting relies on both rain-fed and small-scale drip irrigation to produce fodder with water from 7 water ponds constructed. The 500 HHs (188 women) beneficiaries of both NRM and water activities were provided with seedlings and farm tools. The seedlings include 29,000 cuttings elephant grass and 400 moringa seedlings. The farm tools include 300 hoes, 500 garden axes and 500 spades. As a result, the 500HHs rehabilitated 14.6 Ha with 29,000 droughts tolerant elephant fodder grass vegetation and planted 400 moisture resistant moringa plants supplied by the project to improve the vegetation cover and improve animal feeds. 500 HHs harvested 45.36MT of elephant grass while 40HH harvested 29.60MT of moringa seeds generating accumulative income of Euros 12,237.98. The elephant grass and moringa are very nutritious for lactating cows – in terms of good health and increased milk production. For

sustainability, 7 functional water user associations (WUAs) (200HH members) capacity build under Result 3 will oversee the ponds maintenance and water conservation.



VSF Germany in Ethiopia, injected Euros 35,000 for the cash for work paid to 468 HHs (108FHHs) selected beneficiaries using participatory criteria (destitute, lost their livestock, affected by disaster hazards, PWD, IDPS or poor households) increasing their average household income by Euros 72. The beneficiaries used the income from CFW to buy food, meet cost of educating children (school fees and stationeries) while 113 (51 women and 62 males) procured cattle, goats and bulls for milk production and asset building. The 485 beneficiaries were provided with farm tools (300 shovels, 300 hatchets, 200 sickles, 150 axes, 200 spades, 30 ropes and 100 rakes) which enabled them to

rehabilitate 247 hectares through conservation natural rangeland approaches. They harvested 10,748 bales (161MT) of hay worth Euros 21,112.14. The hay was used to feed 717 lactating and pregnant cattle for 2 months during the drought season protecting them from malnutrition and increased their milk production for household's consumption. The activities implemented in collaboration with government technical committee replicated the best practices and lessons from Government projects like PSNP and RPLRP which informed the project strategic targeting of flooded fertile soil and swampy areas, which have higher potential for rehabilitation.



Hay bulking at Hay store in Nyangatom Woreda

In addition, 250 HHs from Dassanech and Nyangatom Woredas engaged in rangeland rehabilitation of 18.8 Ha for forage production with the objective to enhance proper utilisation of hay through bulking and storage for livestock use during drought. As a result, they harvested 8,200 bales (123MT) valued at Euros 20,081. They constructed five (5) hay in Hamer 1, Nyangatom 2, and 2 in Dassanech woreda for the storage. In Turkana, 25.5 hectares of rangelands invaded by *Prosopis* plants in degraded environments were cleared and reseeded with pasture grass following support from VSF Germany. 150 vulnerable households were engaged through cash for work generated income from wages worth Euros 20,084, and harvested fodder grass *Cenchrus ciliaris* 112.5MT of pasture over 2 years generating income valued at Euros 18,829. In Koyasa, the community preserved *Cenchrus ciliaris* grass growth to maturity, where they harvested 40 Kg of seeds and sold at Euros 312.70 to avail seeds for subsequent years' pasture reseeded for livestock use during dry season. A total of 480HHs (167M, 313F) generated accumulative income of



Euros 29,184 from sale and savings from consumption of the 112.5MT of pasture fodder produced from 25.5 hectares of land.



TUPADO promoted community-based rangeland rehabilitation through management of invaders *Prosopis* plants and reseeded in degraded grazing lands in collaboration with community natural resource management committees, customary institutions and stakeholders. The success of initiative was grounded on the gains realised through intensive sensitization, trainings and facilitation of the communities by 210 customary institutions and 280 EMCs established and trained on rangeland conservation for sustainable rangeland management approaches. The EMCs supported the establishment of 9 EMCs located across 9 wards to ensure dissemination and coordinated development of rangeland

use plans, bylaws, setting up of rangeland conservation areas and negotiated the development of reciprocal agreements with neighbouring communities locally and in cross-border areas. As a result, they rehabilitated 650 Ha of land. Out of these 100 Ha were reseeded under sustainable rangeland management in Todonyang, 400 Ha rehabilitated through rangelands conservation and reserved for planned grazing using NRM by-laws management in Lowarengak, Kokuro, Meyan and Liwan, while 150 Ha rehabilitated using same approach in Sasam, Karebur and Turkana Central under co-funding). The 280 NRM committees who management the rangelands harvested 2,437.5 MT and generated Euros 1,300,000 over a period of 2 years and average household income of Euros 386.9 over 2 years when the area experienced rainfall. The strategy proved more sustainable compared to grass reseeded and fencing adopted by VSF Germany in terms of value of investment on returns.

In Marsabit, the project rehabilitated 64 hectares of degraded rangeland through cash for work – Reseeding was undertaken by 150HH (32MHH, 115FHH and 3 Disability HHs) for 30-days earning Euros 18,829. 58 Ha out of the 64 hectares rehabilitated produced 130.5 MT of grass over three years generating income of Euros 2,871,000 and average income of Euros 147 per HH. The harvest increased access to available pasture feeds for 600 herds (600,000 cattle) and 800 herds of shoats (800,000 shoats) from Illeret, Elhadi and El-masich for a period of four to six months during drought per year depending on rainfall.

Challenges on range land rehabilitation

- a) The CFW approach was not sustainable due to high cost and were replaced with conservation of rangeland through holistic grazing management and cross-border reciprocal grazing agreements which had low investment but yielded better results.
- b) Missed rainfall seasons and drought affected the seeded grass maturity and continuation of the gains with only 2 out of 4 years being successful.
- c) Invasion of the conserved and reseeded rangelands by livestock from Toposa communities from Nyangatom in South Sudan not targeted by the project reduced impact.
- d) Rangeland rehabilitation require vast geographical coverage outside the project for inclusivity of all communities utilising the rangeland and rehabilitation in respect to grazing patterns (wet and dry seasons) adopted in the grazing areas.

Activity 3.1.4 Strengthen cross-border natural resource management and utilization capacity.

The table below summarises cross-border NRM and utilization interventions achieved during the project period.

<i>Project Interventions</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Targeted</i>	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>% Achieved</i>
<i>Forage storage facilities construction</i>	<i>Facilities</i>	8	7	88%
<i>Cross-border NRM and utilization capacity - reciprocal agreement meetings</i>	<i>Meetings</i>	380	380	100%

<i>Cross-border meetings for reciprocal grazing arrangement M.o.U developed in South Omo, Marsabit and Turkana)</i>	<i>Agreements</i>	8	15	188%
<i>Capacity build 15 government staffs and 30 community ToTs)</i>	<i>Persons</i>	45	66	147%
<i>Ward adaptation planning committee members supported</i>	<i>Persons</i>	11,400	12,115	106%

The project constructed 7 out of 8 planned forage stores (VSF Germany Ethiopia 5 stores, Vita/RTI 2 stores) in South Omo, Ethiopia offering storage facilities for fodder bulking by beneficiaries who are increasing venturing in commercial fodder production.

Cross-border meetings and reciprocal agreements

The project area experienced recurrent and cyclic drought hazard shocks that resulted to competition of scarce and diminishing pasture and water resources. Prolonged drought shocks resulted in mass migration of livestock in search of pasture and water leaving women, children and the elderly at homesteads with no food thus increased vulnerabilities and weakened their coping capacities. In order to enhance resilience of livestock and coping capacities, the project invested in improved natural resource management for improved rangeland productivity and production, availability and access to water locally and in cross-border areas. Cross-border access has been achieved through cross-border dialogue meetings, development of land use plans and negotiated reciprocal agreements.

The project organized three (3) cross-border coordination and reciprocal meetings in Turkana which enhanced mutual resource sharing and increased access right to strategic service delivery facilities and natural resource available in cross-border areas. So far approximately 12, 315 households enjoy services available at strategic facilities through contacts and networks developed during cross-border meetings and opportunities created through operations of three cross-border institutions established; (1) Cross-border trade committees facilitating trade and peaceful co-existence across two border corridors of Kenya (Turkana) - (Ethiopia) Nyangatom corridor and Ethiopia (Dasenech) and Kenya Turkana (Omorate town); (2) Networks established through animal health and natural resource sharing (NRM) coordination meetings held between Ethiopia and Kenya by animal health experts and extension workers; (3) Agriculture cross-border committee and exchange platform between Dasanach Ethiopia - Marsabit County corridor to promote trade of agriculture inputs and produce.

The NRM cross-border meetings to draft reciprocal grazing agreements were attended by 33 members (30 males and 3 females) from Turkana side and the same number from Nyangatom and Dasanach in Ethiopia. The components of the MOU include; Drought coping mechanisms and peaceful co-existence strategies between Turkana, Nyangatom and Dasanach; Demarcation of dry grazing points, which are to be shared by cross-border communities; By-laws governing transboundary natural resources (water and pasture) management and sharing; Penalties for breach of bylaws; and Grievances reporting mechanism and conflict mitigation and resolution. 4 inter communities' meetings were organised by CIFA for 600 (437, 164F) people representing neighbouring communities (Gabraa and Dasanach) where they reflected on resource-based conflicts, developed mitigation measures including rangeland use management and resource sharing modalities. The outcomes were further escalated and negotiated during 6 cross-border meetings organised for 534 (359M 179F) neighbouring communities drawn from Ethiopia including line ministries and departments, local administrators and from Kenya (Marsabit and Turkana Counties). The communities reached agreements on management of natural resources, developed grazing plans and reciprocal modalities for utilisation of dry/wet season grazing areas and mechanisms for resolving intercommunity conflicts. As a result of these interventions, the social networks were created and coordination structures and mechanism established for cross-border resource sharing and sustainable utilisation that contributed to harmonious co-existence, reduced conflicts, and enhanced resilience of communities as livestock easily migrate maximising use of the pastures available.

TUPADO in collaboration other ODP partners and respective governments from Kenya and Ethiopia, organized two (2) transboundary natural resources management and utilization sharing workshops

attended by 180 people (59M, 121F) at Kangaten and Omorate respectively. They presented the outcomes of their intra-community planning meetings (national NRM plans) negotiated and developed common cross-border NRM plans and by-laws governing their management, mutual sharing and utilization of transboundary natural resources. Cross-border committees were established to follow up and coordinate the implementation. The meeting was attended by three communities (Turkana, Dasanach and Nyangatom) who share common border grazing areas. They used the opportunity for them to share their already developed land use and grazing plans and bylaws for cross-border negotiations before inclusion on inter-community reciprocal agreements. Resource utilization plans were clustered into two main cross-border corridor meetings. The cross-border meetings were organized separately per corridor e.g Kangaten (Turkana and Nyangatom) and Omorate (Turkana and Dasanach). In the meetings, the communities deliberated on the components of proposed cross-border plans, reciprocal agreements and bylaws before they were validated and harmonized. The NRM cross-border committee established to implement the plan and bylaws are operational and coordinating joint activities.

Strengthen cross-border NRM and utilisation through Ward adaptation planning committees

The project adopted Ward Adaptation approach to resilience building through facilitation of 7 ward adaptation planning process (risk assessment, identification of risk and development of risk measures) where drought and conflict ranked highest with the outcomes of the ward adaptation plans responding their risks. In Turkana, VSF Germany, TUPADO and Mercy Corps supported the development of 5 Ward Adaptation Planning Committees (WAPC) comprising 33 members (30 males and 3 females) from Turkana and 33 members (30 males and 3 females) from Nyangatom and Dassanach in Ethiopia. Community led initiative process engaged 1,899HH (937 MHH and 962 FHH) from Kaaleng'/Kaikor ward, Lapur Ward and Kibish wards. The adaptation plans were developed using community- based disaster risk management process facilitated by DRR specialist from Turkana Disaster Management Directorate which resulted to their identification or risks and development of risk measures (Ward Adaptation plans-contingency and preparedness plans).

Five (5) WAPC (15 members each) were established to spearheaded the validation and implementation of the ward adaptation contingency and preparedness plans. The plans were integrated to County DRR plans resulting to the ward plans being considered under the 0.09% of County Euros 1,016,196 being allocated for DRR plans 2021-2022. In Kibish, the community integrated ward adaptation plans implementation with strategic awareness on early warning to common hazards and action plans to enhance sustainable resources. Kibish Ward Adaptation Planning Committee was linked to potential partners such as SEEK Consortium, and Concern Worldwide who selected and supported implementation of priority activities on borehole water development and livestock marketing system. World Concern contributed Euros 6,351 to support the water borehole construction plans.

In Lake zone, the communities prioritized construction of two 2 fish stores to improve storage and fish marketing for 3,115 (770HHs) fisher folks under management of 2 fish cooperatives comprising of (3 BMU cooperative in Kangaki and 4 BMUs cooperative in Lowarengak). Mercy Corps under the project supported the two fish cooperatives comprising of boat owners, fishermen, health committees, traders and communities during the construction. The fish store facilities have attracted more users than expected due to successes attributed to value addition in services (cleaning and storage for fresh and dry fish) demanded for trade in cross-border markets now accessible as a result of inter-community dialogue meetings and reciprocal agreements.

Strengthened cross-border natural resource management and utilization.



The project areas are generally affected by recurrent drought hazards shocks resulting from failed rainfall that in turn translates into scarce and diminishing pasture and water resources. These effects threaten the lives and livelihoods of pastoralist forcing them to migrate to far distances in search of pasture and water and increase competition over the limited pasture and water resources available, hence the recurrent inter-communities' resource-based conflicts. The project improved resilience of livestock resilience and livestock dependent communities to the impacts of drought through increased

fodder/forage production and appropriate post-harvest management, improved rangeland productivity, sustainable management and utilisation of the available pasture and water resources. The project supported intra-inter community dialogue meetings to enhance mutual engagements and foster reciprocal agreements to facilitate joint development, management and implementation of sustainable rangeland use plans, protection of reserved grazing areas, grazing patterns, reseeding, NRM bylaws to guarantee access rights and co-management and peaceful utilisation of resources. In Turkana, 7 NRM committees of 210 members were trained by VSF Germany on pasture husbandry (reseeding, harvest and storage) to support and oversee pasture reseeding and sustainable management initiatives. The Table below summarises the fodder production interventions in Turkana county.

Interventions	#HH by gender		Income Generated		Comment
	Male	Female	KES	Euros	
Cash FW income 240HHs	93	147	1,400,000	20,084.00	240 HH engaged for 16 days
Sale from 112.5MT fodders	70	140	2,250,000	18,829.00	2 years harvest in 25.5 hectare - Sale & consumption
Fodder seed sale	4	26	40,000	312.7	Sold once in YR 1 harvest
Total	167	313	3,690,000	39,226	

Op3.2 Support to development of Strategic water points shared by cross-border communities.

Activity 3.2.1 Drilling of strategic deep boreholes that support long-term supply of water in cross-border areas.

The project prioritized construction and rehabilitation of 15 water sources in strategic areas to improve access to water throughout the year including dry season for domestic and livestock use. Access to reliable water in livestock migration routes and grazing areas has improved utilisation of strategic grazing areas pastures for increased production. In Addition, 12 other water sources (7 ponds, 2 dams, 3 boreholes and 3 underground water tanks) constructed/rehabilitated have increased access to water reliable water for domestic, livestock and in some instances for vegetation cover production.

Borehole construction: Four (4) boreholes constructed and equipped with (7) water distribution kiosks for domestic use are operational in South Omo Zone and Marsabit County. The boreholes' Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Hydrogeological Surveys were conducted and approved by Zone and Woreda Water, Energy Department and in consultations with elders to collect socio economic data, geophysics, resistivity, and potential negative impact and mitigation measures. In Kenya a hydrogeological and EIA consultants were hired to undertake the assessment but approvals obtained from NEMA and Ministry of Water respectively. Water quality testing conducted by SNNPR Water and Mining Energy Bureau showed that the wand County Water Departments confirmed the water quality was good for livestock and human consumption according WHO standards.



In Ethiopia, the project relied on the outcomes of EU ground water study report carried out by UNICEF. All borehole water quality testing was done and confirmed to be safe before casting. One borehole installed with solar power system and 5 water distribution kiosks for domestic use and livestock watering troughs were completed and operational in Fejej South Omo Zone. The project **560 HHs** beneficiaries made in kind contributions (time and labour) during their involvement in Fejej site clearing and road construction for three (3)

days; estimated at Euros 1,750 Euros and demonstration of felt need and sustainability. The borehole drilled to 148.8M was equipped with water storage reservoir tank, watering troughs and domestic water kiosks benefiting 650HHs. This has reduced time distance to access water and waiting time at the water points by women. Inter-community access rights by-laws and MoU were developed and signed by neighbouring kebeles communities for mutual resource utilisation and sharing.

In Marsabit, 2 strategic boreholes were drilled and equipped with cost effective water pumping solar power, water reservoir, livestock watering troughs and domestic water kiosks in cross-border areas. The boreholes have increased access to reliable safe water throughout the year water for of 1350HH (El-hadi –300HHs of 67MHH /233FHH and Alai Bura 1050HHs-806MHH/244FHHs). They fetch approximately 50lts-60litres /HH and 110lts/HH per day for domestic use in Elhadi and Alaibura respectively. Availability of water in the two boreholes have also increased water access by livestock (500 donkeys, 500 shoats and 2,500 cattle)

In Elhadi, 300 households from Gabraa have been consuming 50 litres per day throughout the year for the last 1½years that the borehole has been operational. This reduced their average trekking distance in search of water from 11Km to less than 1 hour while waiting time reduced from 8hrs to less than 30 minutes. The 300HHs beneficiaries reported that they saved Euros 1,129.70 monthly from household income they used to spend in buying 60litres of water Euros 3.77 daily. The savings are redirected to meet household needs (food, education, and health). Three cross-border communities (Dasanach Kenya, Dasanach and Hammers of Ethiopia have mutually agreed to utilise the water at Alaibura borehole following 6 cross-border dialogue meetings where they negotiated reciprocal access rights agreements, developed bylaws and established a cross-border water management system.

Water ponds - In Ethiopia, EPaRDA constructed 7 ponds holding run off water in Perie, Tima, Akula, Hago, Zurguma, Oldomo, and Tingole in Hammer, Dasanach and Nyangatom woredas. Their capacities are from 10, 000 to 80, 000 cubic meters. The water is currently being accessed by 500HHs (222F) for domestic use, waters high moisture retention vegetation cover grass and plants (elephant grass and moringa) and over 1,050,000 livestock (350,000 livestock per ponds) daily for over 4 - 6 months annually. The pond water has increased income from honey sales of the neighbouring community members involved in bee keeping. A total 500 HHs (222F) comprising NRM (300HH) and Water Development 200HH were directly involved in water ponds construction and water conservation activities. 63 out of the 500HHs trained on sustainable NRM management, maintenance and strategically blended with appropriate traditional rules and regulations and spearheaded community engagements and improved practices. Availability of pond water reduced the distance walked by the beneficiaries in search of water and reduced migration of people in search of stable livelihood.

Dams – CIFA rehabilitated 2 dams in Garwole and Selle-Gabaro border locations of Dukana, Marsabit increasing the capacity from 7,000cm³ to 12,000cm³ respectively. The water dams have increased access to water for domestic and livestock among Gabraa communities of Dukana, Marsabit and Hammer communities of South Omo, Ethiopia. Hygiene and sanitation at the dams were improved through awareness and construction of two double door latrines which was informed by the findings of faecal deposits around the water points during the EIA. Since October 2020, the dams serve a total of 700,000 livestock daily during the dry season when migration is high benefitting around 5,861 HHs (MHHs 5,098 and 763 FHH) livestock owners. The dams also increased access to domestic water for 1,020 household living around the areas (Selle-Gabaro 810HH and Garwole 210 HHs). During the wet

season, livestock concentration reduces and so does the number of livestock accessing the water points. The reduction in number of livestock accessing the water is also attributed to planned grazing as the areas is reserved for dry season grazing to cushion against impact of drought or in adequate rainfall.

Underground Water Tanks – In Turkana, the project drilled one borehole in Kanamese striking an aquifer that yielded adequate water whose quality test result was acceptable. Unfortunately, the borehole had to be sealed after it experienced massive emissions of gas that was found harmful for livestock and human consumption. In consultation with beneficiaries and County Government of Turkana, it was confirmed that the beneficiaries were severely affected by water shortage and resolutions reached that savings from uncompleted borehole processes be redirected the rehabilitation of 3 water underground tanks. With EU approval, the project through a consultant conducted assessment and rehabilitated 3 underground water tanks with a capacity of 150cm³, installed with hand pumps and livestock watering troughs. The tanks in Lointanit areas have increased access of 950HHs (5,700 persons- 2,907 women and 2,793 men) to safe water for domestic use and watering of 59,000 livestock (cattle, sheep, and goats) grazing in the area. The availability of water in the 3 tanks reduced beneficiaries walking distance to nearest water points by 8km, increased daily water consumption per HHs from 20 litres to between 60-80 litres therefore improving hygiene standards, improved human and livestock health and nutrition.

Improved local water management and utilisation: The project strengthened water sources management to maximum water production, minimize wastages and contamination, and enhance sustainable utilisation of the facilities. The project promoted integrated water management system that capture issues of governance, sustainable utilization, environmental and water conservation and physical maintenance locally and cross-border level depending on the strategic location of the water structure. Management of the water structures was handed over to trained water users’ committees who acquired the adequate skills to undertake their mandates of organizing the community or cross-border beneficiaries to plan for use of the water sources as summarised in the table below. Water technicians were also established and trained to carry technical assessments and repairs of the facilities and linked to woreda/kebele and County Water Engineers. Training manuals were developed in collaboration with host countries.

<i>Project Interventions</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Targeted</i>	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>% Achieved</i>	<i>HHs reached</i>
<i>Borehole management WUAs trained</i>	<i>Pcs</i>	6	12	200%	36
<i>Underground water tanks WUAs trained</i>	<i>pcs</i>	3	3	100%	9
<i>Ponds water user management trained</i>	<i>pcs</i>	7	7	100%	21
<i>Dams Water users management trained</i>	<i>Pcs</i>	2	2	100%	14
Total # of water users		17	15	100%	
Total # of households	HH				



In South Omo, the project increased the knowledge of water user associations through trainings conducted on how to manage water points and how to assess repair needs and conduct regular maintenance. Accordingly, 17 WUA members (5F) selected from two neighbouring kebeles (Ocholoch and Fejej) in Dassenech woreda selected as beneficiaries for the borehole were trained on water conservation, management and maintenance of water infrastructure for sustainable utilization.

In Marsabit, the two borehole constructed in strategic border locations of Alaibura in Ileret (Dasanach Kenya– Hammer communities) and Elhadi (Gabraa Kenya-Borana Ethiopia communities) has improved access to water throughout the year and promoted cohesive cross-border relations attributed to regular

interactions and networks, formal water resource sharing and joint management of the water structures. Alabira boreholes is managed by a trained cross-border water management committee of 21 male members (9 Dasaanch Kenya and 12 Hammer of Ethiopia) who undertake daily operations by applying skill acquired on sustainable water conservation, resource sharing and governance, and guided by cross-border by-laws and reciprocal agreements developed and ensure sustainable utilisation of water from Alaibura borehole. Technical maintenance of the borehole is done by 7 women water technicians (2 Dasaanch - Kenya and 5 - Hammer of Ethiopia) capacity build with requisite skills on repairs done under the leadership of water user committees. In Marsabit, CIFA trained two water user committees of 59 members (23 and 36 members) who are responsible for the day to management and supervision of the use of the two dams.

In Turkana, one (1) water user association of 11 members (7M, 4W) trained on management, operation and maintenance of borehole water system has continued to apply skills acquired on the daily operations of the water tanks enabling its functionality. Further 3 community artisans trained on operations and maintenance of the rehabilitated water tanks offer regular supervision and maintenance of the water structures enabling uninterrupted supply of domestic water to over 950HHs and 59,000 livestock.

<i>Challenges in water infrastructure development</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The sheer remoteness of the project sites and insecurity challenges made it very difficult to attract qualified and competent contractors. This led to unsuccessful bidding and re-advertisements that delayed the implementation period. Successful contractors were supervised by contracted engineers to ensure quality of works and services during implementation.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>High operational costs and risks in remote project sites triggered numerous contract variations from contractors that required a lot of effort at negotiations to resolve.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Failed drilling despite high probabilities reported in the hydrogeological survey e.g Sieslucho, Marsabit. This led to higher operational costs as new sites had to be identified with processes being repeated. This was however necessary to ensure project objectives were met.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>High cost of inputs and price fluctuations due to inflation limited number of water structures that could be constructed using the available budgets. This led to the reduction of ponds and dams initially planned</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Unpredictable geological surveys e.g in the case of Kibish borehole which showed potential but later emitted harmful gases and had to be abandoned and sealed off. Funds had to be utilised rehabilitation of three (3) underground tanks in the same locality to still ensure objective of the project to improve access to water was achieved.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Most of the activities by the Action were affected in year 2020 and 2021. The consortium partners during this Covid-19 pandemic could not progress with activity implementation according to plans due to movement restrictions- Ethiopia–Kenya border were closed, Kenya had a lockdown no movement, in Ethiopia the lockdown also affected activities scheduled by partners.</i>

Op4.1: At least 6,750 persons are reached with accurate information on Covid-19 pandemic and cholera disease (infection prevention and control measures and hygiene and sanitation practices)

In Ethiopia, a multi-stakeholder approach was adopted by engaging 66 sixty-six (18F) government stakeholders from Health, Administration, Livestock and Fishery, Pastoral Affair and Early Warning Office from Zone and woreda departments for enhanced coordination and accurate messaging. This enabled 1,457 HHs (711FHHs, 746MHHs) to access accurate information on Covid 19, desert locusts’ invasion and cholera outbreaks and prepared them to apply appropriate prevention and control measures resulting to reduced infections and spread. In South Omo Zone, 66 (18F) government stakeholders engaged in emergency project inception meeting developed and produced IEC materials (80 banners, 300 posters, 90 stickers) and 20 banners) and disseminated to target beneficiaries in 3 woredas in South Omo 9Hamer and Nyangatom) in West Omo Zones (Maji). These enhanced their knowledge and change in attitudes and application of appropriate practices that were critical in mitigating infections and spread

of the diseases. As result of these interventions there were less reported cases and deaths in project areas compared to the government infection projections and the actual nationwide infection rates.

In Turkana, 10,294 HHs improved their knowledge on multiple hazards (Covid 19, cholera, and desert locust) and adopted appropriate practices to reduce their risk of exposure to infections and spread of the diseases due to access to accurate information on causes, prevention and control measures- good hygiene and sanitation practices. The beneficiaries accessed the information through awareness events carried out by partners' staffs and stakeholders (including governments) CDRs, CHVs, CMDRR planning processes and 21 radio sessions in Kiswahili and local dialect – Nya'Turkana via local FM Radio stations. TUPADO reached 1813 people (734M, 1079F) with the accurate information for prevention and control of Covid-19 pandemic through proper hygiene and use of face masks for protection and this contributed to no spread of Covid-19 in the project site.

Activity 4.1.1 Support awareness creation, on Covid-19, Desert Locust and Cholera.

In Turkana 8,028 HHs acquired access to factual information with support from VSF Germany, Mercy Corps and TUPADO that improved their capacity to engage in appropriate practices that prevented and mitigated infection, transmission and spread of Covid 19 pandemic and cholera and desert locusts. TUPADO contributed to the increased knowledge and understanding of 1,813 beneficiaries on Covid 19 pandemic, cholera and desert locust due to their access to accurate information disseminated through awareness activities undertaken by trained CDRs and governments officers. The CDRs and government agents were sponsored by TUPADO to convey the awareness messages through 9 radio spots talk shows i.e. 6 Desert Locust radio spots (3 in Kiswahili and 3 in Turkana) and 3 Covid-19 pandemic sensitization radio spots (2 in Turkana and 1 in Kiswahili). Awareness creation was done through radio Ekeyokon. The talk show information covered topics aimed at providing accurate information on Covid-19 pandemic and personal and environmental safety relating to desert locusts control. **Mercy Corps** supported awareness outreach and meetings carried out by 69 community health volunteers (CHVs) and 30 BMUs that enabled 4,800 HHs access accurate information on Covid 19 and cholera diseases, and importance of good hygiene practices critical in prevention of transmission and to curb the spread. VSF Germany raised awareness of 1,415HHs through outreach meetings and 13,600 persons (2,266 HHs) during participatory disaster risk assessment and response measures planning in Kibish, Turkana.

In Kenya, Mercy Corps, focused on awareness creation, education and knowledge about Covid-19 pandemic and cholera diseases as well as desert locusts through structured meetings/outreaches, local FM radio and public address systems. In a strategy with the other consortium partners in the county, Mercy Corps supported 12 airtime sessions in the local FM station (Ekiyokon FM) which were aired both in Ng'aturkana and Kiswahili. Through this approach, approximately 600 households were reached. Mercy Corps Kenya through ODP Fish sector and Turkana county Public Health Department also undertook a Covid-19 awareness creation and cholera hygiene promotion in 6 community health units alongside lake zone area in 4 sites namely: Todonyang, Lowarengak, Nariokotome, Nachukui, Katiko and Kataboi with a population of 1,000 households. The Ministry of Health through community health volunteers led the process to create awareness to the fishing community on the need to address the problem of sanitation seriously and control the occurrence of cholera outbreak in their areas.

In Marsabit Kenya, 480 posters (240 desert locust and 240 Covid19, cholera and floods) were printed and used to support government multi-stakeholder awareness and dissemination response reaching 1000HHs (480HHs in VSF Germany project areas and 520HHs in neighboring communities). In Ethiopia, 66 (18F) government stakeholders from Health, administration, Livestock and Fishery, Pastoral Affair and Early Warning Office from Zone and Each woreda attended project inception workshop where the kebeles to be targeted were selected for crises modifier activity implementation conducted in each woreda. Following the workshop on crises modifier, activities were carried out in Dassenech, Nyangatom and Hamer woredas. Accordingly, 2512 HHs were reached.

Activity 4.1.2 Strengthen (30) Community Health volunteers (50% females) to raise target communities' awareness on COVID-19, hygiene, and sanitation

Mercy Corps in Kenya supported 69 (41 F) community health promoters (30 CHVs and 39 BMU members) previously trained under ODP on hygiene promotion to raise awareness about the importance of good hygiene practices in prevention of Covid-19 transmission as well curb the spread of cholera.

Activity 4.1.3 Support mass education and awareness campaigns radio programme and public address transmissions of knowledge /factual information on Covid-19 pandemic and cholera.

In Turkana, the capacity of 2,413 HHs to curb infection, transmission and spread of the diseases was enhanced as a result of access to accurate/factual information on Covid 19 pandemic and cholera disease received through 21 FM radio airing mass education and awareness campaigns. The improved access to the information has contributed to the beneficiary's application of appropriate hygiene and sanitation and safety practices among fisher communities and pastoralist attributed to no incidences of cholera outbreaks in 2021 and 2021 and prevention infection and spread of Covid 19 pandemic. In Kenya, 13,600 population of Kibish Ward gained knowledge on early warning and preparedness to common disasters through awareness and mass education supported by VSF Germany. Mercy Corps conducted awareness creation for 5,000 persons (3,245F) in five events organised within the Woredas in Ethiopia.

TUPADO supported 9 radio sessions aired on the multi-hazards (6 Desert Locust and 3 Covid-19 radio spots) reaching 1,813 persons (1079 females and 734 males). Mercy Corps on the other hand facilitated 600HHs to access accurate information on Covid -19 pandemic, cholera diseases and desert locusts through outreach meetings, public address and 12 airtime session on Ekikyokon local Radio aired in local dialect (Ng'aturkana) and Kiswahili languages. In Turkana, the project reached and estimated 160,000 people in 10 locations (Lapur, Kaaleng and Kaikor wards in Turkana North) with mass media education and awareness on Covid 19, Cholera, and Desert Locusts. The messages were disseminated through 44 radio spots series sessions in 8 weeks conducted in English and Kiswahili with technical guidance from Partners in collaboration with County government. The messages included (i) Cholera and Covid 19 Pandemic, symptoms, transmission, prevention and control and (ii) Desert locust, surveillance and reporting, effects and control. VSF Germany through co-funding project funded by FAO, trained 13 (12 males and 1 female) County technical Staffs in target sub-Counties who in turn educated the community on Desert Locust invasion through **Maata FM** radio, a local vernacular radio with the widest coverage in Turkana County.



In Ethiopia, Vita/RTI contracted Jinka FM radio that reached 2,600 HHs (15,600 persons) with accurate information transmitted in 11 local languages (*Dasenech, Hamer, Erbore, Kara, Bena, Tsemay, Bodi, Ari, Dimie, Allie and Malle*) so that all population at risk had access to the messages. The project organized 52 radio listening groups of 2,600HHs (50 members per group) in south Omo Zone project woredas (Dasenech 18, Hamer 17, and Nyangatom 17 groups). The 52 radio listening groups were trained on facilitation skills and group management to enhance quality of information uptake and dissemination of messages to other community members. Radio and flash disks were purchased and distributed for the groups. VSF Germany in Ethiopia, reached 2,914HHs (1422 FHH and 1492MHH) with factual information on Covid 19 pandemic, Desert Locust and cholera outbreak, prevention and control measures through series of awareness in Hamer and Nyangatom woredas.

Mercy Corps and Turkana County Public Health Department also undertook a Covid-19 awareness creation and cholera hygiene promotion in six community health units and reached 4,800HHs. They also supported 12 airtime sessions in the local FM station aired in Kiswahili and local Nya'turkana languages reaching 600HHs. In Kenya, Mercy Corps intervention focused on awareness creation, education and knowledge about Covid-19 pandemic and Cholera diseases as well as desert locusts through structured meetings/outreaches, local FM radio and public address systems. In a strategy with the other consortium partners in the county, Mercy Corps supported 12 airtime sessions in the local FM station (Ekikyokon

FM) which were aired both in Ng'aturkana and Kiswahili. Through this approach, approximately 600 households and 36,195 were reached.

Challenges and action: The project encountered numerous disease outbreaks over the implementation years. There were limitations from the County Departments of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries where staffing is inadequate to address the issues raised by the project on time for example desert locust invasion, cholera outbreak, CBPP and CCPP outbreaks and this delayed response time.

Op 5.1: Human and animal health workers and key stakeholders supported in their efforts to contain contagious diseases (Covid-19 pandemic and cholera disease)

Awareness conducted by the project, resulted to 55 persons (100%) of those reached by project improving their understanding of Covid 19 pandemic and cholera disease causes, prevention, and control measures. The knowledge and information helped in attitude change in hygiene and sanitation practices and enabled the beneficiaries in timely detection the diseases symptoms and response thus minimized infections, transmission and spread. The beneficiaries reported the change in attitude against risky hygiene practices and personal safety by taking deliberate efforts to embrace use of appropriate PPE materials and available sanitation facilities and maintaining personal and social safety. As a result, in Turkana and Marsabit counties there were no reports of cholera disease outbreaks during rainy season in 2021 contrary to previous prevalence in 2019-2020.

Activity 5.1.1 Strengthen (55) Community Health Volunteers to raise target communities' awareness on Covid 19, hygiene and sanitation.

In Turkana, Mercy Corps in collaboration with Ministry of Health, public health and fisheries departments in Turkana trained 69 (41F) Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) on Covid 19 pandemic disease, causes, symptoms, prevention and control measures, and importance of hygiene and sanitation in disease prevention and control. They used the skills acquired to raise awareness to 1,000 communities in Kataboi Nachukui, Nariokotome, Lowarengak and Todonyang resulting to improved hygiene and sanitation practices and personal/social safety and reduced incidences of cholera disease outbreak.

In Turkana, 10 community health promoters (7 females and 3 males) were supported with logistics and awareness creation materials through VSF Germany. Awareness and education facilitators used a combination of interactive awareness creation methods such as; door-to-door, public meetings, posters and radio messages. 940HHs (349M, 591F) were reached with messages on symptoms, transmission routes and prevention of Covid 19 disease and adopted appropriate prevention and control practices. 475HH (215M, 260F) reached with cholera messages said they knew what to do in case they sight desert locusts and were to report. Through radio spots series, 70% of the population -161, 000 in Turkana North and Kibish sub-counties were reached with awareness on Covid 19 disease transmission routes, symptoms and prevention measures.

Op 5.2: Availability and access to appropriate hygiene kits and Personal Protection Equipment to promote personal hygiene practices at household level and strategic public institutions

Activity 5.2.1 Procurement and installation of hand washing facilities (fitted with soap) in strategic public places

In Turkana, VSF Germany procured and distributed 20 handwashing (50-litre) Jeri cans mounted on a metallic stand with a soap holder to strategic areas where people crowd to get services such as PVPs markets, schools, police stations and health centres reaching 943HHs. Each facility was provided with 10-litre detergent soap for effective handwashing. Effective handwashing with soap to prevent spread of Covid 19 and diarrhoeal diseases. In Marsabit, 39 handwashing equipment installed in strategic high human traffic location for public utilities targeting 857 households to curb transmission of Covid 19 and prevent spread of cholera. CIFA procured and distributed 56 handwashing facilities to 2,033 HHs.

In Turkana, TUPADO provided logistical support for sensitization sessions and distribution of 480 posters produced (240 for Desert Locust Control, Personal and Environmental safety; and 240 for Covid

19 Control and Prevention). The distribution of IEC materials was done in collaboration with the Turkana County Government Ministry of Health, and locust task force (Ministry of Agriculture, Pastoral Economy and Fisheries), who enhanced access to critical information and messages on desert locust and Covid 19 control. Distribution was done through Desert Locust Scouts (DLS) and Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) in the following areas: Kataboi, Karebur, Sasame, Kokuro, Meyan, Liwan and Kaikor. The CHVs and DLS posted them at strategic places and used them to educate/sensitise the beneficiaries. **1961** HHs were reached. They also reached 35 PWD (15F) and 40 IDPs (37F). The information on the posters encouraged good hygiene and sanitation practices amongst the beneficiaries.

In Kenya, Mercy Corps supported the County government's effort in improving access to hand washing facilities in public places. The project thus procured 22 appropriately fabricated hand-washing facilities which were installed in strategic places in school and public

Activity 5.2.2 Procurement and distribution of hygiene and sanitation inputs in target villages

In Marsabit, VSF Germany procured and distributed 2,000 masks, 3600 bar soaps distributed to 1,000 HH (730MHH, 270FH and 36 public institutions in North Horr, Dukana, Illeret of North Horr sub-county, Loiyangalani ward of Laisamis sub-county). CIFA also provided 2400 bar soaps to 750 HHs. Mercy Corps in Ethiopia also reached 1,371 (674F, 697M) vulnerable households through 6,000 bars of



body soaps as a package to the Covid 19 protective items for hygiene promotion. In Ethiopia, EPaRDA procured and distributed hygiene materials (1,000 litres of hand sanitizer, 2,352 litres of liquid hand soap, and 7,650 litres of liquid soap) for use to mitigate the spread of pandemic and IEC materials for awareness raising. The hygiene materials were distributed to the three project woredas in South Omo, namely: Hamer, Dassenech and Nyangatom. Due to beneficiaries and government demand for soap and sanitizers as they were critical in prevention of Covid 19 pandemic, the quantities procured exceeded the planned.

In Ethiopia, Mercy Corps also procured 15 packets protective face masks face masks for health personnel and hygiene promoters (chemical protection masks), 12 sets of safety clothes, 12 pairs of safety shoes, 12 pairs of protective gloves (chemical protection gloves) and 200 litres of chemical insecticide (Diazinon). In Ethiopia, through vita/RTI beneficiaries and woreda water and mines energy offices were supported with 3,000 liquid hygiene soap, aluminium sulphate, Wuha agar and Bishan gari to reduce the prevalence of water borne diseases. On the other hand, the project also rented one vehicle for the monitoring activities of Covid 19 for three months.

Activity 5.2.3 Procurement and distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for communities, extension health service providers and volunteers.

In Ethiopia, Mercy Corps reached 1,371 (674F, 697M) vulnerable people in Dasanach, Hammer and Nyangatom with this intervention as they received 6,500 re-usable face masks and sanitary items to control and reduce cholera disease outbreak spread. In collaboration with woreda stakeholders, health experts and Covid 19 taskforces members 1,176 (577F) individuals received awareness raising training on cholera prevention and proper use of Covid 19 protective equipment in Hammer and Dasanach woredas. VSF Germany procured 19,000 masks and 100 gloves and distributed to 1,700HHs. This activity was not carried out in Kenya as the government together with other INGOs were undertaking this in the program area and there was no need for duplication. The program however supported the activity through support of the CHVs working for the program.

Activity 5.2.4 Support local government institutions to facilitate responses and coordination of mitigation and management of Covid-19 pandemic, cholera outbreak and desert locust invasion.

In Ethiopia, 6,404 people benefitted from this intervention. Technical capacities of woreda and zone experts and institutional capacities of woreda and zone stakeholder offices were improved through

training on desert locust surveillance, forecasting and control. Twenty-five (20M, 5F) zone and woreda agronomy experts were trained. Institutional capacities of woreda and zone stakeholder offices were also strengthened through distribution of desert locust control equipment and chemicals. Dasenech and Hamer woreda agriculture and natural resources development offices were supported with 25 chemical sprayers (Knapsack).

Op 6.1 Vulnerable households under lockdown measures get access to predictable basic food and non-food services e.g. food, water trucking services, emergency transport fuel and detergents.

Activity 6.1.1 Provision of unconditional cash transfers vulnerable households to access essential food commodities.

In Kenya, the unconditional cash support targeted 896 vulnerable households whose were shattered due to Covid IPC measures in place for control of Covid 19 infections. The unconditional cash transfer in form of foodstuff and other household hygiene items were redeemed through the 198 ODP IGA/Business groups and local vendors identified and clustered to serve specific villages through mobile e-cash transfer system with each group getting a cash grant transfers of Euros 75 per cycle access food. To make this process authentic and transparent, the redeeming for items was delivered through an electronic platform provided by a digital system management service provider (Myfugo) contracted by the project. The beneficiaries would redeem e-cash/vouchers to selected IGA groups/vendors for essential food package (sugar, rice, tea leaves, beans, green grams, cooking oil, maize flour) and detergents (bars of soap, sanitizer, and detergents). In Ethiopia, Mercy Corps supported provision of unconditional cash, protective facemasks, sanitation items, training for woreda and zone experts and desert locust control items and chemicals to reduce impacts of Covid 19, cholera and desert locust infestation respectively.

Mercy Corps in Ethiopia reduced the number of months from 3 to 2 at cost of Euros 77,524 and increased number of beneficiaries from 1096 HH to 2,752 to meet the growing number of household that were unable to have a meal a day due to impact of drought and Covid 19. The intervention reached 1,393 (615F, 761M) severely affected households in Dasenech (990/432F), Hamer (299/142F) and Nyangatom (104/54F) woredas through unconditional cash transfer. Overall, Mercy Corps Kenya provided e-Voucher for food access worth Euros 44,752) for two (2) months to 892 out of planned 896. MC removed 4 beneficiaries after noting their double system entry as supported by TUPADO.

TUPADO provided one-month e-Voucher for food access to support 200HHs valued at Euros 5,021. The 200HHs beneficiaries were part of the 1,030HHs who received subsequent multi-purpose cash transfer interventions worth Euros 64,315 under the funding project. TUPADO obtained co-funding from Oxfam GB that got funded by Germany Federal Foreign Office to implement cash transfer activity in Turkana North sub-County for 1030 HHs most vulnerable households in Kataboi location: 55, Nareng'ewoi:140, Kaalem: 211, Losajait: 188, Kokuselei: 231, Kangakipur: 122 and Kaemongor: 83. Each of the 1030 households received Euros 63.5 per month for two months (November and December 2021). The cash disbursement was done via M-pesa platform.

In Kenya, Myfugo technology digital trade platform facilitated the 250 VICOBA/VSLA / food vendors to reach 1,816 vulnerable HHs with 3,418 HH food baskets worth Euros 23.12 in a safe manner that reduced their exposure to infection. In Turkana, VSF Germany distributed food basket to 185 HHs (38M, 147F) in two phases to cushion from effects of Covid 19 and drought through Myfugo digital platform. Each beneficiary received food items Euro 24 per month for 2 months which translate to total income of Euros 8,800 in phase 2 of contingency emergency.

Activity 6.1.2 Establish e-system service for disbursement of cash to beneficiaries– procurement, installation and system management and reporting cost - by service provider My-fugo.

Myfugo digital platform enabled partners to remotely manage and support e-based trade and effect cash grant transfers to targeted beneficiary households. At the end of the project, a total of 6003 HHs were reached with cash transfers. The transfer was affected by generating a code that was presented by the beneficiaries at the shops of the vendors in exchange of goods. The transfer was organized in two phases with each lasting between 2-3 months. In phase 1, 250 vendors increased their income by accumulative

by Euros 84,356.58 for 17. Other cash transfers in Ethiopia through PSNP Criteria was Euros 77,524, targeting 2,572 HHs. In Phase 2, the transfers amounted Euros 130, 810 for 1030HHs and 494 beneficiaries received e-Voucher worth Euros 24, 803.35.

Op 7.1: Curbed spread of desert locust and protection of livelihoods in targeted Woreda in South Omo Zone. Strengthen zonal and County Desert Locust migration surveillance, early warning and forecasting system

Activity 7.1.1 Strengthen Zonal and County Desert Locust migration surveillance, early warning and forecast system

In Ethiopia, the project through Mercy Corps distribution of desert locust control equipment and chemicals to control desert locusts. The activity was conducted in order to equip woreda government sector offices with the necessary items to successfully reduce the effects and damages of the prevailing desert locust invasion on livelihood resources. It also was part of the intervention to support government stakeholder offices efforts towards the reduction of the effects of the desert’s locust invasion. As a result, Dasenech and Hamer woreda agriculture and natural resources development offices were supported with 25 chemical sprayers, 15 protective face masks (chemical protection masks), 12 safety clothes, 12 pairs of safety shoes, 12 pairs of protective gloves (chemical protection gloves) and 200 litres of chemical insecticide (Diazinon).

A7.1.2 Support the community and local actors to control the locust

In Kenya, the activity only involved awareness creation through the local radio station to about 760 households that have access to the station. In Ethiopia, the project reached 11,905 HHs through Vita/RTI provided logistical support, PPEs and inputs to the Project Woreda’s desert locust task forces to facilitate, surveillance, early warning system and response. Mercy Corps reached 6,404 HHs, trained and sensitized woreda and zone experts and enhanced their institutional capacities to respond to desert locust surveillance, forecasting and control. Vita/RTI supplied the woredas with protective personal equipment to the woreda and zonal desert locust taskforces in South Omo Zone project woredas. Items provided included protective wears like tuta (38), booti (33), face shield (28), goggles (28), field tents (2), protective hand cloves (28). Protective personal equipment was also supplied to woreda and zone offices with manual knapsacks sprayers and motorized sprayer (4) to all project woreda and the zone. The project also supported 325 litres diazinon-60% to three project woredas (Dasenech, Nyangatom and Hamer) from its crisis modifier fund. This complemented the government efforts to control spread of desert locusts. Mercy Corps trained 25, twenty-five (20M, 5F) zone and woreda agronomy experts during the institutional capacities of woreda and zone stakeholder offices for distribution of desert locust control equipment and chemicals.

A7.1.2 Support 1,875 Omo Delta Project household beneficiaries affected by desert locusts with supplementary livestock feed and farm inputs.

The table below summarises the interventions under this activity and the final outcome achievements.

<i>Project Interventions</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Targeted</i>	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>% Achieved</i>
<i>Household beneficiaries affected supported</i>	<i>HHs</i>	<i>1,050</i>	<i>1,050</i>	<i>100%</i>
<i>Recovery ODP HHs beneficiaries affected by desert locusts</i>	<i>HHs</i>	<i>10,290</i>	<i>10,517</i>	<i>102%</i>
<i># of HHs reached</i>		<i>11,340</i>	<i>11,567</i>	<i>102%</i>

In South Omo, VSF Germany supported 250HHs Omo Delta Project beneficiary households affected by desert locusts and floods with grass seeds, tools and cash for work to undertake rehabilitation of rehabilitated 18.8 hectares. As result 150 HHs harvested 1.94MT of grass seed sold at Euros **10,712 Euros** and 46.41MT of hay estimated at market prices of Euros 4,219.09. The availability of hay enabled

livestock fattening groups to reactivate their businesses and farmers to access fodder to feed their animals, hence increasing milk and meat production.

The project partners conducted an inception workshop for the crisis's modifier project attended by South Omo Zone Nyangatom, Hamer and Dassenech woredas starting from October 23– 24 2020. The awareness creation was conducted in collaboration with health office, livestock and fishery resource office, agriculture and natural resource development office and pastoral affair and administration office. Government officials were engaged to harmonize the approaches, process and guidelines for cash for work activities targeting vulnerable household and those who lost their livelihood due to effects of desert locust invasion in Hamer, Dassenech and Nyangatom woredas. Due to lack of pasture and animal feeds, the lactating livestock migrated from the villages to far grazing lands making them weaker and lowering production or risking death. Family members that remained behind in the villages (women, children, elderly and the weak (sick or disabled) had no access to adequate milk.



VSF Germany engaged 250HHs through technical capacity building, cash for work and provision of farming inputs (300kg of panicum grass seeds and 500kg of Rhodes grass seeds) and tools that enabled them to engage in panicum fodder irrigation farming in 18.8 Ha (12.3 Ha in Dassenech woreda, 6.5 Ha in Nyangatom). 50% of the targeted beneficiaries were women headed households.

These fodder development groups supported the bull fattening groups under Omo Delta Project. For instance, 14 bull fattening groups at Derelele kebele in Dassenech purchased the fodder from these fodder producers to fatten their bulls.



Due to the absence of the forage for a year the fattening groups stopped their work but resumed after the fodder production groups were supported to engage in fodder production. The fodder development group harvested fresh grass and sold to livestock keepers but also tendered the grasses to maturity to make hay and also produce seeds for the next season planting. Accordingly, 11,923MT fodder was harvested, costing an estimated Euros 23,430. Additionally, 5.89MT of panicum grass seed estimated at Euros 31,553.57 was collected. This enabled 250 HHs to increase their household income and improve their welfare. The fodder development groups are selling the bale and seeds to NGOs, private merchants and central markets (Wolaita). This panicum grass is highly rich in protein, resulting in increase in milk and meat production. and it increases the yield of milk and meat.

Dasenech woreda suffered from the devastating effects of Omo River flooding that swept off some farm lands and rangelands already rehabilitated under the project. Vita/RTI invested 9,276 Euros of the

contingency budget to support 300 affected beneficiary households to procure cereal grain for home consumption purpose worth Euros 5,592 which improved their household access to food. More than 200 households were supported with 500 bales of hay for cattle worth Euros 1,837 to feed their animals during the dry season. 100 households were supported with inputs worth Euros 1, 847 to rehabilitate their damaged banana farms.

Reflections on risks and assumptions that impacted the realisation of activities and how they were address during the activity implementation.

Inflation: There was a general increase in the cost of goods, services and works during the project period due to inflation across the two countries. Prices of inputs, construction materials and livestock kept fluctuating and impacted program operations' processes and procedures e.g. tendering in a very negative way, causing delays in the implementation of the project.

Insecurity: Cross-border conflicts were erratic resulting to temporary closure of Ethiopia-Kenya border. The sporadic conflict at the border region increased security risk and limited human movement across the border. The partners decided to postpone the cross-border joint workshops, meetings and visits to minimise exposure of staff, stakeholders and beneficiaries. Partners adopted the use of virtual meetings and cross-border stakeholder WhatsApp group platforms per thematic area activities coordination and consultation before peace situation normalised and operations resumed.

Peace and Resilience Nexus: Collaboration between EUF LOT 1 and LOT 2 enhanced information sharing, joint planning and activities sequencing in areas where the two projects were being implemented. Cross-border trade committees were jointly established and integrated peace committees and boundaries partners established by LOT 1 project joined the LOT 2 trade committees in integrating peace and trade during capacity building, dialogues, meetings and formation in both sides of the countries of Ethiopia and Kenya.

Security risk- Security situation was difficult in Surma woreda and Erboke cluster of Hamer woreda in Ethiopia. This hampered capacity building activities, establishment and strengthening of business groups and provision of technical support. After several attempts to use government security structures with no success, some activities were suspended in this region. However, the targets were increased in the more peaceful and stable areas.

Covid 19 Pandemic: pandemic measures enforced by host countries such night curfews, restricted movements, closure of schools and public transports, closed borders and limited vehicle carrying capacity increased vulnerability on beneficiaries' lives and livelihoods and their activities were derailed. ODP Project immediately activated their crisis modifier fund and contingency funds under the EUTF project that facilitated the implementation of two phase of integrated emergency response project that cushioned beneficiaries from negative impact of the hazard's shocks. (e.g accurate information dissemination, hygiene kits/equipment and materials, capacity building, giving of food and cash transfer to the most vulnerable)

Operationalizing Instruments of governance: Limited understanding on signed MoUs/protocols between Ethiopia and Kenya: Various zonal and woreda level government sector stakeholders have limited understanding on the signed protocols and MoU agreements between the two countries. This hampered the process of cascading to the grass root and facilitation of cross-border trade. Partners facilitated a number of meetings involving government officials to promote the understanding.

Private sector bureaucracies: Banks and micro-finance institutions apply stringent rules and conditions on their lending terms to small business, resulting in long delays and tedious process to negotiate and tailor services to meet he needs of the beneficiaries whose organization capacities and operational structures are still developing.

2.1 Status of the Action, its Sustainability and Prospects for Continuity

The Action envisaged to continue even after the European Union funding period ended on 28th April 2022. Some of the project activities that were co-funded by ongoing projects will continue after the end of European Union support. The project has developed structures and created a pool of community and county resource persons to ensure sustainability of the project activities. There were a number of sustainability measures that had been put in place by the Action to support the continuity of the ODP;

Cross-border cohesion and sustainable livelihoods; ODP interventions at the cross-border minimized social disruption of illegal migration, the internally displaced people, people with disability were offered opportunities and supported to engage in livelihood and economic activities locally and linked a cross-border to access better opportunities. This had never happened before. Their inclusion in livelihood resilience interventions strengthened their households' capacities to mitigate and address drivers of migration, poverty and displacements. The beneficiaries have been engaging in sustainable management and rehabilitation practices (reseeding / conservation/ protection of *Acacia Senegal* trees, rangeland use planned and reciprocal utilization) and change in attitude to commercial orientation of environments and natural resource utilization (hay/fodder production, harvesting of acacia Gum Arabic for sale). Protection of key livelihood assets has improved their production and productivity and as result increased income at household level. More diversified avenues to get income have been realized through diversified income opportunities created by the project. With more income generated the target beneficiaries are in better position to meet their current needs and engage in non-violent activities.

Financial sustainability: The ODP has enabled women, youth (including girls), special needs groups to engaged in productive activities including income generation / entrepreneurship activities. This exposure to economic opportunities has increased their access, ownership and control over household assets, enhanced financial independence and ability to make decisions on their enterprises, businesses, financial groups (VLSA/VICOBA/REAP/YES/GIRL). This has contributed to their improved wellbeing, social recognition in the community and are able to make investment decisions together with their spouses. The new governance skills obtained enables them to steer the groups to the right direction where each member is accountable not only to their business but to the group through loaning and credit movement. By expanding their business and opening new businesses shows financial strength by the target beneficiaries to stand on their own and to make ends meet, better their lives for their households.

Structural sustainability; Most local enterprises, businesses, groups, committees and cooperatives created by ODP have developed by laws and/or constitution, business plans which will govern them in areas of financials, social cohesion, group dynamics, election of leaders, how decisions will be made, how to grow business. If the structural compliance is adhered to, the groups will not fail but sustain their purpose of formation and even grow in numbers. Most of them had future forecasts of where they want to be and with that zeal it generated positive value for societal growth to withstand any shock. One of the most outstanding was the group's ability to operate within the constraints of the environment they were built and even at the end of the project all of them were in operation while others were coming up.

The system created especially for business: e-livestock reporting system, public private partnership, market-based fishing enhancement and grain market system; The ODP through various interventions created systems that were favourable to the target beneficiaries. The e-livestock reporting system enabled better delivery of services by veterinary department. The inclusion of private sector into the system provided a better approach to dealing with the most neglected mandate of the government – extension service to the community. The CDR would support surveillance and e-reporting, private pharmacy will provide drugs and offer advisory services while the government was to do diagnostic and vaccination. The comprehensive interplay of each actor will be bringing sustainability to the delivery of livestock services to the community. The same thing with market-based fishing enterprising where ODP created a good value chain system of each player's role in that industry. The system created showed harvesting from lake Turkana, post-harvest hygiene and protection, storage in fish stores, trading (aggregator collection) transportation, availability in the local and export (cross-border markets) were all part of avenue of creating value to the natural resource. With ODP systems created for fish and grains in Ethiopia the target communities and the communities at large will benefit with systems in place.

Innovation and ecosystem approach model; There was innovativeness to increase value and opportunity and transform the way delivery of development agendas were done; Community confessed that ODP was the first to bring developmental activities along the cross-border of West Omo, South Omo, Turkana and Marsabit border lines. It helped increase the value, worth, attitude by exposing communities to various opportunities they could venture into to transform their lives. The transformative development that ODP implemented was use of ecosystem approach by including all organizations and sectors that contributed to people's livelihood transformation in the target locations. With this in mind, ODP sought to improve production system of livestock, fish, grains, crop production systems through looking at inputs, health, production, outputs (products and services) and the markets. For example, with the ecosystem approach they sought to intervene on livestock feed shortage, limited knowledge by

beneficiaries, poor genetic potential, diseases that reduced livestock value/ asset through various innovative technologies (cross breed – genetic improvement; digital reporting – health monitoring, feeding – improvement of feed etc). To some sort this has enabled sustainability of the gains made.

Public- Private Partnerships – Implementing partners worked with the respective government departments at different counties/zone, sub-county/woreda and national/federal where applicable and the private sector in facilitating delivery of supplies, services and works e.g business /trade intervention had strategic engagements of woreda enterprise and industry development offices project process such as beneficiaries’ identification, training manuals development and trainings, local businesses opportunities identification, provision of inputs and equipment, institutionalization, marketing and value chain linkages. The establishment of PVPs in Kenya introduced the participation of private practitioners within a framework guided by an MoU signed between the partners, government and private actor.

Follow up activities envisaged by the Action

- a) Inter-community cross-border structures were established and MoUs for their collaboration and actions plans developed to guide implementation of joint activities. However, formalisation of cross-border cooperation as established by the project at inter-community, sub-national level- Inter-governmental level will require follow up on finalization. The meetings that were planned for validation and signing of thematic MoUs and umbrella cross-border M.o.U was postponed due to risks related to insecurity between Turkana and South Omo Zones.
- b) Cross-border coordination structures and networks were developed at community and inter-governmental levels in last phase of the project due to effect of Covid 19 measures where borders were closed until July 2021 e.g thematic government task forces committees for Livestock and Fisheries, Trade/Commerce, Agriculture, NRM including water). At community level the project established cross-border committees and networks for trade, animal health extension service providers (CDRs/PVPs, AHP, CAHWs), Trade/Agriculture committees, Water/NRM committees that requires more mentorships by both countries to strengthen their coordination, operations guided by signed inter-governmental umbrella M.o.U and implementation of action plans.
- c) There are Infrastructures such as PVPs, AHPs and Water (Boreholes) and the mega-market centres constructed under the project in the last year of the project. Though already handed over to communities and governments, they have robust partnership framework action plans ongoing implementation including the management institutions sustainability. They need further support by implementing partners and other actors in collaboration with the sub-national, national and regional governments.

2.2.3 Log frame update

An updated Log frame matrix, highlighting the final changes made during the life of the project with the corresponding comparative values between the baseline data and the final results achieved is attached as an Annex 3b.

2.3 THE ACTION HAS MAINSTREAMED CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES SUCH AS PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS,¹ GENDER EQUALITY,² DEMOCRACY, GOOD GOVERNANCE, CHILDREN’S RIGHTS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY³

¹ Including those of people with disabilities. For more information, see ‘Guidance note on disability and development’ at https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/disability-inclusive-development-cooperation-guidance-note-eu-staff_en

² https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/toolkit-mainstreaming-gender-equality-ec-development-cooperation_en

³ Guidelines for environmental integration are available at: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/economic-growth/environment-and-green-economy/climate-change-and-environment_en

AND COMBATING HIV/AIDS (IF THERE IS A STRONG PREVALENCE IN THE TARGET COUNTRY/REGION).⁴

2.3.1 Promotion of human rights

Beneficiaries, stakeholders and relevant local government offices were adequately engaged through project entry and launches organized at community levels, as well as at County and sub-county, woreda and zone levels with representation from relevant national and regional level. These interactive platforms created opportunity for them to understand the project details (purpose, objectives, results, outputs and activities, donor, budget, operation areas, implementation strategy including approaches and methodologies, target beneficiaries, timelines etc), reflect, ask questions and request for any modifications that were addressed in inception phase technical action and budget modification. The beneficiaries and stakeholders (including relevant governments) participated in different project activities events and forums (assessment, inception, mobilisation, sensitization, planning, reviews, management, monitoring and feedback mechanism initiated) giving them opportunity to voice their needs and concerns, recommendation and created space for them to take integral role in the project cycle (initiation, planning, execution, controlling, monitoring and exit/closure).

The government and community led process of activities e.g. sites identification and selection of beneficiaries used participatory developed criteria. Complaint mechanisms and confidential reporting systems were established, impartial focal persons identified at local and organization levels which protected whistle blowers and investigations done to conclusions with appropriate actions taken at relevant levels. Project adopted culture sensitive, conflict sensitive (Do no Harm) and gender transformative approaches that promoted women and human rights protection. Project strategies promoted equity and equality among the beneficiaries with deliberate effort to addressing gender barriers, discriminations and gaps, uphold social-structural and economic rights aimed at improving equitable and equal access, ownership and control over livelihood productive assets, household assets and income. For example, project prioritized gender targeted selection of beneficiaries, and offering gender needs informed interventions e.g incubatory services, technologies and innovations, participation and representation in leadership.

2.3.2 Gender Equality

VSF Germany has a gender policy which clearly states that “VSF Germany will incorporate gender equality into programming (throughout the project cycle activities i.e design, initiation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation). Project design as articulated in the overall objectives and outcomes with especially 50% being women and youth, special needs (PWD and IDPs). Project monitoring was explicit with gender indicators and or gender-segregated data collection and reporting. VSF Germany and Partners staff’s capacities were enhanced through gender mainstreaming trainings organized in collaboration with SECCI Project and IGAD Gender and Resilience cluster platform where key outcomes strengthened the project gender responsive and transformative interventions. The Project adopted gender sensitive and transformative approaches in the delivery of the project, regularly assessed progress and impact on women, youth and special needs groups (PWD, IDPs, HIV/AIDS) through reports, review and reflection workshop, monitoring mission and project assessments (baseline, mid-term review and final evaluation). The findings on gender needs, issues and concerns informed project design, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Gender participation in leadership positions within the project has increased from 10% to 30-40% due to targeting of vulnerable and women headed households. This shows that women take up positions of influence in the society. The mechanism of community compliance management was also established to respond to community queries and to avoid conflict of interests. To ensure sustainability of good governance the project strengthened public and private institutions such as customary institutions and private institutions.

2.3.3 Promotion of Democracy

The Action contributed to promotion of democracy through; Community involvement at the selection stage, intervention stage and close out stage. The involvement promoted inclusivity, smooth implementation, achievement of project objective and sustainability of the project. Involvement of various government line ministry also promoted transparency, working together and ensured buy in

⁴ Please refer to EC Guidelines on gender equality, disabilities, etc.

which enhance sustainability and right targeting of beneficiaries to achieve results. Feedback mechanism promoted democracy because all beneficiaries were encouraged to report any challenges within the course of implementation period which was timely handled or promised to be handled.

Democracy is assured when human rights are respected; the project mainstreamed democracy by involving all the stakeholders in decision making either directly or by approving and validating decisions that they were not involved. Beneficiaries targeting and selection criteria were developed in a consultative manner involving all key stakeholders. The process of selecting project direct beneficiaries was conducted with an interactive manner and ensure equal space for all to participate or be represented. Potential beneficiaries were clustered into groups (disabled, women headed households, lactating months etc) and given the opportunity to discuss and agree on whom amongst them are most vulnerable and to forward their names for registration as opposed to handpicking individuals. Groups were trained on electing leaders and allowed to vote their leaders through secret ballot to ensure democracy.

Project also focused on community dialogues and conversation with the most influential persons, elders, cultural and religious leaders, women representatives. For instance, in the pastoral culture women have no right to own main stock like camels and bulls other than in rare occasions where some own small ruminants (sheeps and poultry). Project invested in community discussion with the men groups and influential persons such as (elder, cultural leaders, religious leader, woman, youths) to understand their views, perceptions and position on woman ownership of main stocks (camels, cattle bulls) and adopted lobbying and advocacy strategies to get change agents among men and organized separate platforms that women can exploit to have space /freedom of speaking in front of the public and lobby of their involvement in leadership position (vice chairman, cashier, store keeper). Awareness creation and sensitization meetings organized enabled women to understand their rights to engage in economic activities and linkage to financial institutions such like Omo Micro Finance and Commercial bank of Ethiopia.

2.3.4 Good governance

Omo Delta Project is implemented under a consortium governance structure under leadership of VSF Germany that signed the Grant on behalf of the 6 implementing partners with donor (EU-EUTF). The project established project management structures with clearly articulate over-arching coordination mandates guided by defined terms of reference (National/Cross-border steering committees - SC, Consortium Coordination Unit- CCU, Cross-border coordination unit-CBCU, project management unit-PMU, technical working group - TWG, MEAL technical group-MEALTWG. All the structures were linked through central coordination focal person (Consortium Coordinator).

The project management structures defined clear mandates, roles and different levels of decision-making e.g **SC**- steering committee offered strategic direction and guidance and oversight. **CCU** - responsible for overall supervision, technical implementation and quality control and management. **PMU** - Consists of project manager at cluster levels (Turkana, Marsabit, South Omo and West Omo) are responsible for day to day running of the project with regular monthly joint activity and logistical planning, harmonization of process and approaches, nation unit, senior management, consortium partners and reflection, evidence and smooth implementation of the project. **TWG**- spearheaded the technical aspects of the projects with staffs of the same expertise e.g water, livestock, business development, agriculture, NRM etc work together in collaboration with technical departments within the governments to harmonize process, approaches, develop manuals etc per thematic with the clusters or cross-border region. At community levels, target beneficiaries received trainings on leadership, management and good governance when organized in groups such like VICOPA, EMC, BMU, NRM, WUA. As result of the training skills acquired, some of the groups reviewed or developed their constitutions and by-laws and established functional governance structures.

2.3.5 Children's rights

The Action upheld children's rights. Children and indigenous people rights were respected and protected throughout the period. VSF Germany has child protection policy and Protection of and Response to sexual Exploitation and Abuse Policy and all the staff, contractors and service provide involved in implementation of ODP project committed themselves to respect the policies. VSF Germany has policy on Accountability to Affected Populations, is committed to providing a high quality, accountable and dignified response, which considers the needs and capacities of children, women, men and vulnerable

groups. The indigenous people were the direct beneficiaries of ODP project and lactating mothers and child headed households were given priority during selection of beneficiaries.

These project interventions contributed to increased household income through productive assets-livestock, agriculture and fisheries that in turn increased access for food for children through improved nutrition and reduced mortality. Intervention such as VICOBA/REAP/GIRLS/YES enable women and girls to generate income to provide food for households and obtain more purchasing power to better their livelihoods and family welfare/well-being. E-voucher system allocates voucher codes for accessing food packages increasing vulnerable household purchasing power and access to food. Project has promoted women economic and social empowerment through access to economic assets, enhanced saving culture and build self-confidence amongst beneficiaries expected to enable them provide for children rights to food, education, clothing, housing etc. For instance, in the previous years, to fulfil the needs of her children the woman would ask money from her husband but now she can easily afford her own savings and buy nutritional foodstuff for the children such as milk from camels or cattle.

2.3.6 Indigenous peoples' rights, knowledge and participation

The Action / ODP engaged indigenous people for sustainable Natural Resource Management. Their knowledge of customary laws was strengthened using this indigenous knowledge from the community to enable them develop grazing patterns and migratory routes. Along Lake Turkana indigenous skills were used to trap the waring communities who would use the reeds to invade and raid the fishing gear and other fishing items from other fishing communities.

In Ethiopia from the beginning of the project keen attention was given to indigenous people particularly during selection of rangelands zones for reseeding and hay production specific community elders and certain livestock keepers were highly involved since they had enough knowledge on areas that rain water collected, swampy areas etc. Participation of customary and local institutions established by the indigenous people were also considered as part of target group on natural resource management by ODP.

2.3.7 Environmental Stability

Project implementation team was conscious of potential impact of the project on the environmental and integrated the concerns in the project strategy in line with the National/Federal/ County/Zone/woreda environmental protection policies and laws. For example, before any drilling of boreholes, dams, ponds and water tanks were under taken, the project hired consultants who carried socio-economic feasibility study and findings informed the programming. Drilling of borehole feasibility reports were approved by National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA). Training of Community Natural Resources Management Committees included environmental conservation and protection. The project had also integrated a component of rangeland rehabilitation through reseeding conservation and sustainable management to restore pasture in the degraded rangelands.

The project supported intervention on rangeland rehabilitation through clearance, harvesting and destroying seeds of invader species such as prosopis that overpowered other indigenous vegetation covers and plants therefore degrading the rangelands with reduced productivity of the rangelands. Grass reseeding and rangeland conservation practices promoted by the project improved production and productivity. Project supported burning of the prosopis trees using environmentally friendly incinerated brick burners with reduced production carbon. Trainings on protection of fish breeding grounds and *Acacia Senegal* trees reduced improved bio-diversity and ecosystem. Project promoted income generation at household through introduction of energy saving stoves that conserves firewood and charcoal consumption and friendly to the environment due to minimal emissions of carbon and reduced cutting of trees for firewood and charcoal.

2.3.8 HIV/AIDS

The project ensured targeting and participation of persons with disabilities (PWDs) and people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs). This was achieved through strategic targeted beneficiary selection criteria developed through participatory process and representation in leadership positions across all intervention activities. This enabled them to access and control interventions for wealth creation and protection of their livelihood assets for increased production and productivity. The Action/ ODP in combating HIV AIDS integrated HIV infected persons through community selection by including them in the emergency crisis modifier project where food distribution to target beneficiaries was done in

response to multi-phase crisis. The Consortium partners developed criteria on the onset of the project with deliberate targeting of special needs beneficiaries (HIV AIDs) e.g HIV/AIDs selected HI/AIDs affected or infected persons to benefit from agriculture, goats, entrepreneurship / business, cross breed livestock, fisheries, cash for work to enable them benefit from produce and disposable income to enable them access food required to compliment antiretroviral drugs intake. Other key persons considered were households that have lost their family and livestock assets, people living with disability, special needs people, internally displaced persons etc. Project also conducted awareness on the community about seriousness of the HIV/AID and drug abuse in collaboration with health extension workers, CHVs and CDRs.

2.4 MONITORING OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES.

2.4.1 Monitoring processes and methods

- a) Omo Delta project monitoring involved development of Monitoring and Evaluation matrix, regular tracking of project progress against key deliverable milestones -work-plans, and forecast as per the budget, and according to project compliance requirements and standards. The project progress was evaluated against log frame indicators at the activity/sub-activity level, output, outcome and impact level during reported schedules. Monitoring and evaluation officer were deployed by partners while VSF Germany also had one based at the regional office (Kenya).
- b) Monitoring of project implementation undertaken at different project management levels (PMU, CCU, TWG, SC), reflection workshops and within VSF Germany regional and field team. This were complimented by M&E and programme field monitoring missions. Project management and field mission reports also highlighted any unintended effects (positive or negative).
- c) Participatory monitoring technique was adopted to obtain views of all stakeholders involved in the implementation process, especially beneficiaries' concerns. Beneficiaries were encouraged to provide feedback (complaints or complements) and suggest what need to be improved. Periodic but regular field monitoring visits were conducted to ensure monthly work plans of activities and procurement plans were completed, challenges and recommendations made by Project Coordinator and VSF Germany M&E Officer and, program departments to all ODP consortium partners. There were two external midterm evaluations by external consultants and one final evaluation by external consultant.
- d) ALTAI, a company contracted by EU consolidated updates on output indicators for all EUTF projects in the HoA. ODP partners submitted quarterly reports using a template designed by ALTAI.
- e) The Coordinator reviewed partners project narrative and financial reports (monthly, quarterly, interim) and provided feedback on improvements, clarifications to desired achievement. The partners compiled human-interest success stories to capture achievements of the project progress. Updates informed strategic decisions and effective coordination by lead agency and other actors.
- f) Project was monitored through external assessment - baseline, midterm and final end-line evaluation. Outcomes informed bench mark information, technical action review, project cycle management, evaluated performance. Findings and recommendations informed programming decisions, selection of approaches and methodologies adopted. Findings of project field monitoring missions informed consortium decisions to activate crisis modifier and contingency fund emergency interventions and project modifications (modification of technical action and budgets) and No Cost Extensions (NCE) request submitted to the donor (EU) for approval).

2.4.2 Summary of results of the feedback received from the beneficiaries and others.

The project received views of target beneficiaries in relation to the project implementations through monitoring and follow up meetings, peer reviews, assessments, interactive forums and complaint mechanisms in place. One of the key feedbacks were the negative impacts of Covid 19 pandemic measures, flood, cholera outbreaks and desert locust invasions shocks that increased vulnerabilities on the lives and livelihoods of our beneficiaries. The communities and stakeholders shared their needs and recommended appropriate responses. There were various methods that project accessed these feedbacks from the target beneficiaries through holding community meetings, face-face dialogues, suggestion boxes, compliant e-mails and text messages (SMS). Some of the government departments and ministries provided feedback to the project through direct engagement when the ODP partners made courtesy call

into the ministry's offices, woreda offices or CEC offices. This also happened during quarterly meeting of joint planning where all partners and ministries came together for joint activity planning even with other Lot 1 and Lot 3 EUTF funded partners.

As a result, the project developed an integrated emergency response project concept note to cushion the beneficiaries against the severe shocks and request for use of Crisis modifier and Contingency funds. Upon approval by the Contracting Authority, the project responded to the crisis (Covid-19 pandemic, cholera outbreak, floods, drought and dessert locust invasion). Feedback on regular and frequent conflict in South Omo by project staffs, government and beneficiaries in 2020 lead to the decision to hold a high level stakeholders meeting in December 2020 with West Omo Zone and SNNPR regional administrations to jointly reflect on the deteriorating conflict situation in Maji and Surma woredas that slowed down project implementation for couple of months to come up with a lasting solution. This decision integrated both need for project modifications and implementation strategy.

2.5 THE LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE ACTION

2.5.1 Positive Lessons

- i) Clarity on roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders through partnership agreements and MoUs with implementation partners and governments/other actors respectively were critical in the project to harmonize understanding, enhance effectiveness and help mitigate or resolve issues of concern arising.
- ii) Project kick start or entry workshops with all project staffs, counterparts and beneficiary groups at the field level were critical for quality control, project planning and grants execution. They helped to clarify expectations, roles and responsibilities.
- iii) Clear articulation of partners' targets from the technical proposal was effective in making partners accountable to achieving their partnership agreements deliverables and budget allocations.
- iv) Cross-border M & E workshops organized by the project were helpful in the collective process when developing project M & E plans. This enabled partners to effectively monitor their progress against common parameters and apportion contribution to the achievement of project log frame deliverables (including indicators).
- v) Allocation of Crisis modifier or anticipatory fund in the Project Budget was very relevant and effective in enabling the project respond to the impact of multiple shocks (Covid 19 Pandemic, Cholera Outbreak, Desert Locust invasion, drought and conflict) the increased vulnerability of the beneficiaries. The integrated response cushioned beneficiaries against these shocks. However, there is need to replicate approach but increase the Crisis modifier budget in future funding e.g at least 5% of the grant budget.
- vi) EU approval for use of savings from Contingency budget to respond to the impact of multiple shocks was very innovative and appropriate to addressing beneficiaries needs.
- vii) Technology inclusion in the emergency response through digital trade using e-vouchers for food and other essential necessities' access was impactful. The use of digital platform to facilitate transactions eliminated social gatherings, minimized crowding and reduced the risk exposure to Covid 19 and cholera infections. Phone confidentiality improved dignity and codes sent to beneficiaries' enhanced accountability and eliminated risks of diversion of relief supplies.
- viii) Integration of gender responsive and transformative approaches was critical in narrowing gender gaps and social-economic inequalities.
- ix) Adopting multiple approaches in economic empowerment to most vulnerable and marginalized community groups such as REAP, YES, GIRL, VICOBA/VSLA, BBS and Life skills were well tailored to the needs of poor and illiterate beneficiaries. However, gaps were realized in literacy and numeracy and life skills that VSLA/VICBA approaches did not integrate.
- x) Designing multi-sectoral program and targeting the same beneficiaries with multiple intervention activities is best approach to realize greater impact of the community than spreading thinly across more beneficiaries with different activities e.g double targeting with business and trade, TVET, animal health, agriculture, and NRM will have big impact than a specified geographical locations and households.

- xi) Implementing multi-sectoral programs through consortium of partners was more effective and efficient than one organization implementing one activity. Consortium arrangements leveraged organization synergies and value for money through integration of different NGOs expertise and niche.
- xii) The project injected cash into local economy increasing income for project beneficiaries through contractual service delivery, e.g project adopted cash for work, VSLA/VICOBA groups contracting as vendors to supply foodstuffs, cooperatives or groups contracted to supply soap for Covid 19 pandemic response.
- xiii) VSLA/VICOBA savings and loan schemes approach to mentoring women and youth groups to engage ins savings and credit culture at minimal level in line with members' needs was an excellent strategy to their confidence in IGA activities and loans servicing and prepared them to effectively transition to access services from formal financial institutions. Groups members saved and applied for loans against saving @ 10% interest which 80% paid within stipulated time.

2.5.2 Negative Lessons

1. Inception phase for the cross-border project was 6 months. This was not sufficient for cross-border programming which requires multi-levels of negotiations within consortium and externally to navigate through unique cross-border complexities. It would be better to have one-year inception phase for any resilience building or development interventions before project execution /implementation phase.
2. Considering the complexities of consortium arrangement and cross-border programming complexities. There is need to establish a robust project coordination team comprising project MEAL, Coordinator, Deputy Consortium Coordinator, Finance and Communications in future similar funding that are cross-border to strengthen efficiency and effectiveness.
3. Capacity building was seen as a key investment for the local field staff to realize greater impact. The project did not explicitly allocate funds for staffs' capacity building although it was critical for harmonization of approaches, methodologies and technology innovation inclusion to add value across partners and cross-border counterparts.
4. According to the Consortium partners and target beneficiaries; cost sharing approach required beneficiaries of the project to make some monetary contribution of 10% - 20% before receiving specific services for ownership and sustainability. Camels/bulls beneficiaries in Ethiopia paid 10% cost-sharing of their value while, VICOBA/VSLA/REAP/GIRL/YES groups in Kenya contributed 20% of business boosting grants provided. This was not possible for poor unemployed youth and women business groups in Ethiopia who could not meet the requirements resulting to adoption of 100% start-up grants. A mix of both start up, matching grants and cost-sharing is critical to meet the actual beneficiaries needs.
5. Beneficiaries in-kind contributions (time, casual labour, security – guards for local materials) should be quantified in monetary value and be considered during project implementation of infrastructures (ponds, dams, fish store, livestock market infrastructure, grain and fodder stores).
6. The project initiative of clustering groups involved in common livelihood activities in proximity areas to form cooperative societies is of utmost importance especially where there is need to speak in one voice and have collective bargaining to get economic benefit, negotiate and employ market-based mechanism/approaches. Grains in cooperatives formed under VSLA/VICOBA, fisheries and farmer groups that had reached maturity development stage could be replicated and scaled up in future project.
7. Similarly adopting umbrella management approach is most appropriate for institutions that cover broader geographical areas to harmonize common goals and achieve multiplier impact such as cross-border or sustainable natural resource management (customary institutions, NRM, EMC) and animal health extension etc. However, the

rationale of clustering should to considered and introduced through participatory processes with clearly laid bylaws, good governance, strategic planning and trainings to prevent escalation of potential conflicts.

2.6 LIST OF ALL MATERIALS (AND NUMBER OF COPIES) PRODUCED DURING THE ACTION AND THEIR DISTRIBUTION

The list of all materials produced and their distribution schedules is summarised in the table below:

List of All Material/Item/documents produced	Quantity Produced # Units	Number of Copies Produced	Total	Distribution of the items and by Whom
Publications				
CDR extension service guide booklet	1	1	1	VSF Germany sent donor
Myfugo E-voucher system TOT guide for food redeeming A4	Pamphlet	40	40	VSF Germany sent donor
Myfugo E-voucher system TOT guide for food redeeming A2 & A4	Pcs	407	407	VSF Germany for partners and beneficiaries – VSFG 124 Pcs, MC 205pcs, CIFA 38pcs, TUPADO 40 pcs
Visibility materials				
Roll Up Banners	Pcs	24	24	VSF Germany distributed the banners Partners – VSFG – 14, CIFA 1, TUPADO 2, EPaRDA 1
Suspension Banners	Pcs	30	30	VSF Germany produced – distributed to VSFG 14, MC 7, CIFA 3, TUPADO 5, EPaRDA 1
Fliers about the project	pcs	600	600	VSFG 600 Pcs to stakeholders a & beneficiaries
Poster in sites inscribed the project intervention details and EU – funding source	Pcs	8	8	VSF Germany to project sites in Marsabit and Turkana
IEC materials - CDR manual	Booklets	55	55	Shared with partners and livestock departments in Turkana and Marsabit
Videos Clips - Three cycles of production undertaken on VSLA, business and IGA, Animal Health, CDRs, all submitted except, Water infrastructure development, E-voucher, cross breeding, climate smart Agriculture, Fisheries production and NRM.	Pcs	20	20	VSF Germany
T-Shirts (Round Neck 478 Pcs & Polo necks 166 pcs – Branded with project, partners and EU logos	Pcs	644	644	VSFG 131 Pcs, CIFA 90 pcs, and TUPADO 40 pcs
Branded Caps with Partners and Donor logos	Pcs	185	185	VSFG 75 pcs, MC 40 pcs, Vita – 50 pcs TUPADO 20 Pcs
Banded Canvas Back Packs/ Briefcase bags	pcs	13	13	VSFG 13 pcs, CIFA 12 Pcs

2.7 LIST OF ALL CONTRACTS (WORKS, SUPPLIES, SERVICES) ABOVE € 60 000 AWARDED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION SINCE THE LAST INTERIM REPORT IF ANY OR DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, GIVING FOR EACH CONTRACT THE AMOUNT, THE NAME OF THE CONTRACTOR AND A BRIEF DESCRIPTION ON HOW THE CONTRACTOR WAS SELECTED.

N/A – none of the contracts exceeded the £ 60,000

3. Beneficiaries/affiliated entities and other Cooperation

3.1 Relationship between the beneficiaries/affiliated entities of this grant contract (i.e. those having signed the mandate for the Coordinator or an affiliated entity statement)? Please provide specific information for each beneficiary/affiliated entity.

- i) The cross-border collaborative project between Ethiopia and Kenya was implemented by a consortium that was selected based on their experience and their areas of expertise and specialisation in the geographical locations for the long term. **VSF Germany** specializes in livelihood asset protection and pastoral rangeland management. It works to save lives, reduce suffering and improve the well-being and resilience of vulnerable communities by protecting and promoting the health and productivity of their livestock within a healthy environment. **Mercy Corps** has an excellent reputation in pastoral livestock market systems development, helping economies and markets grow and develop, even in the face of conflict or after a natural disaster. This connects with farmers and entrepreneurs to markets and to better understand where and how practitioners can apply market-based systems development approaches to resilience-building in fragile contexts. **Vita/ RTI** is the best in agriculture. It is an Irish organisation with 16 years of experience in different thematic areas focused on agriculture, energy and water. They work in different parts of Ethiopia, including Asmara and South Omo region. In South Omo, VITA has been responsible for implementing different activities under the projects RESET I, RESET II and Resilience Building for Sustainable Livelihoods and Transformation (RESULT) project with VSF Germany, International Data Cooperation (IDC) with which they shared the lessons learned with Omo Delta Project. **EPaRDA** works in NRM/Water Resources and, for the last ten (10) years, implemented conflict resolution in cross-border and intercommunal areas, building resilience of communities through livelihoods and business/entrepreneurship support. The thematic areas have a cross-border dimension and are both synergistic and interrelated. The partners have long term experience in South Omo zone, Turkana and Marsabit counties and are familiar with contextual dynamics. **Community Initiative Facilitation and Assistance (CIFA Kenya)** works to support livelihoods and deal with disasters in the communities of Marsabit, Northern Kenya. CIFA is committed to people, environment and equality, ensuring rights-based approach to programme implementation, enhancing livestock health and management practices as well as improving market access and information for livestock producers in Marsabit County and Southern Ethiopia as they promote peace in the region to retain the gains of development results achieved. **TUPADO** works to address livestock health and production in extension education, champions peaceful co-existence of communities living in the border regions for social and economic benefit, engage in environmental and natural resources for sustainable peace and development. Their strength and presence in many parts of Turkana was of value to the consortium and they have long-term relationship with the ethnic communities living not only in Turkana but across the border region of Ethiopia.
- ii) **VSF Germany** was the lead agency in this grant and implementing in a consortium with other international, national and local organizations which includes **Mercy Corps, Vita/RTI, EPaRDA, CIFA and TUPADO**. The consortium came into being in 2018 during the approval of the grant agreement with EUTF. However, all these organisations had been working with each other before in various capacities in different projects in the same geographical region. Having geographical/physical presence in these locations selected made it possible for all the partners to work together cordially with a goal of shared prosperity. VSF Germany has national offices in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Nairobi, Kenya. They also have local offices in Turkana (Lodwar), Marsabit (North Horr) and Turmi (South Omo). VSF Germany role was of coordination, institutional strengthening the local organisations and building partnerships amongst all partners so that there is joint planning, implementation, reviewed financial budgets of partners together and coordinated reporting. VSF Germany linked the consortium with other organizations that had activities of peace building and conflict prevention and resolution to create conducive environment for activities to be implemented. In addition, in their expertise VSF Germany supported livestock assets by introducing technology in health services, supported livestock production and productivity (pasture, water and breeding), coordinated partners' emergency response from effects of climate change (drought, floods, desert locust invasion and Covid 19 pandemic).
- iii) **Mercy Corp** is an international partner operating in both Ethiopia and Kenya capital cities and with local offices in Turmi and Lodwar. Mercy Corps supported all partners to deliver on the market

systems, financial services models and trade issues, supporting capacity building, mentorship in the thematic areas chosen. Mercy Corps supported knowledge management by sharing lessons learned from other areas they operated in into the consortium. They introduced basic social services of job training under the Technical Vocational Training (TVET) to create employment

- iv) **Vita/RTI** has ground presence in South Omo (Dasenech, Nyangatom and Hamar regions. VITA role in the partnership was on support to livelihoods and basic social services in agricultural food production, capacity building of farming systems and storage, resilience building support to the community through disaster risk management and effective response during time of disasters. The working relationship with the consortium was good but also helped the organisation improve in their reporting structures.
- v) **EPaRDA** is a local partner based in Turmi, South Omo region with operations spread out in South Omo and West Omo zone. Their many years' experience of conflict prevention, resolution and peace building at the border region was very key to ensure that all the activities of ODP will run smoothly on both sides of the border. This was coupled with vast work in the natural resources and environmental management especially on rangeland conservation and management. For cohesive working relationship EPaRDA agreed to align most of their structures and systems to deliver on the ODP successes which also improved their institutional systems.
- vi) **CIFA** is a local partner based in Marsabit and has local offices at the border towns of Moyale and Dukana whose expertise in running cross-border activities spun for many years supporting livestock production and productivity (water and breeding), improving economic livelihoods of locals, enhancing cross-border trade. This was key to the consortium in engaging the borderline communities which was made easier, also previously, their work with VSF Germany in Marsabit had created a good relationship in addressing animal health and production. Due to the nature of cyclical loss of community livelihood assets (livestock) consortium was keen to introduce diversified income generating activities to broaden their way of thinking such as agriculture production with technology on 'climate smart agriculture'. For effective delivery of objectives CIFA had to align their financial and reporting systems to the one consortium introduced.
- vii) **TUPADO** is a local partner with presence in Turkana County and with an office in Lodwar. They brought their expertise in environment and natural resources management especially on flora that grows in the desert; *Acacia Senegal* and *Prosopis juliflora* (invasive species) and rangeland conservation and management. This was relevant in the diversification of livelihood options. Intertwining livestock, environment, conservation and natural resource management was a sustainability measure to pastoralist household assets. In lieu of consortium delivery, TUPADO had to incorporate the consortium structure of finance and reporting.

3.2 Status of the Agreement with the Implementing Partners

The Partnership Agreements signed between VSF Germany and its partners (Vita/RTI, Mercy Corps, TUPADO, EPaRDA and CIFA) was specific to the Omo Delta Project Grant period and automatically lapsed by end of the project. However, VSF Germany has signed separate partnership agreements with TUPADO and CIFA to implement an ongoing three (3) years regional resilience building project funded by the German Foreign Federal Office for Kenya, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan.

3.3 Relationship between Consortium and State authorities in the Action countries

3.3.1 The relationship between the Consortium and state authorities in Ethiopia

The relationship grew better as more time was spent implementing the project. At the inception phase the national state authorities had to ensure that the Omo Delta Project fell within their strategic pillars, macro-economic goals and the productive sector. So the engagement with Ethiopia Bureau of Finance which is an oversight authority over the donors' funds getting into the country was established and approvals were given. During the implementation phase to the end of the project in April 2022 ODP consortium had a very good working/positive relationship with Bureau of Agriculture, Pastoralist Development Bureau and Cooperative Bureau at the various levels of government; zone and woredas offices and their officers. The government officers working at kebele level have supported technical meetings and also joins the consortium partners in monitoring of the activities especially the enterprises, businesses created and irrigation plantations. The Head of Zonal Pastoralist Development Office supporting South Omo region noted in one meeting that ODP is coherent to development agendas of the

Ethiopian government and the activities complement government activities while also adding value to some of the completed interventions in the past. The government officials were quick to connect EU through ODP reaching out the beneficiaries in peace building and cross-border markets and trade dialogues. One concern was that there is always a weakness of development programs being integrated with many others that other development partners are undertaking, such relations would promote coherence in programming and information shared freely to the government in one platform.

3.3.2 The relationship between the Consortium and state authorities at national and county governments in Kenya.

The two levels of government engaged differently with Omo Delta project. At the national level, ODP worked with government departments which included Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Water Sanitation and Irrigation, Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries– state department of fisheries, state department of livestock and Ministry of Trade and Industry. This is especially in acquiring policies and regulations in the ODP thematic areas. NDMA had national and local offices that were very engaging in the project.

The county government of Turkana and Marsabit relevant ministries’ officers participated in activities especially in providing capacity building and training of beneficiaries and research (KEFRI). Consortium and ODP had a cordial working relationship with ODP partners’ staff, they formed a team for conducting field monitoring visits, responding to emergency response and surveillance, and during cross-border meetings and dialogues. Further, administrators in the counties, the chiefs and ward administrators were highly involved on peace building activities that once in a while were being held before an infrastructure by ODP was put up at the cross-border region or in border towns.

The relationship between VSF Germany and state agencies have been cordial and based on mutual understanding. Through the relationship, the project benefited from the technical expertise from government line ministries and state agencies like Kenya Agricultural Research Organization (KALRO), Kenya Forest Services (KFS), National Environmental Authority (NEMA) Water Resource Authority (WRA), National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) etc. On the other side, the project provided capacity building to government staffs i.e. vet staffs as well as creating the enabling environment through logistical support for state staffs to undertake their functions.

3.4 Relationships with any other organizations involved in implementing the Action

3.4.1 Associate(s)

ALTAI - Omo Delta Project worked closely with Altai Company contracted by the EU to coordinate the consolidation of MEAL output indicators for all EUTF funded projects in the Horn of Africa to contribute to the achievement of EUTF global development agenda. The project submitted regular quarterly reports to ALTAI in line with the global template developed and shared by ALTAI team. The project also participated in the study undertaken by ALATAI on the impact of cross-border programming in 2020. The role of ALATAI in the consortium was to realign Omo Delta indicators with the global EUTF Horn of Africa indicators and populate quantitative data on achieved output quarterly for harmonization and global report generation.

SECCI – Project worked closely with EUTF funded SECCI project implemented by UNDP, UNEP and IGAD. Consortium participated at the IGAD inception workshops and clusters (Turkana- South Omo Zone, Marsabit – Moyale) coordination activities (joint quarterly planning meetings, quarterly joint review and reporting). Omo Delta Project also participated in IGAD - EUTF technical implementation team structures and coordination meetings. The project status achievement, challenges and recommendations updates were escalated to the member states through SECCI project, however trickle-down impact of the escalated issues to be addressed by the IGAD member states steering committee was not very effective.

3.4.2 Contractor(s) (if any)

Myfugo Firm was contracted to provide technology inclusion in emergency response. They designed and rolled out a very innovative digital platform that enabled the consortium to deliver cash transfers using the e-system. They carried out tasks as required and provided quality back and support services.

3.4.3 Final beneficiaries and target groups

The final Beneficiary and Target beneficiary did not change during the life of the project and remained the same as summarized in the table below.

Final Beneficiaries	Target Groups
Gender (Women and Men)	Community groups (business, entrepreneurs, agro-pastoralists)
Youth (female and male)	Committees (Peace committees, Environmental management committee (EMCs), cross-border committees)
Adolescent girls	Cooperative Societies (new and already existing)
People Living with Disabilities (PWDs)	Associations (NRM, WUA, Livestock, Agricultural, BMUs)
Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)	Host Community groups- pastoralists and agro-pastoralists
	Government Counterparts / Agencies (e.g. NDMA for emergency response)
	Merry-go-round groups, self-help groups

3.4.2 Other third parties involved (including other donors, other government agencies or local government units, NGOs, etc.)

IGAD is an intergovernmental regional body covering eight (8) nation states (countries). It is one of the regional building blocs of the African Union. In this Action, IGAD was implementing SECCCI funded by EU and with co-funding from UN agencies (UNDP and UNEP). Thus, ODP built synergy with SECCCI on objectives of improved cross-border cooperation. Main aim of SECCCI was to bring all actors at the cross-border regions for coordinated response to complex inter-related challenges. The areas mainly for cooperation with the Action (ODP) was during training of community's dissemination of rules, laws and protocols of cross-border engagements, joint planning of activities, help develop structures and framework by domesticating national policy frameworks for the local communities to understand and follow.

PACT is an international NGO that was implementing SEEK funded by EUTF on peacebuilding in the same cross-border region. Thus, ODP had been in complementarity with SEEK project, in that prior to major activities by ODP at the border region like infrastructure construction they always used to invite PACT during the community dialogue meetings, local elders' meetings and cross-border meetings that dealt with conflict resolutions.

UN agencies (UNEP, UNDP) were collaborating with ODP / The Action through the SECCCI project.

FAO is a United Nations agency that collaborated with the Action in livestock surveillance and vaccination. They offered co-funding too through emergency response projects implemented by VSF Germany in South Omo in Ethiopia and in Turkana County in Kenya.

GIZ is a German entity supporting development, they supported the Action on sourcing for international markets for Gum Arabic, creating ready market access, better prices and hence incomes that improved the well-being of the beneficiaries.

EPZ is a private sector industrial and processing company based in Nairobi, Kenya that bought the Gum Arabic harvested by target beneficiaries in areas of NRM conservation and management, hence creating a steady market for the beneficiaries.

Kenya Commercial Bank Ltd – partnership with the bank created opportunities for the beneficiary groups involved in small scale business access credit lines and other banking services that enabled them

to grow their businesses. ODP collaborated with KCB on taking up target beneficiaries financial services under VICOBA and VSLA as a sustainability measure for long-term saving and credit services.

Ethiopia Micro Finance Bank- EMFB worked collaboratively with ODP to provide saving, credit and loans for the TVET group enterprises and businesses that were formed under the project.

Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization- KALRO - collaborated with ODP implementing partners on Camel husbandry and agricultural production through trainings support in setting up shade-nets and drip irrigation technologies.

Kenya Forestry Research Institute- KEFRI- collaborated with the Action /ODP on providing research findings to TUPADO on Gum Arabic production from *Acacia Senegal* and *Prosopis juliflora*. They also provided training to the target beneficiaries.

County governments of Turkana and Marsabit- It was important for ODP consortium to work with the county government structure, and at ward level to carry out beneficiary identification to avoid duplication. The county governments also provided one officer for each thematic area to work with the Consortium on activities that needed collaboration or support. ODP tapped a lot of wealth from the county officer's knowledge and skills such as in the areas of animal health (county veterinary officers received reports from the CDRs, conducted surveillance and organized veterinary interventions). They were very vital as actors in the value chain. Other areas where ODP had a collaboration with county governments was on water acquisition (borehole sinking and water pan excavation), on cross-border trade the target beneficiaries got their licenses/permit easily to trade.

Regional, zonal, woreda and kebeles government-The Ethiopian government having stratified structures has different mandates for each one and so under ODP the partnership agreement that articulated clear roles and responsibilities with each partner of the consortium was to fall under this agreement that was conducted with the Bureau of Agricultural Development at the regional, zones and woredas level, the Bureau of Finance regulated the implementation. The body was responsible for consortium projects agreement on behalf of the government and with authority to coordinate, monitor and supervise the entire project activities and finances. The consortium head was obligated to share both financial and narrative reports with both the district / woreda, regional and national bureau, if a conflict or disagreement arose, Bureau of Finance played an arbitrator's role.

The Technical Working Group at zonal and woreda levels was implemented for each thematic area (agriculture, livestock, fisheries, trade and business, NRM, water and TVET). Government and civil societies met at the Bureau of Finance organized to discuss and share information in the meeting. Working with government provided strong complementarity and integration with existing local development initiatives.

3.5 Links and synergies developed with other actions.

3.5.1 Peace and Resilience Nexus

The consortium realised greater impact of the project in project areas where Lot 1 – SEEK Project by PACT and Lot 2 – Omo Delta Project activities were jointly implemented or sequenced especially in borderlands targeted by Lot 1 compared to project location where SEEK or Omo Delta Project were implemented separately. Livelihood activities implementation in conflict prone areas requires integration of peace building activities to create an enabling environment and strengthen cross-border trade cooperation. It was impossible to implement in West Omo Zone due to deteriorating insecurity and absence of peace building interventions by any other partner. Lot 1 was not present in all project areas. Omo Delta Project was implemented in Turkana, Marsabit, South Omo Zone in relation to SEEK project – Conflict Systemic design project by PACT. The Mid-term review report recommended that more impact would have been felt if EU funded a consortium with both peacebuilding and resilience building components to operate in the same areas.

3.5.2 Lot 3 Implemented by IGAD

The project worked with IGAD SECCI in training of partners' staffs on gender mainstreaming. The project also supported coordination and facilitation of governments to participate in inter-governmental meetings, awareness training on bilateral and regional policies and protocols that the

resilience building intervention are anchored on e.g informal trade protocol, animal health bilateral agreement and transhumance protocol. However, these were not fully exploited due to delays in SECCI Project implementation.

3.5.3 EUTF Partners Coordination

Overall, the Action /ODP implemented to a certain degree joint work planning with other EUTF projects of Lot 1 and 3. Lot 1 implemented by PACT and Lot 3 implemented by IGAD-UNDP and UNEP and Lot 2 Omo Delta Project. The three Lots of the EUTF had not fully worked together on any sustained programmes or activities. However, the Learning Hub improved implementing partners' coordination in the last phase of LOT 2. An example of close collaboration was the capacity building and sensitisation workshop conducted by IGAD (SECCI) to key stakeholders and partners on their cross-border role. With better collaboration, the Action and Lot 1 which addressed strengthening peace structures and conflict sensitivity support to investment and development actors in the same geographical areas would have had bigger gains.

3.5.2 Government line departments for monitoring of project actions;

Coordinating with the line ministries at different levels in Ethiopia (regions, zones, woreda and kebeles) and Kenya (national, county, sub-counties and wards) provided the much needed oversight and support required in engagement with the beneficiaries across all sectors – agriculture, livestock, fisheries, natural resources, environment health to plan and monitor the implementation of the project activities. Line ministry officials engaged actively with field staff and participated in trainings as facilitators but also benefited from capacity building trainings.

3.5.3 Financial institutions

Kenya Commercial Banks, Ethiopian Oromia Micro Finance Institutions, UWEZO Fund in Kenya were instrumental in providing financial services that enabled the project to realize its business incubatory services with the target groups.

3.6 Previous EU Grants

VSF Germany was part of the Vita/RTI led Consortium of partners that impelled the project “Resilience Building for Sustainable Livelihoods and Transformation- RESET II” in South Omo between September 23rd 2016 to 22nd March 2020. Other partners were AFD, Amref Health Africa and IDE. The overall objective of this project was to strengthen economic opportunities and resilience of the most vulnerable communities to human induced and natural disasters through measures that would increase livelihoods and employment and better access to basic services. The specific objective was to strengthen the resilience of 10, 869 targeted vulnerable pastoralists, agro pastoralists and pastoralist dropouts in three targeted woredas (Hamer, Dasenech and Nyangatom) of South Omo Cluster through measures that would enhance livelihood productivity and income, and increase employment opportunities, and better access to basic services. The overall and specific objectives and the main intervention areas of the RESET II project and the operational areas mirrored the ODP project which built on the gains realised from the RESET II. The RESET II project implemented DDR interventions that focused on investments in water infrastructure and natural resource management, crop and livestock production through input supplies, extension services, surveillance, irrigation technologies, value chain analysis, market and micro finance linkages to achieve positive synergy and complementarity.

3.7 Cooperation with the services of the Contracting Authority

The cooperation between Consortium under the lead agency VSF Germany and EU-Delegation in Ethiopia (Contracting Authority) has been very effective. The CA has been very supportive, flexible and available to address any queries or challenges raised by the implementing partners. For example, when Covid 19 Pandemic was reported in Ethiopia and Kenya, with its impact severely affecting the implementation of the project and interrupted general operations, the CA adopted a more practical alternative to communication to ensure smooth operations. This was demonstrated in formal communication recognising electronic submissions of reports and acknowledging requests for extension of reporting deadlines due to the prevailing context.

The formal recognition and approvals of communications signed by digital signatures was very innovative and facilitated successful implementation of the project during the peak of negative effects of Covid 19 pandemic which hindered submission of hard copies. The CA also conveniently approved the consortium's request for technical action modifications, budget amendments, use of crisis modifier and contingency budget for emergency response and two projects no-cost extensions that were necessary and inevitable considering the changing dynamics in project context, unforeseen underlying needs and hazards critical to facilitate successful implementation of the project. The EUTF project management team (technical and grants management) were very supportive and provided regular advice and direction whenever requested. Feedback on requested clarifications and or inquiries for guidance on technical and administrative issues were also provided very promptly and with clarity.

4. Visibility of the EU as the Contracting Authority

4.1 EU Visibility in the Action

Visibility of the Action was guided by the visibility and communication plans that were developed at the onset of the project. Visibility materials, booklets, publication, signposts, banners, fliers, T-shirts, Caps were designed to promote the visibility of the EU in the Action and were used mainly during trainings, national meetings, local meetings, Consortium partners' booths and stands in workshops to showcase ODP initiatives undertaken by the implementing partners. The main objective of the visibility materials which are communication materials is to enhance the awareness of the Action and Action interventions. During the project implementation, relevant IEC materials were designed, printed and distributed to serve the purposes e.g. awareness in South Omo (80 banners, 300 posters, 90 stickers) and 20 banners in West Omo Zone which improved access to accurate information on the causes, prevention and control of the Covid 19, Cholera and Desert locust. Visibility materials used were mainly the following:

- Top Banner branded EU and all Consortium partners
- Roll-up Banner, Fliers, Posters
- Video and Photos uploaded into the websites
- Hats, Caps, T-shirts
- Book and report publication on the website and hardcopy
- Dissemination of Animal Health Hand book and other relevant publications
- Distribution of agricultural materials

4.2 Consent on publication of the report

There is no objection for the EU to publish this report in full or in part in their website. Permission is hereby granted.

5. Location of records, accounting and supporting documents

Records, accounting and supporting documents under this Grant are domiciled with VSF Germany as the Lead Agency. Location of the records are as presented in the table below.

<i>Affiliated Entities and Beneficiaries</i>	<i>Records Location</i>	<i>Accounting costs</i>	<i>Supporting Documents</i>
Veterinaires Sans Frontieres – Germany Registered Charity Number VR34717B Legal Entity 6000118639 Marienstrasse 19 – 20 10117 Berlin, Germany	VSF Germany Country Office, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Nairobi, Office Kenya	Total expenses as at April 2022 – B Euros 12,482,048 EU U share of eligible expenditure to April 2022 (95% of B) (11,857,946)	Signed grant agreement Scanned copies PDF Expenditure Verified Report - PDF Financial Expense Report - Excel

Name of the contact person for the Action: Tinega On’gondi

Signature:

Location: Nairobi

Date Report Due: 27th, October 2022 Date Report Sent: 25th October 2022.