Quelle: Welthungerhilfe

Lighthouse Story: Somaliland - Systemic climate-change resilience for food, fodder and water security

Best Practices in Strengthening Climate Resilience

Focus Area: Climate Adaptation Project

PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Welthungerhilfe is partnering with ACTED and Candlelight on the EU-funded 'Systemic climate-change resilience for food, fodder and water security' (SOM 1068) project. **The project's goal is to help vulnerable communities in Burco, Somaliland increase their resilience to climate change by improving their food, fodder, and water security.** The project aims to reach 120,000 beneficiaries across 40 villages within the Burco District.

- The project builds community resilience to climate change and food crises through reforestation, afforestation, improved rangeland management, income-generating activities, and enhanced food, water, and fodder security.

- The project employs a **landscape restoration** approach through the construction of soil bunds, infiltration ditches, check dams, and terraces to prevent erosion and enhance crop and fodder productivity. Once landscapes are restored, the project protects them by promoting **rangeland management** through **sustainable grazing and afforestation** practices using indigenous grasses and trees, as well as **climate-smart agriculture** techniques to increase agricultural output in harsh climates.

- The project also supports **livelihood diversification** through veterinary services, livestock value chain development, and Technical and Vocational Education and Training opportunities. Given that water for production is a key component of climate resilience in Somalia's drylands, the project trains WASH actors to provide technical support for Water Management Committees (WMCs), who ensure **sustainable management of water supply infrastructure**

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Name:	Systematic climate change resilience for food, fodder and water security
Location:	Burco District, Somaliland.
Objective:	Contribute to climate resilience for vulnerable communities in Burco, Somaliland
Duration:	18/11/2023 - 17/05/2026
Budget:	5,555,556 Euro
Funded by:	European Union
Partners:	ACTED, Candlelight

THE CLIMATE CHALLENGE

- **Recurring droughts:** Frequent droughts deplete water sources and pasture, reducing livestock productivity and impacting food security and livelihoods.
- **Invasive species:** Rising temperatures accelerate invasive species like Prosopis juliflora, theatening grazing lands by outcompeting native vegetation. This reduces livestock capacity and weakens ecosystem resilience to drought.

Construction of soil bunds by the CFW participants at Xaqayomalaas village, Burao district by WHH.

Construction of loose stone check dams by CFW participants at Kalbarre village, Burao district by WHH.

Aerial view of the soil and water conservation structures (Soil bunds) by the CFW particapants at Riyo xidho village, Burao district by Candlelight.

- **Unpredictable and extreme weather events:** Erratic rainfall, delayed onset, high temperatures, and strong winds destroy farmland and pressure degraded land and forestry resources. This prevents vegetation regeneration, reducing agricultural production and undermining pastoral livelihoods. Land degradation weakens communities' resilience, creating cycles of intensified vulnerability.
- **Competition over natural resources:** IDPs fleeing insecurity from regions like Sanaag intensify competition for scarce water infrastructure and grazing land. This pressure accelerates environmental degradation and reduces land recovery capacity.

HOW THE PROJECT STRENGTHENS CLIMATE RESILIENCE

- **Landscape restoration and rangeland management:** The project mitigates soil erosion and enhances productivity through soil bunds that collect run-off, increase infiltration, and prevent erosion. Infrastructure including ditches, check dams, and terraces improves water retention and reduces degradation. The project promotes controlled grazing, creates protected enclosures for pasture regeneration, and plants trees and grass to enhance fodder availability.
- **Climate-Smart Agriculture:** The project promotes drought-resistant seeds and trains farmers in good agricultural practices using a Trainers of Trainers approach, strengthening both farmer knowledge and extension services.
- **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR):** The project establishes and trains Community Disaster Management Committees in disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, early warning systems, and natural resource management. CDMCs link to NADFOR and MoECC to receive early warnings, seasonal advisories, weather forecasts, and technical support.

IMPACT AND LESSONS LEARNED

The project trained 81 participants in climate-smart agriculture and natural regeneration while constructing 12 water structures, providing 3,197 households with reliable water access, and established 30 Community Disaster Management Committees. Economic impacts included generating income for 735 households through Cash-for-Work, establishing 4 Village Savings and Loan Associations (80% women), and delivering veterinary services to over 10,000 livestock.

Key lessons highlight the importance of inclusive community engagement in dryland contexts. Women's meaningful participation in decision-making is essential for sustainable interventions, requiring strategies to overcome cultural constraints limiting their leadership despite their central role in food systems.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Community engagement ensures sustainable restoration and land management:** Clear understanding of land tensure, consultation and co-development with pastoralist communities and inclusive engagement, particularly ensuring women's participation, is essential for sustainable land management in communal ownerhsip systems.

- **Integrated approaches break degradation cycles:** Combining landscape restoration, climate-smart agriculture, and livelihood diversification addresses both immediate survival needs and long-term resilience, preventing communities from depleting the natural resources they depend on for climate adaptation.

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