

ENABLING RESILIENCE FOR PASTORAL COMMUNITIES IN ETHIOPIA

PRIME Impact and Results Report

MARCH 2019

About PRIME

Being a pastoralist in Ethiopia's drylands is increasingly challenging as population swiftly increases, climate change shocks grow in severity, and traditional rangelands management of pasture areas deteriorates. Economic challenges, nutritional problems and climate instability drive many people to move away from pastoralism, but securing alternative livelihoods requires new technical and life skills. Pastoralist Areas Resilience Improvement and Market Expansion (PRIME) was a USAID-led Feed the Future program that applied a market development and adaptive management approach to help pastoralists strengthen systems, simultaneously addressing economic needs and climate adaptation to increase resilience capacities. By working within pastoralist markets, PRIME helped people to be prepared for environmental shocks by strengthening systems and individual capacities with the underpinning theory that systems working in synergy must be strengthened simultaneously.

About the Pastoralist Areas Resilience Improvement through Market Expansion (PRIME) Program

PRIME Goal: Reduce poverty and hunger

PRIME Objective: To increase household incomes and enhance resilience to climate change through market linkages

Timeframe: October 2012–March 2019

Budget: \$70,000,000 USD

Donor: USAID

Location: Afar, Oromia and Somali regions of Ethiopia

IMPACT: Increased household income 78%

PRIME households income increased on average to an equivalent of \$2,287 USD per year.

Positive impacts in food security Despite record droughts, PRIME-targeted households showed only 4% decline in food security compared to 30% in others.

Marginalized people have greater resilience

2,252,404 people benefited from PRIME were enabled to better withstand shocks and stresses.

Today, communities are more resilient because of PRIME interventions:



Families have more income to help them through shocks. PRIME helped household nominal income increase by 78% in target areas (equivalent to \$2,287 USD annually over baseline of \$1,589 USD) giving families greater financial security and ability to diversify their diet.



Children eat more diverse diets.

Children age 6-23 months ate four or more food groups increased by 5% (from 1% at baseline). PRIME reached 170,195 children under five with nutritional activities and 1.2 million people with nutritional messaging through radio programming.



Livestock health have improved.

PRIME interventions helped private veterinary pharmacy (PVP) services to 22% of households. Animal health is important for pastoralists to fetch higher prices at market, have less chance of unexpected death in a shock, and produce more food for the family to eat and sell.



Businesses in livestock and dairy sectors received critical investments to grow. \$18 million USD private investments leveraged with \$6 million USD in business investments and 5,668 full-time equivalent jobs created.



Communities are better organized to adopt natural resource management practices. 42,008 hectares of rangeland improved through natural resource management and 180,422 individuals increased capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate variability and change.



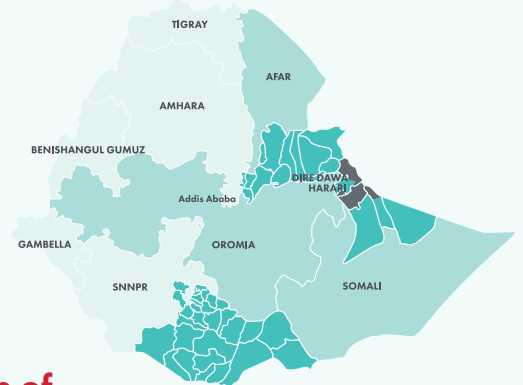
Financial service access expanded to pastoral communities.

341,316 individuals obtained direct access to financial services and products, 301,578 individuals opened savings accounts, and 37,838 individuals obtained business loans.



Policy environment is improved.

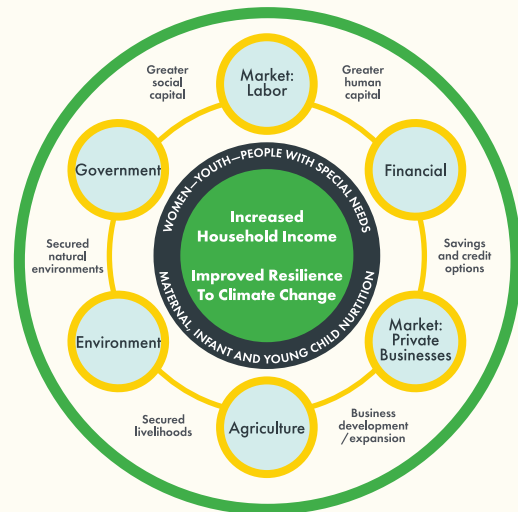
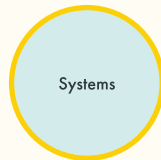
PRIME facilitated the development of 11 enabling policies to support inclusive financial services, inclusivity for the disabled, agri-sensitive nutrition, and pastoral development.



Map of Intervention Areas

Building Resilience: PRIME'S Integrated Systems-Strengthening Approach

LEGEND



PRIME interventions helped strengthen the systems that pastoralists operate in so that they can earn higher incomes and be more resilient to climate change shocks that exacerbate chronic poverty and recurrent food insecurity. Contextualized activities integrated across the program's five strategic components improved livestock productivity, strengthened management of natural resources, secured pathways to alternative livelihoods, and improved nutrition for mothers and children.

"Imagine that each component is part of a vaccine that can help communities adapt to climate change; each community should get all the courses of the vaccine—from animal health to natural resource management to access to finance to nutrition—in order to become truly resilient."

— Netsaalam Bahiru,
Alternative Livelihoods Advisor, PRIME



PRIME Improved Productivity and Competitiveness of Livestock and Livestock Product

PRIME improved access to and availability of quality livestock inputs, including feed, fodder and animal health services; improved meat and live animals trade; and strengthened the dairy value chain, while enhancing access to key market information.

39,459 households supported to apply new technologies or management practices to maintain healthier livestock and pastoral practices

5,270 pastoralist households received vouchers for veterinary products to protect herds during drought crisis

40 of private veterinary pharmacies (PVPs) contracted with PRIME to improve animal health practices

175 community animal health workers (CAHWs) trained through PRIME to support animal health



PRIME Enhanced Pastoralists' Adaptation to Climate Change and Natural Resource Management

PRIME revitalized community rangeland management and improved early warning and related climate information systems.

› **180,422 individuals have increased capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate variability and climate change**, the benefits of which transfer to thousands more who will be indirectly impacted and influenced through their natural resource management.

› **42,000+ hectares of rangelands rehabilitated** through PRIME's revitalization of community-based Rangeland Councils.

› **128 Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP) group members support PSP integration in government annual planning** because of the participatory and sector inclusive approach. PSP is key for disaster risk reduction planning and supports adaptive actions through sharing traditional and meteorological forecasts with communities.



PRIME Strengthened Alternative Livelihoods and Access to Finance for Households Transitioning Out of Pastoralism

Technical Training and Employability Linkages

PRIME worked with Technical Vocational Education Training Centers (TVETs) to better prepare TOPs to succeed in the workforce and as business owners. PRIME helped TVETs establish new skill and labor curriculums and update existing curriculums as well as equip and adapt facilities and courses to accommodate women and people with special needs. PRIME then awarded 1,695 scholarships for low-income applicants.

14 TVETs received support to create TOPs appropriate curriculum and adapt content and facilities to PWD and gender needs

1,695 youth and women won PRIME scholarships for TVET courses

3,953 youth graduated from TVETs using curricula developed under PRIME

5,688 full time equivalent jobs and another 1,213 jobs obtained (i.e, did not qualify to be counted as FTE) for both skilled and unskilled youths and TOPs.

Access to Finance

PRIME supported three micro-finance institutions (MFIs) to provide more appropriate and accessible financial services, agriculture and small business inputs allowing **341,316 of the poorest and most vulnerable in society obtain access to finance, including Sharia-compliant loans,** creating a step out of poverty.

301,578 people opened savings accounts giving them the ability and tools to manage and save their money and empowered people with the skills and knowledge to make financial decisions.

235,335 customers made 18,822,641 transactions through HelloCash mobile banking agents work a value of \$735,361,886USD



PRIME Improved Nutritional Status of Households Through Targeted, Sustained and Evidence-based Interventions

PRIME collaborated with the Ethiopian government to integrate its Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) health system-strengthening program to train health workers. Nutrition information spread in a cascading effect from regional health workers to district health workers and then community health workers.

>250,000+ households received critical nutrition and health specific education making pregnant and lactating women, infants and young children in remote areas healthier, and households and communities more resilient.

>1.2 million people across 3 regions reached with contextualized nutrition messaging in the local language through Soap Opera for Social Change partnership with Warner Bros. executive volunteers.



Women's participation in natural resource management (NRM) committees and the growth of Village-level Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) groups, whose members are mostly women, played a significant role in increasing women's participation in decision making in their households. Women

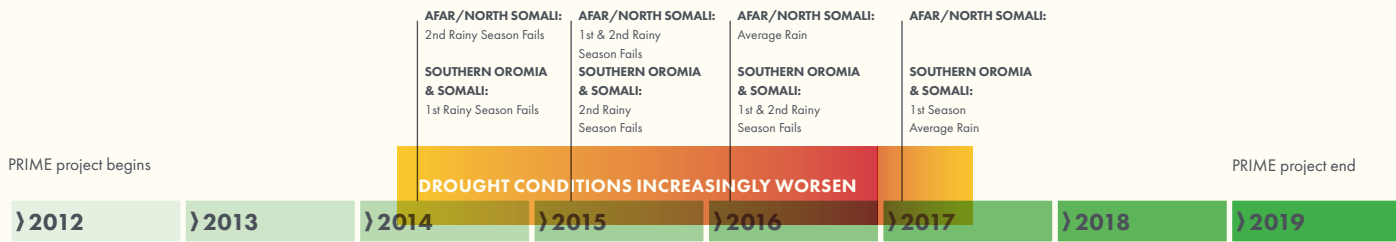
who reported their ability to meaningfully participate in decision-making regarding economic activities, nutrition, NRM and governance in their household rose by 9%, in line with year over year increases, especially in Somali region and in Oromia (78%).

Women's Participation in Decision Making at the Household Level

(PRIME Midline Annual Household Survey Report, 2016)



Drought Shock During PRIME Project Implementation



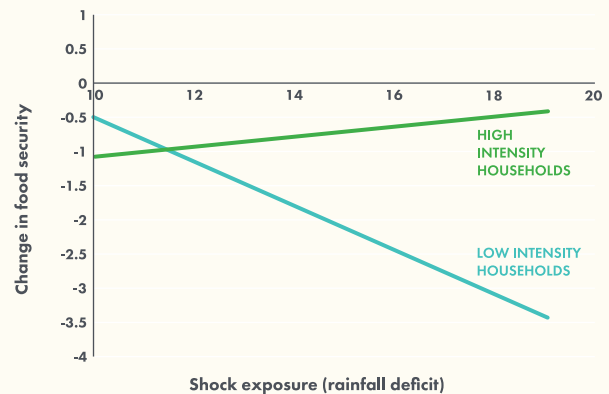
Multiple research initiatives agree that PRIME’s comprehensive multi-sectoral programming helped to strengthen household and community resilience capacities to manage the drought effects from climate change including reducing reliance on negative coping mechanisms, preventing unplanned deaths of livestock. By committing to the market systems approach even in the face of shocks during the droughts, PRIME has proven the importance of using facilitative methods to systems strengthening making Mercy Corps a leader in resilience programming in the region. Other humanitarian, government, and development actors in the region have are eager to understand more about how to apply systems-based intervention methods to economic, ecological and social systems to build stronger, more climate-resilient households and communities.

During the drought PRIME participants had:

- › 1.4 times higher asset values than a comparison group
- › 4% less likelihood of risk of being under the poverty line
- › Reported up to 20% less livestock mortality rates
- › Increased borrowing from friends and family, reducing reliance on risky borrowing mechanisms

Estimated recovery trajectory at shock exposure increases for low—and high intensity PRIME project households

According to research contracted by USAID, households residing in communities receiving a comprehensive set of PRIME resilience interventions were able to maintain their food security in the face of the drought shock.



(Smith, L., Frankenberger, T., Nelson, S. (2018). PRIME Project Impact Evaluation: Report of Recurrent Monitoring Survey 2 (2015/2016). Produced by TANGO International and Save the Children as part of the Resilience Evaluation, Analysis and Learning (REAL) award.)



PRIME has succeeded in building an evidence base for the value of a market systems approach to resilience programming. PRIME’s unique approach had the ingrained flexibility to adapt to shifting demands, a long-term commitment to facilitate lasting linkages in communities, and the technical expertise to execute on innovative solutions.

PRIME CONSORTIUM

MERCY CORPS (LEAD)
 CARE
 HORN OF AFRICA VOLUNTARY YOUTH COMMITTEE (HAVOYOCO)
 HARAMAYA UNIVERSITY
 ETHIOPIAN CENTER FOR DISABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT (ECDD)
 ACTION FOR INTEGRATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (AISDA)
 FRIENDSHIP SUPPORT ASSOCIATION (FSA)
 SOS SAHEL
 KIMETRICA
 AGED AND CHILDREN PASTORALISTS ASSOCIATION (ACPA)

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