Project Brief
Promotion of Resilience and Inclusive Social Cohesion in Somalia (PRESOCO)

Overview
The Promotion of Resilience and Inclusive Social Cohesion (PRESOCO) is a three-year (August 2021 – July 2024) project funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ). The objective of the project is to strengthen the economic and social resilience of vulnerable groups such as (agro)pastoralists, internally displaced persons and returnees at the individual, household, and community levels in a person-centered approach. The project is implemented in Lower Juba, Mudug and Sanaag regions of Somalia in partnership with DBG, WASDA and SWSC.

Context
In 2020, about 71% of the population in Somalia lived below the poverty line. Income inequality is very high, and poverty is much more pronounced in rural than in urban areas. The gender inequality index for Somalia is 0.776 (1 means inequality), ranking Somalia on the fourth highest place globally. Nearly nine in ten Somali households lack access to at least one dimension - livelihoods, electricity, education, or water and sanitation.

The project is being implemented in the districts of Afamdow and Badhadhe (Lower Juba), Hobyo (Mudug), and Erigavo (Sanaag). Drought is projected to intensify significantly in all three regions in 2021, with severe consequences including dried-up water sources, miscarriages among livestock, and dwindling pastureland. The Lower Juba region in southern Somalia has been plagued by instability since the civil war. The social and economic infrastructure is inadequate, and the regional administration is unable to provide basic services. Since the region is mostly under government control again, it has experienced a steady influx of internally displaced people, mainly from Mogadishu, and returnees from Kenya, putting additional pressure on depleted resources.

The Mudug region is the most centrally located region in Somalia, with Hobyo being the largest district. The district suffered during the civil war and was without a functioning administration for a long time. Hobyo is regularly plagued by drought and insecurity, including piracy. Due to the level of insecurity, many pastoralist households left the region and migrated to cities, which resulted in a loss of livestock. Fishing is the main economic activity in the region and seems to employ mostly youth. Nevertheless, the unemployment rate among youth is high and access to education is low. Sanaag is a region in northern Somalia under the regional administration of Somaliland. Although the political situation appears stable, the region's geographic location between Somaliland and Puntland makes it highly volatile. Almost the entire population of the Erigavo district raises livestock. Social facilities such as schools and hospitals are available, but quality and provision are inadequate.

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3 HNO 2021, UN OCHA
5 Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis in Erigavo and Badhan districts. 2015
Approach

CARE’s approach acknowledges that shocks and stresses are a likely occurrence and will work with the communities themselves to map and identify the negative coping strategies which have a long-term detrimental effect on families and communities. CARE’s experience in Somaliland and globally also suggests that inequitable distribution of rights, resources, and power is strongly influenced by gender. CARE’s approach therefore acknowledges that gender is a critical factor in understanding vulnerability - and thus resilience - and the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women is a proven strategy to overcome poverty. CARE’s resilience approach focuses on securing and enhancing what people already have against predictable shocks and strengthening governance and monitoring systems to ensure that dynamic and cumulative risks are understood and inform planning at all levels from household upwards. In addition, resilience-building strategies need to be rooted in a holistic, responsive approach that addresses the intra-household disparities and creates the enabling environment to correct the wide range of risks and barriers that women face. Therefore, a two-pronged approach is necessary, focusing on technical capacity to withstand shocks and secure livelihoods, and shifts in gender power relations and behaviors. CARE’s resilience building includes good governance and women’s empowerment as crucial paths for sustainably improving resilience to recurring shocks and stresses.

The project uses well-established Gender-sensitive Climate Vulnerability and Capacities Analysis (GCVCA) to help communities evaluate the risks they face, assess their own adaptive capacities and assets, monitor changes and progress over time in an inclusive, participatory manner and make needed adjustments based on iterative reflection and learning. Community engagement and empowerment interventions will be guided by an in-depth analysis of the root causes of clan, resource-based and gender-based conflict and protection issues in the target communities. The project engages Shaqodoon organization to map potential resources and draw on its expertise and connections to the Somali diaspora to develop a comprehensive communication strategy. This strategy identifies potential stakeholders for global advocacy activities and for the crowdfunding mechanism to co-finance community projects.

Key project activities

- Support and facilitate Gender-sensitive Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment processes
- Strengthen government capacity to support community EWEA systems and disaster risk reduction plans to monitor and respond to shocks
- Support mapping of potential resources including local communities, diaspora and government and development and establishment of global advocacy and crowdfunding through social media
- COVID-19 awareness raising and provision of COVID-19 supplies (personal protective equipment and sanitary kits for health workers and sanitary kits) to strategic health facilities in target districts
- Engage youth in peer-to-peer dialogues on social cohesion and peace building, transforming social norms and positive masculinity
- Establish and strengthen formal and informal groups and networks that enhance women’s political and socio-economic participation
- Value chain development and value addition for fruits and vegetables based on local value chain analysis conducted
- Construction of farm produce markets
- Rehabilitation, upgrading or establishment of 20 strategic multi use water structures (10 berkads, 4 water reservoirs, 3 boreholes & 3 shallow wells) for household, agriculture and livestock consumption
- Capacity building of water management sub-committees and Ministry of Water on public facility governance and management including Public Private Partnerships (PPP)
- Establish pastoralist/farmer managed natural regeneration (FMNR) demonstration sites
- Strengthen capacity of village committees and government authorities on the principles and approaches of CBNRM and NRM performance monitoring
- Kitchen gardens established (in the form of multi-storey sack gardens) for improved access to nutritious food for vulnerable families
- Business management and entrepreneurship skills for women, youth trainees and GBV survivors
- Provision of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and start-up kits to 270 women and youth from vulnerable households
- Set up and monitor Revolving Fund Schemes for VSLA groups
- Livestock restocking to 300 vulnerable households
- Training of farmers in Good Agricultural practices and improved livestock husbandry and management techniques

**Current accomplishments (August 2021 – May 2022)**

- Business management and entrepreneurship skills for women, youth trainees and GBV survivors
- Training of farmers in Good Agricultural practices and improved livestock husbandry and management techniques
- COVID-19 awareness raising and provision of COVID-19 supplies (personal protective equipment and sanitary kits for health workers and sanitary kits) to strategic health facilities in target districts
- Engage youth in peer-to-peer dialogues on social cohesion and peace building, transforming social norms and positive masculinity
- Strengthen capacity of village committees and government authorities on the principles and approaches of CBNRM and NRM performance monitoring

*Picture 1: Good Agricultural Practices training for farmers*

*Picture 2: Business Management training for women and youth*