



Project Name: 'Iskufilnaasho' Towards Self Reliance II (TSR)

Location: Erigavo, El afwein, Ainabo and Bo'ame districts in the Sanaag and Sool Regions

Duration: 2.5 years (November 2013 – January 2017)

Budget: USD 2,000,000 (plus 170,000 match contribution)

Beneficiaries: 4727HHs (28362 people) in 46 communities

Partner: Candlelight

Overall objective: Reduced poverty and increased food security for chronically food insecure pastoral populations in Northern Somalia.

Specific objective: Improved livelihood security of 4,727 vulnerable households (28,362 individuals) in Sool and Sanaag regions of Northern Somalia

Result 1: Improved access to financial services (savings, loans and insurances) for 3,467 vulnerable households by the end of the project

Result 2: Improved and diversified employment opportunities for 1000 vulnerable households by the end of the project

Result 3: Strengthened ability of 1000 women to manage household budgetary decisions and influence household resources allocation

Result 4: Improved community infrastructure in 42 villages, and increased resilience to the impact of drought for 3,000 households by the end of the project.

Project Achievements

Result 1: Improved access to financial services (savings, loans and insurances) for 3,467 vulnerable households by the end of the project

1. Orientated community leaders and administration officials on the VSLA methodology
2. Introduced and expanded VSLA to the new communities, establish groups and provide inception training through a local co-applicant

3. Provided on-going guidance to existing VSLAs
4. Organized exchange visits between VSLA groups
5. Conducted basic literacy and numeracy classes for 1,227 VSLA members for 6 months
6. Organized consultations with religious leaders on the VSL methodology and develop a profit sharing mechanism in line with Islamic law suitable to the Somali context.
7. **Organized consultations with religious leaders on the VSLA methodology and develop a profit sharing mechanism in line with Islamic law suitable to the Somali context.**
8. **Conducted Pilot profit sharing arrangements for VSLA groups and mainstream them where possible, to incentivize more funding being invested.**
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Result 2: Improved and diversified employment opportunities for 1000 vulnerable households by the end of the project

1. Conducted entrepreneurial skills training for 1190 VSLA members (e.g. training on business management, bookkeeping/financial literacy, marketing etc.)
2. Guide VSLA members in developing concrete ideas and a simple business plan for IGAs.
3. Trained 1000 beneficiaries on self-selected vocational skills (e.g. food processing, milk preservation, bee keeping and honey production, tailoring, gum production etc.)
4. Provided equipment and tools 1000 beneficiaries for self-selected small income generating activities, complementing funding from the VSLA, to provide an initial boost to productive investment of VSLA funds
5. Developed a market information system (information of market conditions, prices, terms etc.) to improve access to info on markets in bigger towns for rural vulnerable women.

Result 3: Strengthened ability of 1000 women to manage household budgetary decisions and influence household resources allocation

1. Conducted training on household budget management for 1000 VSLA members.
2. Organize village fora after trainings with men and women to discuss jointly key implications of household budget management and Organize awareness raising workshop for 1000 VSL members on implications of qat abuse
3. Provided women leadership courses for 1000 active VSLA members (e.g. public speaking, team building and sharing of stories around women leader's role models through video.)
4. Involved reputable and knowledgeable national Imams, to engage their rural counterparts in discussions on roles of women and men and clarify religious requirements versus cultural ones in regard to sharing the workload, girls' education, Qat abuse decision-making in the household etc.
5. Conducted research on Qat and its impact on the community.

6. Organized awareness raising workshop for 1000 VSL members and their families (including youth) on implications of qat abuse.
7. Involved reputable and knowledgeable national Imams, to engage their rural counterparts in discussions on roles of women and men and clarify religious requirements versus cultural ones in regard to sharing the workload, girls' education, qat abuse, decision-making in the household

Result 4: Improved community infrastructure in 42 villages, and increased resilience to the impact of drought for 3,000 households by the end of the project.

1. Mobilized communities for introduction of the project (specific attention for sensitization of men to ensure project approval and support)
2. Selected 1,260 beneficiaries cash for work activities
3. Organized follow-up meetings and refresher training through a co-applicant for committees to ensure adequate community management and maintenance of community structure.
4. Participatory identification of key needs to be targeted by cash for work projects.
5. Distributed tools and equipment for the cash for work projects and implement 42 cash for work (CfW) projects in the target area.
6. 42 communities structures completed under cash for work
7. Conducted training on disaster risk reduction and positive coping mechanisms for 84 village committee and line ministries .

CARE's VSLAs linkage with microfinance institutions Ugaaso's Story:
documentary film

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLL-60eR-ol>