



CHEP's RESTOCKING PROGRAM IN WAJIR

Droughts frequently devastate pastoralist's communities, killing large number of livestock that they depend on for milk and meat.

In Wajir, the 2009-2011 drought was arguably the most severe in several decades. Livestock perished in great numbers further entrenching poverty in the communities and contributing to widespread hunger.

Widows with children and the elderly are often most affected and their hope for recovery is minimal.

Although the Somali community previously coped with emerging environmental hazards, current trends of population growth, changing policies, global warming, diseases, clan and resource based conflict have made the situation very difficult hence raising livestock in arid areas almost unbearable.

In its restocking activities, CHEPS provided goats and sheep to 30 most vulnerable families. As browsers, the goats browse on trees or shrubs and they tend to cope with drought better.

CHEP's provided shoats to Wajir's poor to help them recover from loss occasioned by drought and famine and once again become self sufficient, care for their children, restore dignity and regain hope.

Thirty (30) households have so far been restocked with shoats for milk production to improve food security and nutritional standards as children can get milk to drink.

There were two restocking events-during the first phase, 20 families received 5 shoats each while another (10) received 3 each meaning 130 goats were provided to date.

Most affected families have either elderly or women as house heads. Widows and the elderly usually face difficulties because of immense poverty. As mothers they bear the huge burden of

feeding their children and providing education and health care. Their predicament is quite challenging and with the frequent drought it has become even dire.

Their chances of recovery from such devastating droughts are far less compared to households with men who are able to fend for their families through menial work.

Fatuma Adan is one such beneficiary. She received 3 goats and 2 sheep (ewes). She lost her husband in 2002 and she was left alone to cater for her four children with the few family goats. The goats too were wiped by the drought and she resorted to fetch firewood for sale.

She was so impoverished and more so being a widow made her so economically insecure – up until she received the CHEP's herd that helped her become self sufficient and care for her family.

During a monitoring visit, she commented that she was no longer poor since her herd increased to nine. "Having goats again restored back my dignity" she said.

Another beneficiary is 60 years old blind Maalim Osman. He was among the first to be restocked with 5 goats and was selected on the basis of his disability.

He reported that he previously used to beg for alms which he no longer does.

Maalim Osman said he is now hopeful for his future since he is the proud owner of 11 goats and with that he can support his family.

General benefits/outcome-

The primary outcomes of the restocking program identified by the beneficiaries include:-

- i) Overall increase in household income
- ii) Increased nutritional and health level of the families
- iii) Extra by-products i.e hides, milk, ghee sold for cash
- iv) Increase in the initial herd size since goats are kidding twice a year.
- v) Capability of paying for children education from restocking proceeds.
- vi) Ability to use income to buy more sheep/goats.