

**Community consultations (2 rounds)  
in Dolow town, Surgudud, Xamare and Dhigtaar (Dolow, Gedo region)  
2-3 October 2012**

**SUMMARY NOTES**

**INTRODUCTION**

*FAO, WFP and UNICEF are embarking on a joint strategy to build household and community resilience in Somalia, and seek to use consultations with local communities – as well as authorities and operating partners – to inform and guide this process.*

*Dolow district has been chosen as the first place in Somalia to initiate the joint planning of resilience interventions in this framework.*

*Community consultations were held in Dolow from 2nd October 2012 to 4th October 2012, by a team of staff from FAO, WFP, UNICEF, their partner organizations in Dolow (COOPI, SOWELPA, ASEP, CEDA, World Vision, DFCS, MODA, DRO, NAPAD, SRDA), and representatives of the local district authority.*

*The objectives of the consultations were the following:*

- 1) LEARNING FOR PROGRAMMING: the three agencies and their partners listened and learnt from communities in order to understand, from the perspectives of those living them, the following: 1) Risks and vulnerabilities, and their distribution; 2) Capacities and solutions, and access to them.*
- 2) ACCOUNTABILITY AND ONGOING RELATIONSHIP: these consultations ensure local people contribute to programming, their participation being both a resource and a demonstration of accountability.*

*The following locations have been consulted for this first round of consultations: Xamare, Dhigtaar, Surgudud and Dolow town. Their selection was based on their representation of different livelihood zones (riverine, pastoralist, agro-pastoralist and urban respectively) but also on accessibility and the ongoing activities of the involved agencies. Communities were informed in advance about planned consultations, and their implications and objectives. Excellent local facilitators and translators have been used.*

*One day prior to the consultations, a briefing session had been organized; debriefing and planning sessions took place every day of the consultations and one day later to conclude on the main findings and on the relevance of the consultation methodology.*

## DOLOW TOWN consultation number 1

Participation/Representation: Lots of IDPs represented, therefore talked about the definition of IDPs (migration may be actually a normal way of life and not so much a category, from the Somali communities point of view). The youth was missing; women were not very vocal (except one who was a community leader and very vocal). People represented were not very vulnerable (recommendation: we must think of asking to meet with some specific categories of vulnerable such as newly arrived IDPs. Ex-farmers rather than ex-herders but people explained clearly that there are lots of different livelihoods and overlaps between them).

Methodology: seemed to have worked well; the concept of shocks was not clear.

### 1. SHOCKS

- Shocks: conflict and insecurity; being disconnected from markets as well as environmental degradation – in camps etc.- were also identified as a shock [*need to better explain definition of shock*]

### 3. EARLY WARNING, PREPAREDNESS, COPING STRATEGIES

- Preparedness: switching from cash crops to fodder production to sell to others; moving away from the floods and changing how they farm; stock-up before the roads are cut off by the floods; joining of cooperatives from farmers; diversification of LH within the household
- Coping: mainly social support (gift giving); raising cash for extremely vulnerable people (Islam-based social support); also formal credit exists between neighbors and known traders
- Aid: not reliable/ not sufficient so not seen as a dependable coping mechanism (although central and valuable to people's normal lives...)
- Being active, motivated and not idle seen as a differentiating factor to individual resilience (especially among women)

***Debrief from this group for the next session***: need to talk to the youth, especially as the context in this district is fast changing for them and will have a different story to tell than their parents. Need to talk to more vulnerable/less resilient such as newly arrived IDPs or others – what makes them vulnerable and what will you change - what would you give to your children that you didn't get? How would you make sure that the future is brighter?

## DOLOW TOWN consultation number two

### *Women's groups*

#### Participation/Representation

- 16 women, 11 IDPs without a clear occupation (engaged, for some of them in casual labour or firewood cutting) and 5 inhabitants of Dolow town (probably ex-long term IDPs) having small businesses of grocery shops / employed in a butchery.
- 2 categories of IDPs were represented: recently arrived (few months or just a few days) and longer term IDPs (2-3 years). IDP women represented at the meeting earn a little money from casual labour (e.g. washing clothes, re-selling of goods/groceries, or firewood cutting). Some of them don't have any activity and live strictly out of social support (obviously the most vulnerable). Their priorities are food and shelter (fighting for survival of the whole family).
- They represent women-headed households or households where husband's care/economic role is marginal: Women head the household (mean dead or on the frontline) or the husband is sick/aged or, at best, unemployed. Those are amongst the most vulnerable and survive strictly thanks to social support (from neighbors, not relatives).
- Importantly, all of them have been harmed primarily by conflict/war (not drought): that is why they fled their place of origin; they might have lost their husband at war; there seems to be huge psychological impact/trauma amongst all of these women.

## 1. SHOCKS

- Greatest recent shock was last year's drought; Dolow became overpopulated with IDPs and each HH had to take care of about another ten persons.
- Recovery: with assistance and casual labour, the situation of most HH improved but they are not fully recovered. One woman mentioned cash relief (6 months, 120 dollar/month) as great support for starting a small economic activity and send children to school.
- Last 10 years shocks. The biggest shock is war and conflict, which affected all the women represented during this consultation. Drought has been regularly hitting the zone (about every other season).
- Coping: *social support* (for the most vulnerable) and *casual labour* (for those who have less children and/or a better physical/mental capacity), i.e. shop-keeping; vegetable re-selling; etc. Donkey carts being used for transportation and to bring produce to the market so 'rich people' rent it out to those who need casual labour opportunities (it is an important asset/sign of wealth). The fact that Dolow town is secure provides a minimum guarantee to poor HH during shocks, although some of them are extremely vulnerable.

## 2. SEASONALITY & VULNERABILITY

- *"The least vulnerable person is the one who has a job; the most vulnerable are women and children"*
- Coping, men versus women: women are the ones finding solutions for the household (mostly) and finding casual labour opportunities, so they should be targeted for job creation.

## 6. ACCESS to BASIC SERVICES

- Access to health and nutrition is basic. There is a health post (simply out-patient care)/outreach in IDP camps; feeding centers for the children. They are missing places to deliver; the health post does not have admissions for inpatient care; TB centers.
- Access to education is extremely low (and really is an exception) because of school fees and costs (materials and uniforms) that IDPs, fighting for survival, cannot afford.

### ***Men's group***

***Seasonal Calendar (men only)***. See also separate document, seasonal calendar in Excel, summarizing this information.

Participation/Representation: discussion with around 20 men, mostly small-scale farmers and some farm labourers from the host community, recent IDPs, IDPs who arrived some years ago, one casual labourer. Due to time constraints it was not possible to discuss the seasonal calendar with women (the women were in a separate focus group for women, discussing other issues at this time).

### **Farmers**

- Crops are planted at the beginning of both the Gu and Deyr rainy seasons – maize and sorghum in both seasons, and additionally some cash crops (sim sim, water melons, beans, onions, ground nut) in the Deyr. Farmers use sophisticated techniques, such as intercropping of cereals with nitrogen-fixing legumes (beans), crop rotation / leaving land fallow in some seasons to restore fertility. Animal manure is used. Seeds are expensive. Sometimes agencies distribute maize, sorghum and forage grass seeds, which is very helpful.
- The Gu is seen as the more reliable season for agricultural production, as the rains in the Deyr are intense and often cause flooding, wiping out the seeds/crops. In rain-fed areas, the Deyr is also more problematic as there are strong winds, that can blow away the seeds.
- In a normal year, the rainy seasons (Gu and Deyr) are the most difficult times for farmers, because until the harvest comes at the end of those seasons (around June and January), they have limited cash and food stocks. After each harvest, household food stocks last around three or four months covering the dry season that immediately follows the harvest, but stocks run out around the time the rainy seasons are about to begin. Food prices rise as food gets scarcer in the months following each harvest. Also at the beginning of each season, farmers incur

debts by buying seeds, hiring pumps for shallow wells, paying for fuel for the pumps, etc. When harvest comes, debts and labourers are paid. In bad years, when the harvest fails, it may not be possible to repay debts, children may have to be taken out of school and it is extremely difficult to afford seeds, pump hire, fuel and other inputs for the following planting season.

- In October each year, prices of food and other basic commodities go up because roads get blocked by heavy rains.

#### Labourers

- Many people who have lost their livestock or have no land are labourers
- There are many agricultural labourers with no land of their own – their seasons are the same as for the farmers. When farms are doing well, there is work. They get paid when (if) the harvest comes in. The welfare of these labourers depends on how well the farms are doing.
- Other labourers work in town. For them the main source of work is offloading trucks when they come to Dolow. Better off labourers have donkey carts and they do good business carrying goods during the times when trucks are in town. Work is available in the rainy seasons. The most difficult season is Hagaa when some ports are closed because of the Monsoons, meaning that there are much fewer trucks coming to Dolow. There is some year-round work available in construction – this sector is growing.

#### Agro-pastoralists/Pastoralists:

- For livestock owners, the Gu and Deyr are better times as water is available for the animals. Typically around 2 weeks after the beginnings of these seasons, the livestock health has recovered. There remains enough grass for the livestock to eat until around 1 month after the end of each rainy season, then there are water shortages until the next rains.

#### Interventions suggested by the group:

- Pumps for shallow wells
- Seed distribution (at the right times)
- Stabilization of river banks and outlet canals to help reduce intensity of floods
- Rehabilitation of roads in areas that get flooded

#### Youth' s group

Participation/Representation: Discussion has held with five 5 youths, all male, aged between 20-25. Due to time constraints it was not possible to have a focus group with female youths or a combined male/female youth discussion (the young women were engaged in a separate focus group for women of all ages at this time).

- There is high unemployment – “around 70%” among young people in Dolow
- There is work available offloading trucks in the rainy seasons when trucks come to Dolow.
- In the dry seasons, work is hard to find.
- Youth want skills that make it easier to get a job/income: mechanics /vehicle repairs, electricians, driving, construction, carpentry, furniture-making, butchery and (especially for women) tailoring.
- Many youths go to Dolow Ado (Ethiopia) to join refugee camps, for free education and free food.
- Many young people join Al Shabaab or other military groups/militia due to the lack of alternative paid employment options.
- Many youth aspire to get work in NGOs.
- Some youth also migrate to Mogadishu or Ethiopia for work.
- Young men are the main workers on the farms; their families depend on their labour.
- One group of young men has set up a small NGO to promote fishing – it distributes nets, provides a one-week training on how to fish and spreads the message that fish are good to eat and can help families to cope in times of crisis.

#### Interventions suggested by the group

- Skills training
- Support to football clubs
- Education on HIV/AIDS
- Support to fishing NGO (mentioned above)

- Support for disabled youths
- Quality materials and facilities for schools
- Cash support to families who cannot afford to send their children to school.
- Counselling services
- Support centres for orphans

### **Sketch Map**

Community members drew a sketch map of Dolow Town on the group. Men and women were both invited to participate, but only men actively took part. Sand, leaves, branches and other materials were used for drawing. The main features they drew were the river, roads, services (schools, mosque, health post), NGO offices and the bridge to Ethiopia.

## SURGUDUD consultation number one

Presentation: village has 400 households (about 300 people recently migrated so village has lost a lot of its population); Three types of livelihoods (and wealth groups): pastoralists, farmers and people without a clear income sources / most vulnerable (women, elderly and disabled)

Representation: 39 men, 45 women, 7 children attended the first day consultation. Also present was the deputy DC.

### 1. SHOCKS

- Most severe shock was the last drought (left nothing behind), then floods, also conflict
- Death and migration as an effect: about 300 people migrated, mainly women and children, to refugee camps in Ethiopia
- Worst affected, the pastoralists (by drought) and farmers (by floods). The wealthy not affected as much as the poor
- Animals also affected
- Coping for the most vulnerable: in kind gifts- those with shared with those without, including livestock, and casual labour on farms / with livestock
- About recovery, a man from the village explained the current state of recovery metaphorically, as follows ‘*my leg was broken, it is now fixed but I still need to use a stick to walk*’ after they are strong, they go and work in the farms
- Last ten years worse for them and marked principally by conflict. Supported throughout by social support, and food assistance, but now need cash [probably a ‘pre-cooked’ answer]

### 2. SEASONALITY & VULNERABILITY

- Vulnerability: someone who needs food aid/who is hungry; someone who has lost animals (and there is a need to replace these animals)
- Good times/bad times: Good times are “when it rains, when food assistance comes in, and when is there is peace”
- Coping strategies: Farmers recover more quickly because they have access to water 9 months per year for their cultivation; while it takes pastoralists 6 month for a goat to calve. Riverine people/farmers feed animals with crop residues or maize stocks for feeding animals (so again they are better off than pastoralists); when they sell their maize stocks on the market, they buy the fuel for the water pumping for irrigation, the rest of the money is allocated to buying food for the family. Three challenges for farming: pests; floods; bush clearing. Farmers grow fodder for animals and they feed them – hence recovery for animals
- Survival strategies of the most vulnerable: very vulnerable people sell firewood and depend on relief and *zakat/social support*. Those who do not have farms work as casual labourers
- Number of meals: two meals/day – breakfast and dinner – both for children and adults. The elderly might skip one of those two meals. In good times of the year, they may have 3 meals/day.
- Food types: maize/rice or depends on availability. No milk and sugar in people’s diets in general – but depends on the resources of the household.

### 3. EARLY WARNING, PREPAREDNESS, COPING

- Signs of a bad year/season? Frogs making noise and signs in the intestines of goats when slaughtering them announce rain; crocodiles and hippos coming out of water is a sign of floods
- Preparation for a bad season? relocate their animals, stock foods and sell strong animals
- Social support: relatives/neighbors assist each other with food (livestock and crops) or the community might also collect cash for a vulnerable person

### 4. ASSETS & INCOME SOURCES

- Community assets: The Dawa river for feeding animals and cropping. Trees along the river are used as building materials and provide shade during droughts/heat waves.
- Access to credit: in Dolow town, provided by business men, if you have assets as guarantee (if you have livestock the credit can be given over a long time); pay back at harvest and pay back in-kind. Lots of people are currently indebted.
- Price of food decreased (rather than increased) because of flows of food aid to the region
- Payparus leaves used for weaving, building- good prices outside Surguduud , but people have no means of getting them to market- cooperative sold on their behalf until last year.

### 6. ACCESS to BASIC SERVICES

#### Access to good health

- A local health center in the village and mobile doctors visit irregularly
- 1 community health worker
- Some drugs but insufficient

#### Access to education

- One school – 3 years old - with three classes but closed because teachers did not receive salary and also a measles outbreak
- A parent association exists and is trying to find a solution to the closing of the school
- Lots of materials/books still in boxes and new
- No furniture in the classroom, only 2 blackboards at both ends of the rooms- multi- grade system?

#### ***Debrief for the group on this consultation:***

- The consultation was well attended (close to 100 people) and gender-balanced; the youth (young men in particular) was missing (probably they were working on the farms during the meeting). The debate was dominated by a few of the more vocal men.
- The concept of ‘coping mechanisms’ might not be clear and is equated with food aid
- We had oriented answers (food aid and other things they need/ wish lists)
- List of questions was too prescriptive and specific. Recommendations:
  - we need more open-ended questions
  - it would be useful to spend 10 minutes or more explaining each theme/topic before getting into the details of the questions: we expect that the quality of the the replies would be much higher
  - It would be good to have two facilitators with the following roles: one facilitator for the questions/dialogue and another to explain the concepts
  - Prepare, for reference, a verbatim in English and Somali about resilience and the purpose of the consultations, specially designed for the local communities

## SURGUDUD consultation number two

### ***Men’s group***

Representation: 11 men- among them 7 elders, 3 youth and 1 with disability

Understanding resilience: example on resilience was given using the case of the school. The group clarified that the school was closed due to measles outbreak and that even though the NGO was not funding, the community was discussing how to support the teachers

#### Youth

- The youth are the source of labour. The young men feed for the family, going to the farms. Women remain at home for household chores
- Youth in attendance have minimal education-one only reached grade 3. Not much migration reported, only some to Ethiopia- hence no remittances to the community. Those in Ethiopia bring back relief food to the community

#### Capacity Building areas

- Those present agreed that capacity building should target the youth. Skills training in repair of farm equipment- pumps and driving for men and tailoring for women.

#### Water

- Main source of water is river DAWA. Piped water to a tank in the village where community members get water. Water said to be salty. Participants said they preferred river water but it caused water borne diseases. River is 5km from the village

#### Business opportunities

- Small scale when members' travelled to Dollow they took groceries on credit and sold in the village. Paid to the supplier once they had sold
- Papyrus source of income. Fetches good money in Baidoa and Mogadishu. No means of transport- Before the drought a cooperative sold on their behalf.
- Community requested support in building of a storage of papyrus- as when exposed to sun and rain it gets damaged.

#### Calendar

- March and October are the most difficult months.- between harvesting and waiting for rain. March is the hottest and dries month
- Dec to Jan is the harvest season

### **Women's group**

Participation/Representation: 15-20 women of all ages

*"Others used to come and just pass us; you're coming here and sitting with us, we appreciate that"*

### **1. SHOCKS**

- Drought: The last drought was an extreme shock, droughts today are a lot worse than the droughts of the past. An old woman explained that today's droughts kill livestock in a way that previous droughts didn't, they are devastating and hard for pastoralism to recover from
- Conflict: Conflict is a major issue for people in Surgudud, and one that reminds them bitterly of their vulnerability after some many years without a functioning government. It might be that relatives are killed in conflict in far places, or it might be, as happened in the past, that militia base themselves near this village and there is fighting in which people and animals are injured and die. For example, many donkeys were killed a while ago by two rival militias fighting across this village; a woman is in hospital from a recent armed skirmish; soldiers can have a petty quarrel that turns into a gunfight.

### **3. EARLY WARNING, PREPAREDNESS, COPING**

#### Coping:

- Many people who have lost their herds and pastoralist ways of life now work on farms in the area
- Women have very diversified livelihoods here, doing whatever they can to make income and support their families. Women weave mats from local papyrus (yet are challenged in this by lack of access to markets and lack of storage facilities) and collect firewood for sale
- People move to flee drought and conflict, making journeys to other places or IDP/refugee camps that can be dangerous and even fatal for small children and sick people. While education in camps is quite good for children (compared to what they receive in Surgudud), camps are

dangerous places for children's health because of poor sanitation, congested conditions and disease outbreaks

- The community here moves quite a lot in response to shocks and risks; the last time was about one year ago. It is disruptive to move – in terms of livelihood, education, and health – and before you move you must be prepared as much as possible. Preparedness includes *sahan* [surveillance], where people, usually youth, are sent ahead to do reconnaissance of the place the community plans to move to. Today, mobile phones have made *sahan* easier. Preparedness before moving used to include food preservation: an older lady explained how they would dry large quantities of camel meat to eat on the journey; now there are so few animals this is not possible, people simply cook along the way with whatever food they find available. A lot of things have been lost along with herds.

#### Vulnerable people:

- are the female-headed households, the orphans, the families with no livestock

#### Social support:

As well as receiving food aid and humanitarian assistance vulnerable people here rely on local welfare and social support systems. For example local elders and leaders including sheikhs will sit down to discuss what should be done about vulnerable members of the community, and they will arrange for food or livestock or cash to be collected and given to them. Neighbours help each other too, and credit for small business ideas (like women's petty trading) can be got from business connections in nearby towns. Finally, remittances from relatives working abroad are essential, or even food and cash sent back from local youth or relatives who's gone to stay in IDP and refugee camps and are receiving aid there

#### Education

- is a very important part of building future resilience in children. There are two types of schools here, the *duxsi* [Qoranic school] and the primary school that is a kind of 'feeder school' until children get older and enroll in Dolow; children go to the *duxsi* early in the morning and then to the other school from 8.30am. The *duxsi* educated children in citizenship, moral and religious values, righteousness, and *duxsi* teachers embody all these good qualities so much that many parents wish for their children to either become a *duxsi* teacher (if that child must stay in this village) or marry one (since parents view these teachers are far superior to their chat-chewing peers). Most of all, parents wish education might be a way out of this village for their children, a way for them to get jobs in other towns and even countries, for through this they will not only be able to support themselves but their families and communities too (remittances).
- Parents need to teach children to be strong against shocks, not only do they need to learn skills and gain knowledge but they need to learn from their parents how to be strong and adapt and survive. Good community leadership, good teaching, good parenting, all these can instill in children the 'x-factor' they require to be resilient against shocks

## XAMARE (consultations one and two)

Presentation: Purely riverine area

Participation/Representation: : 55 villagers including 15 children and youth and 7 women, village committee and head of sub district (Xamare and other villages). The (usual) Village Committee is composed of 3 women, 2 teachers, 3 religious men.

### 1. SHOCKS

- Shocks: rain failure/floods, conflict and insecurity, food insecurity, LS disease, high fuel prices (cf. need fuel for water pumps for irrigation). Additionally, last season, no market accessibility because of insecurity. When the river gets saline, this affects production.
- There has been limited access to humanitarian aid; lack of agro-inputs
- Most affected: were households with a large number of children; children under 5; poor farmers; women-headed HH

- Least affected: land and water pump owners; HH with less children; farmers having a good number of livestock
- Coping mechanisms: ‘*when the wind blows, you need to learn how to shut your eyes and we know*’ meaning they know how to cope. Coping mechanisms include principally: support from relatives; firewood collection; hunting for game (e.g. antelopes, dik-dik); fishing; farming down to the river bank
- Recovery: no...those who recovered were assisted by humanitarian actors, those that receive emergency cash transfers (allowed to repay debts, in particular) or those who were highly supported by their relatives. Estimate that one more good year is necessary for full recovery.
- Shocks over the last ten years: four years were bad year; 3 years were normal. Last year, “*the best of the worst years*”.

Mentioned the following verse of the Coran: “*in any burden, there is a relief*”

## 2. SEASONALITY & VULNERABILITY

- Vulnerability: orphan households; poor farmers; women-headed HH; household with young children
- Good/Bad seasons: Jilaal; bad for women in particular. Good season: good for all farmers. When the river floods it is also a bad season.
- Number of meals. Normal season: two meals; Good season: three; bad season: one meal/day

## 3. PREPAREDNESS, EARLY WARNING & COPING STRATEGIES

- Early warning: high temperature is a sign of Deyr rains will fail; if at the Hagua/Xagua the river is full it is sign that deyr will fail - *The river and the downpour cannot be good at the same time* -; if water level subsides at Haga season the Deyr season will be good; when crocodiles/hippos go out of the river, there will be floods.
- Preparedness: planting on wet river banks; store grass; dismantling of water pumps before an expected flooding; prepare to increase production at all costs (whether good or bad season). prepare to plant the area flood water receded.
- Coping strategies: firewood collection; poor farmers seek casual labour; crop sharing.
- Migration: Generally no but some families happen to opted going to IDPs camp or refugee camps due to the effect of this shock.
- Social Support: Based on religious traditions, Zakat -yearly and compulsory religious payment from the rich to poor. Kinship and relations, neighborhood and community welfare where a committee is formed to collect from the community members to poor and orphans in the stress.

## 4. ASSETS & INCOME SOURCES

- Natural and Physical assets of the community: Land, Farms, River Juba and Vegetation
- Income Sources: Farming and livestock production that changes with the seasons.
- Access to Credit: pump owner/farm manager and the farmers who own good number of animals can access credit. Debt is timely and usually paid after harvest and when animals are fit.

## 5. PRODUCTIVE SECTORS

- Markets for Xamare community are in Belethawa town, Dollow town and Luuq town. They are far and transport is poor.
- Market Information is through telecommunication, networks are working here.
- Small Enterprises: open air vendors/in the house vendors; they don't rely on the small trade but supplements farming activities

## 6. ACCESS to BASIC SERVICES

- Access to good health is poor, poor health facility/providers, supplies,
- Blockage of access to health is: Insecurity; Lack of transport; Floods; Access to Education and WASH;
- Access to education: Poor teaching; Poor structure for the school
- Blockage for Education and WASH: Insecurity; lack of water facilities and access to clean water; Lack of incentive for teachers.
- Solutions for blockage: to have strong Government Somalia in the case of insecurity and the wider community aided by aid agencies through contribution of policing and governance; Provision of clean water facilities by the aid agencies; Good salary/incentive from aid agencies and community contribution

Needs? According to the community:

- In this emergency short term : food
- Farm inputs (fuel, spare parts for pumps and seeds)
- Bush clearing of farms
- Re-stocking and cash injection/loans for small traders
- Training on farming
- Clean water
- MCH, Dispensary and medical supplies
- Health workers and training of health workers
- Education: Salaries/incentive for teachers, renovation and extension of school classrooms

## DHIGTAAR (consultations one and two)

Presentation: 20 km south east of Dolow; Pure pastoralists; scattered population of 60 households (permanently on last two years). The chair person of the community was a lady, with whom they met. They have a community health worker and a community animal health worker but no health facility and no school. There is no water source; nearest water source river 12 km away and a well 20 km away. Most services otherwise available only in Dolow Town.

Participation/Representation: 15 men and 15 women attended, of different ages

### 1. SHOCKS

- Most recent shock(s): the most recent shock was drought which caused death of livestock, also the remaining livestock is affected by unidentified diseases more over it caused migration of other pastoralists in to the area N/B remaining livestock are non-productive in terms of milk, other shocks include conflict and insecurity
- Most affected: it affected, the elderly, pregnant women and lactating mothers in the house hold because they were relying on the livestock as source.
- Coping strategies: Selling the remaining livestock with throw out prices and remittance from the relatives; those with donkey carts were selling firewood.
- Recovery: 10% of the families recovered because they had the means to support themselves, such as donkey carts, some animals remained from the draught to sell for their immediate needs; camel herders moved with their camels to distant grassing areas; some of the remaining pastoralists have moved to riverine areas for farming.
- Shocks over the last ten years: We were residing here for the last ten years, out of that five years were good but the last two years which were draught was the severe one.

### 2. SEASONALITY & VULNERABILITY

- Definition of vulnerability: a combination of poverty and food insecurity made the pastoralists community very vulnerable because they lost their livestock in which they were depending and failed to get food support

### 3. EW, PREPAREDNESS, COPING STRATEGIES

- Preparedness: move to good grazing, even crossing the border to Kenya/ Ethiopia or back to the conflict areas if needed
- Coping: improving of animal production and marketing of the livestock. A donkey cart is very important to link to markets/health center. Lots migrated to IDP camps to Ethiopia and Dolow: half the households from this place recently lost their livestock and became IDPs; The more children/youth in a household, the better the coping because they are taking care of livestock; bring the mothers to the health centers
- Vulnerable: children, pregnant and lactating women, and elderly
- Social support: there is a dedicated committee for that; another system is 'Shalongo' specifically for women HHH. Both systems efficient and sustainable (because local), they say

Proverb: *"The season that is delayed won't help the weak"*

### 4. ASSETS & INCOME SOURCES

- Assets: Grazing zones with boundaries; donkey carts for firewood collection
- Source of income: livestock sales. Bad season they may not farm.
- Most vulnerable's sources of income/survival: Donkey carts of others can be borrowed plus casual labour plus self employment (cutting grass and sell in town as fodder)
- Credit: 50 kg of maize for instance, provided in town. Accountable towards the community for paying back.

### 5. PRODUCTIVE SECTORS

- Access to markets. Access to Dolow and Burrao markets by foot or donkey carts; no small cars/public transport (unlike the riverine areas).
- Access to market information. 1) they make their phone call to an informant (emergency only; they have little emergency money in their phone); 2) travelers passing by or close to the village; 3) brokers and commissioners of their relatives which whom they deal with for commercialization.
- Small enterprises. A few women are selling some basic food/NFIs from their home, don't have a shop; plus sell in very small quantities ('retail of retail'). People rarely pay in cash but in kind (e.g. a goat, after several days of credit)
- Wealth groups: Well-off: 6 to 10 camels; Middle: 10-40 goats and 5 units of cattle; Poor: 1-10 goats and 1-2 units of cattle; Destitute: donkey cart (i.e. there are no family without donkey which is the means of transport). *The team noted that the voice of the youth is not heard and that they are mainly 'exploited'/ looking after the cattle.*

### Needs? According to the community

- Training for Health Workers and Community Health Workers
- Need to improve access to water – today they need to walk miles to the river
- Revolving funds for small-scale businesses for women
- It is a pastoralist community but pastoralists don't move so far (radius of about 50 km), so they could use a school and a health post in the center of that radius; it would be used by the community