

GOOD PRACTICE CASE EXAMPLES – Animal Welfare and Food security

NAME OF THE PROJECT	Integrated response to complex emergency 2022
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Organisation	VSF-Germany
Position	Country Director
Country	Ethiopia
Duration of project	5 months (July 8, 2022, to October 7, 2023)
Budget/ Funding	Total project budget for rangeland rehabilitation = 240,000 ETB
Short description of Organisation	Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Germany (VSF Germany, Ger.: Tierärzte ohne Grenzen e. V.) is a German non-profit organisation with its headquarters based in Berlin, Germany. It is a dynamic organization whose work is driven by a strong commitment towards the health and well-being of humans, animals and the environment that surrounds them, supporting efforts aimed at saving lives and ending suffering in Eastern Africa – a work that transcends international borders and sector boundaries to achieve the One Health Agenda in a global setting. VSF Germany has been implementing projects in the Horn of Africa since 1998. The organization has a Regional Office in Nairobi (RON), Kenya, and Country Offices (CO) in Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.
Background to the intervention	Due to the failure of three consecutive rains, the humanitarian situation in SNNPR (Southern Nations Nationalities and People's State Region) of south Omo Zone has deteriorated. Aiming to respond to the humanitarian crises VSF Germany implemented the project entitled as Integrated Response to Complex Emergency in SNNPR, South Omo Zone Hamer, Bena Tsemay, Dassnech and Nyangatom woredas (district). The objective of the project is to address immediate needs and contribute to improved food and nutrition security and better health outcomes for vulnerable communities (host communities) and Internally Displaced Persons (DPs) through an integrated livelihood and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) intervention in South Omo Zone of SNNPR. In order to achieve this objective, the project proposed three key thematic areas that bring significant impact on drought affected community's lives and livelihoods. The three thematic areas are agriculture, multipurpose cash transfer and water, hygiene and sanitation.

<p>Project location (Country, district/state/province)</p>	<p>Ethiopia, South Ethiopia Region, South Omo Region, Bena Tsemay woreda, Morgolla, Kortsas Village</p>
<p>Objectives</p>	<p>IRC intervention focused on: (1) cash-based rangeland rehabilitation aimed at producing hay for animal feed for storage and use in the event of future drought/dry season, (2) supplementary concentrated animal feed for lactating goats (150kg per household), and (3) voucher-based animal treatment (360 Ethiopian Birr, equivalent to 7 USD per household). Combined, these interventions improved the health and welfare of animals. In addition, some households own farmland which they cultivated this year and harvested up to 6 quintals of maize/sorghum and ensured their food security.</p> <p>The activity has dual objectives, which had short and long-term benefits.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The short-term objective of cash for work was to create access to cash for the household during peak dry season through daily wages to contribute full household basic needs. 2. The second objective was contributing to long-term benefit to targeted communities through improving and increasing of forage production from the cultivated rangelands.
<p>Key activities</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Selection of 80 beneficiaries (63 male and 17 female) from the Morgolla kebele, in discussion with Agriculture Development Office team including Woreda Livestock and Fishery Development Unit Head and Fodder Improvement, Development Coordinator and community representatives about kebele.¹ 2. Printing and distribution of Identity Card (ID) for each selected households which indicated basic information about the beneficiary. 3. Facilitated and organized community awareness creation on soil and water conservation techniques for beneficiaries and task force committees. 4. Successfully distributed 80 sets of agro-tools (pick axe with handle, shovel with handle, machete, axe with handle) for selected target households. 5. 60 hectares of land were selected, completely demarcated and fenced for rehabilitation purpose in Kortsas village, Morgolla Kebele. 6. Rehabilitation activities were executed (clearing of unwanted bushes and invasive and toxic trees, construction of more than 280 soil structures such as check dam, stone/soil bands, trenches, half-moon important for physical and biological conservations of soil and water).

¹ In the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Kebele represents the lowest administrative level.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. 35 kilos of Rhodes grass seed were sown on the constructed soil structures. 8. Rehabilitation activities were executed (clearing of unwanted bushes and invasive and toxic trees, construction of more than 280 soil structures such as check dam, stone/soil bands, trenches, half-moon important for physical and biological conservations of soil and water). 9. 35 kilos of Rhodes grass seed were sown on the constructed soil structures. 10. Facilitate two rounds of payments for the target households at a total sum of 3,000 birr (100 birr per day) in 15 days interval period (1500 birr per households per round) in collaboration with AwashBank (International Bank operating in Ethiopia) international Bank cashiers as per a signed contract agreement with VSF Germany. 11. Hay was harvested at flowering stage by beneficiaries and community members. 12. Tractor and bailer machine were loaned by Bena Tsemay woreda agro-pastoralist office to produce more than 4,000 hay bales and temporarily stored on the site. 13. Existing warehouse was reconstructed, target households were able to manually transport the bailed hay and store it in the warehouse. 14. Finally, with the support of VSF Germany Bena Tsemay woreda cooperative office experts provided awareness creation training on formation of rangeland products cooperative and procedures for beneficiaries, and this activity is ongoing.
<p>Impact of intervention on animal welfare and livelihoods (including quantitative data where possible)</p>	<p>Participating households were able to meet their immediate food demand.</p> <p>Some 45 % of the beneficiary households purchased one or two goats from the cash they received from cash-based rangeland management.</p> <p>Beneficiary households harvested and produced a total of 4,000 bales of hay and stored to feed their livestock in the event of future drought.</p>

<p>Challenges</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Target household living dispersed in the rangeland made community gathering difficult for implementing the activities. 2. The rangeland is located 55 km away from the field office and 35 km from the woreda capital, and poor network communication and rough road infrastructure impede the easy communication and access for day-to-day monitoring. 3. A small number of female households were selected in proportion to male headed households which was mainly due to issues related to gender equality issues and the culture norms and belief of the community which undermine the role of women in rangeland management. 4. Limited knowledge and appropriate technical skills on soil and water conservation activities such as constructing soil structures. 5. Extreme weather condition such as heat and arrival of unprecedented heavy rainfall during activities led to postponement and delay of some activities. 6. Only one properly working tractor and bailer machine were available in the district with many prescheduled activities in other parts of BenaTsemay woreda retracted the completion of bailing activity in due time.
<p>Lessons learned</p>	<p>Cash-based assistance implemented as a standalone project has limited impact, but combined with longer term results activities (like fodder development and agri-extension services it can have double and even triple impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people meet needs of feed through immediate access to food, • livestock's lives are protected and welfare status improves. • other community members benefit too (like Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) and Private Veterinary Pharmacies (PVPs))
<p>Source documents (include reports and/or relevant organisational website if possible)</p>	<p>Success story is originally compiled by Dr Bekalu Hailu Bekaluhailu24@gmail.com Project Officer</p> <p>Andinet Adamu VSF Germany South Omo Field Office Coordinator Andinet@vsfg.org</p>

Integrated response to complex emergency: The Story of Yemiserach Gelle, Kortsas Village, Morgolla Kebele of Bena Tsemay, in the former SNNP Region, Ethiopia, September 2023

In 2022, after three consecutive rain failures, Yemiserach Gelle, 38, a widow and a mother of five children (3 boys and 2 daughters) was unable to feed her children without resorting to some negative coping mechanism.

However, Yemiserach's life took a positive turn when she became a beneficiary to VSF Germany's *Integrated Response to Complex Emergency (IRCE)* project which started in December 2022, to meet the immediate food and income needs of rain-fed dependent and most in need people in Kortsas village. One of the key components of the IRCE project was the provision of cash support through the Rangeland Rehabilitation activity.



Yemiserach Gelle and her eldest son Sofonias Dawit

"In the first round of cash for work payment I earned 1500 ETB" said Yemiserach, "which I totally invested on food". She used the second round of payment to buy two young goats. Yemiserach mentioned two additional supports which she received from VSF Germany's IRCE project, namely, 150 kg of supplementary concentrated animal feed to lactating goats and 360 ETB value of voucher-based livestock treatment which improved the overall health and well-being of her animals. She has maintained all her 3 cattle, increased her goats from 12 to 14 and this year she harvested 5.5 quintals of sorghum and maize from the 1.5 hectares of land. "I am now able to feed my family, buy clothing for my children and send all of them to school". "VSF Germany has no equal" Yemiserach added, "because it made me equal to men". Yemiserach's story serves as an inspiring example of how strategic interventions, combined with resilience-building efforts and community support, can uplift individuals and families who have been severely impacted by recurrent droughts.

When she was asked why she choose to buy goats, she answered "I chose buying two young goats, because if the rains fail again, they are strong enough to survive." "I am more resilient now than before," Yemiserach Gelle added, laughing. "VSF Germany helped me bounce back, and bounce back better, like the plastic ball."

Success story written by Dr Bekalu Hailu