

Case Study to be submitted to the Transitional Committee working for operationalization of new Loss and Damage Fund and Funding Arrangements

Ethiopia is being affected by climate change with numerous hazards including droughts, floods, volcanoes, and earthquakes and desert locust. The country has a long history of recurring climatic vulnerability and droughts, which have increased in magnitude, frequency, and impact since the 1970s. Currently, communities in southern and north-eastern parts of Ethiopia are suffering from a devastating drought following four consecutive failed rainy seasons since late 2020. This is the worst drought in forty years. The drought is worsening in scope and scale and is increasingly affecting more areas. According to the OCHA Ethiopia report, staggering scale of livestock deaths -, more than 4.5 million have died since late 2021 and a further 30 million weakened and emaciated livestock are at risk – is significantly affecting livelihoods.

The drought is predominantly affecting the Somali, Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' (SNNP) regions of Ethiopia, but the crisis has impacted the lives and livelihoods of people across the country. The OCHA report outlines that, 11.8 million people are now in need of food assistance in drought-affected areas alone, an increase of 59 percent compared to early 2022. 3.8 million women and children in these areas need support to prevent and treat malnutrition. With Ethiopia managing several compounding and concurrent shocks (conflict, displacement, drought, and macro-economic volatility), food insecurity in drought-affected areas is expected to continue deteriorating in the short to medium-term.

One of every four outgoing as well as returning migrants is from drought-affected regions of Ethiopia, with the Somali, Oromia, and Afar Regions the most severely drought-impacted. The drought continues to reduce the ability of home communities to support migrants in transit or upon return, while limited food availability is leading to increased migration, as affected populations move in search of water, pasture, and assistance.

The humanitarian consequences of the drought are escalating rapidly in the southern regions of the country. Especially in the predominantly pastoralist southeast of the Somali region, many people have lost their livestock or had to sell it off to survive, thus completely depleting their coping capacity. In addition, most water sources – largely rainwater harvest locations – have dried up. Increasing numbers of people are leaving their homes in search of water and food or due to intercommunal conflicts which are flaring up due to competition over scarce resources.

Prolonged Drought in Borana, Ethiopia

Many areas of Ethiopian pastoralist have been affected by this devastating impact of drought, Borana pastoralist areas are the worst affected. Though Borana drylands have a long history with routinely occurring drought consequences, currently the severity, length, and frequency of drought have been changing. The losses and damages incurred due to the recent drought by Borana pastoralists are never seen before in history of this generation.

According to unpublished *Borena Zone Multi-Agency Rapid Assessment Report* the absence of five consecutive seasons of rainfall resulted in prolonged drought in the area. Borana area receives a bimodal pattern of rainfall with the main rains (Ganna) falling between March and May, and the short rains (Hagayya) between September and November. The recent drought is due to the failure of rain for three years. This lack of rain for three years increased earth's surface temperature and dryness, which resulted in a critical shortage of pasture and water that lead to the emaciation of livestock and massive deaths of livestock particularly cattle, which is the main livelihood asset of the community. Not only is the productivity of livestock affected, but also the production of agro-pastoralist communities that practice farming beside livestock. These three years have been years of suffering for Borana pastoralists.

Highlight some of the devastating consequences of the recent prolonged drought on Borana pastoralists.

Death of millions of livestock

Livestock is a source of wealth and pride as well for Borana pastoralists. According to a recent report, Borana pastoralist has completely lost their livestock to prolonged drought. Above 2.3 million heads of livestock have died due to prolonged drought, which left above 67,000 households with no livestock according to the Rapid Assessment report. This is a complete loss due to drought.

Some pastoralist community members previously known for their wealth has now become destitute with no cow left with them. I know many people with a total loss. Life stories of hundreds of thousands of individuals who shifted from wealth to destitution because of this tragedy can be written. There are even individuals who commit suicide due to the complete loss of livestock. It is painful.

Now the most critical issue is that with an increase in the length of drought in the coming season, more livestock are expected to die. Even the livestock species that are drought resistant like camel and goats are at the edge of serious deaths. Currently, even camels are in very dire conditions as the remaining trees for them to browse are drying.

Food Insecurity and Malnutrition

Loss of the main livelihood base of pastoralists (livestock) and failure of dry-land farming because of the recent drought left Borana pastoralists in dire food insecurity and malnutrition. Currently, 772,001 beneficiaries need urgent food assistance of which 604,001 were targeted by Joint Emergency Operations (JEOP); while the remaining 162,000 require urgent food aid.

Similarly, more than 22 thousand of < 5 years children; 23 thousand pregnant and lactating women; and 10 thousand elders have faced acute malnutrition the report revealed.

Depletion of Water and Pasture

The growth of grasses, shrubs, forbs, and other browses are highly dependent on the availability of rainfall. Failure of rainfall for three years resulted in the complete depletion of grasses.

Moreover, many of the existing water sources like ponds has been dried up, and well waters have been highly reduced in volume.

The shortage of pasture and water remained critical across the zone and needs serious attention. Across the zone, a serious lack of water for human consumption is reported where more than 807,651 people need urgent water rationing.

Internally Displaced Peoples

According to Borana zone multi-hazard assessment report about 68,866 households (372,193 individuals) were internally displaced and settled at different locations in the zone. These IDPs need urgent humanitarian support like Food and NFI, WASH intervention, Education, Health, Protection and Shelter, and others. According to the recent Borana zone, multi-stakeholders' assessment report these IDPs are sheltered in new settlement areas, particularly in Dubuluk, Dirre, Dhas, and Elwaye woredas. Among this 29,366 HHs have been sheltered in new settlement areas, particularly in Dubuluk, Dhas, Dirre, and Elwaye woredas in 10 IDP sites and more than 39,500 HHs (close to 221,200 Individuals) are displaced and Sheltered in Host Community, in Dirre, Yabello, Dhas, Dubluk, Elwaye, Moyale, Dillo, Arero and Wachile Woredas In addition some displaced people fled to towns for searching labor opportunity.

Death of Wild Animals

In different blocks of Borana national park and surrounding areas let alone livestock, the wild animals including endemic ones like gray zebra, wild deer, and gazelle are emaciated and dying of hunger.

School Dropout

Recent drought also results in the dropout of a large number of students from the school in Borana pastoralist areas. According to a recent zonal multi-agency assessment report, from the existing 483 schools in the zone, 136 have no water facilities, and many schools have no feeding program. This situation resulted in about 50% absenteeism and 6% of students dropping out between 2014-2015 academic years due to droughts the reports says. The children from the IPDs have no access to schooling.

Rising in Food Prices

One of the impacts of drought on pastoralists is the rapid rise in the price of food crops and the fall in the price of livestock during drought. Due to the failure of production of main crops like maize from the Borana area, staple food crop like maize is supplied into these areas from central market areas with surplus production. According to the Borana zone multi-agency assessment report, the price of maize is increase by more than 80 % than before.

In contract to the price of food, the price of livestock is reduced rapidly due to the increased supply of emaciated livestock to the market and reduced demand for cattle. Currently, one cow cannot buy 50 KG of maize at the current price. To buy 100 kg of maize for their family pastoralist household sell more than three cattle. The worst part is when the cattle die on the road to the

market as hungry children await their father to bring maize/food from the market. There are many of such cases in Borana recently.

Affected Crop Production

In the Borana zone, significant numbers of agro-pastoralist also practice crop production during the short rainy season of Hagaya and the long rainy season of Ganna. Complete failure of rainfall for more than five rainy seasons resulted in total failure of crop production. As a result, the grain stores of large numbers of agro-pastoralist who produce hundreds of quintals of production of maize, haricot bean, and *teff* were left empty.

Referring the guiding questions, in relation to addressing loss and damage funding needs, we are appealing for \$US 3.99 billion to assist over 20 million people across the country with food assistance and humanitarian assistance for the year 2023.

Late alone, while this is not considering the sustainable address of losses and damages impacted due to the severe effects of climate change, the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan of Ethiopia, developed jointly with the humanitarian community, which is focusing on the urgent and lifesaving needs of the most vulnerable people in Ethiopia, including food, nutrition, water, healthcare, and protection services. Together with the United Nations and humanitarian partners, we are appealing for \$US 3.99 billion to assist over 20 million people across the country with food assistance. Of those, 4.4 million people are targeted for multi-sector non-food assistance, of which two thirds are women and children.

For further answer to the guiding questions, we understand that further studies are needed. Though, Ethiopia would like to submit this recent prolonged drought happening in Borana, as one of the sample case studies with demands to have further study of the impacts and the financial need to address the losses and damages that has been impacted with severe effects of climate change in Ethiopia.

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