**CGIAR Research Program on   
Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)**

**Organisational Baseline Study:  
Overview Report for Borana – Oromia, Ethiopia (ET0106)**

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# INTRODUCTION

This is a report of the Organisational Baseline Survey (OBS) carried out in April of 2012. The interviews were conducted at 10 organisations that were working or collaborating with farmers and/or the community in the Borana province, in the regional state of Oromia. The Borana research site covers a 30 by 30 kilometre area spanning the districts of Yabello and Arero in the southern Ethiopian Rangelands. The site is semi-arid with bi-modal rainfall patterns (500-660 mm per year). Furthermore, it is extremely drought-prone due to increased rainfall variability and shortened cycles of inter-annual droughts during the last decade. Inhabitants of this area make their living primarily from livestock, although crop cultivation and poultry production have recently become more widespread.

CCAFS' organisational-level baseline studies supplement the quantitative household baseline surveys and the qualitative village baseline studies at the same locations.

The objectives of the organisational baseline study are to:

* Provide indicators to allow us to monitor changes in behaviours and practices of locally relevant organisations over time
* Understand the provision of information/services at the local level that informs farmers’ decision making about their livelihood strategies in response to climate change

# ORGANISATIONS INTERVIEWED

Prior to this organisational study, CCAFS conducted a participatory village study within the Borana site. Participants of the village study were asked to create an institutional landscape of their community by listing the most important organisations that were active in the area and then providing information on how they were involved in the community. Specifically, the participants were asked which organisations were involved in food security activities, food crisis situations, and natural resource management (NRM) work. CCAFS then took the list of organisations and provided it to the interviewer conducting the Organisational Baseline Survey. The interviewer was given leeway to eliminate an organisation s/he believed was not relevant and to add any organisations that may have been left out of the village study discussions.

The village survey generated a list of 8 organisations for this site. All of these were selected for interview after their relevance to the Organisation Baseline Study was established. Two additional organisations were selected for interview based on the interviewer's assessment.

Tabulated below is the list of organisations interviewed, omitted and added with a brief description of their activities.

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| Organisation | Main areas of activity |
| CI (CARE International) | is the only NGO which was interviewed. It has worked in the area for over twenty years in both emergency and development capacities. |
| DAPD (Development Agent of Pastoral Development office) | There are 4 development Agents assigned in each Kebele (the smallest administrative unit below a district or a wereda). Each one has their own speciality, Animal Production, Plant Production, Animal Health and Natural Resource Management. They work in a team and the Natural Resource Management Agent is the lead person. |
| EO (Yabello Wereda Education Office) | provides key services in education. |
| HO (Yabello Wereda Health Office) | is a government office dedicated to improving the health of society as a whole through the provision of curative and preventative services, with a special focus on reducing mother and child mortality. |
| IDG (Indigenous Development Group) | There are several development groups formed by the government to do development activities in their respective localities. Each group has 20 members and engages in natural resource management activities including bush thinning, fencing off enclosures, and water development. The interview was conducted with representatives of three such groups from Dembelaseden. |
| PDO (Pastoral Development Office, Pastoral Commission) | is a government office focused on increasing productivity and enhancing food self-reliance by introducing alternative technologies and identifying best practices. Environmental protection is also among its current objectives. |
| PSPN (Productive Safety Net Program) (Although PSNP is autonomous in its resources, it is under PDO administratively.) | is considered an important driver of the agendas of many other government offices. Its activities revolve around infrastructure development, soil and water conservation and NRM. It targets the chronically food insecure section of the community. |
| R (Rabagada) | is a traditional institution responsible for dealing with a wide range of social, economic and administrative issues, aimed at building peace and managing both natural resources and settlements. The activities it is involved in include but are not limited to: enforcing customary rules and regulations, social safety nets, reciprocity and cooperation among communities, conflict management, water and pasture access, control and utilization.  Internal and external factors had weakened Rabagada but recent support from the government and NGOs have had some success in reactivating it and enabling it to deliver its responsibilities effectively. |
| **Added Organisations** | Activities and/or Why they are included |
| LUAEP (Land Use Administration and Environmental Protection) | is the office, at the Wereda level, with the mandate to work on climate and the environment. Its current objectives include, in order of importance: sustainable land use and planning, land administration and environmental protection. |
| YPDARC (Yabello Pastoral and Dryland Agriculture Research Centre) | works to adapt, generate and disseminate technologies needed for sustainable development of rangeland resources. It is also the National Coordinator of the Rangeland Research. As such, it coordinates rangeland research and outreach activities at a national level. Finally, it has links to regional organisations such as ASARECA (Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa) with whom it is working on early warning and contingency planning for extreme events. |

## Challenges and limitations:

The interviewer mentioned the following limitations that organisations were facing.

YPDARC requires capacity building support.

LUAEP lacks resources and its staff requires capacity building in terms of knowledge and skills on climate and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Organizations did not have readily available information about target areas and populations. This was a challenge which some found difficult to overcome.

At the time of the interviews a government "Watershed Management" scheme which involved communities and all civil service workers was under way. For this reason, watershed management is mentioned by all government organisations (9 of the 10 organisations interviewed). Therefore, Watershed Management may appear to have more of a widespread focus than is the case in general.

## Potential for linkage with CCAFS

The interviewer at this site made clear recommendations for how CCAFS might link with certain organisation, they are as follows:

PSNP - There is no need for a separate partnership arrangement if one establishes a relationship with PDO.

PDO - This is an important office that deserves consideration for CCAFS linkages and capacity building.

R - The group could be used as an entry point to reach the community. Establishing linkage with this institution is crucial for grass roots level impact.

DAPD - NGOs and other organizations use them to reach the community. CCAFS needs to use them in its future programs in the area.

EO – Is one of the best venues to educate the youth about climate change.

CI - Is one of the key NGOs working in the area CCAFS can partner with.

YPDARC - Has the basic human and physical infrastructure for CCAFS to be able to utilize it in its work in the area.

LUAEP - Is key for CCAFS to establish linkages with for its work on climate change in the area.

# SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Natural resource management:

Natural resource management activities seem to be widespread among these organisations, with rangeland management the best addressed area followed by water management.

Natural resource management is listed in its broadest sense as a current objective by YPDARC, DAPD and as an activity by PDO, IDG, and CI. CI provides details of its involvement stating that it maps natural resources and develops community action plans to use the resources efficiently, it also partakes in cross boarder linkage on natural resource management. LUAEP works on sustainable land use and planning, including education and awareness creation about land suitability for crop production and rangeland enclosures. LUAEP also conducts Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and monitors the decisions made based on these assessments. Similarly, PSNP completes an Environmental Social Management Framework (a kind of EIA report) for each plan/project (e.g.: road construction, water development, etc...) before it is funded and implemented.

Within rangeland management the most frequently practiced activity is enclosure establishment (IDG, LUAEP, PSNP DAPD, PDO, and YPDARC). R is similarly involved in protecting key grazing areas such as valley bottoms, while CI states its focus on rangeland reclamation. Bush thinning is mentioned by PSNP, IDG, YPDARC; the latter also addresses prescribed fires. YPDARC's rangeland activities further extend to coordinating rangeland outreach and research activities at a national level and improving management of rangelands through training, demonstrations and skill upgrading. R is directly involved in the management of dry and wet season grazing area management, access and control. R further enforces rules and regulation on land and water administration.

All organisations were participating in a government Watershed Management and Development scheme except for CI, which listed its own Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Transformation for Enhanced Resilience (WATER) project aimed at helping poor rural communities in arid and semi arid zones reduce their vulnerability to water related shocks and improve their quality of life through Integrated Water Resources Management. PSNP reported its involvement in the construction, maintenance and distribution of ponds, cement cisterns and wells in line with the availability of pasture to avoid rangeland degradation, while IDG takes part in water point development and rehabilitation. CI, PDO, DAPD and LUAEP are involved in water conservation, PSNP shows an interest in water harvesting and YPDARC partakes in both.

Nurseries are established and trees planted by LUAEP and PSNP. The EO is working to raise awareness about the negative effect of deforestation and positive effect of tree planting, through schools and adult education. Meanwhile, LUAEP is involved in creating awareness and providing information about the relationship between vegetation cover and climate change, as well as on land degradation and, soil and water conservation. It further manages the bush and forest and controls charcoal burning. Finally, CI is interested in the management of invasive bush and tree species.

Soil conservation is of interest to CI, LUAEP, DAPD and PDO, while PSNP is working to rehabilitate and enhance the natural environment. EO tries to raise awareness, among children and adults, about environmental protection and rehabilitation, environmental sciences, land management and resettlement in environmentally sound ways and fuels efficient stoves.

Preparation to withstand extreme events:

With the area being high risk for drought, most organisations are involved in mitigating the impact of such extreme events.

The following organisations are working at a relatively broad level to improve communities' and individuals' ability to plan and respond to extreme weather situations. YPDARC works with ASARECA on Early Warning and Contingency Planning, to develop a community based early warning and resource management system to increase pastoralists' livelihood resilience to climate shocks. CI is providing support on early warning, contingency planning and livelihood based responses, and is looking to strengthen early warning committees and early response plans. CI also has a couple of dedicated programs which it is instituting in the area. The first is the Regional Resilience Enhancement Against Drought (RREAD) project, aimed at alleviating the impact of recurrent drought cycles on targeted vulnerable local communities living in pastoral environments and reducing their vulnerability to drought related shocks through improved responses and preparedness activities that enhance their adaptive/coping capacities. The second is the Borana Integrated Emergency Nutrition and Drought Disaster Risk Response, which aims to reduce household vulnerability and protect key assets of drought affected communities in the Borana zone of Oromia regional State through an integrated livelihood based livestock approach. PDO provides early warning services, emergency time marketing and works in collaboration with other line departments to conduct food security assessment. These organisations work in a more focused way, offering support in specific areas where they have expertise. PSNP provides food security support to fill food gaps for chronically food insecure households for 6 months normally or 9 months during serious food shortage situations. OH provides extension services on weather related outbreaks such as malaria, AWD, measles, etc., and carries out vaccinations when available. DAPD and IDG promote the need for drought reserve areas in rangelands.

Reduction of risk due to climate variability:

Diversification of income, savings and farming are primarily what organisations are encouraging to help cope with climate variability.

EO raises awareness, among children and adults, about the importance of saving and income diversification to manage food shortages and diversification into other income generating activities (IGA). DAPD provides extension services on IGAs such as bee keeping, hide and skin processing, and milk hygiene. LUAEP encourages the adoption of growing fruit, vegetable and NTFP production to increase income.

PSNP and IDG provide saving and credit services, the former specifically for IGAs. R encourages saving to fill future food gaps. PSNP also strives for asset building/protection at household and community levels to avoid asset depletion due to weather/climate related events. Both OE and DAPD advise households on timely destocking of livestock and against keeping large herds for prestige. Two organizations are also working to secure farming activities against climate variability. DAPD offers support in dry land farming including the promotion of short season crop varieties. Both DAPD and IDG support hay making and preservation for calves and milking cows.

R, DAPD and PDO provide weather information with advice about how best to respond.

Activities' Relationship to Climate Change:

The challenges posed by droughts and variable rainfall have shaped the activities of organisations in the area, as they look to limit the effect on the communities and households they work with. There also seems to be a widespread understanding of the fact that the environment is being degraded. That being said, it does not seem clear that there is a strong focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation, as much as a focus on coping with the status quo.

The following two organisations mention climate change specifically:

HO: The deputy head has interest to learn more about the relationship between human health and climate change. She wants her staff members to know and be aware of the relationship.

LUAEP: Is named as the office, at the wereda level, with the mandate to work on climate and the environment; although, as mentioned above there are concerns about its ability to fulfil this position successfully with its current resources. Nevertheless, it does state that one of its activities is to "create awareness and provide information about the relationship between vegetation cover and climate change, as well as on land degradation and, soil and water conservation".