

## Success Story

### **Empowering Drought-Affected Communities: A Coordinated Approach to Sustain Lives and Livelihoods in Filtu Woreda, Somali Region.**

After five consecutive years of drought, compounded by flooding and conflict, millions of Ethiopians are facing severe food insecurity. This has resulted in the loss of millions of livestock, massive displacement, and communities in desperate need of life-saving assistance.

With the support of OCHA and under a Welthungerhilfe-led consortium, Acted actively participated in a collaborative effort to provide critical support to internally displaced persons and host communities in Filtu Woreda, in the Liben Zone of the Somali Region. As part of this multi-sectoral project involving several partners across Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), Health, Nutrition, Agriculture and Food Security sectors, Acted primarily implemented WASH activities, with the support of the local partner RACIDA. These efforts included promoting hygiene practices, rehabilitating latrines, distributing WASH NFI and dignity kits, and installing rainwater harvesting and storage systems. Moreover, Acted also provided agricultural support to communities by distributing fodder for livestock and unconditional cash transfers to drought-affected and flood-affected households. In addition, Acted conducted training on grazing strategies and de-stocking methods, empowering communities to strengthen their resilience and readiness in the face of future challenges.

#### **Providing essential kits to ensure safe access to water and sanitation**

As part of the response, Acted, supported by RACIDA, distributed essential WASH NFI kits to affected households, containing jerry cans, one bucket, one washing basin, water purification tablets, body and laundry soap, empowering them to enhance their health and well-being.



*Distribution of WASH NFIs and Dignity Kits, Biifatu site, September 6, 2023*

Acted also provided dignity kits, including reusable menstrual pads, underwear and a flashlight. This initiative aimed at restoring a sense of dignity for women and girls facing challenging displacement situations, ensuring their safety and overall health.



*Briefing by community hygiene promoters on the use of menstrual pads, Biifatu site, Filtu Woreda, September 3, 2023.*

***“Drought and conflict really affected us, making it hard to get essential items that are now extremely difficult to access” Amira\* explained.***

Amira\* is a 50-year-old mother of 10 children from Filtu Woreda, Liben Zone of the Somali Region. She has been severely affected by persistent drought, resulting in water scarcity, poor hygiene, and a shortage of basic necessities. ***“The jerrycans helped me to collect enough clean water for my family and I can now wash my children with the body soaps we also received, which protect them from diseases”.***

Amira\*’s daughters also received dignity kits, which enabled them to take care of their personal hygiene and enhance their comfort during menstruation.

### **Contributing to the financial autonomy of pastoralist communities**

Acted has provided cash assistance to affected pastoralist households, enabling them to meet their basic needs, while guaranteeing their financial autonomy, thus supporting the local businesses by boosting economic activity.



*Distribution of CASH on the Lanburi site, August 10, 2023*

Maimuna\*, a widowed mother of 9 children (6 daughters and 3 sons), is living in Ayinle Kebele, Filtu Woreda. She was forced to leave her home in Mubarak Woreda of Daawa Zone, due to prolonged drought and clan conflicts over grazing land, which severely affected her family's livelihood. Maimuna\* received this cash assistance, aimed to reduce the pressure that the drought put on family's life and enable them to better meet their needs while maintaining their main breeding herd.

***"The cash assistance has allowed me to pay veterinary care and medicines for the livestock, which I had great difficulty to pay before."*** Maimuna\*

Like many others in the IDP sites, Maimuna\* used to be an agro-pastoralist in Mubarak Woreda until drought and conflict hit her village in 2020. Struggling to meet her family's basic needs, she turned to collecting and selling firewood in the IDP site.

***"Before this assistance, I struggled to buy food for my family and look after my livestock. My family and I had to live for days without a proper meal."*** Maimuna\*

Multipurpose cash transfers have been crucial in supporting communities rebuild their lives and property. With the cash she received, Maimuna\* started a small home-based business, selling products such as tomatoes, potatoes, onions, and garlic.

***"Today, I can rely on my own resources and obtain credit from wholesalers. I'm very optimistic about continuing my small business."*** Maimuna\*

*\*The names of beneficiaries have been changed for protection purposes*