



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative



Responding to Crisis Using Market-Facing Approaches

Anticipatory Action

Using crisis modifiers to respond to multiple and recurring shocks in the livestock system with pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in Southern Ethiopia

December 2023



RESILIENCE IN PASTORAL AREAS - SOUTH (RIPA-S)

Zones:

- Borena
- East Borena
- South Omo
- Liben
- Dawa

Over recent years, drought-affected pastoral & agro-pastoral communities in southern and eastern Ethiopia have suffered from the impact of **multiple and often recurring shocks**.

Drought has expanded to areas that have also been affected by **conflict** in Northern Ethiopia, the Afar Region, Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's (SNNP) Regions, increasing vulnerability.

COVID-19 movement restrictions decreased access to pasture and water, and increased pressure on rangelands, negatively impacting livestock health and productivity.

Desert locust is the most destructive migratory pest in the world. It feeds on large quantities of any kind of green vegetation, including crops, pasture, and fodder. Ethiopia experienced two invasions of locust in 2020 which laid waste to hundreds of thousands of hectares of land, primarily crop land in eastern and southern Ethiopia.

Anticipatory action means acting ahead of predicted hazards to prevent or reduce acute humanitarian impacts before they fully unfold.

Crisis modifiers are funding mechanisms employed within development programs implemented in areas vulnerable to shocks. They encourage innovative approaches to allow development programs to respond to acute shocks, protect development gains made to date and avoid backsliding.

BRIEF BACKGROUND

With support from USAID Ethiopia, and in partnership with Global Communities and International Development Enterprise (iDE), GOAL is co-implementing Resilience in Pastoral Areas - South (RIPA-S), a five-year Activity targeting pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in Southern Ethiopia. The purpose of RIPA is to improve resilience through improved food security and inclusive economic growth. GOAL uses a Market Systems Development (MSD) approach in livestock, crop, and financial systems to intensify and sustain pastoral and agro-pastoral production and marketing.

Livestock are a major source of food security and income for the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. The desert locust infestation and drought substantially reduced pasture and, consequently, the health and productivity of livestock. Movement restrictions due to COVID-19 and conflict disrupted markets by reducing off-taking (buying), resulting in larger herds. The impacts of these shocks caused livestock to lose condition (production, productivity) and market value, threatening the loss of pastoralists' and agro-pastoralists' main assets.

Between 2020 and 2023, and alongside a development livestock system program, GOAL utilized program **crisis modifiers** to assist pastoralist and agro-pastoral communities to cope with multiple and recurring shocks.



Commercial destocking is an evidence-based response to drought when livestock would otherwise deteriorate and die. It allows potential livestock losses to be converted into cash or meat. Reducing livestock in times of stress relieves pressure on scarce feed, grazing and water supplies to the benefit of remaining livestock. It can also create market linkages, between traders and livestock producers and is one of the most cost-effective drought interventions as it does not involve agencies directly purchasing livestock, but rather works with the market actors to support destocking.



Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS): LEGS are a set of international standards and guidelines for the assessment, design, implementation, and evaluation of livestock interventions, in support of people affected by humanitarian crises. GOAL used LEGS to implement commercial destocking for drought affected communities in Southern Ethiopia.



Commercial Destocking:

To respond to multiple and recurring shocks between 2020 & 2023 and using a commercial destocking approach to monetize assets before they were lost, reduce pressure on stressed pasture and protect remaining livestock/assets: 54,330 livestock (16,091 cattle & 38,239 sheep/goats) were sold by agro-pastoralists to traders, generating USD 8,456,581 in income for agro-pastoralists. USD 331,795 of donor resources was used to generate nearly USD 8.5 million in income for crisis affected agro-pastoral communities. This market systems development approach demonstrates how local private sector actors can support crisis responses, can amplify rather than replace market actors, can reach scale, and how we can use donor resources to achieve more when compared to direct delivery approaches.

	<p>54,330 livestock were sold by agro-pastoralists to traders (16,091 cattle & 38,239 sheep/goats).</p>
	<p>Generating USD 8,456,581 in income for agro-pastoralists.</p>
	<p>USD 331,795 of donor resources was used to generate nearly 8.5 million dollars in income for crisis-affected agro-pastoral communities.</p>
	<p>USD 149,042 income earned by other market actors from the sale of livestock at risk.</p>
	<p>USD 64,999 in revenue generated by the local Government from the sale of livestock at risk.</p>

Households used the income to buy **feed for remaining livestock, food for their family**, and to pay for **healthcare**.



Veterinary Services:

To respond to multiple and recurring shocks between 2022 & 2023 and by working with local market actors (veterinary input wholesalers, Private Veterinary Pharmacies and Community Animal Health Workers), 205,615 livestock (7,882 camels, 72,323 cattle & 125,410 sheep & goats) were treated to preserve critical assets for 16,040 vulnerable households using USD 408,863 of donor resources. Combining a market systems approach with a vouchers system demonstrates how private sector actors can support crisis responses, can amplify rather than replace market actors, can reach scale, can target vulnerable households and can use donor resources to achieve more when compared to direct delivery approaches.

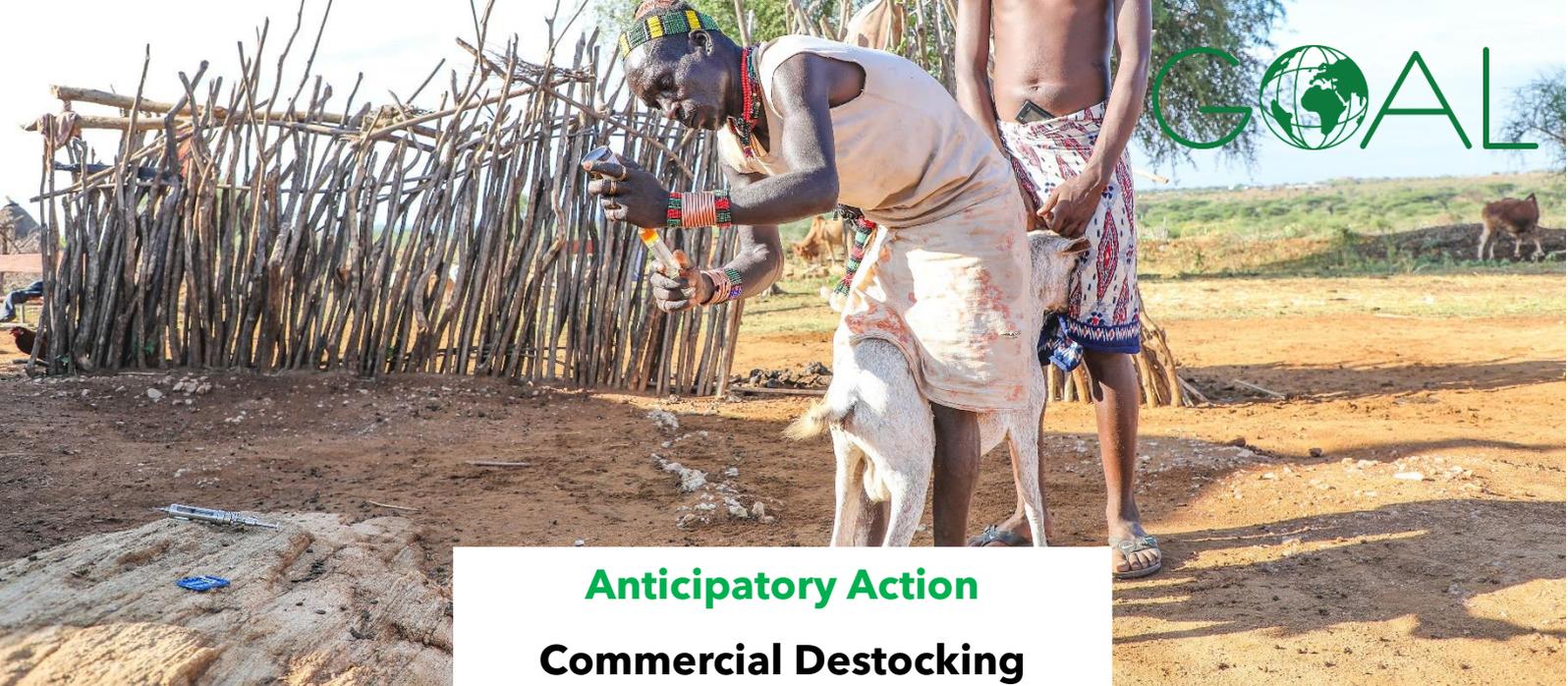
	16,040 vulnerable households identified by their communities (30% women headed).		
	Vouchers used to target vulnerable households with remaining livestock at risk.		
			
	125,400 Sheep & Goats	71,520 Cattle	7,760 Camels
	USD 613,712 of donor resources were used to treat 204,680 livestock twice.		
	USD 0.55/head	USD 3.7/head	USD 4.4/head
	Veterinary services were provided based on a business model.		

Wetaga Int. Pharma & Agribusiness PLC

Est. in 2013, Wetaga are an **importer & wholesaler** of veterinary inputs. GOAL and Wetaga partnered in 2021 to increase access to veterinary services by extending the supply chains to:

36 Private Veterinary Pharmacies engaged and each of them earned USD 1,080 from the provision of emergency veterinary services and

183 Community Animal Health Workers provide service on fee and each of them earned USD 482 from the provision of veterinary services to agro-pastoralists.



Anticipatory Action
Commercial Destocking

Date	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
# of cattle purchased by traders	2,199	NA	3,767	10,125	16,091
# of sheep & goats purchased by traders	NA	9,479	8,509	20,251	38,239
Income earned by agro-pastoralists from sale of livestock (USD)	516,730	324,623	2,142,456	5,472,772	8,456,581
Average price paid for cattle (USD)	235	NA	361	395	-
Average price paid for goat/sheep (USD)	3.86	4.55	6.60	6.55	-
Donor resources used to catalyst destocking (USD)	8,482	43,131	81,073	199,109	331,795
Income earned by other market actors from sale of livestock (USD)	40,202	18,521	No data	90,319	149,042
USD 1 of donor resources created USD 25.49 in income for agro-pastoralists assisting them to cope with multiple and recurring shocks					

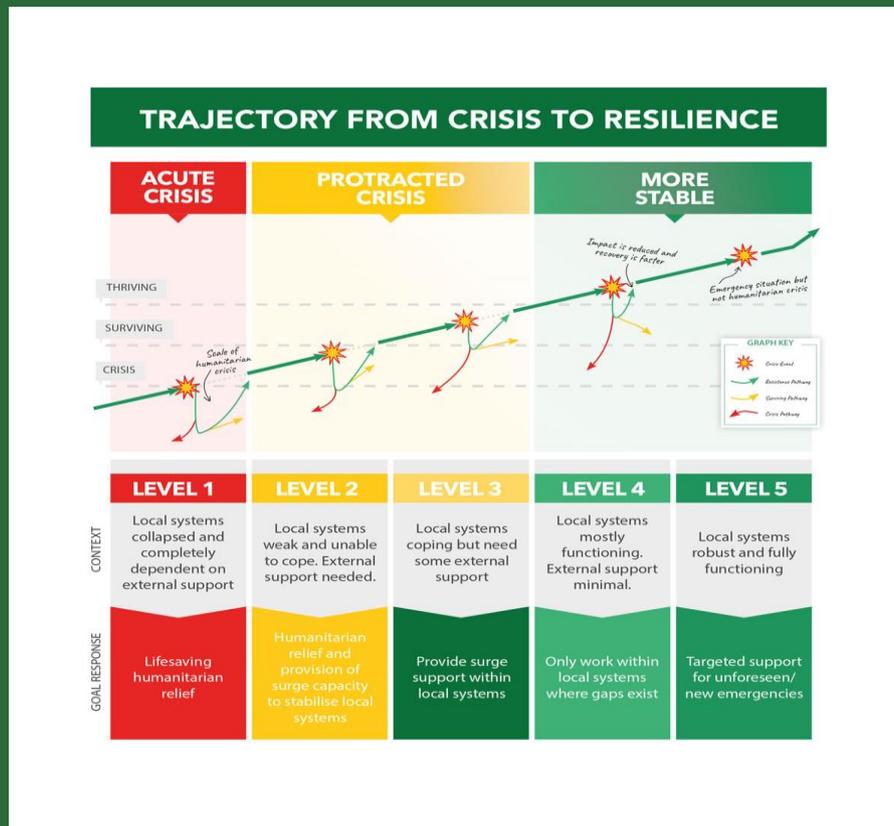


Collaborating, Learning and Adapting

1. Commercial destocking and treatment of remaining livestock is an example of **anticipatory action**, allowing assets at risk to be converted into cash prior to their deterioration, while assisting vulnerable households to maintain assets critical to households' ability to meet basic needs and to cope with and recover from shocks.
2. Working with market actors using a **business model** to respond to shocks sustains **local businesses** in **local markets** and contributes to **localization** through private sector partnering.
3. Vouchers assist in targeting the most **vulnerable households** within communities, while strengthening market actors' delivery of essential services
4. Multiple & recurring shocks allowed the team to test new approaches, learn, adapt and take to scale.
5. Market system approaches can reach **greater scale** with less resources, when compared to direct delivery approaches and protects gains made in longer term system strengthening programming.
6. Continue to monitor **early warning information** so that future responses are also anticipatory or early to assist communities to **manage shocks**, while strengthening critical systems and using donor resources more efficiently.



GOAL's strategic intent is to assist communities to move from **Crisis to Resilience**, providing life-saving emergency assistance and building resilience by stabilizing and strengthening systems.



References/ Citations:

- [Locust Invasion in Ethiopia: Scope & Impact, World Bank](#)
- [Shock Responsive Programming and Adaptive Mechanisms, USAID, 2017](#)
- [Drought response plan Sept 2022](#)
- [Livestock Emergency Guideline and Standards \(LEGS\)](#)

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