



# BENADIR LIVESTOCK PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION (BENALPA)

## A Report



## Emergency Responses to famine in Mogadishu and vicinity locations of Shabelle Regions

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## Introduction

Following on BENALPA findings during December 2010 survey, the conditions of the IDPs pastoral communities in and around Mogadishu were deteriorating, which had influenced BENALPA professionals to use its contingency and plan to take immediate measures to mitigate with the devastated impacts of the prevailing severe drought throughout the Shabelle valley regions (Middle and Lower Shabelle) and the related areas.

Large herds were either tracked or trucked (migrating) towards the city from November 2010, hoping that may get humanitarian assistance from NGOs, UN agencies and the Transitional Federal Government. Unexpectedly none of the mentioned agencies responded properly to the immediate needs of the poorer pastoral communities who desperately ended up with high food insecurity. Subsequently the pastorals lost their productive livelihood assets. The displaced pastoral families brought with them mostly with some very weak and lean cattle, few small ruminants and chicken and to some families with few donkeys.

Pastoral IDP families in Mogadishu suffered low food intake due to its shortages and access to it. Women and children were heavily malnourished and the HH were not even able to serve once per day regularly for its members.

Herders collect and buy cactus trees transported by carts from the shanty places of Mogadishu and surroundings, fried, cut into pieces and feed to cattle and camels. Both pods of prosopis trees and branches of Neem trees are collected and cut respectively to feed livestock species. Pastoral men and women also gather garbage and refutes from the markets and restaurants of Mogadishu to feed livestock species. Cattle and small ruminant herds are getting weaker and weaker and communities became hopeless. Therefore BENALPA have decided to initiate challenging the situations with a lunch of small scale emergency livestock species treatments in and around Mogadishu city. Benadir professional association provided and contributed to the necessary veterinary drugs and services, transport and other supporting logistics and coordination of the activities.

The specific **objectives** of the interventions were:

- To help mitigate partially with the devastating impacts of droughts that hit to pastoral communities in the Shabelle valley
- To help pastoral communities to save productive livelihood assets (primarily breeding cattle)
- To lobby and advocate for the drought affected Pastoral communities to recover and possibly cope with future adverse situations

In order to accomplish the specific objectives BENALPA carried out the following

### Activities:

- Awareness raising on animal diseases surveillance
- Livestock disease and production counseling and extension
- Livestock species treatments
- Local and international Media coverage for advocacy purpose
- Contacts with key community members and well respected persons

Veterinary professionals in Mogadishu organized themselves in two teams of four vet doctors/assistants each and employed two vehicles to carry out the planned activities in the outskirt quarters of wadajir and Dharkenley of the city and in the vicinity locations of L/shabelle and M/shabelle, where IDPs are also made temporary home for their families and livestock.

Specific locations that interventions made in L/shabelle were: Jasiira, Dhanaane, Jilib marka and El-qoryaale and M/shabelle: El-ma'aan, Aliyaale, Cisaley and El-adde.

Both Veterinary teams went together and started working in M/shabelle areas during the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of Jan. 2011 and then passed to L/shabelle where they stayed during the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of the some month and finally came to Mogadishu locations during 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2011. In all locations, teams conducted pastoral awareness, lunched extension services and treated livestock species against major diseases encountered. While the teams in Mogadishu also conducted advocacy and lobby to improve capacity of the pastoral community and its ability to better cope with future adverse conditions. During treatments process, locally purchased drugs were used.

### Results of the interventions could be summarized as follows:

Total HHs benefited from the interventions were almost 350, with a little over 1220 head of livestock species originated from different directions such as Baidhabo, Wanleweyne, Tixsiile, Buulo, Cadale , Aden-yabaal, Run-nirgod and even El-dher district of Galgadud region.

The interventions take treatments against gastrointestinal and respiratory infections, ticks, trypanosome, mange, dermatitis, bloat and wounds. Veterinary supplies and drugs contributed

by BENALPA consisted (Alpendizole 10% suspension and/or tablets, verabin, Ivamectin 1% injection, Ox-tetracycline 10 - 20% LA, Sulfamedici, Penstrapt LA and Trypamedium) added by free veterinary services and consulting were the main input used for the target communities.

**Table: Shows livestock species treatments**

Regions	Cattle	Camels	Sheep	Goats	Donkeys	Total treatments
Middle Shabelle	100	70	125	70	5	370
Lower Shabelle	50	60	60	50	6	226
Mogadishu	400	30	80	110	4	624
Totals (heads)	550	160	265	230	15	<b>1220</b>

Cattle were the most vulnerable species to drought impacts and mainly found concentrated in the city. Cattle and small ruminant were very weak and lean and suffered with different types of respiratory and gastrointestinal infections, worms, ticks, lice, blood parasites and skin diseases.

Pastoral families were disbursed in the outskirts of Mogadishu city and lacking basic services like food, shelter, latrine, sanitation, and perhaps security. They were very hungry and malnourishments were highly evident in the family members (especially children, women and elderly) of the pastoral IDPs.

## Conclusions and recommendations

It's the most horrible famine even experienced by the communities in the Shabelle Regions and in Mogadishu. Perhaps the political instability of the country aggravated the situations.

Hopefully the affected pastorals will deserve substantial humanitarian assistances from the Somali community in Diaspora as well as from international community to mitigate with the shocking situations prevailed in much of the South and Central areas of the country and also built up the capacity of the pastoral community to better cope with any future adverse condition.

BENALPA members, specially the extinguished chairlady made a call loudly for the ministry of livestock and international community to intervene the devastated situations before it gets irreversible and inherit human tragedy.



*Chairlady of BENALPA calling for immediate help*



*Veterinary teams in action*



*Veterinary team in action*



*Veterinarians monitoring animal disease situations*



*Veterinarians treating calves*



*Veterinarians treating calves*



*Veterinarians assessing disease situations*



*BENALPA Veterinarians offering drugs and counseling*



*Vet team visiting costal settlements*



*Veterinarians treating Donkeys*



*Veterinarians treating small ruminants*



*Camel and Cattle herds feeding roasted cactus*