

# Emergency Support to Vulnerable Pastoralist Communities (EMPASO II) Phase Two

## INTRODUCTION

VSF Germany has been working in Somalia since 2006, intervening through emergency as well as development initiatives. The organization has been using its strong network on the ground to change lives and livelihoods of vulnerable populations in Somalia. One such intervention was the “Emergency support to vulnerable pastoralist communities in Southern Somalia” (EMPASO) project, which focused on vulnerable pastoralists after a period of disease outbreak followed by a severe drought.

## GOAL OF THE PROJECT

The aim of the project was to provide appropriate and adequate humanitarian food assistance, including short-term food security and livelihood support, in Somalia. This was with a view to stabilising the livelihood base for vulnerable pastoralists by availing veterinary services and increasing food security by cash transfer intervention in order to increase livestock (asset) protection, and to free at household level, resources necessary to cope with the situation.



## KEY ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

- Rehabilitation of the identified community assets through Cash for Work Approach.
- 70 km of feeder road rehabilitated.
- 2700 m<sup>3</sup> excavated for water rural infrastructure.
- 1680 individuals increased their income by 15% during the hunger gap.
- Refresher training of CAHWs, veterinary professionals and pharmacies.
- Provision of animal health services by Veterinary professionals and community animal health workers where 13,898 HH vulnerable pastoralist received animal treatment package against vouchers.
- Livestock losses of the target population kept under 10%.



## SUSTAINABILITY

The network of pharmacists and CAHWs will be strengthened through the provision of routine animal health services to pastoralists, at the minimal fees charged to livestock owners. In between, any other animal health interventions will make use of these services already on the ground. Once in a while, refresher trainings will be provided by other actors intervening in the same field, thereby improving their capacity to offer animal health services in a sustainable way.

## SUPPORT NEEDS

Every other year, Somalia experiences severe droughts as a result of failed rains. The worst case scenario is when the drought comes after a major disease outbreak, as the two combine to expose the very vulnerable pastoralists, and many of them drop away from self-reliance to dependency on relief aid. In the event of such droughts, the vulnerable people need emergency interventions like the EMPASO Project; otherwise both human lives and livestock are lost. Such support can be channelled through VSF Germany, or any of the other actors on the ground.



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