



## **Strengthening Resilience to the Impacts of Climate Change in Borena**

In a world where climate change is an increasingly pressing reality, adaptation and resilience are crucial for the most vulnerable communities. In this context, Ayuda en Acción is proud to present its new agropastoral project in the Borena zone of the Oromia region in Ethiopia. This project arises as a continuation and expansion of our previous efforts, backed by the success and experience gained in prior projects funded by AECID.

The project, titled "Support for Pastoralists and Agropastoralists in Borena to Strengthen Their Resilience to the Impacts of Climate Change," has as its main objective to enhance the resilience capacity of (agro)pastoralist households to withstand the negative impacts of climate change and other vulnerabilities in the Borena zone. This project is part of a long-term strategy to build resilience in the market system in Borena, focusing on strengthening livestock production and diversifying livelihoods.

### **Present challenges, future promises**

In a context marked by recurrent droughts, food insecurity, and significant livestock losses, the need for action is urgent. This project is presented as a comprehensive response, addressing current challenges through innovative and adaptive strategies to support the most vulnerable and fragile populations in the region, with a special focus on women.

Drawing on lessons learned from previous projects, particularly regarding drought management, this new project addresses emerging challenges and critical needs of (agro)pastoralist communities. The project embraces innovation with a forward-looking approach. One of the highlights of this initiative is the implementation of [Index-Based Livestock Insurance \(IBLI\)](#), an innovative mechanism designed to protect (agro)pastoralists in drought-prone regions. This insurance provides a vital safety net in times of crisis, helping to preserve livestock assets and mitigate the devastating impacts of recurrent droughts. Additionally, a community-based digital early warning system is strengthened through the innovative mobile application Haburu, ensuring a rapid and effective response to emergencies.

**The proposed project is structured around three interconnected outcomes:**

- Strengthened market position of (agro)pastoralists in livestock value chains: By improving the competitiveness of primary cooperatives and their unions, we seek to increase (agro)pastoralists' access to input, product, and service markets, enhancing their financial capacity and relationships within the market system.
- Improved quality inputs, services, and resilient practices that increase livestock production: This outcome focuses on adapting the livestock production system, promoting private veterinary services, and stabilizing the supply of livestock feed, essential elements for climate change adaptation.
- Enhanced adaptive capacity of (agro)pastoralist communities to climate change: In this area, we promote the use of Index-Based Livestock Insurance (IBLI) as a risk financing mechanism, as

well as strengthening early warning and disaster response capabilities.

## **Empowerment and gender equity**

The empowerment of communities, especially women, is a fundamental pillar of our work. We promote the active participation of all community members in decision-making and the implementation of activities, recognizing the crucial role they play in building resilience.

Our inclusive approach not only aims to strengthen the economic resilience of (agro)pastoralist communities but also to address entrenched gender inequalities in the region. We recognize the importance of empowering women and fostering their participation in economic activities, as well as supporting those who have left pastoralism. Additionally, we work closely with local actors and other organizations to ensure the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of our interventions.

The agropastoral project in Borena represents a commitment to positive transformation in the context of climate change, food insecurity, and adversity. With a vision focused on resilience, equity, and innovation, we work towards a future where communities can thrive even in the most challenging contexts.