

# REPORT ON CURRENT SITUATION OF DROUGHT IN BORANA ZONE OF ETHIOPIA

Prepared by Mr. Kana Golicha

EMAIL: [kanaduba8@gmail.com](mailto:kanaduba8@gmail.com)

PHONE : +254724954105

**"Pastoralists Life Matters: A Call for Humanitarian**  
**Assistances for Borana Pastoralists of Borana Zones of**  
**Ethiopia, East Africa.**

## **Introduction**

There is a widespread food insecurity situation due to loss of crops, livestock and incomes driven by the severe drought in the entire Horn of Africa (WFP, 2022). Unless humanitarian assistance is quickly provided, the entire Horn of Africa region, including all the pastoral lowlands of

Ethiopia, is at risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) (Joint Statement, Horn of Africa 9 June, 2022). Humanitarian situation in Pastoral areas of Oromia region, Ethiopia has been significantly impacted by four consecutive drought seasons which led to significant deterioration of lives and livelihoods.

The Borana zone is among drought-stricken and most neglected areas where pastoralism is a mainstay for communities. Livestock is a source of income and food, a symbol of pride and social status for families in pastoral communities. The key inputs to livestock production (pasture and water) are heavily dependent on rainfall conditions. The current drought in Borana coupled with high food prices have seriously aggravated the already existing high level of chronic food insecurity of pastoral and agro pastoral communities.

A mass of livestock deaths is estimated at over 1.7 million reported and this is estimated to be more than ETB 12 billion (USD 23,076,923) economic loss (Borana Zone DRM Assessment Report, July 2022). Due to poor livestock body condition, the terms of trade between livestock market prices and consumable food items are negative for pastoralists, thereby limiting the purchasing power of pastoralists.

The pastoralists cannot fetch a good price for their livestock whilst there is an ever-increasing price of food items, fodder & veterinary drugs, etc. These have exacerbated already fragile livelihoods and resulted in critical food shortage and malnutrition. The availability of livestock products (milk, butter and meat) is very low, and thereby affecting the availability of nutritious diet for households and especially children and women are highly affected.

An enormous number of pastoralist households (over 17,000 HHs) lost their entire livelihood assets-livestock due to this catastrophic drought in Borana zone. This pastoral drop-out became destitute households with no alternative livelihoods and income. They have acute shortage of food and other mostly needed basic items. Majority of this segment of the communities are displaced from their villages and migrated to urban and peri-urban areas, looking for alternative livelihoods, jobs and/or humanitarian assistance. However, they lack technical and life skills to get employed in urban settings. Whilst, food, cash, shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs) are their immediate priority needs, they need multi-sectoral humanitarian-recovery-development assistants.

As oxen have died due to drought, agro-pastoralists have remained hopeless about their future crop production potential and some of them have started using their children as drought power, just like oxen. This lack of drought power will impede food crop production and limit food supply in the local market, thereby exacerbating food insecurity and starvation situations.

Despite tremendous need for humanitarian assistance, existing assistance from government and humanitarian agencies have been meager so far. Hence, this is a call for humanitarian assistance meant to bring the dreadful situation of the Borana pastoral community to the attention of national and global humanitarian & donor agencies.

Humanity is without borders. Let's stretch hands to Borana pastoralist of Ethiopia"

While spending hours each day searching for food and water and traveling long distances, mothers are sleeping on empty stomachs while they prioritize feeding their children first.

# PERSONAL Testimonies

Mothers from Ethiopia share their stories of survival and the Horn of Africa continues to face a devastating hunger crisis

## **1. Rufo, 26, mother of four daughters**



"We used to have more than 60 cows, but the drought killed them all. Our livestock were our only source of livelihood, our entire income depended on the cattle. Now I sell charcoal, not enough to guarantee us food."

**2. Qabale, 28, mother of four children**



"Since we lost our cattle, I am really worried about what to feed my children. Without the cows, life is really tough. I currently have to collect firewood to sell and feed my children. Most days I don't sell enough to buy food."

**4. Dhaki, 27, mother of four children**

"The main problem we are currently facing is water access. To get water, I must walk for more than four hours. I occasionally experience sore legs as a result of the long walks."

**5. Qabale, 55, mother of four children**



"Since we currently have nothing, our existence is at risk. Our sole source of income at the moment is from selling firewood, but selling firewood doesn't meet our needs.

We are in a very dire situation." Plan Plan International, Middle East, Eastern and Southern Africa - MEESA Plan International, Middle East, Eastern and Southern Africa - MEESA Middle Plan International, Middle East, Eastern and Southern Africa - MEESA Plan International, Middle East, Eastern and Southern Africa - MEESA Eastern and Southern Africa Plan International, Middle East, Eastern and Southern Africa - MEESA MEESA

**The Current situation can be explained by the below pictures**



**1. Mothers watching over their dead cattle.**



2. **One of** the affected children who is unable to stand.



**3. A photo of unidentified woman leg**



**4. Women accompanying donkeys at water point**



6. A child standing over a dead cattle.