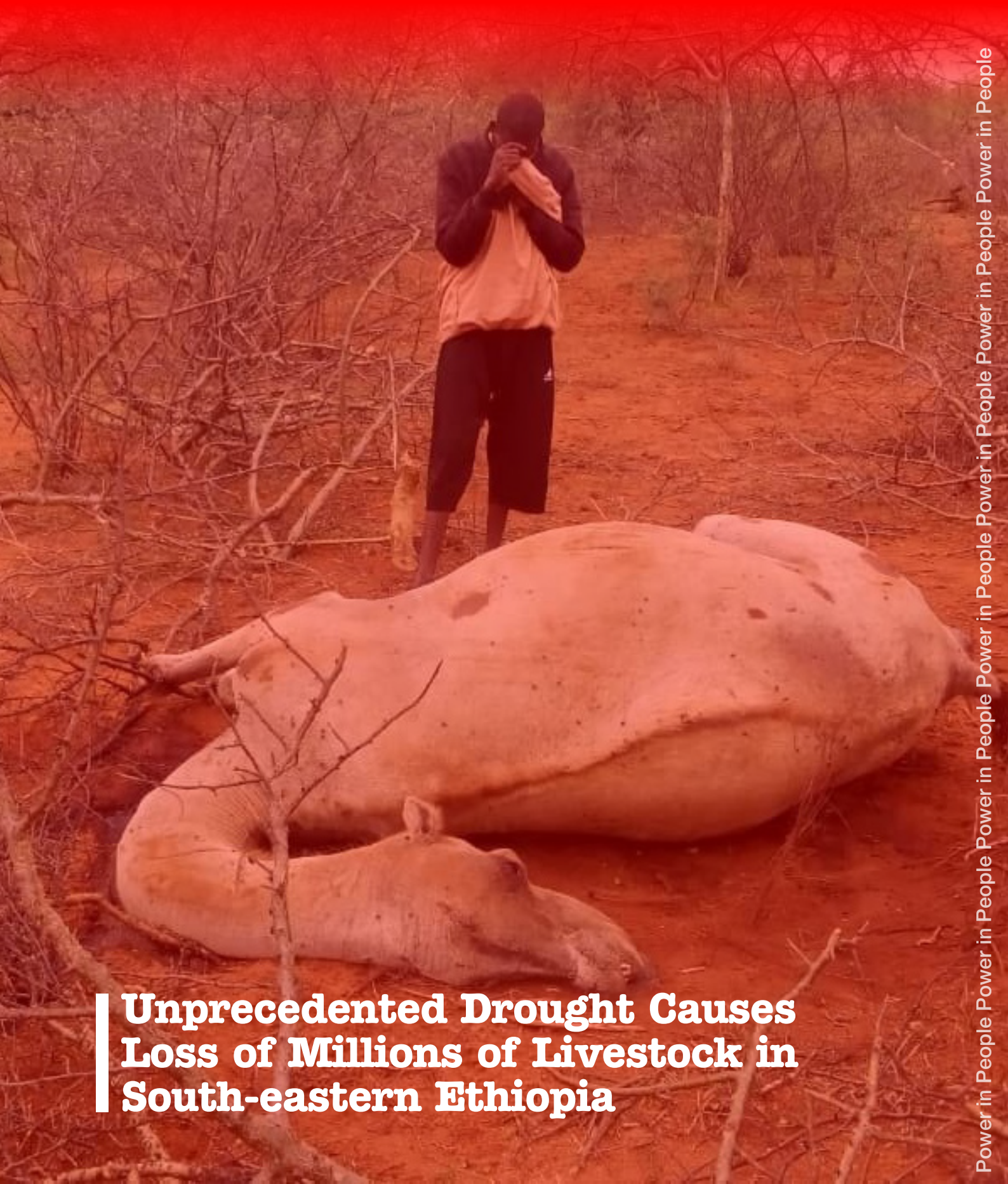


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Newsletter
Ethiopia Country Program

September 2022



**Unprecedented Drought Causes
Loss of Millions of Livestock in
South-eastern Ethiopia**

Unprecedented Drought Causes Loss of Millions of Livestock in South-eastern Ethiopia

- *ActionAid's Assessment Team for Response Plan*

Recent assessment report by ActionAid Ethiopia and partners revealed that millions of people in Southeast are severely affected by an unprecedented draught caused by climate change particularly sharp shortfall of March-May rains. These communities, predominantly pastoralist, have lost their means of livelihood. They already have lost millions of their livestock in Borana zone of Oromia and Dawa zone of Somali regional states of Ethiopia where AAE and its partner made the assessment.

According to the report, only in Borena Zone about 1.5 million livestock has died, 17 thousand households have lost hundred percent of their livestock and they require urgent humanitarian assistance. To prevent large-scale displacement, adequate and timely response is required to support households facing challenges in terms of food security and livelihoods. The support is needed in a form of cash-based assistance or in-kind, i.e., food distributions. Livelihood support should also be prioritized to protect household assets including provision of livestock fodder and veterinary service, the report indicated.

The humanitarian situation continues to worsen in drought affected areas and across sectors of intervention. During the first quarter of 2022, there has been an increase in the number of new severely acute malnutrition cases with more than 30,000 children being treated in health facilities compared to same period last year, according to the report.



The terms of trade for livestock sales have reduced by 40 per cent due to low purchasing and poor livestock conditions severely impacting households' income. Between October 2021 and mid-April 2022, more than 344,000 people have been displaced in search of water, pasture, and assistance, including 175,000 people in Somali Region and 139,000 people in southern Oromia Region. Community members mentioned that children's education is increasingly affected with school dropout rate increasing due to families migrating to better-off areas and due to lack of water sources at schools. Local authorities stated that more than 2,000 schools are closed including 1,800 schools in Somali, 334 schools in East and West Hararge zones in Oromia regions alone, affecting more than 682,000 students. Worsened by the drought impact compounded with limited water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions, there is a fear of water borne diseases like cholera in some of the drought affected areas.

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Adi Meliti Dida Kusa, is 58 years old widow, raising eight children (five boys and three girls) by her own. She is displaced from Medhecha Kebele of Dire woreda of Borena Zone. One of her children is attending in Bule Hora University.

She lost all her 78 cattle and 60 goats and sheep despite trying her level best to save the lives of the cattle by selling 30 goats/sheep and purchasing fodder.

As she was left with nothing to feed her family and to survive, instead of dying in the wilderness, she came to

Dublek where government and humanitarian organizations can reach them. She is trying to survive by selling firewood and production and selling of charcoal, however, as there is no market around, the income that she earns from the sale is not enough to feed her families.





Young People get Trained on Global Platform Concepts and Adoption

Tepi, Southwestern Ethiopia, July 2022

ActionAid Ethiopia in collaboration with The Inspired Ethiopian Youth Association gave two days long training on scaling up Global Platform to young people in Semen Bench Local Rights Programme (LRP).

The training, facilitated by young and experienced training facilitators, covered topics like Creating Space for young people to discuss their agenda, opportunities, and challenges, the essence of forming their agencies and solidarity, becoming agents in challenging social injustice and other social and life skills.



Moreover, during the training, participating young people were able to understand how the youth were understood and treated in communities, and the importance and concepts of women empowerment in bringing social and economic justice. The training facilitators conducted pre-test prior to the training and post-test after it to measure the gap of the training. The facilitators run the training in participatory approaches like testimonial group work demonstration, storytelling, role play and other methods that made the training useful by the participants. The post-test report indicated that the training has achieved its objectives. Thirty-nine young people (29 female) participated in the training.

ActionAid Supports IDPs in Northern Ethiopia

- Northern Ethiopia Conflict Displaces thousands



Representatives of internally displaced people in one of the temporary shelters discussing with ActionAid and Professional Alliance for Development (PaDET) management staff (Pic. AA Ethiopia)

Woldiya, June 25, 2022

ActionAid Ethiopia, in collaboration with Professional Alliance for Development (PADeT) gave support to 4,399 pregnant and lactating mothers that were forced to leave their livelihoods from Raya Alamata, Raya Bala, and Alama towns (Northern and Western Ethiopia, where internal conflict is underway since last year).

The support was given in cash and provision of sanitary products/dignity kit worth about £66,130. Prior to the support, representatives of ActionAid Ethiopia and PAdET paid visit to the different IDP (internally displaced persons) Centers to assess the situation and to reach on consensus that pregnant and lactating women would be the sole target of the support.

The right holders thanked ActionAid and PaDET for the timely support and demanded that they were still in dire need of additional shelter and food and asked other humanitarian organization to follow the exemplary support of ActionAid and PAdET

They mentioned that the targeting was perfect that it was participatory and gave priority to pregnant and lactating mothers. They were also content with the multipurpose cash support which many donors do not practice. The multipurpose cash support helped them to purchase items and goods which donors usually do not consider while implementing such humanitarian interventions.



A women-headed family in Jara IDP (Pic. AAE)

Agro-ecology Training and Support Transforming Women's Lives in Ameya LRP

Ameya, June 2022,

Wegene Berhanu 42 years old is a resident of Tumi Bino Sombo kebele in Ameya district. She is married and a mother of 5 children. Wegene is from socially outcast group of community. People from such group are economically and socially excluded from the community. Land, the main source of economic difference, has been unfairly distributed among community members. People like Wegene from outcast group have no farmland. As a result, their source of livelihood becomes dependent on very laborious

and low-income activities. Wegene and her husband have very small backyard and the family's economy depends on daily labor working for other farmers in rural area and hiring their children a yearly contract.

She used to practice preparation of inset (false banana) seasonally or occasionally for others and in return she took few in kind which is not enough to feed her family in a sustainable way.

Since its program intervention in Ameya district in June 2019, ActionAid has been working with local government



and community to change the situation of people living in poverty and the excluded. Wegene Berhanu was one of them organized in reflection action circle (RAC) group and she regularly participated in discussions and joined Chitu Saving and Credit Cooperative /SACCO.

She was given training on Agro-ecology and horticulture productions and supported with vegetable seed as a start-up. She produced and sold for birr 4,500 per one harvest. This enabled her to feed her children for at least two months. From the 10 avocado seedling she was supported with, 6 have survived and are growing well.

“ActionAid has just changed my attitude and helps me to start my business /chores rather than working for others. The water was crossing my backyard while others were using it for irrigation. Now we started using irrigation and produced vegetable in our small plot producing twice a year and irrigating my avocado plant during the dry seasons. Currently I have 6 improved avocado plants that will give fruit in the coming two years which is another opportunity to improve my livelihoods.”

I also participated in poultry productions and management training for three days and was supported with 12 chickens from ActionAid Ethiopia through my SACCOs. Currently, the chickens have started giving eggs are helping me for my monthly saving and feeding my family.”

ABOUT US

ActionAid Ethiopia, established in 1989, is a Gender Justice, good governance and poverty eradication organization.

In Ethiopia ActionAid works to challenge various forms of social challenges and build capacities to create empowered mass of communities especially women and girls living in poverty and exclusion to fulfil their basic needs, ensured redistribution of productive resources and build their resilience. We prioritize to work with Women and Girls and their organizations, networks, civil society organizations, national and local government and other allies to overcome gender inequality and structural causes of poverty.

OUR VISION

A just, equitable and sustainable Ethiopia in which every person enjoys the right to a life of dignity and, freedom from poverty.

OUR MISSION

To achieve gender justice and poverty eradication, by working with Women and Girls, people living in poverty and exclusion, their organizations and supporters.

OUR VALUES

Mutual Respect
Equity and Justice
Integrity
Solidarity with people living in poverty and Exclusion
Courage of Conviction
Independence
Humility
Excellence

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