

**Endline Program Evaluation Report  
On the Project  
To Improve the Empowerment of Women  
Pastoralists and Agro-pastoralists of Filtu  
and Cherati Woreda of Somali Regional  
State, Ethiopia,  
Phase II  
  
(Final Report)**



Charati woreda, Dare Salam Village women irrigation cooperative

**Submitted to:  
Pastoralist Concern**

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## Acronyms

BoWA	Bureau of Women Affairs
BoALD	Bureau of Agriculture and Livestock Development
BoE	Bureau of Education
CBO	Community Based Organizations
CAWHs	Community Based Animal Health Workers
Coops	Cooperatives
DK	Dignity Kit
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
IA	Impact Assessment
GTP	Growth and Transformation Plan
GVB	Gender Based Violence
H2H	House to House
HTP	Harmful Traditional Practices
FAL	Functional Adult Literacy
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IPSAS	International Public Sector Accounting Standards
KII	Key Informant Interview
LF	Logical Framework
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation Accountability and Learning
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
NCE	No Cost Extension
PC	Pastoralist Concern
SCC	Saving and Credit Cooperatives
SDK	Safe Delivery Kit
TBA	Traditional Birth Attendants
WASH	Water, Sanitation, Hygiene
WASHCo	Water, Sanitation, Hygiene Committee
W2W	Woman to Woman

## Executive Summary

**Pastoralist Concern (PC)** is a local CSO founded in 1995 by development professionals with pastoralist origins. The **VISION of PC** is to see ‘Improved livelihoods of the pastoralist communities of Ethiopia with sustainable trend and strong co-operation with communities sharing similar livelihood in the neighboring countries.’ The **MISSION of PC** is ‘to bring positive changes in the lives of poor and marginalized communities through implementing sustainable pastoralist friendly development projects, humanitarian interventions and action orientated research’. PC is registered with No. 0950 at ASCO on June 10, 2019.

The thematic intervention of PC include: Food security & livelihood improvement; Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH); Women Empowerment; Education and Health; Humanitarian & Emergency Interventions and Pastoralist focused research initiatives. In the past three years, PC in partnership with MMG has been implementing a project entitled "**Improve the Empowerment of Women Pastoralists and Agro-pastoralists of Filtu and Cherati Woreda of the Somali Region of Ethiopia, Phase II**", which is commonly known as ‘FOCAD-19 Project that is implemented starting from April 2020 up to June 2022 for 28 months through targeting respective beneficiaries, majorly women and girls from Filtu and Cahratie woredas in the Somali Regional State.

The project has been under implementation with the overall objective to improve the quality of life of women in the target region in general through supporting women’s economic, social and political empowerment. It focused on promoting and reinforcing the exercise of women’s rights, development of capabilities and active participation in socioeconomic and political endeavour through attaining the following results:

- a. Reduced rate of FGM by 20% in the target woredas through networked involvement of key stakeholders;
- b. Coordinated engagement of public authorities, religious leaders and Women's Affairs Offices in continued joint monitoring on Traditional Harmful Practices, particularly FGM;
- c. Increased active participate of women in decision-making spaces by 20% through improving economic independence, reinforcing self-esteem and leadership capabilities;
- d. Exchanged experiences on achievements, training and demand for spaces within the framework of March 8.

The project is designed to address the following five thematic interventions in the target two woredas, Filtu and Cherati in Liben and Afdher zones of Somali Regional State.

- a. Promoting sexual and reproductive rights of young women and adults through coordinating initiatives on reduction of HTP, protecting and facilitating safe pregnancy and delivery;
- b. Encouraging women to participate in entrepreneurship and gaining access to credit through organizing into women led cooperatives;
- c. Reducing women workload and improving participation in decision-making spaces through rehabilitating water points and strengthening water management committees;
- d. Improving women and girls’ access to education through promoting adult women literacy program and eliminating barriers leading girls to dropout from schools;
- e. Strengthening technical capabilities of partner entity and obligation holders through training on gender focused human rights implementation approach.

As the main intervention, the project focused on improving the economic status of pastoralist women through strengthening women led cooperatives in the sector of small-scale irrigation, livestock fattening & trade, credit and saving and men led cooperative in the metal and woodworks by improving access to entrepreneurship skills and working capital in the form of revolving credit fund. This is linked with interventions with focus on addressing problems related to Gender Based Violence (GBV), specifically HTP and FGM while the improving access to water and reducing women workload is considered as reinforcing interventions. Focus on improving women and girls’ access to literacy and enhanced participation in education and the provision of capacity building support for implementing partner and key stakeholders is given due emphasis.

The purpose of this endline evaluation is to assess the extent of attaining the planned results and identifying the level of achieving changes in line with the defined indicators throughout the project period. The evaluation involves assessing the extent of change in the livelihood and decision-making process of individual beneficiary and group level empowerment trend as a result of engaging in the project interventions. The overall process is facilitate generating lessons to be shared both internally and external with the purpose to serve as constructive recommendations in successive project design and implementation process.

In terms of methodology, quantitative and qualitative approach of data collection and analysis is utilized through applying household questionnaires, literature review, Key Informant Interview (KII), Focus Group Discussion (FGD), direct observation and case studies. The result of quantitative assessment was analyzed through the application of SPSS while systematic summarization is used in the quantitative analysis process. Finally, this report is prepared through triangulating the findings of quantitative and qualitative techniques with review results of reports and relevant project related documents.

### **Key Findings:**

#### **1. OUTCOME 1: Improved Sexual and Reproductive Rights**

- To attain this outcome, planned and implemented activities focused on awareness-raising workshop on GBV/FGM at various levels, developing and disseminating IEC material on GBV, economic alternative for FGM practitioners, training of TBAs and provision of delivery kits and celebration of March 8 with value driven motto. It also include training and transforming FGM practitioners into TBAs and alternative income generating activities through provision of donkey-carts, and undertaking mass-based awareness raising initiative on FGM, HTP and GBV related issues.
- At outcome level, the provision of donkey cart to transform FGM practitioners into alternative livelihood options enabled the former practitioners not only to cease the practice but also serve as community based anti-FGM promoters through sharing their experience and exposure to negative effects of FGM. The trained TBAs are serving in promoting safe delivery and awareness creation on prenatal and postnatal care and safety measures at women to women levels.
- The initiative of awareness creation and campaign on HTP, PTL and GBV at different levels enabled to reinforce coordination and concern from both legal and social entities towards the attainment of Sexual and Reproductive Rights of women and girls in the target woredas.

#### **2. OUTCOME 2: Women empowerment through improving access to cooperatives, entrepreneurship skill development and access to education**

- Establishing and strengthening cooperatives in the area of irrigation, saving and credit, livestock fattening and metal/wood works through training, legalization and licensing of cooperatives, and capacity building support reinforced with injection of working capital and equipment (solar pump for irrigation group and machineries for carpentry and metal works group) enabled reaching 80 women and 10 men cooperative members,
- The evaluation revealed that as the organized groups have acquired improved business skills with increasing trend of individual and group capital towards operating as sustainable business entity with capacity to withstand shocks and severe competitions in the local business interactions.
- Training of CAWHs and support in the promotion of livestock vaccination campaign has assisted in availing local capacities to prevent undesired livestock death while boosting self-confidence of trained volunteers to serve their community in regular trend.

#### **3. OUTCOME 3: Improving access to WASH and Education**

- The focus areas are rehabilitation of 4 water structures (Birkas) and establishment and training of water committees, reinforced with supply of equipment. In addition, promoting awareness raising on environmental protection incorporated COVID 19 related awareness raising initiative

towards prevention and protection target communities, as part of the effort in addressing social responsibility mechanisms during the epidemic.

- The evaluation result revealed that successful accomplishment of such activities as serving in facilitation emergency water trucking initiatives during the peak drought seasons on the top of initial intention to be used as surface water catchment spots during good rainy seasons. The report from respective woreda level water office indicates the potential of the four water points to serve 500 HHs in total (with at least 75 HHs per water point).

#### **4. OUTCOME 4: Improving access to Education**

- This focused on addressing the learning needs of adult women, particularly the members of cooperatives with the aim to develop literacy and numeracy competencies. To improve girls educational participation, there were construction of separate latrines and provision of hygiene kits for high school girls reinforced with tutorial classes.
- Accordingly, eight literacy classes were constructed supporting the provision of literacy-numeracy teaching-learning initiative for 80 women cooperative members, while the construction of sex segregated latrines in 4 schools facilitated girls' access to safe space with dignity that enabled to boost self-confidence to attend classes in regular trend without sense frustration during menstrual cycles to use toilets.
- The literacy-numeracy classes started building reading and computation skills and even enable to bring outstanding women with career vision to succeed up to college education. The promotion of tutorial classes for high school girls is facilitating the trend of self-confidence among girls to perform higher and achieve top scores in the national school leaving examination.

#### **5. OUTCOME 5: Training / monitoring and monitoring / evaluation**

- To effectively coordinate the implementation of planned project activities, the project focused on the importance of promoting staff and leadership capacity building of the implementing partner, PC and key partners. Such initiative enabled participating 60 persons (30 staff from PC and 30 experts from key partner offices) in capacity building training with focused on project cycle management, M&E and project financial management from rights-based approach.
- The training enabled the participants to improve efficiency in the process of implementing the project while reinforcing shared understanding and effective collaboration in all project engagements.

**In terms of the five element evaluation criteria, the following key points are derived to serve the executive to internalize the achievement of the project from such perspective.**

#### **Relevance:**

- The project is consistent with policy framework of the government and development approach of the implementing partner and operational directives of the funding agency while there is adherence in maintaining the needs and priorities of target beneficiaries in the process of planning and designing project interventions.
- The implementation strategy focused on the application of needs responsive innovative approaches with pastoralist friendly and climate smart flexible interventions with adaptability to vulnerabilities to undesired circumstances related to drought and conflict.

#### **Effectiveness:**

- The effort focused on empowering women through organizing into group and encouraging to engage in promising local business value chains in group-based involvement and responsibility sharing modalities. The organization effort led to gain access to group based working capital and/or loan which even could be used on individual business plan mechanisms.

- Access to loan in group/individual basis facilitated acquiring seed money to engage in locally feasible business interactions. This facilitated the coop members to investment on cost-benefit mechanisms either in micro value chain opportunities.
- Access to HH level loan enabled target beneficiaries to diversify source of household income from livestock rearing to alternative income generating activities through investing idle time in economically rewarding engagements.
- Transforming FGM practitioner into economically fruitful assignment. This encourage former practitioner to see for alternative while serving as village level promoters.

### **Efficiency:**

- The implementation process was coordinated through reinforcing with regular communication, review meetings and joint monitoring exercises.
- Operational linkage with line government agencies and community structures are maintained with the intension to strengthened with regular discussion and consensus building procedures. T
- his enhanced sense of mutual cooperation while facilitating the process of building trust and shared responsibility among project staffs and line office experts.

### **Impacts:**

- The contribution of women in life improving initiative is improving women to have strong decision making with economic upper hand in the household and strategies as well
- The target women are actively involving in economically beneficial activities. This proved that the women's access and control over economic assets with positive progress among household decision making process.
- The trend is playing a positive role in influencing follow men to appreciate the contribution of women in the process of asset building in a given household. The situation is contributing to the effort of changing the lifelong cultural attitude that overlooks the economic contribution of women.
- The creation of alternative income sources for FGM practitioners and this has been enhancing the attitude of fighting against the procedure of FGM and other forms of HTP. The situation is improving the level of confidence of women towards bringing GVB and ill-treatments of women to justice system and public forums.

### **Sustainability**

- The cooperatives are organized through meeting procedural guidelines and defined loan management procedure. This facilitated financial control and conflict handling mechanisms that might lead to collapse of entity otherwise.
- Cooperatives in the area of irrigation are gaining momentum to undertake cost-benefit analysis for sustainable integrated production alternative that combines crop with livestock feed requirements, in particular during emergencies.
- There is operational sustainability with capability to withstand seasonal shocks and unexpected challenging scenarios. Active involvement of line government offices, religious leaders and customary institutions in the promotion of anti-FGM practice and other women focused initiatives is ensuring sustainability of the intervention.

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Background Information**

PC has been implementing integrated development and emergency programs that include water development, primary healthcare services, pastoralist education, livestock health, gender development,

capacity building, NRM, income generation and asset diversification. In the humanitarian sector, PC focuses on supporting drought emergency response and resilience interventions.

As part of the strategic partnership with AECID and MMG in the promotion of long term women economic and social empowerment initiative, PC launched the continuity of FOCAD 2017 project with the title **"Improve the Empowerment of Women Pastoralists and Agro-pastoralists of Filtu and Charati Woreda of the Somali Region of Ethiopia, Phase II, which informally referred as FOCAD 2019.**

The aim of the project was promoting interventions related to strengthening women led cooperatives in the sector of small-scale irrigation, livestock fattening and marketing, credit and saving and men led cooperative in the metal and woodworks. It also focused on promoting activities related to improving access to water and addressing problems related to gender and gender-based violence, specifically Harmful Traditional Practices and FGM while assisting women in attaining enhanced literacy and numeracy skills and facilitating girls' effective educational participation and rewarding performance in areas with focus in the education sector.

The overall objective of this project is to contribute to the empowerment of pastoralist women in target woredas and specifically to reinforce community-based response to mitigate multiple GBV such as HTPs and FGM. The second focal intervention is improving economic status of pastoralist women while the third focused on improving access to water and reducing women workload. The fourth emphasized on improving women and girls' access to literacy-numeracy skills and improved educational participation. The final is the provision of capacity building support towards facilitating the implementation process with enhanced accountability and effective stakeholders' participation.

This final evaluation is performed with the purpose to assess, review and make logical analysis on the extent of attaining the intended objectives through identifying the level of changing trend in view of objectively verifiable indicators. The review involves assessing the extent of change in the livelihood and decision-making process of individual beneficiary and group level empowerment trend as a result of the project. The entire process is to lead towards generating lessons to be learned and worth sharing among key stakeholders to improve future interventions.

Thus, this evaluation is undertaken through examining the extent to which the expected results are achieved, trend of changes being realized, and impacts being observed in life and livelihood basis with sustainability of structures and operational modalities to ensure sense of ownership and long term derivation of benefits in scalable trend. Specifically, the evaluation focused on assessing view and perception of target beneficiaries on the extent of attaining the expected changes at individual household and community wide levels.

## **1.2 Methodology of the Evaluation**

The evaluation process utilized mixed methodology of quantitative and qualitative approaches through applying household survey as quantitative means while participatory techniques of engaging key stakeholders in the qualitative approach through the application of literature and document review, handling KII and FGD reinforced with physical observation and case studies on key success and critical challenges to derive lessons for sharing purpose.

The methodologies include review of literature and documents focusing on project proposal, field notes, periodic and thematic reports including financial utilization reports. Key Informant Interviews with government partner organization experts and leaders. PC project officer and program leaders, direct beneficiaries of the project and group leaders of cooperatives and former FGM practitioners. The review process involved consultative meetings and discussions among project staff and key stakeholders from government side. KIIs were made with different stakeholders including Woreda Women and Children Affairs Office, Water Development Office, and High school director and tutorial class participating girls while FGDs were undertaken with cooperative members & leaders that have engaged in the sector of irrigation, saving and credit and metal and wood works.

The quantitative approach employed HH interview through targeting at least 10% of beneficiaries from each of target engagement, such as women cooperative in irrigation, fattening, male metal and wood works group as sample representative of the entire intervention in the two target woredas. To ensure the incorporation of representative respondents from the two target woredas, proportional numbers of interview made in Charati and Filtu woredas. The overall effort enabled to incorporate 60 respondents in the household survey with equal rate of proportion while the ratio of male is kept to be 5%, as the project majorly focused on addressing women empowerment initiative with minimal focus on male as direct beneficiaries.

The quantitative household survey focused on collecting data from 62 respondents that are systematically identified from direct beneficiaries. The plan was to collect from 65 active beneficiaries with proportion of 33 and 32 from Charati and Filtu, The plan is to have proportional to size sampling with purposive approach. The cluster based sampling approach recommends taking 30 respondents per cluster for homogenous population of interest with 5% margin for data collection error.

As direct beneficiaries are homogenous in nature, the collected data is believed to provide consistent and valid results to make analysis from the entire direct beneficiary perspective on the basis of purposive sampling approach. The identification of direct beneficiaries for quantitative interview was made in consultation with pertinent project staffs working for PC at project operation field level. The result of the quantitative result is analyzed in triangulation with findings from the qualitative process mentioned so far.

As part of the triangulation process, field level data collection was strengthened with physical observation and case studies with individual members to generate best lesson and promising experience gained throughout the implementation process. As representative of the target intervention area, the evaluation was undertaken through taking representative sample cooperatives from Charati and Filtu woredas.

## **2. Findings of the Evaluation**

### **2.1 OUTCOME 1: Promoted sexual and reproductive rights of young women and adults in Filtu and Cherati through coordinated work for the reduction of PTL and guarantee pregnancy and safe delivery**

At the end of the implementation period, the following outcomes are expected to be attained in successful trend.

- The number of reports on cases of GBV and HTPs will be reduced with double figure in comparison with the baseline.
- 1,000 adolescents and adult women have changed their perception of FGM with information on their rights;
- Coordinated work of authorities, religious leaders, women leaders and ex-practitioners of FGM.
- Increased number of FGM dropping practitioners by double through sensitization and provision of alternative livelihoods.
- At least 35 trained traditional midwives started using delivery kits in coordination with community-based health system.
- Women's Affairs Offices of the two target woredas started maintaining coordination with authorities and technical offices on issues related to women's rights protection.

To realize the intended outcomes, there were 11 activities planned to be undertaken under this project. The review process analyzed the implementation of activities under outcome one as discussed below.

The initial activities focused on awareness raising workshops were held at various levels starting from kebeles to woreda levels through involving community members, government office staff and local authorities. The objective of these workshops focused on gender mainstreaming, equity and equality, inheritance and early marriage, HTP & and FGM issues that affect the living condition and rights women. The workshops enabled to participate 46 people (19 females and 27 males) from the two target woredas. The participants were from WAO, health, Justice, education, admin, police offices and Sharia court as well as representative of community representatives including elders, women and youth groups.

The workshops helped to build shared understanding on Islamic views on FGM with clarity that the Islamic principles as not supporting the practice of FGM. The religious leaders and cultural representatives clarified the right of women and the protection they have within the religious and cultural values and norms.

The strategies employed include house to house and women to women discussion including reaching remote kebeles in the target woredas to address localities whereby FGM is practiced being hidden from law enforcement organs. The discussion were led by women facilitators to create free spaces to express their views and perception on cultural taboo ideas. The discussions were supported through a coordinated engagement of PC field offices and WAO leaders and experts. The visits covered seven target kebeles in the two woredas through reaching 815 women participants in 12 sessions throughout the project period.

The third activity was also focused on promoting awareness campaigns with focus on participating authorities, religious leaders and women elites on PTL. The initiative has been positively changing community level attitudes, perceptions and assumptions on FGM. This phase enabled to involve 400 people (214 females & 186 males) in the two target woredas. During the third phase of the project period, awareness campaigns of FGM participated authorities, religious leaders and women through reaching 6 selected remote kebeles in Filtu and Charati woredas. The total participants were 790 people (303 females & 487 males).

As revealed through the quantitative survey result, the indication is the existence of dramatic reduction trend in the promotion of practice related FGM, as 83.3% of respondents from both target kebeles responded the practice as being reduced in the project target kebeles, as a result of a coordinated engagement of all stakeholders through the mobilization exercise of project office of PC in respective woredas.

However, the participants of KII and FGD indicated the prevalence of FGM practices in periphery kebeles, as there is no awareness raising and community mobilization effort in hard to reach localities in both target woredas.

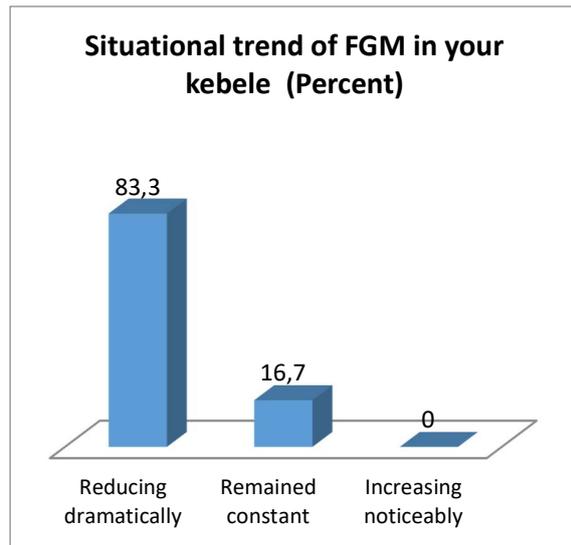


Chart 1: Situational trend of FGM in your kebele

Further discussion helped to reflect whether the reduction is related to complete cease of the practice or still performing in modified approach. In this regard, almost all participants of the qualitative assessment process reflected the existence of modified practice in the form of cutting the tip of clitoris. The main reason for the maintenance of cutting the tip is to adhere to the principles of Sheria, as the local community follows the Islamic school of thought that reinforces the importance of cutting the tip as part of fulfilling religious obligation. As this issue is a debatable principle among the Islamic scholars, it is difficult to rule out their perception and promote the non-importance of even touching the tip.

Irrespective of such attitude, the majority of respondents and participants of the qualitative assessment reflected the positive value of passing through the modified procedure in comparison with the usual procedure of FGM, which associated with lifelong health and reproductive complications. They mentioned the difference between the former and modified approach during delivery, as those passed through the modified approach have no problem in maintaining safe delivery and ensure non-occurrence of post-delivery complication, which is common among those passed the formal FGM procedure.

The fourth activity related to creating awareness at the zone level through focusing on HTP and related GBVs, divorce and inheritance related unequal distribution of assets and mistreatments that affects lives and livelihoods of women and girls. This enabled to participate 40 peoples (23 females & 17 males) from government offices and local authorities. Such intervention is associated with the effort of disseminating IEC material against gender violence through printing and distributing 670 FGM focused leaflets in connection with March 8 ceremony. The leaflets were prepared with simple term local language substantiated by graphic pictures to create understanding for non-literate people.

The FGM practitioners focused awareness raising workshops were held with the aim to sensitize on the approaches to cease the practice through transferring their livelihood basis to alternative means, such as donkey carts. The initiative enabled 40 former practitioners (20 from each target woredas). The former practitioners undertook in depth training on the consequences of FGM in relation to reproductive health and psychological impacts as well as legislative prohibition of such practice. The practitioners realized the place of practicing FGM as source of income from cultural, religious and legal viewpoints and vowed to cease the practice through engaging in alternative livelihood means. As part of the transformation initiative of FGM practitioners to alternative income source, the project purchased and distributed donkey with carts for former FGM practitioners with the aim to build household asset that would enable to change income sources to socially and economically sound alternatives.

The quantitative assessment raised issue related to whether former FGM practitioners that have been covered through the initiative of transforming into economically feasible and social acceptable activities, are still performing the practice.

As could be noticed from the next chart, the percentage of respondents with doubt is about 7%, while the majority believes that those covered through project initiative have not returned back and resume FGM practicing on the reason of their own. Some of the respondents have limited information in this regard, which is equivalent to about 7%.

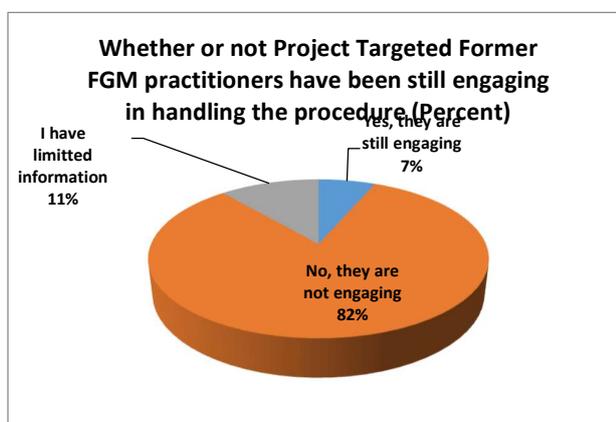


Chart 2: Resuming of FGM practice by former practitioners

The qualitative assessment went in depth to identify the performer of still prevailing procedure of cutting the tip of clitoris and in this regard, almost all participants indicated as such procedure is being performed by those unaddressed through project intervention and living in the periphery localities either through taking girls in unnoticed approach or calling the practitioners to some relative residents. As most of the community members still believe on the importance of such minor procedure, the effort of bringing to legal proceeding is not positively appreciated, as the women affairs office head of Filu woreda indicated. Similar attitude is reflected from the religious leaders and participants of FGM in both woredas.

The training of traditional birth attendants was intended to support the prevailing shortage of trained midwives and appropriate sanitation facilities to attend deliveries in rural areas. The engagement of TBAs supported the reduction of maternal deaths and pregnancy related complications. The training covered 20 TBAs, 10 from each woreda for 7 days with the objective to improve community-based pre and postnatal services. The training was facilitated by professional midwives working in respective Hospitals through applying theory and practical training methodologies including demonstrations and role play.

Topics covered include anatomy and physiology of the genital organs, menstruation and ovulation, physiological changes during pregnancy, prenatal care during pregnancy, hygiene and sanitation, complications during childbirth, care postnatal care of newborn and mother (e.g., vaccination), breastfeeding, nutrition, birth notification (reports) among the others. TBAs will present a monthly report, which will present queries about high-risk women to the nearby health centre or hospital; while the health facilities supervise the activities of traditional midwives and supply the necessary materials that are not included in the kit provided to the midwives.

The trained TBAs are participating on awareness creation on FGM & other HTPs that affects women. They are main actors in process of house-to-house FGM awareness creation discussion. They are bridging communities with health facilities that enabled to increase institutional delivery at different sites through effectively utilizing their advice and supporting the midwives by utilizing the provided safe delivery kits (SDKs).

In terms of Trained TBA contribution, the respondents of the evaluation indicated the existence of strong engagement in pre-natal and post-natal follow up serving as contact referral points in their village and neighborhood. The level of engagement in supporting delivery is assured by 21% of respondents while 16% indicated TBAs involvement in home-to-home awareness raising and still about 18% have certain level of doubt on the proper engagement of trained TBAs in their respective localities.

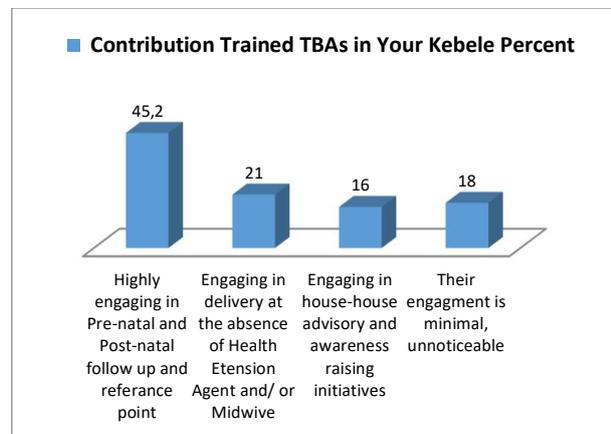


Chart 3: Engagement of trained TBAs in voluntary action

The discussion held with some of the trained TBAs through KII approach also reinforces this reality, as there are some of the trained TBAs still showing minor presence in the community due to temporary migration as a result of the negative influence of recurrent drought.

The celebration of March 8 was organized as special event in each target woredas and the region capital, Jijjiga through participating political and community authorities, project beneficiary representatives. The events were celebrated decorated with distribution of special purpose printed T-shirts, hats and anti-FGM leaflets. The community based social response intervention also

focused on sponsoring International Women's Day celebration on March 8 through distributing promotional T-shirts and caps. The celebration was used to facilitate bringing together influential people including political and community leaders to discuss with women groups on the basis of 'think equal, build smart and innovate for change'.

## **2.2 OUTCOME 2: Improved organization and participation of women cooperative, entrepreneurship and access to credit**

The indicators of success and planned activities under this outcome focused on organizing irrigation cooperatives and livestock cooperatives in in Cherati and Filtu target woredas respectively. It also focused on increasing animal health service network and reinforcing animal health workers. The establishment of two groups of entrepreneurs in carpentry and metal works with the active participation of women. The provision of essential materials, tools reinforced with injection of working capital and revolving credit fund was part of the initiative. The establishment of cooperatives is associated with training and granting of credits to the pastoral women.

The establishment if irrigation cooperative was reinforced through provision of training on managerial, leadership and business skills and legalizing through preparing and signing cooperative bye-law in the form of agricultural cooperative. The training was focused on both managerial and technical skills including irrigation scheme management, pre-and-post harvest crop management including value added crop and market value chains.

The selection process was undertaken on the basis of community driven criteria (such as poor FHH) led by selection committee comprised of people from women affairs, cooperative promotion, Agricultural offices and PC representatives as well as members of community elders, youths and women groups. The women led cooperative owns 4 hectares of farm plots with accessible to fuel pump-based irrigation along both side banks of Web River, the river that crosses Charati town to Dollo-Ado being originated from Bale mountains. Additional support includes purchase and installation of fuel engine irrigation pumps with capacity of 16.18 KW. The 2 generators were divided to the two irrigation women groups working by both sides of the river bank.

On the top of this, the cooperatives were supported with land preparation to serve as developed scheme of irrigation activities and construction of water supply canals for the irrigation schemes and purchase and distribution of necessary seeds such as onion, cabbage and carrot. The cooperatives were also supported with purchasing and distribution of necessary agricultural hand tools.

The other economic empowerment initiative is the establishment of new livestock cooperative in Filtu woreda. Accordingly, one animal fattening cooperative consisting of 20 women members is established in Malkahagar kebele, Filtu woreda. The kebele was selected on the basis of potential for livestock development while the selections of women beneficiaries were undertaken on the basis of discussion and consensus building with pertinent government counterparts, such as WAO, LPDO and Coop office.

The member of the coop participated in training programs focusing on animal fattening and fodder production, business management and record keeping as well as rules and regulations related to coop group formation and integrity mechanism. To reinforce the coop with adequate working capital, seed money was provided through facilitating the opening of bank account, stamp and receipt printing and signing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among PC, Coop, PLDO and WAO. The seed capital of ETB 272,000 was given for the 20 members group in two installments after they voluntarily sub divided into small groups of 5 members. The seed capital enabled the group members to individual take the loan and involve in shoats fattening business. The process of legalizing was undertaken in line with the prevailing coop regulations.

In terms of prioritized benefit, the participants of quantitative survey compared the benefits the members of cooperatives gained access to working capital in the form of credit fund, which is witnessed by 40% of respondents, followed access to training and capacity building by 32% and access to working space and equipment by 28%.

The participants of qualitative assessment indicated the importance of access to credit fund that enhanced their potential to integrate in the market value chain, which had been dominated by men merchants and value chain actors alone.

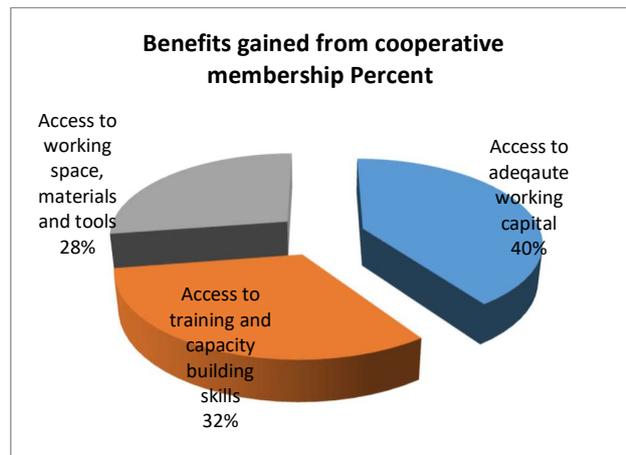


Figure 1: Priority of benefit from cooperative

To strengthen the veterinary service provision in the target woredas through training and supply of livestock drugs, the project focused on training of CAHWS and equipping with basic kits. The initiative enabled to promote mobile animal health service with user friendly veterinary service provision for pastoral HHs. In view of this, the project addressed the training of 20 CAHWs (10 per district) through mobilizing more female volunteers that are believed to have strong commitment to serve the purpose.

The training was undertaken for 7 to 10 days through focusing on animal vaccination and treatment process. The trainings were facilitated by expert from livestock office who took TOT training and conducted similar trainings for other organization in the area. The project supported the provision of veterinary equipment to CAWHs and promotion of vaccination and treatment campaigns in collaboration with respective woreda LPDOs.

The contribution of CAHWs in addressing community level needs in the process of livestock vaccination and treatment is increasing as the result of training and equipping CAHWs through project intervention. This is evidenced by more than 75% of target respondents of the HH interview.

Those with the perception of no change, even after the support of the project in training CAHWs is evidenced by about 16% of respondents while those with the believe that there is decreasing and deteriorating trend of service is remained to 8% of participants.

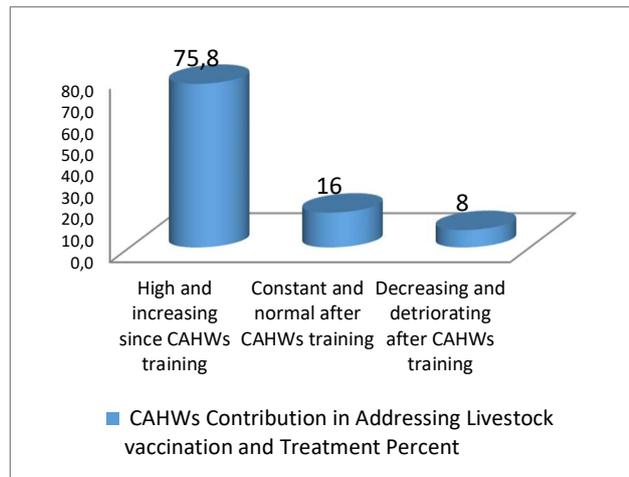


Chart 4: Contribution of CAHWs:

The establishment and strengthening 2 groups of carpentry and metal works comprising of 10 persons, out of which 2 are females in each woreda making the total members to 20 with 4 female members. This is mainly focused on the importance of job creation for urban youth through training in both technical and business management aspects in collaboration with cooperative promotion offices. The established groups were supported with the necessary tools function that supports effective functioning of their daily works. The equipment included welders, grinders, cutters, drills, generators, wood processors, routers, saws, carpentry tools and metal tools, fire extinguishers, kits and mortars as follows.

The other women economic empowerment initiative is focused on strengthening existing two cooperatives through injecting additional fund to enhance the amount of capital reserved for the purpose of running revolving fund in effective process. the additional fund is to compromise the challenging scenarios related to high inflation and rising commodity prices that had been negatively influencing doing business as usual. In this regard a total of ETB 1,728,000 fund as incremental seed money for 80 women of the two cooperatives of Alfetah and Hawlwadag saving and credit cooperative of Filtu and Charati woredas respectively. The additional capital enabled each member of the cooperative to receive ETB 21,600 and enhance individual financial capacity to engage in more profitable business.

As the project focused on both establishing new and reinforcing existing cooperative, formerly established and functioning two cooperatives were supported with injection of additional credit fund with the intention to enable enhance working capital and cope with the escalating trend of inflation and market interaction.

In this regard, the result of quantitative survey reflected the level of increased capital enabling additional invest viewed by about 46% of respondents while the level of boosting self-confidence in value chain interaction as a result of additional credit fund is reflected by about 34% of target respondents and still 20% of respondents reflected on the value of the additional credit fund in paving ways to look for untapped business opportunities.

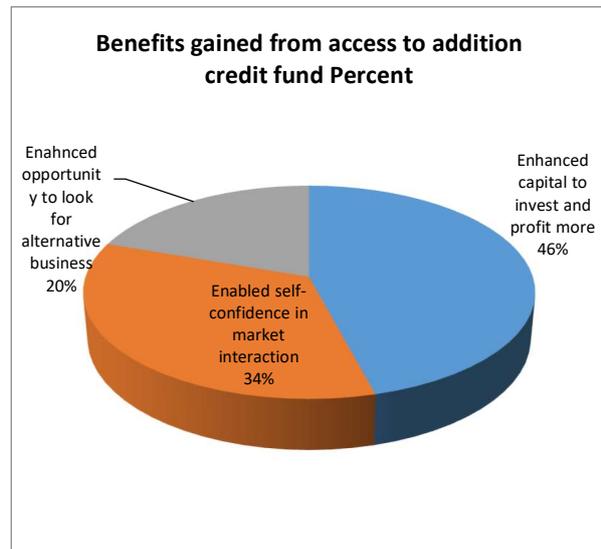


Chart 5: Benefit of access to additional credit fund

### 2.3 OUTCOME 3: Reduced workload of women and increased participation in decision-making through rehabilitating water points and strengthening water management committees

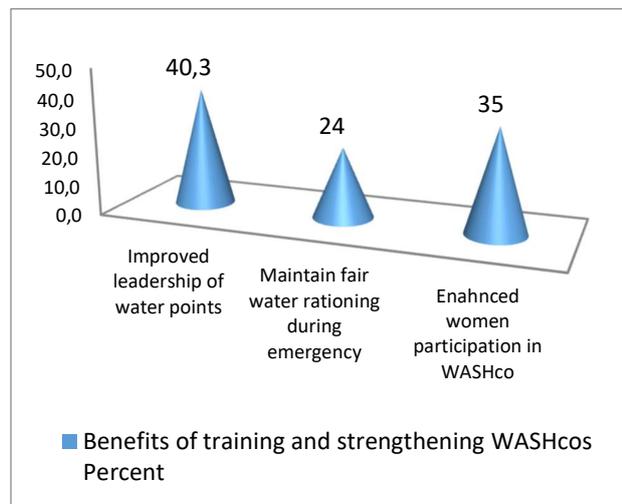
To address the problem of access to water, the project supported the rehabilitation of four water structures. The rehabilitated sources were those damaged due to lack of proper maintenances and leading pastoralist HHs to travel long distance to seek water for human and livestock consumption. As women are responsible for supply of water at HHs level, they suffer from additional workload during the time of drought and scar.

Accordingly, the project supported the rehabilitation works of 3 Birkas and one hand dug well (HDW) in the two target woredas. The selection of these water sources was handled through the discussion and consensus building process among water development offices and women and administration offices. The rehabilitated water points enhanced the opportunity of serving as emergency water trucking deposit sites serving about 16,843 people (7,010 women and 9,833 men) in the target kebeles. The service helped to improve access to nearby water that contributing to the reduction of women workload on the one hand and improve hygiene and sanitation on the other.

To ensure sustainable utilization of the rehabilitated water points, the project supported the establishment and strengthening of water committees. The committee also serves as sanitation and hygiene coordination committee and awareness creation on at community level on proper management of water facilities. The training involved 40 participants comprising of WASHCo members and care takers with 60% women involvement in the committees. The training included the rights of women and their specific needs in terms of participation and inclusion towards enhancing active participate of women in committee and gradually incorporate their strategic needs and interests. The initiative also incorporates the provision of hand tools and water treatments materials to serve hygienic water usage practices at HH level.

The contribution of promoting training and strengthening of WASHcos is improving leadership of water points, as evidenced by 40% of respondents followed by those indicated the value it contributed in enhancing the participation of women, as evidenced by 35% of target respondents.

The importunity of maintaining water rationing during the emergency water tracking initiative is indicated by 24% of respondents. The entire assessment result indicated the reflection of target women in gaining value in the leadership team of various social committees including WASHco.



The participants of qualitative assessment reflected the place of women and their responsibilities in the process of providing water to the entire family as well as some livestock, such as recently born and those cattle weak to travel to water points. The scarcity of water during the period of drought and prolonged dry season burdened women with additional workload including fetching and collect water from faraway places. This in other turn paves ways to increasing vulnerability to risks of GBV and disruption from attending classes for girls in particular.

The supply of water to communities in consistent with prevailing national and regional policy directives. The facilitation of access to water sources through reinforcing community based leadership initiative is considered as one of the value adding exercises to rehabilitate current buildings, but not in operation. This also preserves communities by avoiding daily commuting in search of water.

## 2.4 OUTCOME 4: Improve access to education through promoting women focused adult literacy and elimination of barriers leading to girls 'dropout

With the objective to improve literacy-numeracy capacity of target women, the project focused on enrolling and facilitating the participation of in literacy teaching-learning initiative. It also focused on promoting safe hygiene practice of adolescent girls through support school girls with dignity kits. This further reinforced through the construction of quality hygiene and sanitation infrastructures for girls in four selected schools, two per target woreda.

The intervention under this outcome is started through constructing and furnishing adult literacy classes in 4 kebeles per the target woredas. The adult learning classes were also supported with education materials and furniture including combined desks, black board, and chalk with the aim to increase the attendance of women in adult education and lessen the differences between the positions of men and women as a result of being literate or not.

To this end, the project has established 16 adult literacy centres both districts that enabled to participate totally 506 women (237 in Charati and 269 in Filtu). The project paid top up for adult literacy facilitators that uses literacy-numeracy teaching-learning curriculum that was jointly prepared by district educations offices and PC team. The participation of women in these classes is expected to enhance their influence in the struggle against political, economic and social deprivation of rights.

In this regard, the result quantitative interview indicated the benefits of participating in literacy classes as having remarkable value towards improving reading and writing competencies among adult women in general, and those in group leadership in particular. This is witnessed by 60% of the interview participants followed by 17% those indicated the importance of literacy classes in improving meaningful engagement in economic and political process while about 23% reflected on the value of literacy towards improving negotiation skills towards making informed decision.

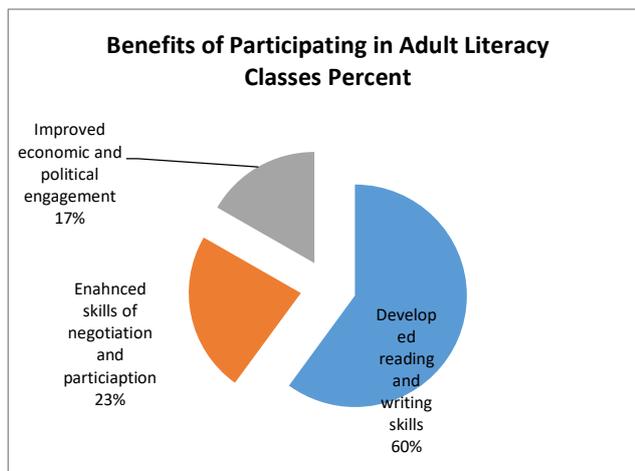


Chart 6: Value of participating in literacy classes

As part of promoting access to educational participation, the project supported girls' tutorial for 9th and 10th grade with the aim to improve girls' performances in the class and achieve passing scales in national examination that will enable to join college and universities to assume career development in comparable with boys. The tutorial classes involved high school students from Grade 9 to 12 and enabled participating 246 female students with focus on key subjects, such as Mathematics, English, Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Economics on the basis of their preference.

To reinforce quality of education from girls view point, the project supported the construction of sex segregated latrines in 4 schools. The initiative encourages girls' effective attendance, reduce dropouts and while improving participation and performance in classes as there is facilitated access to toilet and dignity space during menstrual cycle. The construction of sex segregated latrines have been contributing for the improvement of girls' friendly school environment.

The provision of hygiene kits for girl student attending secondary schools with the intention to enable them active participants in the class reduce negative coping mechanisms among girls coming from resource poor HHs. The project distributed sanitary kits for 1,840 students selected from 16 secondary and primary schools. As the kits are prepared with special design to serve long period through washing and reusing, it improves sustainable access to dignity kits for pastoralist girls.

The promotion of long-serving dignity kits is a joint initiative in partnership with MELA for HER, a social enterprise involved in designing and manufacturing environmental friendly dignity kits that suits the needs of pastoralist girls and women. All the beneficiaries are feeling comfortable with the shape and pastoralist girls' friendly useability characteristics of the distributed kits.

The advantage of gaining access to reusable dignity kits is valued by target respondents and accordingly 30.6% indicates the importance receiving useable dignity kits in enhancing confidence of girls from resource poor HHs to attend schools without frustration and dropping from class during the menstrual cycle.

In general the value of having access to such dignity kits enhanced active and regular participation of girls, as evaluated by 42% of target respondents while about 19% reflected on the value of the kits in boosting girls confidence and still about 8% have limited information on the distribution and associated benefits of such kits.

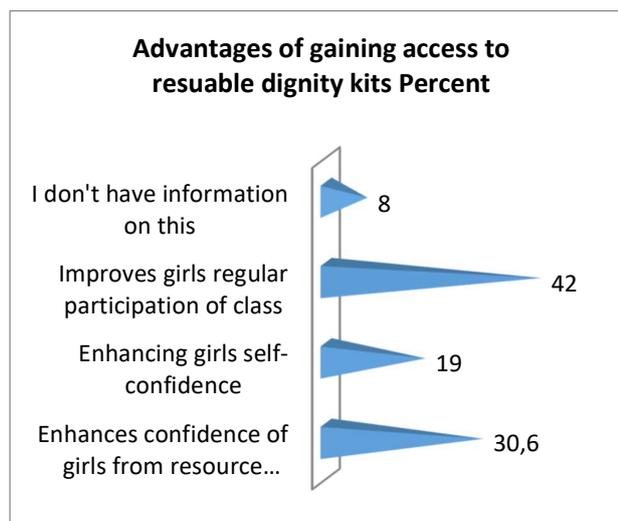


Chart 7: Advantage of dignity kits

## 2.5 OUTCOME 5: Strengthened technical capabilities of the partner entity and obligation holders in the field of gender and human rights

The promotion of interventions under this outcome is logically defied from the need to improve implementation capacities of the implementing local partner, PC in terms of road-mapping gender equality at work place and within the implementation target localities, improving financial and technical project management system through supporting system improvement, training and capacity development initiatives. The promotion of rights based approach implementation modalities within the implementing partner and local counterpart and members of the government agencies, the need for scaling up initiatives related to joint monitoring and quality assurance mechanisms is given due attention.

The initial intervention under this outcome is the training initiative in the areas of technical and financial management for PC staff. The financial area training focused on addressing the requirement of government on the application of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) as basic requirement for all organizations including CSOs. The training covered both field and AA levels PC staff on the updated financial management system in view of addressing IPSAS application throughout organizational accounting.

The training on rights-based approach enabled to participate regional level government partners including BoWA, BoEducation, BoALD, and PC staff members. The training boosted the understanding of respective participants what a human rights-based approach intends to address starting from conceptual framework up to ground level real application with the aim and orientation to promote and protect human rights in respect of analyzing the causes of inequalities as the center of development problems. The training was facilitated by consultant expert in human rights at Adam afro four days. The training was cascaded to woreda level by those participated in Adama workshop in the form of TOT. The cascading initiative helped to reach more audience and duty bearers working at respective woreda level government offices. The cascading initiative also paved smooth grounds for the effective exercise of joint supportive supervision through coordinated engagement of government and PC staffs.

## 3. Key Findings of the Evaluation

### 3.1 Relevance of the Project

The project is evaluated as maintain consistency with government policy and strategic direction in addressing gender and development frameworks. It is also in line with the strategic plan and gender policy

of the implementing partner and funding agency, MMG-AECID. Project objectives and interventions as well as implementing strategies are in consistent with the needs and priorities of target beneficiaries.

In the design process, due attention is provided to maintain strategic priorities in the areas of food security, cooperative formation, health and education. In particular, due emphasis is made to address climate change, sociopolitical conflict, economic and gender needs of women, youth and adults in the pastoral socioeconomic setup.

The overall objective of the project is to improve the quality of life of women in the Somali region with specific goal of supporting the empowerment of women in situation of greater vulnerability through supporting the promotion of strategies that would in particular enable women and girls to exercise their rights, ensure the development of their capabilities and enhance their active participation in society.

The intervention logics and objectively verifiable indicators focused on FGM reduction by 20% in the target woredas through networking and involvement of relevant agents of change including public authorities, religious leaders and staff from key partner, such as WAO. Improving women’s active participate in decision-making spaces is expected to increase by 20% through improving their capacities of engagement in economically self-reliance alternatives, reinforcing self-esteem and leadership competencies.

Thus, there is coherent of the intervention modalities with the needs and expectation of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist women of the two target woredas, Charati and Filtu in relation to socioeconomic empowerment through building resilience against vulnerability to drought. The project is appropriate in initiating innovative interventions that encourage key stakeholders to involve in the implementation process with active engagement.

**Table 1: Indicators Relevance as Prioritized by Respondents**

Indicators of Relevance		Frequency	Percent
1	Interventions meet beneficiaries’ needs & priority	25	40.3
2	Inputs are adequate in supporting beneficiaries’ engagement in relevant activities	17	27
3	Participation of beneficiaries is effective	12	19
4	Planning is cost-effective	8	13
Total		62	100

As prioritized by respective respondents, out of indicators of relevance, about 40% (25 respondents out of 62) indicates as the interventions meeting beneficiaries’ needs & priorities while about 27% (17 respondents out of 62) reflected that project inputs are adequate to support beneficiaries’ engagement in relevant activities. Thus, the project is evaluated as having relevance in meeting priority needs of target beneficiaries and addressing the inputs needs in the form of startup working capital, equipment and training towards building capacities and competencies.

### **3.2 Effectiveness**

Indicators of project effectiveness related to the attainment and achievement of objectives with the extent in delivering expected results to direct beneficiaries specifically and target communities in general. As the project focused on establishing new cooperatives, reinforcing existing functional cooperative through supporting with adequate working capital, training in business skills and legalizing as independent entity, the

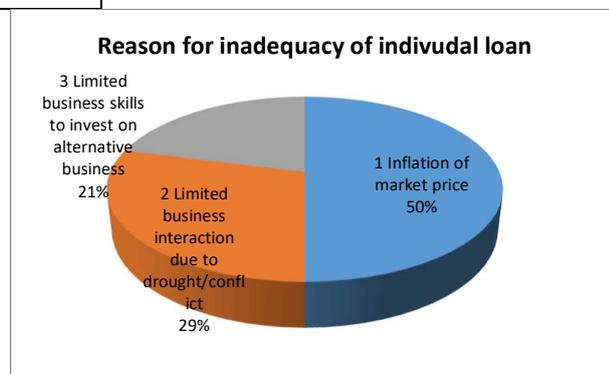
seed money enabled the members of cooperative to engage in promising business through investing increased capital and operate in the competitive business environment.

**Table 2: Adequacy of Individual Loan**

Individual Loan		Frequency	Percent
1	Individual loan is adequate to invest in promising business	22	35.5
2	Individual loan is not adequate to invest in promising business	25	40
3	Individual loan is satisfactory to invest in promising business	15	24
<b>Total</b>		62	100

As indicated in the table below derived from the result of quantitative interview, the amount of individual loan is adequate to invest in promising business as evidenced by 35.5% (22 out of 62 respondents) while about 40% (25 out of 62 respondents) reflected on the non-adequacy of individual loan to invest in promising local business and the remaining 24% believe as the individual loan is satisfactory, if invested wisely in alternative business depending on individual competency.

As reason contributing for the inadequacy of individual loan, the trend of increasing trend of inflation of market price is raised by 50% of target respondents while the prevailing drought/conflict is raised by 29% of respondents as challenging factor in limiting business interaction through investing individual loan. The prevalence of individual based limited business skills is as preventing the individual loan to invest in alternative business.



*Chart 8: Reason for Inadequacy of Individual Loan*

The project intended to enhance pastoralist women’s socioeconomic and political empowerment through facilitating access to resource and control over economic benefits while improving active participation in social and political engagements. The quantitative interview result in this case indicates that out of the total respondents, about three-quarter reflected the added value of the project in improving the decision making power of target women both at household and group levels. Such decisions include involvement income generation alternative business, utilization of income and dealing in business negotiation without the consent of marriage partner. The finding of qualitative assessment reinforces the existence of ever improving trend of women empowerment in individual and group based decision making as the result of capacity building support throughout project intervention.

The evaluation further revealed the prevalence of increasing trend of income as observed at group and individual member levels. This has been leading to continuous improvement of livelihoods of pastoralist women in the target project area. The findings of qualitative assessment further reflect that beneficiaries with involvement in alternative business as having promising opportunities to engage in alternative income generating activities through assessing existing potential source. The result of the evaluation indicates about 80% of target beneficiaries stated taking credit as a result of the project intervention in promoting credit scheme that is more friendly to the pastoral and agro-pastoral women. In pre-project period, most of them were afraid of paying back the money, as the system was not encouraging and local situation sensitive.

There is remarkable trend of development in basic competency of literacy-numeracy in terms of reading and writing skills. The participating of adult literacy class indicated as developing basic literacy and numeracy skills. In addition, there is a remarkable change in attitude and living skills as a result of participating in adult literacy, more than 85% out of those participated in adult classes witnessed as developed relevant life skills that had not been thought of before. This is observed during the field assessment as most of the participating women became vibrant in expressing their views, expressing the level of marginalization and women's right dimension in fighting prevailing discrimination and abuse of power.

### **Case Study 2: Developing Strong Group Capital**

*Alfataha women led Cooperative with existence in pre-project period, but within the trend of losing hope as the group capital was not quite enough to involve respective member engage in promising profitable business. As this project helped in injecting additional working capital, the individual members were enabled to having access to loan with the amount ETB 21,600. This enhanced group members confidence and effort encouragement to engage in more profitable scheme, including fattening and slaughtering business in the urban localities while those in the rural localities had enabled to think and invest on promising business interaction.*

*The fund encouraged the members to engage in goat rearing, cattle fattening, and petty trade such as mini-shops, buying and selling of consumer goods. The group members use the fund on individual and/or mini-group base in engaging in goat trading and other feasible business activities. Hawa Abdulrahn is one of the group leader of women led cooperative in Filtu. In her view, the credit fund encouraged most women to engage both individually and in a group based business. She mentioned the value of engaging in group based exercise as having strong potential to reinforce culture of saving and coping with the current influence in the local business interactions.*

*The saving and credit group members encouraged each other to involve in adult literacy learning process. The group cohesion led to shared decision-making process on the one hand while heling the process of realizing the value of literacy skills in leading business. Participation in adult literacy as mentioned by Hawa ' I was the initial participants in overcoming male domination and undesired stereotype. She further mentioned that the process of learning helped towards enhancing reading and writing competencies and enable to keep financial records and understand basic writing skills. The trend has been facilitating how to develop confidence and competency in dealing with turbulent market amd value chain interventions.*

### **3.3 Efficiency**

Efficiency in project management focuses mainly on cost, time and quality of delivery in completing planned outputs within budget, on time and according to defined specification. In this regard, the assignment of staff with required qualification and expected commitment in program coordination process with active communication, joint reviews and feedback. The engagement of line government offices, such as WAO, Cooperative promotion office and pastoralist and livestock development offices were remarkably high. The WAO head of Charati and Filtu woreda, in this regard reflected their view as the project is considered as part and parcel of their offices engagement, rather than considering as a project initiated by an NGO.

On the top of this, there was promising partnership among key stakeholders both from government and community level structures. This enabled to build strong sense of collaboration in the process of planning, implementing and monitoring process with trust-based relationship. Such effort helped efficiency in

generating the contribution of relevant stakeholders in responsible approach. The attainment of expected results is assured through providing orientation and training in cascading approach starting from head office level down to community level through targeting the needs and expectation of direct and indirect beneficiaries, in particular women and girls.

The efficiency in terms of project actual expenditure indicates the existence of financial transaction in accordance with budget plan though utilizing the total allocated fund economically and efficiently. The analysis of project expenditure against attained result indicates the existence of economic utilization of scarce resources from finance, human resource and logistics management perspective. The allocation of revolving fund in group based utilization approach reflects efficiency in allocation of project fund with the intension to attain sustainable change in coordinated engagement. This facilitated gradual building of group based capital that could be managed in users' friendly management system with ease of access for individual on the basis of working capital needs on rotation approach.

The application of regular reporting and maintenance of consistency in record keeping requires organized engagement and regular reinforcement. In the area of keeping proper documentation that will serve as a mother book to derive information and share among key stakeholders as demanded deserves paramount attention. Regular checkup of funds and proper reconciliation is an area looking for reinforcement to improve the efficiency of organized women cooperative.

### **3.4 Impacts of the Project**

The impact of the project reflected from the prevailing changing trend that appreciates women as capable group of the community in achieving higher economic, social and political upper hand. The trend is noticeable as the other of member of the community, in particular adult men and boys started providing due respect for the attainment dignified life for women and girls. This has been reinforcing towards gradual reduction of undesired perception on women position, as there is noticeable improvement trend among target women in actively engaging in economically rewarding business and socially recognizable interactions.

There is positive changing trend in household income with active engagement of women in business interaction that had been dominated by men in pre-project periods and areas uncovered through this project. The situation is leading towards the reduction of cultural stereotype associated with women, as the project encouraged women to be empowered economically and enlightened socially.

Access and control over economic assets through active involvement in women led cooperative and group based engagement in business interaction has been bringing up successful women as individual and in terms of group based effort. The trend is helping towards enhancing the acceptance of women as active partner in household decision making process and contributor for enhancement of household assets.

The changing trend could be witnessed as most participating spouse started practicing consultation in issues related to family affairs including household budget setting, decision related to children education and start of new business or scale up initiative. At individual level, a single woman is gaining improved business skills and business negotiation confidence. The ownership of business is enabling target women to utilize their extra time to invest in learning adult literacy to build skills of reading and writing to improve skills in recording business interaction and have the competency to analyze cost-effective business in future trend.

The target women have gained access to improved skills on irrigation management and high value vegetables production techniques. This is considered as encouraging initiative in facilitating women empowerment process. The provision of seed money to cooperative to be disbursed to individual members is serving as stepping stone to reinforce the culture of saving individually and in a group base. The trend will enhance group and individual members potential to develop own financial capacity towards maintaining sustaining source of fund to scale up business in the future.

The project supported the creation of alternative income sources for FGM practitioners through providing donkey carts to transform towards active promoters of active anti-FGM procedure. The transformation process is gaining momentum to enhance access to confidence building of women in promoting anti-GVB cases to ensure trend of improvement and dignity of life in women and girls.

### **3.5 Sustainability and Scalability**

To ensure sustainable operation of the establishment women cooperatives, adequate effort was made in developing working principles and by laws and fulfilling administrative and legal requirements to register and independent entity. This enables the leadership team to assume responsibility in maintaining operational mandate in post project periods. The registration of cooperatives at respective cooperative promotion offices enabled defining terms and condition related to loan management procedure, conflict handling mechanisms, financial management & control modalities.

The trend of ensuring sustainable is facilitated through supporting the practice of irrigation cooperatives in owning the system of operation through devising their own alternative production alternatives that incorporates the production of food crops in association of its utility for livestock resilience building instead of focusing on vegetables production, which has limited value in support livestock in the form of fodder from its residues.

The cooperatives have developed working procedures on how to manage their funds and handle loan to members that enables the members to use individually or in a group based business engagement. The group based engagement in the livestock value chain has been reinforcing the confidence of target women to have influence in the livestock market. This is providing opportunity to think in sustainable approach, as the fear of losing position in the market is treated with minimal risks.

The alternative business, saving for better investment through putting money for operation and maintenance, purchase improved inputs, materials and spare parts could be continue without interruption among the irrigation cooperatives and cooperative involving metal and wood works. This ensures the likelihood of continuity of operation in post project phases out period.

Pertinent woreda level line offices have established functional linkage with established and functional cooperatives and this will enhance the chance gaining technical and professional backup support in continuous trend. On the top of this the leadership team and most of the cooperative members have passed through successive capacity building training exercises.

In the sector of water, the constructed schemes is started on the basis of recommendation provided from the water development office in consensus with target community structures. This is reinforced through engaging WASCHCos in managerial and technical training events. As relevant stakeholders are involved starting from target identification and selecting the alternative scheme, sustainable utilization is ensured through reinforced community based ownership mechanisms.

Active participation of local women groups, elders and religious leaders are enhancing positive promotion of initiatives against FGM practicing. The involvement of law enforcement organs (courts, justice office and policy department) as well as health offices in community-based awareness creation on FGM and other forms of GBV is paving the way towards strengthening similar initiative through learning from such coordinated experiences.

The outcomes and promising impacts of this project have remarkable likelihood of continuity beyond limited lifespan, as functional integration is facilitated with cooperative promotion offices in line with prevailing workable government strategic framework. The expertise experience gained in the promotion of adult literacy classes has been encouraging woreda education offices to initiate similar initiative in some selected government schools. So there is a high potential to scale up similar initiative while reinforcing continuity of the ongoing literacy classes. On the top of this, the competency of some participants could be taken as internal potential to promote refresher mode of teaching-learning literacy among the cooperative members themselves. The initiative in girls tutorial classes is already taken as a promising initiative and is gaining higher focus from the education office through mobilizing teachers and parents.

The probability of functionality of TBAs to continue is being assured as there is operational linkage established with local level health posts. The provision of Safety Delivery Kits and engaging TBAs in refresher training is required to strengthen active and successive involvement in integration with nearby health service providing centers. Generally, there is strong sense of ownership in all sectors both from target community and pertinent line offices perspective on the top of created capacity technically with injected capital and materials support that would ensure sustainable operation beyond the termination of this project.

**Case study:**

***I feel Confident to lead my family in post-death of my partner  
The case of a widow woman in Filtu woreda***

*The FGD session made with line government office leaders from Filtu woreda indicates the trend of ensured sustainability as there is adequate preparation is made in creating sense of ownership at beneficiary group level with enhanced sense of responsibility at pertinent offices level to coordinate the established cooperatives and community groups in scalable trend. The group level motivational factor is believed as something attracting the women affairs office to visit women cooperative and anti-FGM groups on regular basis, as the women affairs office leader remarks.*

*The education office contact person for adult literacy in his part reflected the value addition generated from the initiative as the government office is scaling up adult literacy classes through assigning formal schools. In this case those facilitators that had been trained by PC are transformed to assume teaching literacy classes in government lead initiatives. Areas covered by PC are also taken as the initial starting point in the initiative of scaling up adult literacy in wider scale with the intention to address economically active adults enable reading and writing.*

*The case of Alfatah women cooperative in Filtu town is exemplary in changing the attitude of participating women not only from individual perspective, but also in reaching the entire family, in particular in providing strong support for girls educational attainment with commitment. Hawa Abdullah is one of the members that abled to support of the education of her children as single mother. As she mentioned, this could not be imagined after the death of husband, as he was the only person the entire family life had been depending on. Most of my family members had been feeling sorrow in expectation of expected shortage of livelihood support in post death period.*

*However, my engagement in the cooperative with gained access to working capital has enabled me to feel self-confidence to take the responsibility of leading my family in sustainable approach through maintaining relevant support including sending children to school and participating in all social events. Thanks to PC and funding agencies for making me confident enough even after losing my beloved life supporting partner.*

## **4. Change Trend and Success Histories**

### **4.1 Value-Addition Production Alternative**

Irrigation cooperatives are learning from their experience and started devising alternative and more economical production strategies. The production of corn to serve the consumption needs of either human or livestock, in case of rain failure and shortage of pasture is considered as value addition engagement. This also enables utilization of crop residues to serve as emergency feeding for livestock in normal rainy season. In the initial operation, the cooperative tried using irrigation plots to cultivate vegetables for marketing purpose alone. This has limited value in linking irrigation with the need to satisfy livestock feeding requirements in such drought prone and highly vulnerable localities.

The participants of FGD from Charati, Daresalam Village women irrigation cooperative indicated the efficiency of their decision in relation to changing the production of vegetables into maize, which was strategically designed after undertaking in depth analysis on value addition alternatives. As a result, the members of the coop have managed to reduce challenges faced by non-members in relation to feeding their livestock during drought times. This helps to reflect on the importance of taking due analysis from the initial step in planning locally feasible integration alternatives, such as integrating livestock with irrigation based production support initiative.

The empowerment process of women in relation to decision making is reinforced with training and capacity building supports with focus on value based production with dual purpose, serving human and livestock consumption needs. This is based on strategic thinking how a single crop may serve both purpose during normal production while still serving as mechanism of emergency feeding stock during drought and associated shortage of livestock feeding. So linking the irrigation-based production with availing fodder supply for livestock is considered as a wise investment that serves lifesaving from dual dimension, saving livestock towards saving human life, in particular women and children, the most vulnerable sector of the society.

### **4.2 Adult Literacy Improving Competency**

Adara Abdi is a 52 years old women and Ayan Ali is 20. Both are the members of irrigation cooperative started learning literacy-numeracy with the emergency of this project at their specific village. Both of them have not got any chance of access to education and had no skill of reading and writing. Engagement in the literacy-numeracy learning with courage and commitment enabled them to read and write public with confidence.

Without exaggeration, we can notice the attached FGD participants list taken down by the two women during the review exercise at their village. In this case, the name list is written by the younger learner, Ayan Ali, while the age (the numeracy part) is written down by the older lady, Adara Abdi. The coop group are in a position of having their own record keeper and accountant in the near future. In terms of vision, the younger one has the intention to join formal school classes and attain higher level achievement with strong dedication.

### **4.3 Tutorial Improving Educational Performance of Girls**

Charati Secondary and Preparatory School is the target school with coverage of support for girls' educational performance. As revealed through the KII session made with the school principal, Mr. Ahmed Nur Mohammed, out of the 912 total students, 403 girls are covered through the tutorial classes being supported as matching fund with that of education office initiative.

The contribution of the support, as the principal indicates, could be noticed from the successful performance of girls that took the national school leaving examination of last year. Out of 212 students that had set for the examination, only 14 students were unable to score the minimum passing mark and out of this, the number of girls were 2 alone. On the top of this, the second-best score is achieved by a girl, named Eqira Rashid Abdulle with 503 score while the top best score by a boy student is 523. The school principal added, the contribution of engaging high school girls into successive tutorial classes is remarkable significant in bringing the aforementioned success.

In relation to hygiene promotion, the support of the project in building sex segregated latrine and provision of dignity kits for girls from source poor HHs has contributed to diminishing trend of girls' school dropouts. The promotion of hygiene education also helped to enhance the understanding of boys and leading to change of perception on the menstrual management of girls.

#### **4.4 Economic Empowerment Leading to Improved Decision Making**

The Hawlwadag saving and credit cooperative of Charati with 40 women members is one of the exemplary women initiated and led group with remarkable achievement in business diversification and increasing trend of income and decision-making process. The group members are freely engaged in promoting individual driven business plan in accordance with their competency and preference areas, mostly involving in livestock related business activities.

The group was initiated with 20 members with the support of PC former project one & half decades ago and the resent project support is as part of strengthening the group through injecting additional capital and increasing the members up to 40. The increased capital enabled the group members to enhance their business engagement scale through expanding. The additional seed capital, helped the group to gain access to loan up to ETB 25,000 and regular monthly saving of ETB 200-250 depending on the availability of business interaction in relation to the erratic weather condition.

As successful contribution of the project, most of the members have reached the level of making sound decision both at HH and community levels. One of the exemplary members is Merkhab, a mother of 12 that engaged in slaughtering business. As she mentioned, in the initial stage of gaining access to revolving credit, she started collecting and selling shoats skins and as she started gaining experience in livestock related business, she launched slaughtering of goats and gradually enhanced her business to slaughtering of camels.

At recent times, depending on the market situation, she manages slaughtering of two to three camels per week while gaining net profit of ETB 3500-4000 per camel depending on the weight of individual camel. In this case, her monthly income is about ETB 14,000-16,000 per month to the minimum. She hired 2 permanent workers on the top of support from her children. The accumulated income enabled her to build a house that would serve to open big store and she is intending to diversify her business to food staff selling store in the coming few years.

There is similar trend in Filtu among the Alfataha women cooperative that engaged in livestock trade and other petty trading exercise. Most of the women are explaining their level of empowerment in deciding on the educational matters of their children, as they are the one supporting the education of their kids throughout school life. Economic empowerment has enabled them to have overhand on the process of deciding on the fate of their children, particularly girls, whether to continue college education or not, which otherwise is simple overlooked due to economic short hand.

#### **4.5 Alternative Income Source as Effective Transformation Initiative**

The transformation process of FGM practitioners into alternative livelihood options has been a debatable issue among anti-FGM promoting stakeholders. The experience of PC may serve as a proof that indicates properly managed transformation process as having dual advantage not only in helping former practitioners to cease such undesired practices, but to serve as motivational factor in engaging former practitioners as social promoters in the effort of building FGM free communities.

The case of two former FGM practitioners, Sahan Ziad, 36 and Ifra Mahali, 49 could be taken as proofing evidence. In the initial instance, both of them started learning the skills from friends and engaged as one of income source, whereby used to earn about ETB 100 per cases. This used to earn about ETB 500 per week on the average. The transformation process of FGM practitioners into alternative income sources, as alternative option, the project supported the practitioners through purchasing donkey carts. As mentioned by the two case presenters, the donkey carts are enabling to earn at least ETB 300 per day and this is estimated to reach more than ETB 2000 per week.

As they have access to permanent daily income, the former practitioners started to engage in social promotion through presenting the negative impacts of FGM on public and neighborhood-based discussions. The involvement of former FGM practitioners in the anti-FGM promotional exercises is serving as stepping stone in paving the ground to convince the public towards appreciating the importance of abandoning such traditionally embodied practices affecting the life and rights of humanity.

## **5. Challenges and Lesson Learned**

### **4.1 Challenges**

- The present drought emergency situation has been affecting the income and economic interaction of target community in general and project beneficiaries in particular. In relation to the expected achievement of the project, the negative influence of the drought is remarkably significant in reducing business and corresponding income while creating confusion and demotivation among actors. This challenges measuring success trends on the basis of initially defined objectively verifiable indicators.
- There is improvement of literacy skills at individual participant level. However, transforming such basic skills into useable record keeping trials is not gain due consideration. As a result, the cooperative leadership still within limitation of proper record keeping and data handling practices in organized approach through maintaining regular updates of transaction of individuals and group based engagement including financial records.
- Technical and professional support from pertinent woreda level line offices is still deserves special emphasis. The training and partnership engagement still demands commitment of the leadership of line offices and experts that provide on spot technical and professional support. As the project phases out there may be a challenging situation in maintaining regular support and technical assistance.
- Inflation and turbulent business trend have been affecting due plan of individual coop members after gaining access to revolving credit. The Filtu based cooperatives mainly raised the rising of price due to inflation and value chain blockage due to the undesired insecurity in the neighboring Oromia region.
- The project coverage is limited to pocket areas and few beneficiaries in comparison with the vast area of target woreda, as the periphery location are still facing problems related to FGM and GBV issues, irrespective of the overall integrated intervention.

### **4.2 Lesson Learned**

- The promotion of decision-making skills enabled the member of irrigation cooperative to undertake cost-benefit analysis and decide on more promising alternative engagements that enabled to integrate irrigation based crop production with livestock fodder security initiative. Such involvement is to be considered as a promising initiative in promoting the utilization of irrigation-based production towards improving the livelihood capital of pastoral households through insuring access to fodder during emergency situations.
- Woman as individual and women in a group are proving that women having the competency to engage in economically feasible business sectors and profitable value chain integration. This is disproving the lifelong prejudice that has been used as a pre-concert to discriminate women.
- The integration of access to literacy and tutorial initiative is serving to prove the competency of women and girls comparable to men, if gaining chances in equivalent treatment.
- Awareness on anti-FGM and HTP/GBV is transforming former practitioners into advocates anti HTP through learning from their own experience and exposure to undesired circumstance. Most of the former practitioners are reinforcing the effort of reversing the wheel towards shaping community based attitudes in a positive rights recognizing mood.

## **6. Conclusion and Recommendation**

### **5.1 Conclusion**

This project is a successive intervention following the completion of FOCAD 2017 project. It is based on the success, achievements and lesson driven from the former interventions. Thus, the planning exercise is undertaken through considering the replication of former activities in different localities and strengthening existing initiatives with promising progress, but deserving additional support. The design and implementing process is based on the initially defined strategies and analysis of results of the initial phase of intervention.

Target area identification and beneficiary selection was undertaken on the basis of the initial intervention through involving pertinent line office leaders and experts. In the targeting process, relevant stakeholders reached on consensus on the basis of available potential funds and capacity of the local partner to implement the intended intervention with due diligence.

The planning process also took into consideration findings of situational assessments on the recurrent drought that enables have a tendency towards climate smart production alternative, the promotion of irrigation as a significant intervention to cope up the negative consequences of decreasing production and vulnerability to loosing household assets, such as essential livestock. Accomplishment of planned activities is measured as ensuring the attainment of expected outcomes in line with indicators of success. There are promising change trend on the life and livelihood of target beneficiaries in particular and the entire community in general.

The project successfully attaining the intended objectives, as accomplished intervention in all sectors are reflecting remarkable indication of positive contribution towards realizing sustainable impacts. The lives and livelihood basis of target beneficiaries is in a trend of positive progress, as the initiative of establishing and strengthening women led cooperatives is paving ways to reinforce active engagement of women in profitable business alternatives through taking simplified cost-benefit analysis.

The project had injection additional working capital on existing cooperatives with the intention to boost their financial capability to engage in more competitive businesses that requires strong capital base. To meet such demand, the coop members are encouraged to utilize the former and newly injected fund in a group based investment. The motivation of group effort is reflected as enhancing confidence women to interact in the turbulent market with confidence and remarkable influence.

Successive training and capacity building initiatives has been showing improving women's decision-making competency through undertaking comparative analysis. The case women irrigation cooperatives could be considered as exemplary initiative indicating the potential of women in developing analytical skills towards taking informed decisions that would benefit and/or affect their earnings.

The promotion of adult literacy and girls' tutorial is proving the unexploited potential of pastoralist women and girls to serve as a means to change life and livelihood basis. It is transforming the prevailing dropping perception associated to women as sector of the community with limited competency towards the view of women as challenging the unchallenged through active engagement in literacy and formal school active participation.

The promotion of awareness creation on FGM and related GBV and HTP in combination with transformation support of former FGM practitioners is proving the importance of gaining incremental success with limited resource and area coverage, as the transformation of former FGM is indicating unimportance of the procedure from cultural and religious viewpoints.

## **5.2 Recommendation**

- The need to apply well designed MEAL framework starting from project design stage and proper consideration of findings in regular monitoring and joint review exercises in rolling plan approach. This will enable to see the progress of implementation process on quarterly base, while facilitating the report compilation in regular and procedural approach;
- There is a need to incorporate all FGM practitioners and TBAs in alternative income and livelihood support alternatives. This will encourage active FGM practitioners to withdraw the practice and resume alternative income generating engagement;
- There is a need to focus on regular coaching and mentoring support for women literacy classes, as the support of professionals will help to strengthen effective application and realizing of success in sustainable trend.
- There is a need to promote continuous training initiative in the area of business management, entrepreneurship skills development and financial literacy with the aim to enhance competency of coop members and leadership team in capital formation, fund management and scale up initiative.
- There is a need to reinforce procedural financial record keeping, documentation of planning and review sessions to facilitate the maintenance of knowledge management for future learning and successive improvement.
- There is a need to apply livestock insurance as a mechanism of protecting target beneficiaries from business risks associated with the frequent drought and minimize corresponding challenges in relation of quick restocking needs.
- The need to incorporate the time and procedure of graduation from direct support of PC and other associated CSO through defining proper phase out strategy and application modalities. Otherwise, the current beneficiaries are still coming with scaled up demands for more seed money that might be used to trickle up emerging resource poor HHs.