

## SUCCESS STORY

# Resilience building and creation of economic opportunities in Ethiopia (RESET II)



### EU Trust Fund for Africa – Horn of Africa



**EUTF PARTNERS:**  
ACF, IDE UK, DCA, Save the Children, CORDAID, CARE, VITA, OXFAM and IRC

**COUNTRY:**  
Ethiopia

**BUDGET:**  
EUR 46M

**From 04/2016 to 12/2020**

### Objective of the programme

To strengthen economic opportunities and resilience among communities that are most vulnerable to human-induced crises and natural disasters

### Key successes<sup>1</sup>

- > On average, pastoralist households experience 3.4 fewer months of food insecurity per year at endline compared to baseline
- > Percentage of births attended by skilled healthcare staff increased by 32% on average
- > Proportion of households saving regularly increased by 25% on average

The RESET II programme was a multi-sectoral programme composed of nine projects. It aimed to build on the achievements of its predecessor (the EU-funded RESET I) and to improve economic opportunities, expand coping capacities and strengthen resilience in communities across Ethiopia that are particularly vulnerable to crises caused by human and natural disasters.

The programme logic holds that improving long-term resilience can be more effectively improved through combined humanitarian and development efforts than by disconnected short-term emergency responses and development activities.



Nineteen-year-old Zahara Mohammed, a female youth who was supported with livelihood training in tailoring and material support to start a small-scale business

© RESET II Save the Children (Afar Region cluster)

*‘Previously, I thought that women were not supposed to do business outside the home as this was considered the work of men,’ says Zahara Mohamed, a beneficiary of RESET II livelihood support in Afar Region. ‘However, during the targeting and awareness creation process, the committee selected me to participate in the training. I now have gained new skills in tailoring and shop management, and I have received machinery and required materials for the services support. I am eager to have my business which is now my ambition.’*

### How did the EUTF help?

The RESET II programme targeted more than one million people in eight geographical clusters across five regions of Ethiopia (Afar, Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Somali) with measures aimed at enhancing economic productivity, improving food security and nutrition, and increasing access to basic services such as health and water.<sup>2</sup>

The programme interventions led to significant improvements in **nutrition, food security** and **access to safe water** across the targeted communities. For example, beneficiaries of the CARE-, DCA- and Oxfam-led projects all reported significant increases in rates of exclusive breastfeeding by mothers for the first six months of their baby’s life, from an average<sup>3</sup> of 59% at baseline to 86% at endline. These improvements can likely be attributed to nutrition training provided by the projects to pregnant and lactating women.



RESET II projects also implemented food security interventions aimed at improving agricultural yields and livestock health, including agricultural trainings, livestock vaccination campaigns, and material inputs (such as improved seeds and farming tools). This is likely a key reason for which **the average<sup>4</sup> number of months of reported food insecurity or ‘food gaps’ experienced by project beneficiaries over the previous year decreased** from 6.7 at baseline to 3.4 at endline. Furthermore, access to veterinary care for livestock increased from an average<sup>5</sup> of 27% at baseline to 83% at endline.

**Beneficiaries also reported improved access to safely managed drinking water** in the programme’s intervention areas thanks to water infrastructure construction and rehabilitation activities, from an average<sup>6</sup> of 45% at baseline to 70% at endline.

*Kada, a female beneficiary of a water bank constructed by the RESET II CARE project in Borana Zone, Oromia Region, observed that ‘the facility is of immense blessing for the community and has created access to water for both humans and animals’, and that moreover ‘the construction has reduced the time and labour of women and girls which was otherwise spent fetching water from distant areas.’*



An underground water bank at Dillo Woreda Chule © RESET II CARE (Oromia Region cluster)

<sup>1</sup> Referenced indicators were not measured by all projects, and therefore averages are not fully representative of the programme.

<sup>2</sup> RESET II Description of Action.

<sup>3</sup> These averages are compiled from available data from three projects.

<sup>4</sup> These averages are compiled from available data from two projects.

<sup>5</sup> These averages are compiled from available data from five projects.

<sup>6</sup> These averages are compiled from available data from three projects.

<sup>7</sup> These averages are compiled from available data from three projects.

<sup>8</sup> These averages are compiled from available data from three projects.

<sup>9</sup> RESET II, ‘Strategic Livestock Feed Reserve as New Source of Income and Coping Mechanism’, 24 February 2020. The average percentages at both baseline and endline include data from three projects.

<sup>10</sup> Cited in multiple RESET II ROM reports, e.g. RESET II ACF and RESET II Save the Children.

<sup>11</sup> From the RESET II Save the Children ROM report: ‘The adopted contractual, implementation arrangements appear complex. They are challenging and require additional efforts and are time-consuming at both consortium staff level and field staff level.’

**Significant improvements can also be observed in the proportion of births attended by skilled health care staff** in target areas, from an average<sup>7</sup> of 33% at baseline to 65% at endline. The programme contributed to these improvements by training healthcare staff and constructing, rehabilitating or equipping maternity wards in hospitals. Finally, three RESET II projects reported an increase in regular household savings, from an average<sup>8</sup> of 13% at baseline to an average of 38% at endline.

Finally, the programme contributed to reducing vulnerabilities and strengthening the resilience of rural women’s livelihoods across communities where it was implemented. It also addressed gender inequalities by promoting positive behavioural changes, tackling harmful traditional practices, and creating jobs for women in non-traditional sectors.<sup>9</sup>

## Keys to success

**Partnership building with local authorities:** This included the joint design (e.g. site selection of WASH facilities), implementation (e.g. capacity building trainings for health facility staff delivered by zonal health bureau officials) and monitoring of interventions (e.g. joint monitoring visits).<sup>10</sup>

**Experience:** Each of the RESET II projects employed a consortium approach that sought to exploit the respective expertise of the participating implementing partners, all of which also had extensive experience in their respective geographical area(s) of implementation. However, it should be noted that this approach also created some contractual and implementational complexities for the implementing partners.<sup>11</sup>

## Building on success

The programme aimed to ensure continuity and sustainability by involving target communities and local authorities in all phases of the project and by transferring key project outputs, such as constructed water points, to local communities early on. Moreover, multiple resilience projects are expected to cover many of the areas targeted by the RESET II programme, including EU-funded regional and country-specific programming, and the USD 326M World Bank-funded [Lowlands Livelihood Resilience Project](#) in Ethiopia, the design of which has reportedly benefitted from lessons learned from and shared by the RESET II team.



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### Disclaimer

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