

Enhancing Inclusive Community Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change induced shocks in Somalia

Final Narrative

Report



30th March 2024

Introduction

Action for Women and Children Concern (AWCC) Somalia is amongst local nongovernmental organizations working to support vulnerable women and children affected by poverty and crisis including climate change induced shocks in Somalia. AWCC Somalia worked with various organizations to implement projects ranging from resilience and adaptation to climate change to human rights advocacy.

Following a competitive process, Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) had awarded Action for Women and Children Concern (AWCC) Somalia in April 2023. The objective of this project is to conduct action-oriented research to inform communities, authorities and decision makers and develop effective mitigation and adaptation solutions to Climate change induced shocks in Somalia.

After signing the grant agreement, AWCC initiated activities including preliminary inception



Figure 1 Inception meeting

All meetings were gender sensitive and the venues had gender-segregated washrooms and were People with Disabilities (PWDs) friendly in terms of accessibility.

Achievements



Figure 2 AWCC presenter moderates community dialogues during inception meeting

The project being first of its nature despite it had been aligned with AWCC Somalia strategic objectives had contributed to community dialogues enlightening die-hard climate change skeptics through community dialogues.

Other project achievements include:

- Successfully completed inception mobilization meeting for community opinion leaders, local authorities, and CSOs (gender inclusive and with/without disabilities) to introduce and explain the project purpose.
- Held gender inclusive introductory orientation workshop on risks of climate change induced shocks in Somalia selected insight community, academia, women and youth climate change activists, and CSOs/NGOs participants
- Undertook assessment of climate risk assessment tools currently in use in Somalia, identify their strengths and limitations and use these to build an integrated climate risk assessment tool.
- Undertook meeting to triangulate and validate integrated climate risk assessment tool with CSOs/NGOs and academia.
- Undertook research/assessment on community perception on climate change, common climate risks, and compile recommended solutions for adaptation
- Held a validation workshop for key stakeholders findings and discuss actionable solutions to climate risks in Somalia
- Reported project progress and success (both narrative and financial) to ARA sharing all materials generated by the project.



Figure 3 A female participants presents at the plenary during the orientation workshop

Challenges

The general stereotype that human beings do not contribute to climate change posed a significant challenge. AWCC Somalia regardless that it has been involved in efforts to reduce effects of climate change, the communities' opinion leaders generally believed that climate change could merely be synonymous with historical disasters risks and as such, there was need for human action.

Access constraints due insecurities had hampered AWCC Somalia's reach to rural areas where the impact of climate change is more harsh and visible. The project coincided with a time of a surge of violence from extremist groups in most of the country and this has reduced efforts to reach out to the rural communities.

However, communities opinion leaders organized would continue impart the message with now there is an opinion shift because of the project.

AWCC acknowledges that high levels of illiteracy rates in Somalia must have contributed the general public knowledge of climate change despite the country continuously reels from climate change induced shocks in apocalyptic scale.

Recommendations

General focus of most organizations operating in Somalia, whether national or international lies on areas lifesaving and emergency response and these necessary and generous assistance despite helping communities in need do not resolve the root causes of the crisis. It is as such that AWCC Somalia recommends agencies specializing in

climate change like ARA to put more focus on Somalia through several means including support to grassroots movements and trainings.

