**Somalia Towards Reaching Resilience (STORRE)**

CARE International has been providing development and life-saving assistance across all regions of Somalia since 1981. Our programs go beyond meeting basic needs at the onset of an emergency to helping affected communities recover, rebuild their lives and become more resilient. Somalia Towards Reaching Resilience (STORRE) is 3.5 million USD project funded by the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** and implemented by CARE Somalia/Somaliland in Erigavo and Badhan districts of Sanaag region. The goal of the three years project (September 2014 – September 2017) is to strengthen inclusive resilience in households and communities in Sanaag region.

STORRE aims to strengthen resilience of households and communities in Sanaag region through a three tier approach – enhancing the human, social and economic capital of households; strengthening community governance structures and systems for disaster preparedness, mitigation and response; and adopting a learning culture to share knowledge and adapt livelihoods and practices. There are strong inter-linkages between the three purposes of the project which helps different interventions aimed to achieve a particular outcome to reinforce the achievement of another outcome.

The project uses well-established Climate Vulnerability and Capacities Analysis (CVCA) and Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation, Reflection, and Learning (PMERL) tools to help communities evaluate the risks they face, assess their own adaptive capacities and assets, monitor changes and progress over time in an inclusive, participatory manner and make needed adjustments based on learning. The project collaborates with Tulane University to test the theory of change of the project and research the effectiveness of the learning approaches of the project. The project works with village committees, village saving and loan associations, and pastoralist field schools to strengthen resilience of communities and households.

The VCs are the governance structures mandated to manage day-to-day affairs. VCs play a critical liaison role with the district and in the management of various social services. As far as this project is concerned, VCs will be supported to play an active role in a community-wide process of social analysis and action, including Climate Vulnerability Capacity Analysis and Participatory Monitoring Evaluation Reflection and Learning processes, throughout the life of the project, with key reflection activities (quarterly reflection and learning events where communities, with the technical assistance and facilitation of CARE, critically discuss progress of project activities and how to adapt to effects brought by climate change) targeted to the seasonal periods when men and women are in the communities and agricultural/pastoral activities are less intensive. In other words, the VCs will be closely engaged in the implementation of this resilience project where they will be tasked to link up with early warning and disaster preparedness agencies at district level, trigger safety nets and call out for external support during periods of shocks and stresses, monitor progress of implementation of Community Action Plans (CAPs, manage use of natural resources and common goods (e.g. water infrastructure), and gathering information and documenting for the PMERL process along with other community members.

The VCs comprise about 9 to 15 members with sub-committees. CARE plans to embed the EWCs in the VCs who will be designated with monitoring early warning indicators and sharing information with their respective communities, government authorities and other stakeholders.

Key achievements (October 2014 – September 2016)

* Robust community mobilization in all target communities articulating the resilience concept and expected project outcomes
* Stakeholder’s engagement workshops with village governance, government authorities and other stakeholders
* Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA) exercise in all target communities
* Rolled out Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation, Reflection and Learning (PMERL) process in all target communities
* Strengthened the capacity of village committees in leadership, conflict resolution and disaster risk management
* Formed and trained village saving and loan associations in savings and loans management, and book-keeping
* Rehabilitated rangelands, water resources and sanitation facilities through cash for work
* Strengthened linkages between village committees with district and regional government authorities, and national systems
* Nutrition and hygiene awareness sessions through village saving and loan groups
* Strengthened the capacity of village governance and district authorities in natural resources management
* Provided agricultural tools to vulnerable and small-holder agro-pastoralists to improve crop production
* Reflection and learning events for communities to facilitate sharing of learning and best practices