

"For poor and vulnerable people like us difficulties are boundless, and can create a sense of powerlessness, while identifying a dream begins to revive people's life of recovery and self-reliance and that was what exactly happened to my family with the support offered to us by APCfC and DCA for which my family is very grateful."
Wario Sora, one of the individuals supported through the Multipurpose Cash (MPC)

Beyond Saving Lives

This case story was prepared by The Association of Pastoralist Community for Change-APCfC based on information gathered from selected program participants supported through the humanitarian assistance project entitled “Support to Drought affected communities in Dillo Woreda, Borena Zone with Multi-Purpose Cash and Survivor-led responses” implemented from June-September 2023 funded by DanChurchAid (DCA).

APCfC had obtained full consent of those people whose stories and pictures are used in the compiling of the case story. Therefore, information and pictures used in this case story template can be used by others for non-commercial purposes and for seeking more resources to support community development and humanitarian interventions.

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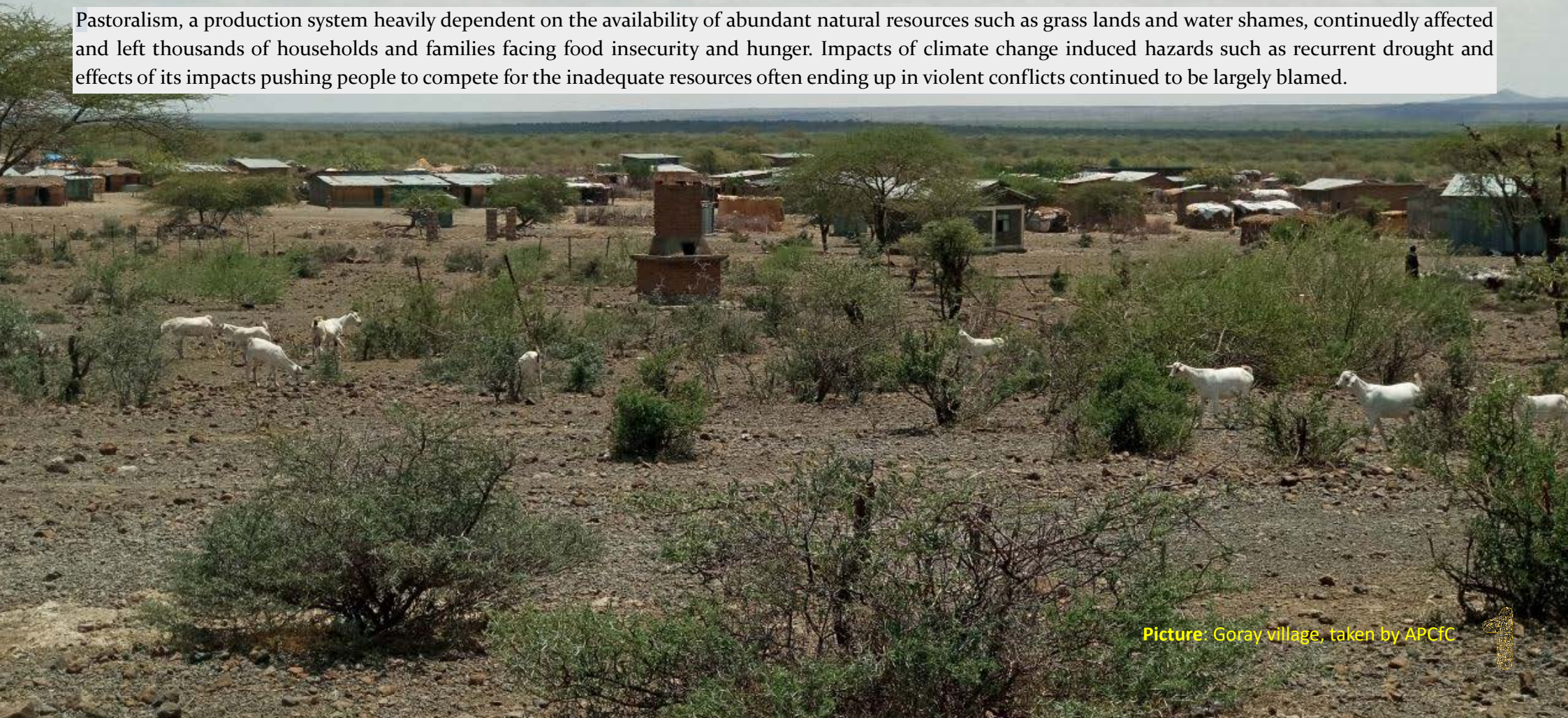
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Goray kebele located at the borderland separating Dillo Woreda of Ethiopia and Dukana District of Northern Kenya. Data obtained from Dillo Woreda Busa Gonofa Office shows that Goray Kebele is one of the 13 kebeles in Dillo Woreda currently inhabited by 424 Households with total population estimate of 3267 (1438 male and 1829 female). Due to its harsh environment and dry weather condition of the area the main means of livelihood for the people inhabiting this part of the country are depended their livelihoods on animal production system which is not any more dependable for the local population to enjoy.

Pastoralism, a production system heavily dependent on the availability of abundant natural resources such as grass lands and water shames, continuedly affected and left thousands of households and families facing food insecurity and hunger. Impacts of climate change induced hazards such as recurrent drought and effects of its impacts pushing people to compete for the inadequate resources often ending up in violent conflicts continued to be largely blamed.



Picture: Goray village, taken by APCFC





A family of Wario Sora, was among the hundreds of households directly and severely affected by the recurrent drought that hit Dillo Woreda since 2021 and resulted with a total loss of assets for most majority of the residents of Mengeda Village where Sora's family had lived for decades. Wario's family was among those households who lost all their assets and faced critical food security challenges which had left all seven family members including Wario to seek external support to survive.

Wario Sora is a 65-year-old household head resident of Mengeda village in Goray Kebele in Dillo Woreda who was engaged in livestock production and use to fulfill needs of his five children (4 male and 1 female). He was married to Diramu Wario, 50, who is also responsible for looking after their family.

According to Wario, he had experienced several moments in his life that gave him a tough time. The moment he and his family had experienced in the last two years, however, had brought him to the brink of separation of his family to survive the situation which was the worst life experience for him and his family to go through hadn't been for assistance offered by APCfC and DCA that allowed him not only to stop the separation of his family, but also gave him a hope for recovery.

Further about this situation, Wario had this to say: "I and my family had used to face livelihood challenges several times in the past due to loss of their means of income and livelihood which was depended on animal husbandry. In the past situations, my family had lost up to 60% of our assets to drought or conflict in the past. In the recent situation, however, I had lost the entire animal population my family was depended on. Two years back in 2020 we had 50 head of cattle and 250 head of goats and 5 donkeys and lived a decent life. However, following the increasing severe drought in 2022, my family was left with only 14 cattle, 130 goats and 1 donkey. We lost all the remaining animals in 2023 and left with nothing to survive and left helpless."

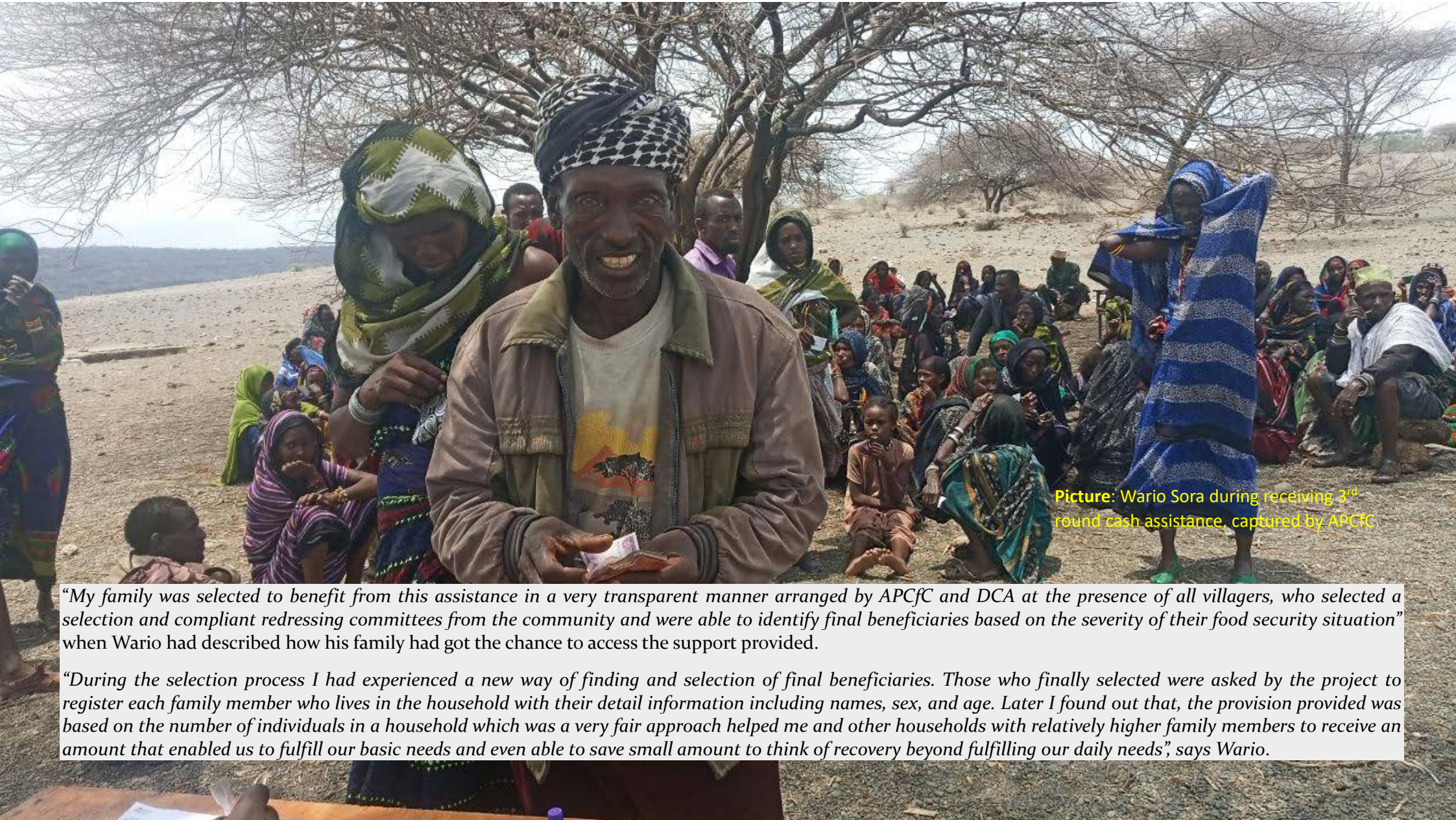
Picture: Wario Sora in front of his home, captured by APCfC



Findings of various multi-agency assessment reports conducted in the area by various international and local partners had revealed that the absence of five consecutive rainfall seasons in the area had resulted in prolonged drought that brought a critical shortage of pasture and water that resulted in massive deaths of animals particularly cattle, on which the livelihoods of the community in the area was depended on had triggered response actions from various humanitarian organizations.

Particularly, the data obtained in the early February 2023 by APCfC from the Borena zone Emergency task force and Dillo Woreda Busa Gonofa Office that estimated the total number of livestock assets lost to the drought to over 39,000 livestock of which 65 % was cattle and critical food shortage facing over 65% of the population in the area was the direct response for APCfC with the financial and technical support from DCA to launch a six-month emergency lifesaving response in Dillo Woreda from April to September 2023. The humanitarian response by APCfC and DCA was aimed at contributing to increased access to life-saving assistance to the drought affected 138 households with 743 individuals (40.5% women) out of whom 41% aged 10 and below. Wario Sora's family was one of the 138 households in Goray Kebele who had received help from this assistance that was provided in three rounds in the form of Multipurpose Cash (MPC).

Picture: Carcass of livestock perished by drought in Goray village, captured by APCfC in 2022



Picture: Wario Sora during receiving 3rd round cash assistance, captured by APCfC

“My family was selected to benefit from this assistance in a very transparent manner arranged by APCfC and DCA at the presence of all villagers, who selected a selection and compliant redressing committees from the community and were able to identify final beneficiaries based on the severity of their food security situation” when Wario had described how his family had got the chance to access the support provided.

“During the selection process I had experienced a new way of finding and selection of final beneficiaries. Those who finally selected were asked by the project to register each family member who lives in the household with their detail information including names, sex, and age. Later I found out that, the provision provided was based on the number of individuals in a household which was a very fair approach helped me and other households with relatively higher family members to receive an amount that enabled us to fulfill our basic needs and even able to save small amount to think of recovery beyond fulfilling our daily needs”, says Wario.




The Multipurpose Cash (MPC) provided in three rounds to the families received help from the support was made through an innovative approach pursued by APCfC and DCA to ensure fairness and larger impact. Hence, the intervention had applied an individual base cash transfer method which went against the traditional approach of household-based interventions practiced by humanitarian organizations.

According to Wario, the unconditionality of the cash assistance provided besides helping his family to cover basic needs it offered my family a maximum degree of choice, flexibility, and dignity to spend the cash on their most urgent and critical needs. The assistant's individual-based modality offered much more dignity in addition to its fairness and equity. *"If the assistance were made in traditional Household based, my family would have received around Birr 6,900 per assistance. However, because the assistance was made based on individual modality which was based on the total number of family members, my family was able to receive ETB 8,050 per round and a total of Birr 24,150"* Says Wario.

The individual cash assistance approach has improved the cash-based intervention itself and opened further room for those with large family members to fulfill their basic needs and start to think beyond daily survival and invest small amounts on recovery of their assets. Wario was among those who were able to take a suitable measure to think beyond fulfilling their daily subsistence and tried to regain their dignity through engaging in actions that helped them to recover their assets.

When describing his situation after the assistance was made to his family through the Multipurpose Cash (MPC) provided in three rounds with the application of an innovative approach by APCfC and DCA , Wario has to say; *"Words are not just enough to describe how my family's situation changed in 4 months, from losing hope and sending out my children to my relatives in other areas to save their lives to being fulfilling their immediate food needs and purchase 3 goats and 2 sheep and gearing up for recovery of my family's livelihood and stand back on our feet again. Things have really changed in my family; my children are now happy and doing well. I am grateful to APCfC and DCA for giving me an opportunity to make something positive out of the assistance offered."*

Picture: Wario Sora with his goats and sheep, captured by APCfC.



APCfC had also learned that two of Wario's goats gave birth to new offsprings that heightened his hope for a better future life. Now Wario is planning to continue to look after the small ruminants he possessed with the support of the project and looking forward to purchasing cattle from selling of these ruminants in the future as the cattle enable him to engage in cultural and economic activities.

“For poor and vulnerable people like us difficulties are boundless, and can create a sense of powerlessness, while identifying a dream begins to revive people’s life of recovery and self-reliance. and that was what exactly happened to my family with the support offered by APCfC and DCA for which my family is very grateful”, was the final message by Wario about the response made by APCfC and DCA to the drought situation that affected thousands of people in Borena.

The last Post Distribution Monitoring survey conducted by the project by randomly selecting the recipients who received the cash transfer suggested that the distribution of the cash assistance to the beneficiaries provided overall satisfaction and enabled households to priorities what they wanted to spend the cash on. Most participants reported that they spent the bulk of the assistance on purchasing food, medical items, and clothing. Based on the good lessons learned through this intervention APCfC will continue to improve its community-based services and strengthen practices and modalities such as the individual based Multipurpose Cash modality piloted and showed impressive results.

Picture: Wario Sora at his home, captured by APCfC.



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