Part2 01\_250313(mp3)

Interviewer: I wanted to finish this drawing and ask a few questions. Could you please give us the name of the abaherega so we can gather more information from him?

Respondent: The abaherega is called Busu Adele. He has now moved elsewhere with his goats. However, he had a friend he used to work with named Ali Boru. I can connect you with him.

Interviewer: I wanted to confirm something from yesterday’s interview. Is diarrhea more common during the drought or the rainy season?

Respondent: It’s during the drought. From my experience, diarrhea is more common in dry seasons because people often drink dirty water. During the rainy season, the dirt is washed away and settles in one place, reducing the risk. But during drought, the stagnant dirty water is consumed, causing sickness.

Interviewer: Yesterday, we tried rating the severity of issues from 1 to 10, but it wasn’t effective. So today, we’ll just say if the impact is strong or weak. You mentioned that when the government intervenes, there are no fights like before. That means there is improved security, and livestock can move freely and become healthy, and people who consume them also become healthy. Does this mean that the government takes away guns, or what happens?

Interpreter: He is asking if the presence of the government brings peace, allowing animals to graze freely and people to stay healthy. But when there is conflict, livestock movement is restricted, which affects their health and also the people’s health. What do you think about this?

Respondent: The main issue is insecurity. Just now, I received a call about a fight between the Rendille and the Turkana. Turkana cattle were stolen, which means they’ve lost their source of income.

Interviewer: I’d like to understand the relationship between government intervention, firearms, and insecurity.

Respondent: After the government collected the KPR (Kenya Police Reservists) firearms—which were originally issued by the government- that’s when our enemies found the opportunity to attack us.

Interpreter: He is saying that before the guns were taken, security was better. People could protect themselves. After disarmament, they became vulnerable to attacks.

Interviewer: After the hand pumps were installed, what changes did people experience?

Respondent: Some positive changes occurred. Unlike before, the wells are now covered, so dirt doesn’t get into the water. If you treat the water with disinfectants, it’s safe to drink.

Interviewer: Even now that you have clean water, do people still drink stagnant water?

Respondent: Yes, they still do.

Interviewer: So having the hand-pumped water doesn’t stop people from drinking rainwater collected in stagnant pools?

Respondent: No, it doesn’t. Rainwater tastes different and better. The hand-pumped water is salty.

Interviewer: You mentioned earlier that salty water causes stomach aches?

Respondent: Yes, it causes stomach aches and also pain in the testicles in men.

Interviewer: But those cases are not very common now because people don’t drink that water often?

Respondent: Yes, it’s not as common since most people avoid drinking it.

Interviewer: What about the animals—does the salty water affect them?

Respondent: For the animals, it’s good.

Interviewer: Does it have any health benefits for the animals?

Respondent: Yes, it helps a lot. In fact, the tastiest goat meat comes from Chalbi because of that salt.

Interviewer: Does relief food only come during droughts?

Respondent: Yes, especially during severe droughts.

Interviewer: What traditional coping strategies are used during droughts?

Respondent: For example, someone might sell a male camel to raise money for school fees and use the remainder to buy food. When things get really bad, the government or NGOs bring food aid. Also, able-bodied family members migrate with the animals to find pasture, while the elderly, women, and children stay behind. During such times, goats don’t produce milk, and meals reduce from three a day to just one.

Interviewer: When people migrate with their animals, do they face attacks?

Respondent: Yes, they do. Sometimes, the animals they are trying to save are raided, and people are killed. They return home empty-handed, which often escalates conflicts.

Interviewer: Do people fight over water or pasture during drought-related migrations?

Respondent: Mostly over pasture. Young men seek revenge, especially when they see their stolen livestock with enemies. They arm themselves and fight as a way of retaliating for past conflicts.

Interviewer: Have we left out anything important regarding health, food, or water?

Respondent: During drought, getting food for animals depends on luck and whether there are aid projects in the area. But even then, the aid is never enough. For human beings, during extreme drought, we receive small food portions monthly. For instance, after the recent drought that caused massive livestock loss, we only receive about two to three glasses’ worth of food product per person each month.

Interviewer: Is this relief aid only for people, or also for livestock?

Respondent: It’s only for humans. Livestock aid comes once or twice—and only during the most severe droughts.

Interviewer: Is there anything else you think we’ve missed?

Respondent: I’ve seen people do interviews like this before, but we never see any outcome.

Interviewer: There will be an outcome. My mission is twofold: First, I will continue researching across Gabra land with your permission. Second, the information we collect,like the blood samples from animals—will be analyzed, and you’ll be informed whether your animals are sick and what actions to take. We will compile everything into a report so the government and NGOs can understand your real needs and avoid offering irrelevant assistance. For example, the hand-pumped well was a good initiative, but the salty water is a challenge. My job is to document your actual needs accurately.

Respondent: That would be great. We want this information to be recorded and preserved so the Gabra children can benefit. We regret that the wisdom of elders like Wabere was never documented. They were very knowledgeable, and now there’s nothing to refer to. Please make sure this information is recorded. We hope that whoever comes here will bring real, lasting change—not temporary aid. For example, there was a woman doctor who flew in to help us. She treated us for free and left a legacy among the Gabra. She is still remembered for that.