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Interviwer: we will try to draw a map and it will come out this way and we will be writing ,and for instance of you say it rains and it comes out this way i will be writing the rain and the outcome and we shall try to link and we will write this number to show that this relationship is very strong or not so strong and at times it goes that way so between one and three , one is not so much weak relationship two is medium and three is very strong is that okey?So normally how i start is …. But let me first get the basics , what is your name?

Respondent 1: My name is Bagajo Qanchora .

Interviwer: What is your position?

Respondent: iam senior animal health officer.

Interviwer : for the whole marsabit county ?

Respondent : No , for only Northhorr subcounty .

Interviwer : who is your boss ?

Respondent: He is called Dabasso baraqo , he is the subcounty head .

Interviwer : And you,you are in the department of DVS( Department of veterinary services .So you are a veterinary doctor or you just pursue animal health?

Respondent: i studied diploma in animal health but did bsc animal science in Egarton university .

Interviwer : The other one you did in Gabra university?

Respondent: No i did both in Egorton university still .

Interviwer : You said you are five?

Respondent : Yes

Interviwer : Senior animal health officers ?

Respondent: Yes and some are assistants , some are senior animal health officers some are animal health officers , my supervisor is chief animal health officer ,and i am the senior animal health officer and two of my collegues who are animal health officers and one animal health assistant and this is specifically for northhorr subcounty and every other subcounty has its own .and every subcounty has its animal health incharge and the time that we have an activity we come together as a team because most of our work is physical such as mass vaccination , mass livestock treatment,its only may be when we are collaborating with the partners or trainings that we separate or when we are in stations doing some clinical examination and advisory mostly we collaborate since our work requires team work .

Interviwer : Normally i start with this question of what is the main challenge that you see in the day to day life of a pastoralist?

Respondent: What i see as a challange, one is drought and this drought has negative effect on the livestock and food security because when there is drought and water availability becomes scarce and also grazing fields reduces and also there is conflict and this occurs because of scarce pasture and when the pasture becomes scarce all the community converges at one point and then from there the conflicts arises .

Interviwer : Where do they converge?to a place where there is pasture or water ?

Respondent:at this time when there is no plenty of pastures the animals graze around the homestead and there is a place where we call the fall back area that is a place like sabaree and sibiloi and all the communities from different areas converges there and conflict occurs in such cases and cattle rustling starts and also animal diseases too comes due to that converges because they come to one water point or grazing sites or at times there are places that we avoid like anthrax prone areas around buluq, Sabaree and along the shore of Kubi Fora because of the wildlife because of that when the animals come into the park they are likely to get those diseases especially the anthrax.

Interviwer : So its the wild animals that brings that sickness ?

Respondent : Yes , because most of the time they have those kind of diseases .

Interviwer: And during the drought you are forced to use that area ?

Respondent:Yes because we don’t have any other option because the forest is a restricted areas , when there is no problems you are not allowed to graze inside there but when the drought comes people are allowed to graze their animals inside there and once they do they get the diseases and also because of the migration the vulnerable like the women and children lacks food to eat , especially the protein , since there is no milk , meat and the issue of food security and malnutrion comes in so those are the some of the challanges that we are noticing in pastoral areas currently.

(Highlighting the problems) 08:56-09:24

Interviwer:You have given me so many details so we will go back a little so that i can pick specifics .So since the animals are kept far from home the milk becomes scarce?

Respondent : Yes the milk becomes scarce and the vulnerable like the mother and children are left at home / settlement mostly the place that is migrated to is a conflict prone areas so its not safe to migrate with the children and women to those areas its only men that goes to such places although sometimes they are left with few animals for milk although now because of the scarcity of pasture and water the animals fails to produce milk so the issue of malnourishment and food insecurity must come to the children.

Interviwer: Does it only come to the children only?

Respondent:Not only children but to the aged,lactating mothers , preganant women ,all those are vulnerables .

Interviwer: What do people do to minimize the malnutrition?

Respondent:Mostly there is an intervention from the hospitals or medical department .

Interviwer : is that mostly from the NGO’s or the county government ?

Respondent : its mostly partners , although that doesn’t sustain the people because for instance they come for six months and after six months the project is over and they go and then a gap is left and then another one comes . Even those are not very reliable but there is that supplementary feeding programme , for the government sometimes i think is small amount of relief food but its also not reliable and also there is some cash transfer sometimes from some parners , the supplementary food is from the hospital right?there is that cash transfer especially targeting the homes with malnourished children .

Interviewer:So does those cash transfers reduces malnutrition?

Respondent:most of the time its given in cash and the beneficiary buys food with it that is needed to help with malnutrition . And then there is this data…..( not clear 12:31-12:34) activities most of the partners are trying together with our department also , like the kitchen garden in this rural areas so that even during the drought time since most of places in this area has water so this kitchen garden is also another intervention that people are trying to at least help in nutrition .

Interviwer: Because that will help people get veges and fruits ?

Respondent: yes ,and fruits like pawpaw and watermelon .especially its vegetables likes sukuma wiki, spinach and pumpkin. Those are some of the interventions that you could see on the ground and also there is capacity building atleast people are taught how to diversify the poultry keeping.

Interviwer: For diversification does it mean diversification away from livestock or diversification of income or?

Respondent: You know long ago the pastoral communities apart from the livestock they didn’t have anything else to depend on for survival and now the issue of kitchen gardening, poultry keeping is one of the diversification and also pasture production in kalacha which is sustaining small herds for milk that are grazed around the homestead so as to avoid staying without milk completely.

Interviewer:For the pasture production do the people irrigate the grass?

Respondent: yes we do the irrigation,

( 15:21-15:27 - interviwee greetings in Gabra with someone passing by)

Interviwer:( confirms with the interviwee) So pasture production ensures that the animals have enough pasture to survive on during the drought ?

Respondent : Yes a few number of cattles are kept around the homes and are fed on that pasture .

Interviwer: And also for meat?

Respondent: yes of course.

(Interviewer going to get a torch)16:10-17:33

Interviewer: Going back to what you were saying about pasture production .

Respondent:pasture production helps in meat and milk production .

Interviewer:Why? I have an interest in capturing how grazing and water is connected by the availability of milk is it the body condition of the animals or?

Respondent:there is provision of feeds ofcourse water is also available around the pasture production area and of course this animals are few and sometimes they are supplemented with grains and other commercial feeds and throughout the year they produce some small milk and now this can improve the level of nutrition.

Interviewer: does it improve the quality or the quantity of the milk?

Respondent:To improve both quality and availability of the milk , before those kind of interventions was done When the animals are moved to the Fora like two three months before the rain comes and the animals come back people stay without milk and may be depend on the milk from the cattle which everyone depends on it but when they grow grass and feed few number of animals near the home and they give it water they will be getting milk from it and their children will not be malnourished .

Interviewer : During the drought there is no water and no pasture ?

Respondent: We have two scenarios here the animals that move far from homes to look for pasture and water and its men that does this and in this case the body conditions can detoriorate , and get sick in that new place and even get into a conflict or an outbreak of disease and even get limited pasture and some animals dying and people left with few and in this case remember they have left home .but because of this pasture production some few animals are left at home and they feed on this irrigated pasture and the cut and carry technique is used and they are also supplimented with some commercial feeds that is for those that are well off. And in this case those that practice this throughout the year will get milk from this animals but there are others who once the rain stops and the pasture becomes scarce and the animals have gone to Fora they stay without milk and their children end up loosing weight and starvation takes place unless they are given relief foods or cash transfers or others like the kitchen garden but because of this interventions the situation is not so bad , this time people are trying to invent so many things not only in the pastoral field but other sectors too they have come up with women groups supported by NGO’s by giving them some grants and sometimes they do the merry-go round .and they also do some small businesses .Those are some of the interventions that took place in the pastoral areas to improve the livelihood of the people in the community.

Interviewer : So this Women groups are being supported by the NGO’s

Respondent: Yes most of them are supported by the NGO’s.

Interviewer : Are this women group who are still incharge of this kitchen Garden?

Respondent:Yes ,because this kitchen garden is not given individually and also the poultry or the few dairy goats , they are given in groups. and in groups they are trained and capacity building so that they can learn how to manage it so that it can sustain them.and they are given grants by the NGO mostly .

Interviewer:Going back to the sickness of the animals You talked of water availability but also there is that about the water quality what happens when the water quality is not good ?

Respondent: here among the pastoral people the availability and the water quality is much compromised the water is mostly dirty and the water is normally scarce you know the water becomes scarce most of the time because there is no much intervention from the government and the water that is mostly relied on is the one from the underground and the water is used for the livestock and both domestic use by the people and normally the water sources are very limited and hence the scarcity if the water comes in and there is no intervention of improving the water sources from the government and coming to the quality its worse because the pastoralist have no knowledge on taking care of water because the same water that the livestock drinks is the same that the human beings drink and they wash inside the same water and they are bathing inside and the animals urinate inside and they step in the water with their feet and there is nothing like chlorination or water treatment so the water quality is poor and also the quantity is low so most of the times it becomes a problem .and mostly its because of this water shortage that inter-tribal conflicts occurs since people from different communities converge to one point for the small quantity of water and the fact that each community wants the water for themselves and not to share with others and the conflict mostly occurs because of the shortage of water and pasture and like this time of rain there is no conflict since everyone goes back to their home since the water and pasture is available in plenty .if this time was a drought time we couldn’t be sleeping peacefully because there would be attacks .

Interviewer: And when people get into a conflict does it mean there is an area that people won’t go and graze?

Respondent:Yes it becomes difficult , like last year between dasanach and Gabra there is a stretch between tharathe near the police post and Haibete .and on this side between Buluq which is just before sabaree and the other junction all this place was a no go zone and even during the drought the grass was there but no one could access it because they are afraid of gabra and the Gabra are afraid of them .and the animals ends up dying in both sides yet the grass is there and once you go their you will be killed and your animals gets raided.

Interviewer: When there is conflict between the communities do the animals get raided or killed?

Respondent:its both they can be raided all unless you fight for it from being taken and even the people die in mass and they don’t spare because they are taking the animals.

Interviewer:What makes them kill such mass of people?

Respondent: Because there is rivals and both of them want to have that scarce pasture for themselves and hence fight and also when someone from that specific community gets killed or their animals get raided they end up revenging and killing each other .

Interviewer:And its not because of guns being more on one side and less on the other side?

Respondent: Yes, Even before this guns issue they used to fight but now the gun coming in has escalated the issue , like in ilret the good part of dasanach community is in Ethiopia and on that side guns are illegal but once you register it you can use it at your convenience but on this other side having gun is illegal and unless you hide it but once you are caught since its a crime and you get arrested so people from that area overpower people from this side and end up killing a good number of people here since the guns are few and those dasanach people of kenya and those of Ethiopia collaborate to come and fight people in kenya since they are of one community and end up overwhelming our community. And that actually motivates one to raid more animals and there is this mindset of the community that if you have never killed an enemy you are not even given a sit in a meeting and you are mocked that you are not a man enough . And once someone buys the gun they would like to use it Since they have at their hand and also to make it useful they would want to kill and raid animals of the enemy to avoid going loss of buying the gun and it not being in use as as they put it .

Interviewer : So you have said the social standards of a man raises one he goes to raid?

Respondent:Yes it goes up and even in a meeting you are respected for killing a Dasanach man and even given a sit while i keep standing because i have not killed and also when they slaughter i who has not killed is denied the meat or given bones to chew while the one who killed enjoys big chunks of the meat .

Interviewer : going back to the health of the animals what kills the animals ?

Respondent:Mostly its diseases because there is no routine livestock management interms of health care normally for proper control ,as veterinaries for us to control certain percentage we must first vaccinate almost 80% of the animals but for us even if the vaccinations takes place its only for 30% so the larger mass stays without vaccination so the diseases are still within.

Interviwer : why the thirty percent?

Respondent : Because of lack of resources from the government and the partners are very few .

Interviwer : Resources interms of finances or?

Respondent: Both financial and human resources but mostly its financial and also for that small amount of money there is poor timing and it comes in , in the middle of a severe drought .and that is a double challenge to the livestock since they are already suffering from the drought and then adding vaccination is something else ending up killing the animals because of the antibody antigen reaction . So poor timing of the vaccination and at the same time there is no commitment of resources to fund a sufficient area to meet the standard as required , the other one is the drought there is no pasture and after every two years comes the severe drought because of lack of rainfall due to climate change.another worse thing is that on the side of the human activities they keep large herds of livestock since they love keeping large number and since now there is scarcity of the pasture the so many animals end up overgrazing And when it rains a little they finish the grass immediately and they end up migrating with their animals and end up getting killed by the enemies and their animals get raided or end up dying of hunger .

Interviewer: What leads to this poor timing ?

Respondent: its like there is no good budgeting committed for this sector and we mostly rely on the partners and the partners does the interventions when they have funds , for instance this kind of time of the rain is when this vaccination is needed for the animals but now may be there is no partners that have money to do the vaccination for us so the animals are not getting vaccinated and may be during the drought that is when the partners have got the money and come to do the vaccination and it said that they can help us vaccinate our animals for two weeks only which is not enough .

Interviewer: For the water you said that some people boil the water , others chlorinate the water What makes people to use this process or not?

respondent:They don’t use and do that because they have no knowledge and also unavailability of those water treatments and chlorine .

Interviewer : who normally brings the medicine ?

Respondent: its the government . But people mostly relay on the NGO’s and NGO’s are seasonal and most of the time the come and go and sometimes when they come to this place they focus on a certain region and not all the places for instance they support people from Saruu and not support dukana . And because of lack of knowledge those that have don’t even use this treatment they just put it in the house unused and gets expired and they don’t like treatment in their water and hence do not use it .since even before they have been drinking dirty water they don’t see the need .

Interviwer: does it mean that they don’t get seriously sick from those water and if they do which one?

Respondent: Yes not that serious but they get some mild diarrhea but what kills the most this days is the cancer .but getting diarrhea because of water is very few cases since their bodies are used to it but mosquitoes are there .

Interviwer: What about the animals do they diarrhea too?

Respondent: Yes they do because sometimes because of the water and sometimes because of other sickness .but the diarrhea comes to them especially when they drink from the dam after it has rained and people wash ,bath and the animals step in the water and still the people drink that water so the animals drop stool and urinate in the water at first when the water is still full it doesn’t become a problem but once the water level drops the dirt concentrates and that is when the people and the animals get sick .Also for this shallow wells the animals dies at once after drinking it and also sometimes back in El adi hundred milking camels died at once and it was during former president Uhuru’s time and he even bought them some for compensation and we heard that the cause was minerals in the ground such as nitrates that happens during the drought when the water level goes down .and mostly in this pastoral areas it very common even in kargi and laisamis it has also killed so many people and during the drought when the water of the shallow well drops it brings such issues and kills the animals generally the pastoral communities are very poor in managing water ,when the water is available they use anyhow and like now they don’t harvest rain water they don’t have gutters and tanks .

Interviewer:Why so?

Respondent: they lack knowledge on that and also the fact that they don’t have the resources. But also if you have observed they dig some holes near the lagaa and get water from those holes and the water is not safe for consumption because after fetching the water even the dogs could come and play in that water and the water at the borehole is salty and not good for consumption so when the rain comes the rain water goes into a waste since they don’t harvest it .

Interviewer: And why do they not have that knowledge of water management?

Respondent:its just their way of life and also for the dam water if you just observe how they use it you will be disappointed.because everyone uses the water the way they want and the animals release their waste anyhowly in the water and after sometime you could smell the bad smell that comes from the water even at a far place because of how they mismanaged it and if it could be fenced and used in order it would have sustained them for long and their mentality is even if the water is in plenty just use it the way you feel like and go to the next if available .

Interviwer : What can you say about the infrastructure of the water what is your opinion on it ?

respondent: very few ,its very little and it leads to water contamination and also leads to conflict in other areas so there is no development when it comes to water the quality is poor .

Interviewer: You talked of water management and you said that NGO’s are the ones that are mostly involved and they are the ones that are mostly involved with water infrastructure such as boreholes so when this NGOs are involved its like they are not reliable ?

Respondent: They are not reliable , there is no linkage may be one comes and dig borehole here in Karru and then your program comes to an end and you go and it’s supposed to be linked to the government and the government to take over , but in most of the borehole , when NGO’s sinks and faces out and after that the borehole breaks down no one will know where the spare parts will be found and which is needed so there is that gap and there is no one who will take the initiative to buy the spare parts even from the government and sometimes because the community cannot buy the fuel yes they have the well but end up not getting the water simply because of a spare parts .

Interviewer: Do you think if the government were the one doing those projects it would have been reliable and more sustainable?

Respondent: Yes , and the government are supposed to take over from the partners , normally when an NGO starts a project they involve the community and the community takes the ownership and the government too becomes a link and takes over from the NGO after they have completed the project atleast to give the technical support or financial support because it will be difficult for the community alone .

Interviewer: Do you think this leads to the lowering of the resilience power of the pastoralist?

Respondent: Yes it does because they have nothing to depend on.

Interviewer: Despite the kitchen garden , poultry keeping diversification, water infrastructure , despite that does it undermine resilience because its not sustainable?

Respondent:All this intervention after the NGO’s withdraws most of them falls , sometimes you come and see in a certan village the kitchen garden is blossoming and when you go somewhere else you see a certain villaged with good water infrastructure having water in plenty but after some years when you come back you find out that nothing is functional simply because that specific NGO that introduced that project has withdrawn its assistance.

So if the government would have intervened that gap wouldn’t have occurred and the capability of the community has not reached a certain point needed and they end up getting affected and once the NGO that has been implementing that intervention goes and that will also be the end of that project .

Interviewer:What do you think can be done to solve that problem?

Respondent: More collaboration with the government and capacity building of the communities and also to involve the government from the incitation of the project for example just the other day there is a borehole around Rari which is about 20km from kalacha there is another project called livestock commercialization project wants to sink and the person that came to assess that activity mentioned of a borehole of a certain organization that sink and after the organization left the borehole broke down and for them they came to repair and they don’t even know what is needed for the repair of the borehole because they were not involved from the word go .so the NGO’s needs to collaborate with the government and also for the government to take part in such projects and also the capacity of the community too should be strengthened so that such projects that are good for the community not to be short lived but instead last longer.

Interviewer:I am also wondering , because i could see boreholes and its not functional and also for the latrines its not in use and have broken down.

Respondent: And the other problem is about awareness and capacity building other organizations and partners carry out projects but they don’t train the community on use , because there was this time water and sanitation program of france called solidarity international built so many latrines for wash program like Dasanach and ileret they built up so many latrines immediately after they left they removed the ironsheets and made with their houses and so after the donar came he found out what they did and the consultancy and the donar said that the mistake was the organization’s because they built an expensive pit latrines than these people’s residential homes . And they would have used the locally available materials.

Even in this kitchen gardening activities technical personnel from the department comes to guide people on how to do it

Interviewer: Why do you think that the NGO’s do not have a long term vision ?

Respondent: The nature of their funding model, most of their funding is of a short period of time some of them when they come their project is one or two years .

And even when they have funds this area is very vast and they cannot cover the whole area they just work with very small regions , for instance for Northhorr subcounty it has five wards and this NGO can do projects in two wards and three left without help .

Interviewer: Let’s again talk about the diseases of the animals ,when the animals are sick does it lower the body condition of the animals in regard to milk and meat production

Respondent:Yes , and also because of that milk availability will also reduce since the animals will not be able to drink water and feed on the pasture even without the sickness body condition will lower due to the scarcity of the pasture all this are linked , or let’s say during the conflict most of the time the animals are restricted from going to good places that have good pastures and that means may be the whole day they spent time in the shed without pasture so all this are the underlying factors .

Interviewer: Because according to my opinion i see mostly the NGO’s have their own agendas and they don’t see this connections so when they go to build a latrine they think that it will help the people and go ahead and start the project they don’t understand that there is this whole system where everything is connected so it I am doing this work to go and show them how all this are interconnected.

Respondent: That’s why i was telling you that approach matters because they just begin the project without involving the local people and to finish their work and go and may be the project they are doing is not the priority of the community and the community and up destroying it like that project of the modernized latrines .

Interviewer: about the differential government policies regarding the firearms?

Respondent: Its not like they want to disobey the government but sometimes its just situation that forces them because let’s say you are in sabaree with your animals and the government is not close to the place and the police that are there are just about two and they are at the centre not in the bush and you are in the bush alone with your animals and on the other side its the Ethiopians that have access to the guns and when they see that you are vulnerable they come and attack and go with the animals so the government needs to put alot of posts and security for the people and also homeguards and also sensitize to the community to come together and graze their animals together in peace. In this place even this police have just come the other day ,before after Dukana their is nothing like police .so the government should do something about it since the people becomes vulnerable and loose their source of livelihood due to insecurity.

Interviewer: Regarding water and its management are there any people that are incharge of this matters ?

Respondent :there are people (1:07:20)not clear) incharge of this kind of settlement , there are people incharge of the environment EMC’s who manages the water and pasture and there is also water management committees in some area its nit so effective since they don’t have funds for instance when the borehole breaks down they don’t have the capacity to to repair it both interms of finances and technical and also for the shallow wells and dams it requires monitoring from time to time and they don’t have means of transport and incentive and even if a committee is created the people will not be motivated to work and also the people are egoistic they don’t listen most of the time and even generally even traditionally and even in modernization the water management is something that is there in the normal well there is Abaherega let’s say if so many herds comes together the abaherega plans on how they herd will drink the water systematically even in the town there is this power committee of water use association and they rationalize how the people will get water when the water is mot enough so generally those kind of structures are there but not so effective . But may be only for the Abaherega when the animals are many that’s why that system of abaherega functions but others do not function for instance when the borehole breaksdown the community contributes money and its the treasurer that keeps the money for the repair and the money is corrupted you just hear that they don’t know where the money has gone so the committe too is not very effective but for the abaherega his work is just to plan the animals on how to drink the water systematically and that system is working .

Interviewer: So for those water management committee are they chosen by the partners mostly ?

Respondent: Yes partners in collaboration with the government water department .

Interviewer: So thats like external water management structures . And those are not effective due to finances?

Respondent :yes , even mostly in groups you could just see people grabbing the resources and the people too do not want to contribute the money claiming that it will be embezzled and for this abaherega for planning is a free service and people do not pay any money for that , because mostly this water points are communally owned so its just a matter of arrangement and no monetary matter is involved in it .

Interviewer: Do you think there is something that we have left out regarding water and food malnutrition ?

Respondent: I don’t think there is anything else.

( silence )

Interviewer thanking the interviwee for his time and insight.