Pastoral Livelihood Support and Empowerment Program (PALISEP)

ANNUAL REPORT 2012/2013

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1. INTRODUCTION
This is the Annual narrative report of Pastoral Livelihood Support and Empowerment Program (PALISEP) on activities funded by the Oxfam through LIFE Program—(Project agreement Number TANA 98 of 1st August 2012 to 30th March 2013) and implemented by PALISEP within the above-mentioned period. The program covered the four villages of Piyaya, Malambo, Engaresero and Pinyiny in Sale Division in Ngorongoro district of Arusha region in Northern Tanzania. The implemented project has three major components to include; Livestock development, Drought cycle Management and Women economic empowerment. PALISEP also mainstreamed cross-cutting issues of HIV/AIDS, Gender and environment in planning and implementation. The report indicates the planned activities achievements, Lessons learnt as well as challenges faced during the implementation and the proposed way forward for this programme.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION
PALISEP is a community based organization established in 2003, with a vision to support the pastoral communities in enhancing their livelihood system. Its operation area is Loliondo and Sale Division, northern Part of the Ngorongoro District.

The Ngorongoro district is one of the districts affected by drought in the country, the district is divided into 3 administrative divisions, Ngorongoro division, Sale division and Loliondo, and economically Ngorongoro people are 85% pastoralists who depend on livestock for their livelihood.

The effects of climate change dramatically changed the rainfall patterns affecting the livestock production which pastoralists depends on and impacted on food security to communities. This continued to be a major challenge in the district especially in the project areas. The previous year (2011) indicates that the district had food shortage of about 11,292.9 tonnes of different food items but maize is the major one (Source: District Council). Tanzania has already joined in the current global efforts which focuses on protection and restoration of forests as a medium to address and mitigate Climate Change. This project also contributes to the same efforts at community level.

From 2004, PALISEP has been active in facilitating community based development interventions, including organizing the community to claim the ownership of the Enguserosambu forest from the government in order to strengthen communities to sustainably manage and benefit from the forest; education projects; food security where a village based grain bank was constructed supported by Oxfam, and environmental conservation initiatives in the villages.
Under this project reporting, PALISEP and OXFAM GB in 2012 entered into partnership agreement to implement the above mentioned project -TANA 98 with the objectives among others of: dealing with drought cycle management issues; livestock development; and empowering women economically; and facilitating throughout our interventions the learning and sharing to disseminate best practices for replication and to improve implementation as we as subsequent planning. It also mainstreams HIV/AIDS, Gender and Environmental issues.

3. PLANNED MAIN ACTIVITIES

3a) Drought Cycle Management Component
   1. Formation and training of water Management committees
   2. Preservation of Water source by planting exotic and indigenous trees particularly alongside water springs
   3. Support processing of water right (ownership) for Engaresero, Piyaya, and Malambo Villages
   4. Fencing the potential area to prevent trespasses and illegal cutting of trees, and local irrigation in order to maintain sustainably the flow of water as well as enhancing natural biodiversity growth
   5. Support to educate pastoralists to maintain and strengthen their traditional pasture management system
   6. Sensitisation of pastoral communities on preparedness for unpredictable climate change that cause hardship and disasters for the people and their herds
   7. Conduct two village council meetings to harmonise a joint strategic approach aimed to secure Alalaa water source from various destruction.

3b) Livestock Development Component
   1. Recapture/ Refresher training for Artificial Inseminators
   2. Create a market link among the livestock producers’ cooperatives internally and or externally
   3. Follow up for inseminated Cows and Testing for detecting conceived cows and monitoring health status, security status

3c) Women Economic Empowerment Component
   1. Enhance the provision of entrepreneurship skills
   2. Support hygiene process from the producer and stored methods
   3. Study visit to pastoral cooperatives which livestock producers groups shared experiences and practicability of social business activities like their entrepreneurs

3d) Cross cutting issues
   • HIV/AIDS
   • Gender
   • Environment
3e) Capacity building and administration support

1. Institutional capacity building for PALISEP
2. Administration support for PALISEP

4. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Drought Cycle Management Component

One of the PALISEP drought cycle management component’s objectives is to empower pastoralist to improve their livelihood as well as protection of the environment.

In this reporting PALISEP have empowered communities in four villages in the protection of their water sources. This is through formation of 4 villages water management committees whereby 30 (22 male, 8 female) committee members and 8 invited were trained for three days on the National water policy of year 2002; the water supply and sanitation Act Na 12 year 2009; Principle of registration; the registration of water user procedures; Water user groups responsibilities and water user Constitution. The aim is to ensure that the water committees are aware and conversant with rules and regulation which govern water supply and sanitation for them to apply in the implementation of their daily responsibilities.

In order to maintain sustainability of flow of water to village’s users as well as enhancing natural biodiversity growth preservation of water sources was done by planting 260 exotic tree species at Alalaa water source in order to allow a good flow of water to Malambo village. In order to allow and support natural vegetation grow alongside the Allalaa River, 200 indigenous tree species were also planted. The villages of Arash and Malambo had 2 joint strategic village council’s meetings to rescue Alalaa water source where the joint strategic approach was developed. This went hand in hand with fencing the potential areas 400 metres from the water spring in order to prevent trespasses and illegal cutting of trees and control local irrigation in Arash village. Community also formed a steering Committee to manage the project.
In support of water ownership by villages, the project managed to form four water user groups one for each village. The user groups were enabled to come up with their Constitutions as one of the requirement of the Tanzania water supply Act 2009 when processing/issuing water right certificates.

Pastoralists in the project area were being supported and educated to maintain their traditional pasture management systems. The project facilitated communities where livestock cooperative societies were formed in four project villages. The traditional based bylaws for pasture management areas were also developed for each village.

Due to unpredictable climate variability as a result of climate change that cause hardship and disasters for people and their herds, sensitization of pastoral communities on preparedness was done through training 4 village disaster management committees on new policy on disaster management. The specific objectives of policy are to develop higher level of preparedness, response and mitigation, promote public awareness, establish and maintain institutional arrangements for all coordination, promote, research and information dissemination, and lastly mainstream disaster management issues into development plans. The specific objective of the training was therefore, to be able to incorporate disaster activities into village development plans; forecast the disaster and mitigate it and to be able to develop clear method of early warning systems and disseminate the collected information to communities.

Participants were also trained on their roles and responsibilities and were be able to plan the good use of their rangelands in overcoming the effects of climate change. Participants were trained on the impact, implication and vulnerability of climate change to people and livestock and coping and adaptation strategies. Participants were able to make analysis of the challenges facing rangelands and strategies to overcome them. At the end the Early Warning System (EWS) communication mechanism was developed.
Outcomes

- The formed water committees and user groups are in place and are functional
- The water source is 100% protected through a joint strategic approach where trees were planted, the area was fenced, and the formed steering committee is functional on their daily roles and responsibilities; and water source destruction is generally minimized
- Village disaster management committees were formed and trained and community was sensitized on how to strategize and engage with unpredictable climate change.

Challenges

- Still a large number of community members are not aware of the water policy 2002 and Water supply Act 2009
- Still there is on-going small cultivation along the water source as a result of political interference and sometimes livestock feed on planted trees
- Validation of water users Constitution took a long time to be approved by relevant authorities
- Livestock infrastructure at pasture management areas is poor specifically there is water shortage. Also, wildlife such as Wildebeest is a big threat spreading diseases to livestock.
- The national disaster management policy is not known by most of community members as well as

Livestock Development Component

The livestock project component was implemented as planned whereby eight (8) community artificial inseminators were trained for two weeks at the national artificial insemination centre – Usa River Arusha. The trainees were qualified and awarded Certificates and are officially recognized by the government to work at grassroots levels.

Market for Livestock producers cooperative has been created where terms of reference between Livestock producers groups from 4 villages and the Arusha Meat Company has been developed. Livestock cooperatives advised to improve Livestock quality in order to meet market competition. Market information mechanism has also been developed where Livestock cooperative will access market information inside the country.

In relation to inseminated and conceived cows, follow up has been made at 2 villages of Piyaya where 64 cows conceived and available calves are 46 and Pinyiny village the conceived cows are 23 and available calves are 22. PALISEP is still making follow ups of monitoring the health status and security of the cows.
Livestock breed improvement to increase market value for small ruminants

Outcomes

• As a result of conducted trainings there are now community artificial inseminator who are officially recognized and are helping community
• There are existing internal and external market linkages through market information mechanisms among livestock producer cooperatives
• There is introduction of new breeds of cattle with high quality and production through inseminated cows in the project villages

Challenges

• Livestock infrastructure in the project areas is still poor.
• Prolonged drought and bad geographical setup.

Way forward

• Improvement of livestock breed will involve both artificial insemination and provision of bulls.
• Livestock infrastructures will be improved before conducting artificial insemination in the future.

Women Economic Empowerment Component

PALISEP had conducted trainings to 12 livestock producers from 4 villages on entrepreneurship skills for small ruminants as it was facilitated by Ngorongoro District Council experts. The livestock producers were trained for 5 days at each village, participants were Leaders from livestock cooperatives, Village leaders. The gender balance was taken into serious consideration as part of mainstreaming gender issues into our programs. During training participants were able to develop strategies and mechanism for different types of enterprises.
The project also identified milk collection centres at 4 villages, Piyaya, Malambo, Pinyiny and Engaresero. In order to ensure that safety milk handling and storage, community were facilitated through a 5 days training visit to Longido using Engiteng’ processing machine where milk handling processes and storage methods skills and knowledge was imparted to participants. At the same time 16 Livestock cooperatives representatives- 4 from each villages were enabled to visit milk and meat factories at Naberera range in Simanjiro where they learned and exchanged experiences and best practices on the milk industry. Participants shared experience from both sides of Simanjiro and Ngorongoro but the fact is Simanjiro projects are more advanced than those of Ngorongoro.

Outcomes

- After we conducted the trainings on entrepreneurship different types of small enterprises were established by community members e.g. Sophia Ohilo and Lucy Kulinja are now running Tea kiosks and others are running different small businesses.
- The learning and sharing visit enabled project villages to control hygienic status, and Milk bi-products

Challenges

- Limited time while hygiene processes training require much time.
- Lack of milk separators in the project area that result community representatives to learn from far away and increase of implementation costs.
Way forward

- For the coming financial year community are to be facilitated with milk separators.
- Hygiene processes and milk stored method training be conducted at household level using the community members who attended the training.

Cross-cutting issues

Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS is part and parcel of the LIFE project. The training on HIV/AIDS conducted by PALISEP in the project villages for participants from CBOs, FBOs, Government and community groups was meant to create common understanding for participants on HIV/AIDS issues, enable the participants to identify existing gaps in relation to the understanding and engagement on HIV/AIDS mainstreaming, enhance development of appropriate strategies and indicators in addressing HIV/AIDS as cross cutting issues within the community.

The participants were taught on how to collaborate between NGOs and local government authorities on issues related to HIV/AIDS as well as learnt from one another through experience and knowledge sharing. In the last day of the training participants discussed the way forward where participant were encouraged to develop short and long term plans to do at the family level, work place and within the community. Collectively, participants saw the need of forming a steering Committee of five which is now in place with a primary goal of keeping connecting the represented participants from CBOs, FBOs, Government and community groups in their response to HIV/AIDS pandemic and on gender related issues.

Identified eight key areas inmainstreaming HIV/AIDS issues which needed immediate action.

1. Prevention of new infection of HIV,
2. Prevent new infection from Mother to Child,
3. Eradication of stigma,
4. Having HIV policy in working area/ Government institutions and in place of work,
5. Collaboration and supporting people and groups of people living with HIV,
6. Support and advocate for orphans rights,
8. Adequate availability of treatment (ARVs) and other support within the community.

Participant’s Testimony

One person (a participant) who is living with HIV shared his experience, he discover to have been affected by HIV since 1995, appreciate the approach taken by the doctor to inform him and great support he got from his family members especially his wife. Due to stigmatization, he could not declare his status, until he was encouraged by other fellows who are living with HIV. He moved forward to form a group known as Jitegme groups. Apart from encourage and support one another, they sensitize and bring awareness of HIV/AIDS within Lolloindo community. Being open up is the good thing; people should be open and be accepted in the community. Availability of treatment (ARVs) and other support (home-based care)

Outcomes

- After conducted the trainings on HIV/AIDS mainstreaming five members from CBOs, FBOs and Government were selected to form a steering Committee to spearhead the process of HIV/AIDS mainstreaming.
Challenges

- Adequate availability of treatment (ARVs) and other support within the community.
- Lack of women and girls child advocacy on HIV/AIDS related issues
- Stigmatization within the household and community at large.

Way forward

- The Committee to follow and support the development of HIV/AIDS policy at the working place for each represented CBO and Government institutions.
- Organize semi or annual forums for the represented participants to undertake assessment on what have been done, sharing experience and review their strategies.
- It was also agreed that, PALISEP will work closely by supporting the selected committee so that they will be able to perform their function smoothly. The groups are responsible to learn from one another

Capacity building and administration support

As part of institutional capacity building for PALISEP, three Laptops and one scanner for the programmes were purchased. In support to administration staff salaries were been paid for the duration period of the programme and all the running costs such as stationeries, communication and other office consumables were covered.

Networking and Collaboration

PALISEP has continued with networking, collaborations and supported capacity building of its community but also improved its capacity through learning and sharing of experiences on issues that affects pastoral communities with other like-minded organizations both at national and international levels. PALISEP is a member of PINGOs that deals with land rights issues; also a member of NGONET on the same, PALISEP also has the networking with Laramatak Lokonerei for Livestock Development issues as well as Tanzania Natural resources Forum.

Conclusion

In conclusion therefore, PALISEP is happy to report that the LIFE program with all its components was implemented successfully whereby the objectives were met and realized the anticipated changes to the community apart from the above mentioned challenges which were faced during the implementation of the program. PALISEP is encouraging all the partners and stakeholders who were involved in this program from planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and reporting of results. The PALISEP is highly recognizing the support and collaboration now and in the near future for the realization of and support to pastoral communities the program is serving.