



## General case study

# Support to livestock-based livelihoods during Covid-19 in Somalia

This case study is an example of how flexible and effective project leadership and management allowed a development project to shift emphasis during the Covid-19 crisis in Somalia. Early on in the crisis, the project conducted an analysis of its impacts and designed interventions specifically in response to these impacts. The overall aim was to help to maintain livestock businesses and employment in Somalia during the Covid-19 crisis and enable livestock producers to sell animals and earn income. Committing to monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL), is one of the eight LEGS Principles.

## Background

The Growth, Enterprise, Employment and Livelihoods Project (GEEL) is a five-year development project that provides support to livestock and agriculture markets and trade, and renewable energy, in Somalia. It focuses on the private sector, business development and related financial services, investment and certification systems. The project aims to build the capacity of internal investors as well as the Somali diaspora to invest in business opportunities. It prioritises opportunities in industries likely to attract women and youth who have been marginalised from pursuing economic opportunities.

## Activities and outcomes

During 2020, as the Covid-19 crisis unfolded, GEEL rapidly reallocated resources and provided support to various private sector partners. For the livestock sector, key strategies were to support the domestic livestock and meat trade during the cessation of the export trade. It also explored export opportunities to countries where the local Covid-19 context made such exports possible.

By mid-September 2020, some early results were as follows:

- Juba Livestock Quarantine and Fisheries exported 3,800 bulls to Oman and Yemen at an average price of \$520 per bull resulting in sales totalling to \$1,976,000
- Hilibsan and SOMEAT meat suppliers provided Covid-19 prevention and awareness training. Due to building customer confidence in these measures, the companies' sales increased by 25% and they established a meat delivery network in Hargeisa and Mogadishu through youth-owned delivery service providers
- SOMEAT (Somalia's leading meat exporter) created 213 new jobs as a result of the expanded domestic meat outlets, distribution networks and introduction of new deboning facility at its Daresalaam abattoir in Mogadishu
- Over 65 metric tons of cold storage capacity, made up of various portable insulated ice boxes, was provided to grassroots fishermen and women, and GEEL partner companies in Mogadishu, Puntland and Jubaland. This saved 200 jobs and helped to create more than 50 new jobs
- GEEL partners - commercial camel dairy farmers such as Beder Camel Dairy, Ramad Galool, Som Milk and Roob Daay - introduced home-based milk delivery networks and solar powered cold chain facilities in strategic locations in Mogadishu and Hargeisa

- Oog Dairy Factory and Malab Dairy Factory expanded their cold chain capacities and contracted women and youth-owned milk bars with the introduction of new dairy products with longer shelf life e.g. cheese, ghee and butter
- The Almanar abattoir in Berbera exported 14,525kg of frozen meat to Oman, with plans to export to Bahrain and United Arab Emirates

All dairy and fodder farmers adhered to the World Health Organization Covid-19 prevention guidelines through social distancing at workplaces, provision of hand washing points, distribution of business branded facemasks and awareness creation.

**Source:** Interview 1 with Mohammed Abdinoor, Chief of Party, Growth, Enterprise, Employment and Livelihoods Project (GEEL), Mogadishu, Somalia, 21/9/20. In Catley, A (2020). *COVID-19, Livestock and Livelihoods*. A Discussion Paper for the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS). <https://www.livestock-emergency.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/LEGS-COVID-19-Discussion-Paper-single-pages.pdf>

**LEGS case studies** demonstrate good practice in livestock emergency response. They cover the six LEGS Technical Intervention areas, the eight LEGS Principles as well as the broader contexts covered in the third edition of the LEGS handbook. **Process case studies** illustrate the application of LEGS guidance and **impact case studies** reflect on the outcomes of LEGS interventions.

- ▶ You can access all of the LEGS case studies at [livestock-emergency.net/resources/case-studies](https://www.livestock-emergency.net/resources/case-studies)
- ▶ For more information see the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards Handbook at [livestock-emergency.net](https://www.livestock-emergency.net)

