



CULTURE INFORMATION AND PASTORALIST DEVELOPMENT

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**TITLE:**

**LEARNING THE SKILL OF REARING OF COWS IN OBBITU CHILDREN HOME**

**LOCATION: OBBITU CHILDREN HOME SOLOLO DISTRICT**

**MARSABIT COUNTY**

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**CHAIRMAN**

**DATE: 25/07/2016**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Pastoralism is a way of life and economic mainstay and livelihood for Borana community in Sololo district. Rearing of cows, goats, sheep and camels are daily and routine practices of men, women and the young.

New life style and economic activities have come up but it did very minimal to change and improve the socio economic wellbeing of the pastoralist of Sololo community. The traditional practices and attitudinal attachment to especially cows is very high that sometimes it was the cause of conflict in the families and communities.

It is the community norms that every young boy or girls must be trained on rearing skills of cows, goats and sheep. It was seen as source of self employment and income generating for the households, families and community at large.

In the present situation where all the children are expected to be enrolled in school and learn the modern techniques, knowledge and technical skills, the community and parents expect their children also have skills to look after cows, milking and managing the young calves.

In school environment it is not all children who will succeed and move up to the next level, such children will require other skills to be able to be independent and manage their future to become responsible member of the community.

Obbitu Children Home was found on the Borana traditional lifestyle to help children understand their identity and background. Therefore, in Obbitu children home they will be in touch with all aspect of the culture, customs and economic activities. In the light of this Obbitu children home owns cows for breeding, milk production and help our children get trained on how to take care of livestock, feeding them, milking, taking care of the young calves and learn to become livestock owners in future where they can drive their income from the livestock

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The government and the community put emphasizes on education, it is mandatory for very child to b enrolled in school and attain the highest level of education he/she can achieve. Obbitu children advance the same goals for the children. In reality not all children can proceed to all levels of education, most children drop out in primary school and other some drop out after secondary school, very few children proceed to the university level.

Obbitu children home require multi discipline skills to be able to earn income to improve their living standard. The skill of pastorlism and herding is one skill which require to be started early in life of the children is lacking in Obbitu children. Those children who complete primary and did not proceed to secondary school lacks skill when they exit from Obbitu and freely mix with community members and relatives they lack the skills which other children have been exposed to but foreign to the children from Obbitu children home.

Obbitu children home was established on the foundation of Borana culture driven by the economic mainstay which is pastoralism. Therefore if there are no cows and herding is not practiced in Obbitu then the children will miss one opportunity to engage in economic activities done by most people around them after they exit from Obbitu children home.

Obbitu children home provide family back ground status for each child. Children start owning wealth early in their childhood, the expected wealth is cows in Borana culture, when a child will be exited from Obbitu, and they have no wealth. This shows children did not come out with something worthy from where they had called their home for many years.

Children should be supported with all the secular education and cultural skills to be completely trained and ready to be exited in to the community.

### **PROJECT GOAL**

Obbitu children learn and acquire skills of cattle rearing for their future livelihood sustainability.

### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

1. To train 25 Obbitu children on skills of rearing cows in Obbitu children home
2. Increase the number of cows for Obbitu children home through breeding the existing cows
3. Maintain the health of the cows through disease prevention, treatment and provision of feeds at Obbitu children home.
4. Restock 25 children with 3 calves each to support inheritance and ownership

### **PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

1. Introduce herding and couching to the children in Obbitu children home compound
2. Observe the milking, treatment and condition of sick animals
3. Construction of improved cattle shade and calves pen
4. Provision of veterinary services for the cows.
5. Purchases of 2 years calves for the Obbitu children
6. Provision of animals feeds and supplements
7. Construction of 1 hay store
8. Clearing and proper fencing of pasture land in Obbitu children home

## **EXPECTED PROJECT OUTPUT**

1. 25 children acquired skills on rearing of livestock
2. Increased milk yield for Obbitu children
3. 1 roofed and cemented animal shade constructed
4. 25 calves procured and issued to the children in Obbitu children home
5. 1 pasture farm developed in Obbitu children compound
6. 1 hay store constructed
7. Veterinary drugs available in Obbitu children home for treatment of sick animals
8. Increase number of cattle in Obbitu through breeding

## **PROJECT OUT COME**

1. The project will enhance positive attitude and skills for the young children to practice cattle rearing as a means of income generating activities.
2. The project will increase milk production in as a source of protein and minerals for Obbitu children improving their nutritional status.
3. Obbitu children will save expenditure on purchase of milk from the market for the children n saving can be redirected to other needs of Obbitu children home.
4. Obbitu children will own cows as inheritance when they exit from Obbitu children home

## **TARGET BENEFICIARY**

OVC living in Obbitu children home and by extension the relatives of the children.

## **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

The project site will be in Obbitu children home where the land is sufficient to rear cows and grow pasture.

Traditionally Borana community gives young calves to their children earlier in life; hence the project will buy calves of 2-3years. Since currently there are 25 children living in Obbitu children home hence we plan to buy 25 calves so that each child will receive 1 calve. The children will be shown their calves for identification and ownership immediately. The child will start identify their calves among the herds of cows. This will become their daily routine making them to love the cows and become herders in future.

In Obbitu there is ample land to grow pasture, they land is bushy and requires clearing to open up and protect from wild animals.

The cows will require roofed cowshed to protect from adverse weather like rain the young calves will have a nearby pen to separately stay. Crush for treatment will be constructed near the cowshed. The proximity of the cowshed near the children home will help the children to learn how to manage them including milking, tick control and feeding.

Due to unpredictable weather condition and frequent drought there are depletion of pasture in the area. Pasture harvesting and storage will be carried out.

In mean time the 6 cows we already own, have finished their pasture and foliage in and outside of Obbitu hence a measure to provide them with pasture will b addressed as an immediate action to hire hay farm for the animals until it rains and adequate pasture grown.

Obbitu children management team will take responsibility to run the activities and oversee all the requirement of the cows. Supervision will be done by herdsman and watchman of the day and night

Obbitu management will collaborate with ministry of livestock and department of veterinary services to maintain the health of the cows.

When children are exited from Obbitu children home then they will take their cows along with them. They will take responsibility to herd, feed and treatment of their cows in future with support and partner with relatives and community members.

## **BUDGET**

<b>NO</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>	<b>UNIT COST</b>	<b>TOTAL COST</b>
1	Purchase of calves female 2-3 years	25	20,000	500,000
2	Purchase of 2 bulls for breeding	2	40,000	80,000
2	Construction of cow shade, pens for young calves and a crush for treatment	1	600,000	600,000
3	Barbed wire for fencing of Obbitu pasture land 4,000M in diameter	30 rolls	3,000	90,000
4	Poles for fencing post 4 sides of the compound	1,600	300	480,000
5	Nails for fastening of barbed to the post	100kg	300	30,000

6	Labour for clearing the bush for pasture growth and open grazing area for cows for 10 days @500/= person per day	20	10,000	100,000
7	Hire pasture farm for current 6 cows for 4 months	4	20,000	80,000
8	Treatment of cows	31	1,000	31,000
9	Employment of 1 herders man for the cows for 1 year	1	10,000	120,000
	Contingency cost for unexpected cost 5%			105,550
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>2,216,550</b>

**BY: GUFU GUYO**

**PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

**CIPAD.**