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**RELPA**  
REGIONAL ENHANCED LIVELIHOODS  
IN PASTORAL AREAS

**ELMT**  
ENHANCED LIVELIHOODS IN  
THE MANDERA TRIANGLE

**ELSE**  
ENHANCED LIVELIHOODS IN  
SOUTHERN ETHIOPIA

**Tiya Ocota learnt how to use readily available crop residue to feed her animals, Liben, Guji Zone, Oromiya Region, Save the Children US, January 2010**



Forty years old, Tiya Ocota from Bulbul, Liben Woreda had 16 cattle before the 2008 drought. When the drought hit her husband took her animals to Did, Liben a traditional dry season grazing area. However, the drought was very severe and she lost eight of her animals with their newborn calves. She sold another five to keep her family and the other cattle alive, leaving her only with three.

Tiya was selected by the elders in her community to benefit from restocking supported by the ELSE program. Traditionally restocking would have been done by the community support system *busa gonafa*, however due to increased poverty in the area and cumulative affects of the drought, this system is being over-stretched. As such SC/US provided 3 cattle while the community provided one to those families whose livestock holdings were no longer able to sustain them. In this way the traditional system was not undermined and the elders selected the most needy people in the community as in old times.

*"I have learnt a lot though the experience of this drought" she said. "This year I sowed my land with maize and haricot beans during the genna rain and I collected the crop residue to store ready for the dry season. After the hagaya rain I collected again. This was the first time I had done this, after getting the idea from the SC/US' supplementary feeding program. Previously I used to burn crop residue and only fed my animals by grazing".*

Tiya also runs a small shop and owns three goats. Of her 10 children, 5 go to school (3 boys and 2 girls), one is married and 4 are helping her at home. She said that if she can manage to build up her herd with this assistance she would like to send the others to school too.

