

I HAVE LEARNT THAT LIVESTOCK IS NOT THE ONLY SOURCE OF INCOME: THE TESTIMONY OF LOKO SORA.

By Save the Children US

Loko Sora lives in Boba PA of Liben district some 32 kilometres away from Negelle Town. She is married and has eight children. When Loko got the opportunity to join a women's self help group to earn some income, she was delighted.

"I would spend my days taking care of my children and doing other household chores, I wanted so much to supplement my family income so when the group was established in Tufute, I was very excited" says Loko.

Loko and her family solely depended on livestock for their sustenance and in case of financial need there was no where they could access cash.

Save the Children US approached women in the community and helped them form a self help group and also trained them on basic business development skills. The group currently sells cereals and runs a cereal bank in the community.



Loko Sora, housewife turned trader.

"From the group I have learnt to work with other people, the process of buying and selling, I also developed confidence in doing business and most important of all, I learnt that livestock is not the only source of income" explains Loko.

Loko's first business transaction earned her ETB 60 (About USD 5) after she sold some maize. With this money she bought food for her family.

After the joining the group, Loko can now access credit from her group's account for her household demands. "Now we are not relying on livestock only to meet our needs; I also feel more comfortable as I no longer have to wait for my husband to give me

money for food." She says.

According to Loko, the community also has benefited. They now have access to cereals in their locality and this has saved them from walking long distances and has also created for them an opportunity to access grain on credit basis.

Loko believes that establishment of the cereal bank in their area has benefitted the community and it is meeting the group's immediate needs and preventing the rushed selling of livestock.

A total of 6 cereal groups have been supported by the ELSE program around Liben. Each group has around 20 members.