

LIVESTOCK FOR LIVELIHOODS

2018-2022 | SOUTH OMO, ETHIOPIA AND KARAMOJA, UGANDA

Farm Africa is helping over 10,000 Ugandan and Ethiopian pastoralist women set up sustainable, small-scale goat-rearing enterprises that improve nutrition amongst women and children and lift families out of poverty.

The drylands of Ethiopia's South Omo zone and Uganda's Karamoja sub-region are home to thousands of pastoralists who migrate with their livestock in search of pasture.

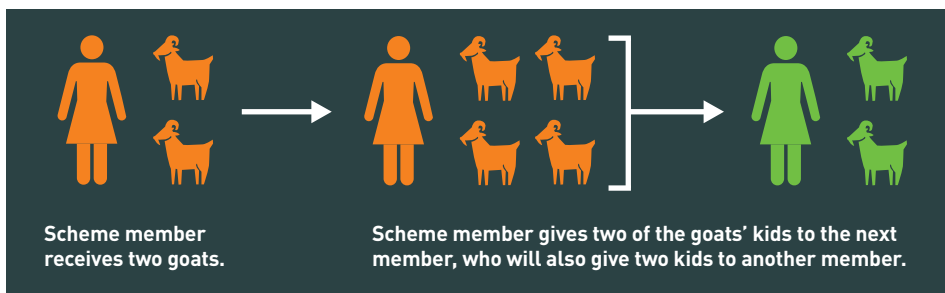
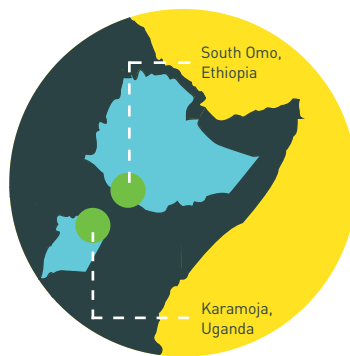
In both locations, disease, drought and degraded grasslands have cut the size of herds, exacerbating high levels of poverty and malnutrition. Goat rearing is common but unproductive. Goats are traditionally farmed for their meat, so local breeds yield little milk. A lack of suitable fodder, particularly in the dry season, and poor access to veterinary and breeding services, limits production.

Goats are often managed by women and goats' meat and milk is a rich source of protein and nutrients. However, women often struggle to translate improved

goat production into the consumption of nutritious foods and increased household income.

The project will establish 400 local Women's Livestock Groups, through which we will provide training in goat rearing and fodder and rangeland management.

A 7,200 woman-strong revolving goat scheme will be set up, which requires each woman who receives two goats from Farm Africa to give two does (female goats) to another vulnerable woman once her herd has grown, creating a cycle of improved prosperity.



PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Each woman in the project will learn about:

- **Disease control:** how to identify and treat common diseases and illnesses in their goats
- **Building shelters for their animals,** to protect them from the elements
- **Breeding:** how to cross-breed local does with improved buck
- **Feeding:** how to grow nutritious fodder trees to feed their goats for increased milk production
- **Training:** how to share the knowledge they have gained in training with the next group of women



PHOTO: FARM AFRICA/NICHOLE SOBECKI



ECONOMICALLY EMPOWERING WOMEN

Farm Africa will help the Women's Livestock Groups establish Village Saving and Loan Associations, where women unite to save and make funds available to invest in each other's businesses.

We'll also support women to develop their business skills and make the most of their goats by learning how to make and sell butter and cheese. They'll train in how to sell their goats and to navigate the local markets – traditionally very male-dominated places. We will also help women aggregate their produce so they can sell in bulk and command a higher price for their goods.



IMPROVING DIETS

Food and water shortages are common, particularly during the dry season, and malnutrition is widespread among women and children. Most families eat a very limited diet of cereal grains and wild leaves, sometimes other vegetables. Meat consumption is very rare.

Through a blend of targeted communication activities, this project will provide women with information about the nutritional value of milk, along with cooking and home garden demonstrations, which will enable them to make the most of the healthy benefits of goats' milk, especially for their children.



VETERINARY AND LIVESTOCK BREEDING SERVICES

We will help 110 vets and community animal healthcare workers expand their operations and deliver vital veterinary services to local livestock keepers.

Most breeds of goat native to these areas are hardy, but produce little in the way of milk. Farm Africa will establish community-run goat breeding stations where high-yielding dairy goats that are suited to the local landscape and climate can be bred and sold. And at the same time, we will establish buck rearing stations where goat owners can bring their local does to crossbreed them.

We are carrying out this work in partnership with the Africa Innovations Institute, an agriculture and food systems research institute, and the Mothers and Children Multisectoral Development Organization, an NGO that works to improve the lives of disadvantaged mothers and children. This project is funded with UK aid from the UK government.

