

## Aden

**Thanks to FARM-Africa, Aden's rural community in north-eastern Ethiopia have access to affordable animal healthcare for the very first time.**

Pastoralist communities living in the arid Afar region of Ethiopia are dangerously dependant on their camels, goats, sheep and cattle for milk and income to buy food. Animal illness is an ever-present problem. Most people are too poor to afford professional veterinary fees, and live more than two or three days walk from the nearest government service - effectively leaving them with no accessible animal healthcare.

This is just one region where FARM-Africa's Community Animal Health Worker (CAHW) scheme is transforming lives for whole communities. Gewane village, like many others where we work, was once awash with sick animals, many of whom died. With no local vet, villagers had no choice but to try and treat animals themselves – often with dire consequences.

Aden Ali Abo is one local farmer in the district who was selected to receive CAHW training from FARM-Africa. Our two week course, devised to meet the needs of illiterate farmers, taught Aden the skills and knowledge he needed to diagnose and treat the most common animal ailments in his community.



At the end of the training Aden received all the essential medicines and equipment he needed to bring accessible animal healthcare to his community for the very first time. He was also selected to run the co-operative veterinary drug store for the district – bringing affordable equipment and drugs to all the CAHWs in the area.

The people of Gewane village now have much healthier animals which are more valuable at market. There is also much less risk of whole herds being wiped out by disease, as Aden can spot the symptoms and give the animals the medicine they need. The community has a new lease of life and its residents are now able to plan for a much brighter future!

The scheme has also directly improved things for Aden's family, which includes 5 children and 7 orphans. He earns a little money from treating his neighbours livestock, which he supplements with his small wage from the co-operative drug store. He is now proud to say that he can afford to send all the children to school.