

## Disaster Risk Reduction and Livelihoods Recovery

### Period:

January 2012-June 2015

### Location:

Federal level, Somali, Afar, Oromia and Gambella regions

### Budget: USD 13 million

AU: USD 1 million  
CERF\*: USD 0.8 million  
Greece: USD 0.3 million  
Japan: USD 6 million  
SDC: USD 0.5 million  
UNDP: 2.4 million  
*Unfunded: 2 million*

\*) in partnership with  
FAO and IOM

### Implementing partners:

Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureaus (DPPB), and Regional Bureaus of Finance and Economic Development

## Building Community-Resilience in Disaster Prone Areas

### Opportunities:

Disaster risk reduction can be defined as the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events.

Much has been done in Ethiopia to shift from disaster response towards an all-inclusive disaster risk management (DRM) approach. The revised DRM policy guides the work and sets out the necessary steps to building an overarching DRM architecture in the country.

Firstly, disaster risk profiling is planned to be carried out throughout Ethiopia to help the country prepare for disasters before they occur. To date, the profiling has been done in more than 200 disaster prone districts.

Secondly, the government has designed, in close cooperation with UNDP and other partners, a DRM Strategic Programme and Investment Framework (DRM-SPIF) to establish a comprehensive and integrated disaster risk management system in Ethiopia. The Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) at the Ministry of Agriculture is coordinating the efforts of all stakeholders to operationalize the framework.

Thirdly, Ethiopia has enhanced its preparedness through an extensive early warning system (EWS).

Despite these efforts, a number of systemic limitations and gaps persist.

### Strategies:

The UNDP programme supporting Disaster Risk Reduction and Livelihoods Recovery (DRR/LR) in Ethiopia aims to strengthen the application of DRR practices all through the country. UNDP seeks to support the government in its efforts to systematically reduce disaster risks and impacts of disasters and to improve food security by developing capacity of national, regional and district level institutions as well as communities.

At the upstream level, UNDP supports the government in creating the building blocks for the national DRM architecture. Support to designing the DRM-SPIF, establishment of the national Emergency Coordination Centre (to centralise weather and climate information systems and to enhance dissemination of EW information) and the launch of the African Centre for DRM (to foster knowledge transfer and research on DRM) are a few examples of this work.

At the grassroots' level, UNDP provides support to communities to enhance resilience building by promoting the build-back-better approach and addressing the underlying causes of disasters. This is done through initiatives designed in the drought or flood prone areas. The experiences and learnings from these community level engagements are regularly used to inform UNDP's upstream and policy level work.

UNDP also actively initiates South-South cooperation and uses it as tool to develop capacity of its implementing partners through experience and knowledge sharing.

### Beneficiaries:

The target communities of the DRR/LR programme are vulnerable pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, reliant on the natural environment for their survival and directly facing the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events. Women are also benefitting from the programme, through their active role in the cooperatives and other activities. By feeding local level best practices into national policy formulation and frameworks, Ethiopians at large also stand to benefit from the programme.



# UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

## Actions:

### Support the creation of the national, evidence-based DRM strategy

- Played a major role in drafting the national Strategic Programme and Investment Framework (DRM-SPIF) to establish a comprehensive and integrated disaster risk management system in Ethiopia.
- Supported the launch of the African Centre for Disaster Risk Management to increase knowledge transfer and serve as hub for expertise in DRM in Africa
- Currently developing a DRM mainstreaming guide.

### Enhance the capacity of national, regional and district level institutions to mitigate hazards and prepare for disasters

- Facilitated trainings of the DRM workforce.
- Established the Emergency Coordination Centre to centralise weather and climate information systems, develop dissemination of early warning information, and prepare a set-up for coordinated responses.
- Strengthening the early warning committees at district level and providing trainings on early warning data collection, analysis and utilization. Updating the decentralized early warning database system.
- Supporting the coordination offices of the Ministry of Agriculture in Somali and Afar regions for developing integrated water resources.

### Provide life- and livelihood-saving emergency relief and recovery assistance to communities

- Supporting the rehabilitation of water facilities in districts of Somali and Oromia affected by drought
- Assisting to diversify livelihoods of affected communities through cash-for-work schemes and direct cash transfers which helped the community members to restock their livestock.
- Introducing improved rangeland practices and increasing feed availability.
- Promoting community based DRM and climate change adaptation planning and implementation.

## Progress to Date

- 1,300 experts trained as trainers of trainees to revamp the early warning systems in 677 districts and 8 regions
- 390 210 beneficiaries profited from the drought response actions in Oromia and Somali regions between 2011 and 2013.
- 32 community based risk reduction and climate adaptation initiatives supported and implemented in Oromia and Somali regions.
- 69 water facilities rehabilitated in Oromia and Somali regions.
- Close to 37 000 goats procured and distributed.
- 2800 hectares of rangeland in Borena zone (Oromia) rehabilitated.
- More than 200 000 cattle and shoats vaccinated against prevailing diseases in Borena, Gambella and Somali regions

## Impact:

The interventions will contribute to reducing the damage caused by natural hazards like droughts and floods, by strengthening the systematic efforts to analyze and reduce the causal factors of disasters. The project will contribute to reducing exposure to hazards, lessening vulnerability of people and property, and improving preparedness and early warning for adverse events. The development of water points will increase access to water for livestock and human consumption, save women and girls' time for fetching water, and also improve family health in Somali, Afar, Gambella, and Oromia.

In Afar, Oromia and Somali region, livestock restocking and introduction alternative means of livelihoods, such as provision of drought resistant seeds, will further help the pastoral communities to improve their ability to adapt to extended dry periods and recover their livelihoods. In Gambella, community based river level measuring and flood early warning system will help to reduce flood related hazards. In Lare district, the 377m long embankment (constructed and rehabilitated by the project) will help the communities to prevent flood induced displacement and crop damages.

## UNDP Ethiopia Country Office

ECA Old Building, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Africa Hall  
P. O. Box 5580, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: +251 – 115 – 515177  
Fax: +251 – 115 – 515147  
Website: [www.et.undp.org](http://www.et.undp.org)  
E-mail: [communication.et@undp.org](mailto:communication.et@undp.org)

## Contact Persons:

Mr. Takele Teshome, Programme Analyst  
Email: [takele.teshome@undp.org](mailto:takele.teshome@undp.org)

Ms. Claire Balbo, Programme Analyst  
Email: [claire.balbo@undp.org](mailto:claire.balbo@undp.org)