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UNDP Ethiopia Quarterly Newsletter - Issue 1/2014

Envisioning 2014

UNDP Ethiopia held its 2014 country office retreat in the lakeside town of Hawassa where staff reflected on 2013 and came to a consensus on a workplan for the year. Broad agenda focus areas for 2014 included broadening and deepening strategic programme initiatives; mainstreaming innovation in programmatic work; strengthening partnerships; and enhancing operational efficiency.



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UNDP Partners with Canada to Support Ethiopia's Entrepreneurs

Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) has signed over 5.8 million USD (6.5 million Canadian dollar) grant with UNDP Ethiopia to build the entrepreneurial capacity of about twenty-five thousand Ethiopian entrepreneurs with a special focus on women and female youth. The support will be provided through the Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP), which was officially launched by Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn in early 2013. The EDP seeks to support entrepreneurship development and job creation in the country by increasing the competitiveness and profitability of the Ethiopia's micro and small enterprises (MSEs), especially those owned by women and youth.

The UNDP Resident Representative, Eugene Owusu, has lauded the support provided by Canada noting that "Tapping into the innovative drive of entrepreneurs, particularly women and youth, is the cornerstone of UNDP's strategy to help Ethiopia unleash the potential of the private sector to drive the country's development agenda forward". He further observed that "UNDP is delighted to have this partnership with the Government of Canada and that it will boost youth and women participation in inclusive business". The partnership with Canada will help to strengthen the support targeted towards women's economic empowerment through entrepreneurship



development service. Ambassador of Canada to Ethiopia H.E. David Usher and UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Eugene Owusu were on hand to present certificates to graduates of an entrepreneurship training workshop for women. They are joined by EDC CEO Ms. Etalem Engeda.

"Canada is proud to help create jobs by promoting the growth of small businesses in Ethiopia, especially those owned by women," said Christian Paradis, Canadian Minister of International Development and La Francophonie. "By providing market access, and by encouraging investment, innovation, training, and trade, we stimulate economic growth in developing countries, and we contribute to reducing poverty."

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Female entrepreneurs in Ethiopia face a number of challenges including access to critical resources such as land, capital, skills and effective business networks. In the rural areas, women are further disadvantaged when seeking for employment opportunities in the formal sector even though they have acquired the necessary technical skills. And for those who manage to find formal jobs majority tend to be underemployed.

According to the 2013 National Labor-force Survey, women employment at managerial level is five times less than that of their male counterparts while women constitute the majority of those holding low end occupations. The story is different when it comes to the informal sector which accounts for 23.1% of all working women while only 14.7 % of working men are drawn into this sector.

The Entrepreneurship Development Programme supports Ethiopia to address these bottlenecks by providing women with vocational skills and building their knowledge base in business while promoting self-employment. Since the launch of the EDP in 2013, the [Entrepreneurship Development Center](#) has rolled out the programme in four regions of xxxxx.

South-South Cooperation Energises Ethiopia's Plan to Launch a National Coffee Platform



State Minister Yacob Yalla (second from far right) tasting coffee in Costa Rica

A high level Ethiopian government delegation recently traveled to Costa Rica and Guatemala on a study tour to take away lessons from those countries' experiences around national commodity platforms for major export items.

The mission looked at ways to improve the production practices and processes, enhance branding and marketing, improve quality, increase stakeholder engagement, and address sustainability challenges in the Ethiopian coffee sector.

The delegation was led by State Minister Yakob Yalla who noted, "We want to enter a global market and modernize the agricultural sector.

We were looking at the best, value-adding agricultural and trade systems so we can follow that path and establish a platform for coffee that is sustainable and responsible".

The country seeks to further capitalize on the huge untapped potential of the coffee sector and maximize the financial return.

As part of Ethiopia's plan to achieve its target of increasing production and earning from coffee, the government is setting up a national coffee platform. The platform provides a mechanism for the development of robust branding, marketing, and enforcement of premium pricing in the export market.

The delegation noted that the study trip has helped them to build awareness on the imperative of promoting of broad-

based stakeholder dialogue, including on options for fostering collective decision-making.

Although stakeholder involvement, among the Ethiopian coffee sector, has been on the increase, further engagement of new partners (including the private sector and civil society), is necessary to improve existing practices. The government has pledged to organise the steering committee meetings more often with a view to operationalize the various coffee platform task forces and make the platform operational within the next few months.

National coffee platform meetings get a constructive dialogue going with the various stakeholders, address major challenges of the sector, and take advantage of existing export opportunities. The first meeting is scheduled for the second quarter of 2014 and stakeholders will be invited to officially launch the national coffee platform of Ethiopia.

“Our trade sector development project is designed to strengthen the sustainability of coffee as a principal export commodity in Ethiopia through the establishment of the National

Coffee Platform,” explains Mr. Eyob Tesfaye, Head of the Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction at UNDP country office in Ethiopia.. Having been part of the delegation to Guatemala and Costa Rica he stressed that, “ lessons learnt from Costa Rica’s National Pineapple Platform and Guatemala’s Sustainable Commodities Assistance Platform show that promoting inclusive participation is highly critical in resolving sector specific challenges.”

“We want to establish a platform for coffee that is sustainable and responsible, like the one Costa Rica has for pineapples,” emphasised State Minister Yakob Yalla and added, “One of the main focus of our visit to Costa Rica was to see how we can penetrate the global market with the help of the government.”

During the study tour, the Ethiopian delegation visited Costa Rica’s national coffee institute (ICAFE) and learnt of the country’s extensive measures to ensure quality in all aspects from cultivation, harvesting, processing, storage and shipping of coffee to the markets. The delegation was briefed by high-ranking officials from the Ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Trade as well as by coffee exporters’ associations who shared their experience on forging a constructive alliance with relevant stakeholders and setting up collaborative engagement under a national

platform. Improved policy and regulatory environment was also cited to have helped enhance production, value addition and export competitiveness in these countries.

In Guatemala, the delegation visited the Export Association (AGEXPORT) and its Coffee division, the Board of Directors and technical experts of the National Coffee Association (ANACAFE), and the Rainforest Alliance. Site visits to various coffee farms were also organized to showcase the ongoing work on the ground.

Facts and Figures: Ethiopian Coffee

- Around 30 million Ethiopians are employed in the production, processing and trading of coffee.
- Coffee is the country's most important cash crop and largest export commodity accounting for nearly 25 per cent of Ethiopia's exports.
- In order to boost production volumes and export earning the government plans to expand land used for coffee plantations from 462,000 to 815,000 hectares by the end of the 2015.

France Reaffirms Support to Civil Service Reform in Ethiopia

A French Member of Parliament, Mr. Jean-François Mancel (centre front in the photo below) has reassured the Institute of Leadership and Good Governance that he would lobby the Government of France for continued support to the Institute. The Government of France and UNDP are providing support to the Institute and the on-going Civil Service Reform across Ethiopia.

UNDP supports the Institute of Leadership and Good Governance on the ground that the Institute is mandated to build the capacity of civil servants responsible to advance the country's Growth and Transformation Plan which lists the Civil Service Reform as a priority agenda.

Dr Hailmeichael Aberra (far right on the first row in the photo above), President of the Ethiopian Civil Service University that hosts the Institute for Leadership and Good Governance, commended the support received from UNDP and Government of France in establishing the Institute. He noted that Civil Service Reform in Ethiopia is still in the initial stages and hence will require 'strong , committed, transformation -oriented leadership'; skills that the Institute currently prioritizes through the courses delivered.

The Institute has graduated two batches of civil servants who are currently assisting with the decentralization process taking place in Ethiopia.



Empowering Farmers to Bolster Community Resilience

The National Meteorological Agency (NMA) has received automatic weather stations that will help five thousand Ethiopian farmers living in four regions of the country to access free and accurate meteorological information.

The Ministry of Environment and Forest transferred the automatic weather stations, acquired with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to the NMA during an official ceremony held in Addis Ababa on 27th March 2014.

The new weather stations will assist in strengthening regional institutional capacity in Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, and Tigray regions for managing climate-resilient planning and investments, enhancing access to technologies and best practices, and stepping up the number of adaptation options and solutions for communities vulnerable to climate change.

The National Meteorological Agency will train district officials and selected beneficiaries in the pilot districts to install, read, and maintain the new weather stations. These will in turn instruct farmers in the districts on how to produce and access accurate meteorological information. Through these interventions farmers are helped to experiment with climate smart agricultural practices all the way from land preparation to harvesting.

UNDP has been supporting the government in strengthening the collection and dissemination of climate information and the procurement of the automatic weather stations is part of this support to the country. Lessons learnt from this initial pilot intervention is expected to help UNDP to scale up its support to Ethiopia in meeting its development vision to build a climate resilient and green economy over the coming years. With the financial support from Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP is partnering with the Ministry of Environment and Forest and the National Meteorological Agency to promote autonomous adaptation to climate change at community level.

UNDP Africa Regional Head Takes Away Lessons from Ethiopia

The Director of UNDP Africa, Abdoulaye Mar Dieye ended a nine-day visit to Addis Ababa in February 2014, where he met with the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn and State Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Ahmed Shide, discussing with them Ethiopia's growth, its development progress and its regional presence. Ethiopia is aspiring to become a Middle Income Country with a fully-fledged green economy by 2025.



The RBA Director is holding up a jar of Teff, an indigenous and nutritionally rich cereal crop. The ATA is researching on Teff with the support of UNDP.

This is Mr. Dieye's first official country visit since taking up his post in late 2013, as head of UNDP's largest regional portfolio.

He also met with the UNDP Ethiopia Country Office and spoke of the vision and plan for the years ahead at UNDP, briefing staff on the strategic plan and change management effort. Having repositioned itself, UNDP Ethiopia is now involved in a series of programmes that reflect the upstream policy work the organization is leaning towards.

In addition, the RBA Director had the chance to meet with UNDP's key partners in Ethiopia such as the Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) that is working on the ground to help push forward Ethiopia's development agenda through identifying systematic bottlenecks in the agriculture sector. "We always overlook the bottlenecks", Mr. Dieye reflected, underlining that the Ethiopian experience in this case could be used as a lesson for interventions in other areas of Africa such as the Sahel region.

Exploring South-South Cooperation on DRM

A high level delegation from the Chinese Academy of Science visited United Nations Development Programme on 30th of April 2014 to identify potential areas of future collaboration and technical assistance in the area of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and livelihoods recovery in Ethiopia.

The delegation will also visit the Emergency Coordination and Early Warning Centre of DRM-FSS which has been established with the support of UNDP under its DRM programme.



Photo: Right to left – UNDP Technical Advisor, Disaster Risk Management and Livelihoods, Climate Resilient Green Growth Unit Mr. Dillip Kumar Bhanja with visitors from China.

Harnessing Drylands Management for Ethiopia's Development



A high level policy forum on drylands management has helped create awareness of the economic importance of drylands, identify policy gaps for scaling up best practices, and share experiences on the benefits of sustainably managing and utilizing drylands in Ethiopia. The event in Semara, Afar Regional State, was organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Afar Regional Government, and the Afar Environmental Protection, Land Administration and Use Agency (EPLAUA).

EPLAUA implemented the Afar Integrated Drylands Management Project (AIDMP), from 2010-2013 with the support of UNDP and the Norwegian Government, seeking to improve the livelihoods and coping mechanisms of the pastoral communities in five districts of the region.

Afar is inhabited mainly by pastoralists and agro-pastoralist, and has invested strongly in responding to climate change and hazards

caused by it. However, droughts, floods, outbreaks of diseases and expansion of invasive species continue to reoccur and the extent of the damages is increase.

AIDMP has helped to build the communities' adaptive capacity to climate change and improve and diversify local livelihoods and has made valuable contributions to the development initiatives throughout the Afar region.

"Given the size, economic importance and vulnerability of the drylands, the government of Ethiopia has given due attention to mainstream integrated drylands management in all its development interventions," noted Mr. Bethan Solomon, Director of the State of the Environment, speaking on behalf of State Minister Kare Chawicha of the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF).

Ethiopia Sets Sight on Access to Climate Financing

Representatives from the Ethiopian Government, Development Partners and non-governmental actors met in Addis Ababa to share experiences around climate financing from Eastern and Southern Africa.

The roundtable discussion, held on 21 February 2014, was organised by UNDP to foster dialogue among Ethiopia's key stakeholders and identify the country's needs, priorities and progress made so far with a view to improve its readiness to access climate financing.

The event drew high level participation from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED), the Ministry of Environment and Forest, the Development Bank of Ethiopia, the World Bank, Department for International Development (DFID) and the Climate and Development Knowledge Network.

The roundtable discussion is part of a broader UNDP-supported strategic initiative on Readiness for Climate Finance which was successfully launched at 19th Conference of Parties (COP 19) in Warsaw in November 2013. The initiative involves in-depth analysis and stakeholder discussions in Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique Tanzania and Zambia, coupled with benchmarking against related initiatives and progress in other developing countries.

UNDP Ethiopia Best Performing Staff Member



The Resident Representative's Award for excellence in performance was presented to Dirk Wagener, Team Leader - Partnerships and Management Support Unit during the Country Office staff meeting held on Wednesday 30th April 2014.

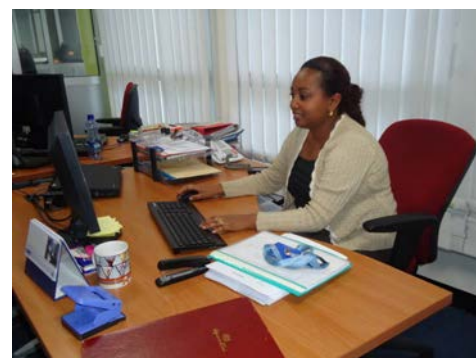
New Faces



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