



AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Moving Towards Achieving Sustainable F&S Food and Nutrition Security in the Highlands of Amhara

INTRODUCTION

The Global Hunger Index ranks Ethiopia 93rd out of 119 qualifying countries. With a score of 29.1, Ethiopia still suffers from a level of hunger that is serious according to the GHI report 2018.

The country's recent economic growth has been driven largely by growth in Agriculture, which plays a prominent role in Ethiopia's economy and has been the focus on recent government investments and policies (FAO 2018). About 85 percent of the population engages in smallholder farming, with agriculture accounting for 37% of GDP in 2016 (FAO 2018; World Bank 2018).

WELTHUNGERHILFE IN THE COUNTRY OFFICE

Agriculture and Environment have been the prominent thematic area holding a greater share of the regional program portfolio. The sector targeted to improve the food and nutrition security of smallholder farmers through improved agricultural practice, natural resource management-linked to income generating activities, market integration, processing and marketing of agricultural products and nutrition education.

Among many Welthungerhilfe Ethiopia projects in Amhara Region - where chronic food and nutrition insecurity exists and stunting rate reaches up to 50 %, - the "Multidimensional Food and Nutrition Security" is one of the SFNS projects that has been successfully implemented. The 38 month project targeted to improve the food and nutrition security of 10,400 vulnerable smallholder farmers in the three districts of Farta, Este and Fogera with the total cost of 2.667 Mio Euro which is equivalent to 61.3 Mio ETB of which 75% was supported by BMZ.

MAIN COMPONENT OF THE PROJECT AMONG OTHERS ARE;

1. Boost agricultural productivity and production
2. Improve livestock production and rangeland management
3. Create value chains and off-farm incomes
4. Foster nutritional aspects of women and children

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AMONG OTHERS;

- Construction of small-scale irrigation schemes. The construction of three small-scale irrigation schemes which covers 178.2ha irrigable land allowed 435 hh(2, 175 farmers) to produce all year round.
- Provision of 221 easily manageable hand pumps, for homestead gardening with vegetable and fruit seeds; priority was given to ultra-poor women HHs.



One of the constructed small-scale irrigation schemes



One of the Nutrition Education Cluster member

- Improved livestock breed distributed and household income and nutrition status enhanced.
- Unemployed youths and ultra-poor women organized and engaged in different income generating activities such as dairy production, fattening, saving and loan groups.
- Different agricultural imputes have been distributed to increase the yield and to improve houshld food and nutrition security. To mention some: Wheat, Potato, Malt Barley, Fruit trees and vegetable seeds.
 - ◇ Teff production increased from 16 quintals per hectare to 19.5 quintals per hectare;
 - ◇ Malt barley also has a similar progress having about 13 quintal yield difference;
 - ◇ A Potto has also 214 quintal yield increment from the previous production state
 - ◇ Wheat 16.5 quintal yield difference

THE NEW PROJECT WITH LANN+:

After successful implementation of the proposed activities and achievement of the intended results, the project has come to an end in December 2017. Different monitoring reports confirm that the project has been successful in piloting good practice models. Meanwhile, critical gaps have been observed in the sector such as WASH (current access is below 40%) and adoption of improved nutrition behavior by the target groups, which may pose a big threat in reversing the results achieved and limit efforts towards Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security (SFNS).

The new (continuation) project expected to be implemented in the region has a new and innovative approach called LANN+ (Linking Agriculture & Natural Resource Management towards Nutrition Security), to extend the impact in fighting hunger and malnutrition in the selected region.

EXPECTED OUTPUT/RESULT:

1. Degraded lands rehabilitated and biodiversity of the area enhanced;
2. Increased production/productivity and consumption of diversified food items by the target groups;
3. Increased income and access to financial service to enhance economic empowerment of smallholder farmers, poor women and landless youth
4. Increased access to water supply and sanitation service for the target.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED:

- Distribute economic and ecological important tree species (Acacia Diccurrence seedlings) to 150 very poor famers for rehabilitating degraded farmlands
- Distribution of grass species (desho grass) to 500 famers for stabilizing physical structures and increasing livestock feed availability
- Distribution of vegetable seeds (tomato, onion, cabbage, carrot, letuce and others) to 608 pregnanat and lacing women how have access to irrigation or water harvesting facilities
- Purchase and distribution of improved potato seed for 608 households
- Purchase and distribution of Washera breed ram to 500 houtholds for improving quality of lambs from local bread sheep
- Construction of 600 M main canal extention and another 600M secondary canal extention to develop about 38 ha additional command area and benefi 152 households
- Purchase and distribution of 5month improved breed pullets to 750 trained pregnat and lactating women (5 pullets/women)to improve thier nutrtn
- Construction of milk collection kiosk to each milk collection and marketing cooperative to create permanent working place for the cooperative's members
- Constructicon of 22 shallow wells to increase access to water suply from improved sources to 6,750 people living in Kebeles/villages with critical water problme
- Organzie three youth groups (10 youth in each group) in a package of IGA's on slected site (community forest sites)
- Provide training to 750 mothers on balanced diet food preparation and infant and yough child feeding for improving thiehr nutrtn intake
- Train Health Extension Workes in all the 20 targeted kebeles on hygiene and sanitation promotion to raise awarness and bring attiudinal change of 61, 255 people
- Provide training on Dynamic-Disaster Risk Reduction System to the memebers of DRR committess in 20 Kebeles

Project title	Moving Towards Achieving Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security in the High-lands of Amhara
Sector	Agriculture and Environment/ Rural and Regional development
Donor	BMZ
Duration	December 01, 2018-December 31, 2021
Budget	2, 146,667. Euro
Locations	Amhara Regional State, Estie, Farta, Fogera and Guna-Begemidir Woredas
Target Group	61, 255 individuals
Project descrip-tion	The objective of the project is to contribute to the sustainable reduction of hunger and malnutrition in the region.

Welthungerhilfe Ethiopia: For more inforamtion Mr. Yohannes Belay