



► EIP Country Brief

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Ethiopia Project Brief

Enhancing disaster resilience through employment-intensive waterworks in Kebribeyah and Jigjiga (April 2021-July 2022)

Summary

- *This project brief describes the project implemented in Ethiopia's Somali region to promote the sustainable livelihoods of vulnerable communities affected by climate-induced shocks and conflict-induced displacement. Funded by the Japanese Supplementary Budget project (JSB), the Project's rationale is to enable quick economic and social recovery by restoring infrastructure to flood-affected communities and enhance their resilience to disasters through the provision of flood protection and mitigation measures, and Water and Sanitation intervention.*

► Background

Ethiopia is the second-largest refugee-hosting country in Africa, as of 30 Nov 2020 hosting over 797,191 across several areas of the country including in five emerging regions as well as in Addis Ababa. Environmental resources degradation, climate-related shocks, such as floods and droughts, and conflict-induced displacement continue to exacerbate the vulnerabilities in the country, leading to food insecurity, high malnutrition, protection challenges, the spread of epidemics, forced displacement and relocation.

These types of natural disasters are contributing to increasing the number of IDPs in the country. As of June 2020, Ethiopia has over 1.78 million IDPs, of which, 602,000 were climate induced. The situation is particularly severe in the Somali region where more than 79 percent of the flood-affected and displaced people are located. Seasonal flooding and successive droughts have distressed these areas affecting the livelihoods of most people living in Kebribeyah, Jigjiga and the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps of the Fafan Zone of Somali regional state. The situation has jeopardized the

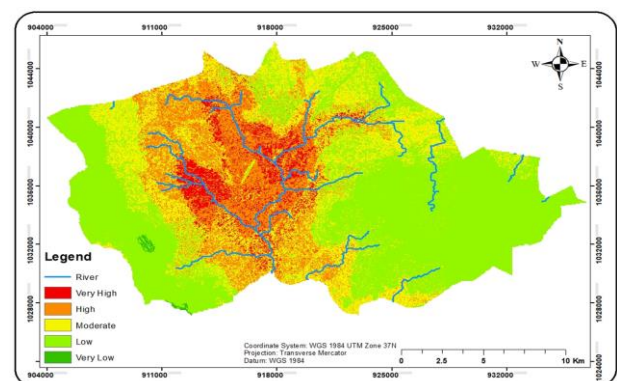


Figure 1: Flood hazard map of Jigjiga town and its surrounding

The Somali Regional State (SRS) is the second largest region of Ethiopia with Jigjiga as the capital city. The region borders Djibouti to the north, Somalia to the east, and Kenya to the south. In the mid-north of SRS is Fafan Zone, where three refugee camps are located including Aw-Barre, Sheder and Kebribeyah.

The Somali language is predominantly spoken in the region. 98.74 per cent of the population is Muslim. The ethnic composition includes Somali 95.6 per cent, Oromo 2.25 per cent, Amhara 0.69 per cent, and Guragie 0.14 percent. Livestock and crop production are the main means of livelihoods for most of the residents.

agricultural and livestock production across the area. It has aggravated already existing social and economic challenges, which are reducing the livelihood security of the population including women, refugees, and persons with disabilities.

The Kebribeyah refugee camp located in Jigjiga area experiences water shortages for both refugees and the refugee hosting community. Water and sanitation requirements at the health centre that serves both host (30%) and refugee communities are critical which will aggravate the expansion of water-borne diseases due to poor sanitary conditions.



► The Project

The project targeted intensely displacement-impacted areas of Kebribeyah and Jigjiga of the Somali Region. It aimed to generate employment opportunities and thereby promote livelihoods for refugees, IDPs and their hosts in flood protection, drainage, land management and environmental works, which are key enablers of economic growth. The project achieves this by restoring infrastructure to flood-affected communities and enhancing their resilience to disasters through the provision of water retention infrastructures, and water and sanitation intervention in Jigjiga and Kebribeyah refugee camp respectively. The works are closely linked to the agricultural sector through irrigation development



and water detention ponds acting as a strong economic driver for refugee-hosting communities.

The project was composed of 3 pillars:

1. Government capacity building on flood protection based on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, aiming to create community awareness of flood early warning systems and actions and create information exchange linkages between regional and woreda (district) offices.
2. Detention Pond construction for flood protection duly used for irrigation development and animal feeding respectively, with a view to reinforcing structural flood prevention and mitigation measures
3. Water and sanitation facilities rehabilitation, including dry latrines and water distribution systems, to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak in refugee settings.



The project had outcomes that specifically addressed gender issues through the employment of women which ensured observance of basic women's rights.



► Achievements

The capacity building trainings in Jiggiga introduced flood disaster risk reduction and management concepts, best practices, and skills to train participants. It provided opportunities to apply, and use acquired skills to assess, implement, monitor, and evaluate multi-sectoral flood disaster risk reduction projects and programmes. 27 government officials including 7 women participated for two weeks from different offices including the bureaus of Agriculture, Disaster Risk Management, Environment, and local media institution who are believed to be among the occurs.

294 (41% women) community persons benefitted from the construction of detention ponds with 17,368 days of employment created. In addition, 288 community persons were sensitized on Occupation Safety and Health, COVID-19 awareness, and Do-nou technology skills for water harvesting through on-the-job Do-nou works



In curbing the incidence of the flood, the project constructed structural works to control and guide floods through the villages, and non-structural works to alert and monitor flood development and its passage. The structural measures involved the construction of water retaining structures- detention ponds while non-structural measures focused on building the capacities of government officials on flood forecasting and early warning systems. The water retained and collected in those structural measures are being used for irrigation development and livestock in the winter season when a shortage of water is a frequent phenomenon in the region.



Given that women and persons with disabilities are inherently more vulnerable to disasters, the participants were reminded of the importance of gender mainstreaming and disability inclusion in disaster preparedness efforts. Additionally, the project was able to break the taboo of women being unable to work by sensitizing the communities and community leaders on women's rights.

The project was able to ensure gender sensitivity for women involved in the project. This included providing pregnant and nursing mothers with flexible working hours for antenatal care and breastfeeding respectively. Women were also allowed to swap roles with colleagues whenever they were unable to report to work. Community-women were involved in the decision-making and management of water systems, as well as water committee to oversee the sustainable use of detention ponds.

In partnership with Community Road Empowerment (CORE), a Japanese NGO based in Nairobi, Kenya, a total of seven detention ponds were constructed with additional facilities such as water points for drinking and irrigation, livestock troughs, and perimeter fencing to protect children and animals from slipping into the ponds.



The construction process adopted the use of Do-Nou technology to create employment opportunities for the local communities.

For the maintenance and rehabilitation of water facilities in Kebribeyah, the project implemented a 2.2 km pipeline extension from the nearby reservoir into the health center. It also constructed 25,000 litres capacity elevated water tank, water point, four cubicle VIP latrines, and pipeline maintenance within the health center compound.

The project developed a GIS-based vulnerability, loss, and damages assessment tools to analyze, and predict flood events. The maps were handed over to the Bureau of Agriculture and Natural Resources Development (BoANRD).



► Lessons Learnt

- It is advisable to plan for the work when farming activities are minimal. The project was implemented during the harvesting season therefore it was hard to engage the community in the project without disrupting their livelihoods.
- The process of learning a new technology takes time. The Somali community, being mostly pastoralists, was not familiar with the agricultural tools used for the application of the Do-Nou technology. Therefore, they learned to use them during on-the-job training, which made the pace of activities slower than expected.
- Language barrier. It takes a longer time to give instructions because of the need to have an interpreter pass information to workers in their local language.
- Handover of sites for the construction period should be separated from the operationalization phase; for instance, it took more than one month to process and acquire land use permission from the community

Key ILO Resources

Employment-Intensive Infrastructure Programmes: Capacity Building for Contracting in the Construction Sector Geneva, International Labour Office, 1999

Employment-Intensive Investment in Rural Infrastructure for Economic Development, Social and Environmental Protection and Inclusive Growth. Geneva, International Labour Office, 2015

Illustrated guidelines for gender-responsive employment intensive investment programmes. Geneva, International Labour Office, 2016

Local Resource-Based Approaches for Infrastructure Investments – Source Book. Employment-Intensive Investment Programme, Advisory Support Information Services Regional Programme for Africa, 2009

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