

Agriculture Systems Adaptation Program in Reqame Watershed, Halaba and Silte - ASAP in Reqame

Implementor: People in Need (PIN)

Time plan: 2023-2025

Donor: Czech Development Agency (CzDA)

Location: Halaba and Silte, Central Ethiopia region, Ethiopia

Project summary:

Ethiopia is one of the countries at greatest risk of drought in the world due to climate change, posing a huge challenge to its people. The country is facing increasingly unpredictable rainfall and, in some years, a complete lack of seasonal rainfall, phenomena linked to climate change. According to the ND GAIN (Country Index, 2020), which is determined by a combination of vulnerability and preparedness to climate change, Ethiopia is rated as 'low' and is ranked 161st out of 182 countries. The vulnerability score is lowered in the case of Ethiopia mainly by poor health care as well as poor agricultural performance and structure. In the case of preparedness, political stability and education have a large impact on the low score. Agriculture is the core of the country's economy. This sector determines the growth of all other sectors and consequently the entire national economy. On average, crop production accounts for 60% of the sector's output. The sector is dominated by smallholder farmers who practise mainly mixed, rainfed agriculture using traditional technologies and low-input, low-output production systems. The land cultivated by smallholder farmers accounts for 95 % of the total agricultural area and these farmers contribute to more than 90 % of the total agricultural production. These dynamics are confirmed by the long-term experience of PIN, which has been implementing projects in the agriculture, livelihoods and water resources sectors in Ethiopia for many years, including Kembata Tembaro region, and the neighbouring Halaba and Silte regions since 2009. These projects have focused on **sustainable agriculture, livelihoods, natural resource management (forestry, soil, water) and ecological stability of the area**. The experience of PIN and partners so far confirms the challenges posed by climate change to the development of the region. In last two seasons, PIN has therefore focused on the formulation of a new programme concept: the "Climate Resilience - Agriculture Systems Adaptation Program (ASAP)". Detailed knowledge of the situation in the communities, close collaboration with local partners at all levels and previous analytical work, both technical and socio-economic, helped to define the key outcomes of the project, which focus on i) **building local capacity** of governmental and non-governmental partners to respond to clearly identified and described risks associated with climate change and ecological stability, (ii) **development of alternative agricultural practices** or livelihoods for farmers and vulnerable community members; and (iii) **specific technical support for landscape interventions** in selected sites affected by deforestation, land degradation and other elements of ecological instability.

A key added value of the proposed solution is the proven ability of the project team and partners to not only effectively implement activities in the field, but also to operationally provide key technical analysis, data, monitoring and know-how for immediate use for training, coaching and community outreach, as well as for use by other CzDA implementing partners. The proposed project thus plans to leverage the capacity building of the "**Climate Resilience - ASAP!**" programme, which, in addition to the PIN and Ethiopian governmental partners, includes such entities as Hawassa University - Wondo Genet College of Forestry and NR, All for Soil, BigTerra, Georespect and the Institute for Hydrodynamics of the Czech Academy of Sciences. Along with the reduction of risks during the implementation of activities, an obvious advantage of this programmatic approach over the project approach is also the **significant leverage of CzDA resources**, as the programmatic approach tends to be more efficient with a longer lasting impact.

Overall objective: *Develop the capacity of local actors to ensure the environmental stability and climate resilience of communities at risk of food insecurity and environmental migration*

Specific objective: *Contribute to the adoption of sustainable landscape management practices and climate resilient livelihoods among farmers and vulnerable community members*

Key activities implemented within the project:

- Analysis of environmental risks and landscape dynamics with a focus on specific soil properties
- Providing training to relevant government and farmers training centers' staff on climate change adaptation and risk reduction and providing training to vulnerable farmers
- Training and promotion of climate sensitive agriculture and conservation agriculture practices among vulnerable farmers
- Supporting women's groups in vegetable production through training on vegetable production, nutrition, seeds and tools
- Support installation and use of water harvesting and irrigation techniques
- Support green income generation activities resilient to climate change and complementary to agriculture production
- Support nurseries in the production of sufficient seedlings for land management and agro-forestry practice
- Support Reqame cluster micro watershed practices for the replacement plan of eucalyptus tree by different legumes trees; support watershed practices through necessary tools and direct sowing seed support

Beneficiaries

- direct target group of the project: vulnerable farmers, farmers supporting water harvesting and dry season cropping, farmers involved in green income generation activities, technical, model and grassroots farmers, women's groups, local experts, institutions, farmer training centers, watershed management committees
- final beneficiaries of the project: farmers and their families, communities living in 12 target kebeles and 4 woredas of two zones Halaba and Silte