



LIFE-AR

LDC Initiative for Effective
Adaptation and Resilience



ETHIOPIA

**Strengthening climate resilience
of people and ecosystems one
woreda at a time**

Introducing LIFE-AR

The Least Developed Countries' (LDCs) Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR) aims to achieve the LDCs' 2050 vision for a climate-resilient future.

Led by the LDCs, LIFE-AR encourages a change in the prioritisation, financing, coordination and evaluation of climate responses. LIFE-AR seeks to develop long-term interventions and investments in climate adaptation and works with governments to sustainably strengthen national and local institutions, systems and capabilities. By demonstrating the effectiveness of this approach, the aim is to influence the architecture of climate finance to enable direct access to LDCs. LIFE-AR is in line with the principles of locally-led adaptation and is developing mechanisms for including the specific needs of local communities, which will help enrich national and regional adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

LIFE-AR in Ethiopia

Ethiopia is one of the six countries from the LDC Group that stepped up as front runners to implement the LDC 2050 Vision through LIFE AR at national and local levels. In Ethiopia, LIFE-AR will be delivered through a delivery mechanism that will flow funding from national level to woredas. The delivery mechanism is based on Ethiopia's devolved governance structure where woredas already have responsibility for local development planning. This mechanism will introduce new features aligned with LIFE-AR's principles. It aims to:

- strengthen the flow and reliability of finance for climate resilient investments,
- enhance community participation, social inclusion and bottom-up decision making, and
- strengthen woreda's capacity to develop and implement long-term, cross-sectoral climate smart development plans.

LIFE-AR investments aligning with Ethiopia's national strategies and priorities on adaptation and climate resilient growth

The Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) is Ethiopia's overarching framework and national strategy toward a green economy. The CRGE strategy has four pillars: 1. Agriculture; 2. forestry; 3. Power; 4. Transport and buildings. In addition, the CRGE identified four areas to fast-track green economy strategy: 1. power infrastructure; 2. rural energy; 3. Livestock; and 4. REDD.

Ethiopia's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) provides a roadmap for reducing vulnerability to climate change by mainstreaming adaptation into development activities across sectors and levels and elaborates how the country will build resilience in line with the CRGE strategy. The NAP identifies the following priority sectors for adaptation: forestry, agriculture, health, power, transport, water, industry and urban. Within these sectors, 18 adaptation options have been identified for implementation. They include enhancing food security by improving agricultural productivity in a climate-smart manner; improving access to potable water; strengthening sustainable natural resource management; enhancing alternative and renewable power generation; and developing efficient value chain and marketing systems.

LIFE-AR's investments are aligned to the CRGE's pillars and/or the fast track components: poultry and dairy production investments fall under the fast track component of efficient livestock sector, natural resources management investments fall under REDD, and investments such as eco-friendly houses construction along with biogas, solar panel investments fall under rural energy and the identified growth pillars for climate resilient green economy. In addition, these investments align with the NAP priority sectors and priority adaptation options.



Ethiopia decided to use the early stages of implementing LIFE-AR to focus on selecting a pilot woreda, engaging local communities to identify priority investments for climate resilience and implementing those investments. Ethiopia decided to take a business unusual approach by moving away from short-term projects delivering small scale investments across multiple locations/woredas. They focused instead on one location – Kembebit woreda in Oromia region - with larger and longer-term funding to deliver sustained impacts in the targeted communities. Within Kembebit woreda, three adjacent kebeles have been clustered together and will be the focus of the first round of investments. For the second round of investments an additional three clustered kebeles will be selected within Kembebit woreda, before scale out to an additional woreda in the adjacent region of Amhara. Kembebit woreda will receive a total of ETB 102,529,712.12 for the pilot investments.

This focused approach will:

- support the adoption of the innovative features from the delivery mechanism across Kembebit woreda more widely (e.g. establishment of kebele community representative committees, community prioritisation of investments), and
- strengthen the initial learnings emerging from the pilot in the three kebeles and facilitate the wider scale out to additional woredas and regions.

The scale out also takes a landscape approach by expanding to adjacent kebeles, woreda and region with the assumption that this will enhance the sustainability of the impact of the investments.

Innovative features of Ethiopia's Delivery Mechanism

1. **10-year climate smart Woreda development plan** developed to support cross-sectoral integration at woreda level and to include climate-informed investment priorities from kebeles;
2. **Climate funds to flow directly from national level to woredas** with 70% of funds for community prioritised investments at kebele level;
3. **Woreda steering committee** established to strengthen intersectoral coordination within woreda for delivery of plans and initiatives;
4. **Kebele community representative committees (KCRC)** established and responsible for ensuring communities' knowledge and priorities are reflected in investment plans and in long-term woreda climate smart development plans.
5. **Inclusive representation of KCRC** which must include community representatives as committee members and consist of 40% women, and 20% representing youth and people living with disabilities to ensure that investment take the differentiated needs of women, youth and people living with disabilities into account.



Pilot woreda and investment

Selection of Kembebit woreda

Kembebit woreda in the North Showa zone of the Oromia region was selected for the pilot based on the following set of criteria:

- a politically stable and safe area, and with evidence of good governance practices;
- easily accessible location by public transport to enable good oversight and support by national task force;
- high vulnerability to climate change;
- good availability of secondary data; and
- absence of any existing major project intervention.

Within Kembebit woreda, the three kebeles of Gara Chatu, Tabote and Moye Gara Boru have been selected to participate in the pilot through the application of the following criteria:

- willingness of kebele administration to be involved;
- peace and security issues;
- greater natural resource potential;
- high level of vulnerability to climate change;
- located in upper catchment of Jema sub basin due to watershed approach chosen for piloting.

The investment prioritisation process involved the following three major steps:

- 1. Community engagement**
- 2. Establishing the development context**
- 3. Assessing climate risks**



Community consultations

Community engagement

In each kebele within Kembebit Woreda, kebele assembly meetings were held to select community representatives. These community representatives then participated in meetings to identify and prioritise local challenges and potential solutions based on their own knowledge and experiences. These community representatives formed the Kebele Communities' Representatives Committee (KCRC), which comprise two individuals representing each kebele. The KCRCs then participated in the subsequent planning process to ensure that local priorities were accurately included in the 10-year climate smart development plan for Kembebit. The KCRC also participated in conducting baseline climate risk assessments by conducting key informant interviews.

Following selection of the priority investments, focus group discussion were held in each pilot kebele to identify beneficiaries for the selected investments, facilitated and supported by the KCRC and woreda taskforces. This engagement process prioritized criteria related to vulnerability, inclusion, and accessibility to ensure fairness throughout. Additionally, the KCRC participated in validation workshops to secure community endorsement of the climate-smart investment plans.

Establishing the development context

The national and local development policy contexts serve as the basis for determining alignment between Federal and woreda level development objectives. The LIFE-AR investment prioritization used key national documents to establish national climate smart development objectives, including: the 10-year Prospective Development Plan (FDRE, 2021), Growth and Transformation Plan II (NPC, 2016), and prominent sectorial strategy documents, particularly the Climate Resilience Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy (FDRE, 2011), EFCCC's National Adaptation Plan and Environmental Sustainability Strategy, as well as the development strategies of the key sectors focusing on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Climate risk assessment and integration

The final step in the process involved the integration of historical and projection-based climate risk assessment to specify ways investments support adaptation from a forward development planning perspective. The climate risk assessment used: a) historical and projection-based climate hazard data; and b) primary data on community-based climate vulnerability assessment. The climate smart screening took a multi-hazard and multi-sectoral kebele level landscape approach.



Water point line survey for existing deep well in pilot kebele

ETB 102,529,712

- Potable water supply
- Irrigation for agricultural production
- Enhancing milk production
- Milk, poultry and vegetables production
- Value chains
- Natural resources management and nursery site establishment
- Off-grid solar panel supply
- Biogas plant
- Eco-friendly housing construction



Poultry farm: 4,552 individuals out of which 300 individuals are direct beneficiaries and the remaining 4,252 benefiting indirectly through local wealth creation, market supply, and poultry value chains in neighboring pilot kebeles and beyond

Potable water supply: directly serve the water needs of **5,000 rural people** and indirectly benefit over 7,000 nearby residents. Also directly benefit 3 health facilities and 7 schools (including 6 primary schools and 1 secondary school).

Dairy production: direct benefit to 20 households, including 140 families. Indirectly benefits 1000 people due to the increased supply of livestock products.

Solar panel supply: 54 selected households, **705 individuals**

NRM investment: 205 direct beneficiaries, 5829 indirect beneficiaries

Value chains: 194 selected households direct beneficiaries, 6,100 indirect beneficiaries

Biogas plant: 5 selected households, 2,3000 individual indirect beneficiaries



- Enhanced **access to clean water** for domestic and livestock consumption
- Adoption of **good and sustainable hygiene practices**
- Enhanced **access to nutritious food:** eggs, chicken meat, milk and dairy products
- **Improved health outcomes** for children and households
- More stable and **diversified incomes**
- Provision of **clean, affordable and sustainable energy**
- **Reduced reliance on traditional biomass**, such as firewood
- **Decreased deforestation**



Dairy shed



Enhanced poultry farming

Priority investments

Climate Risks: droughts and floods (March-May and July-September), shifts in seasonal rainfall patterns, frosts (November-January).
Sectors: agriculture, livestock, water, natural resources, energy

Kembebit woreda is situated to the north-east of Addis Ababa, connected to the capital city by a main road. The three pilot kebeles have a total population of over 12,200 inhabitants (around 10% of the total population of Kembebit Woreda). The three kebeles receive annual rainfall ranging from 800-925mm while mean annual temperature ranges from 18-20°C.

Agriculture, especially crop production and livestock rearing, is the main source of livelihoods. Livestock play an integral part of agricultural production in the three pilot kebeles, such as serving as source of traction power for cultivation, dairy products for household consumption and markets. In addition, some farmers are involved in animal fattening for the growing urban demands in Addis Ababa.

Communities in Kembebit lack access to adequate potable water. Households resort to collecting water from unprotected sources and also have to travel long distances to access water for domestic and livestock use. They also face land shortages and fragmentation due to population growth and land degradation. Soil erosion, nutrient depletion and deforestation contribute to greater food insecurity. In addition, lack of quality feed and near absence of veterinary services undermine the potential contributions of livestock to households' and communities' livelihoods.

The prioritised investments aim to complement each other to strengthen the climate resilience of communities in the three kebeles. For example, the dairy investment is directly connected to the value chains, biogas production and natural resource management investments. The NRM investment ensures the ongoing availability of forage required for livestock. The value chain investments create a reliable and affordable market for livestock products, facilitating better economic outcomes for producers. The biogas plant will meet the primary energy needs of the dairy production process. It will provide energy for essential functions such as lighting in the shed and power for various equipment used in the dairy operation. Together, these interconnected investments contribute to a more sustainable and efficient dairy production system.

In Ethiopia, the Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) have been accepted as the engine of economic growth and they are seen as a pathway to promote equitable development. The major advantage of the sector is its high employment potential at low capital cost. For LIFE-AR, beneficiaries of the dairy farm and poultry farm investments were therefore organized as MSEs. The local level government has made efforts for the promotion and development of these MSEs to enable them to achieve the LIFE-AR investment activities.



Solar panels installation

A holistic and localised approach to resilience

Ethiopia has tested a “business unusual” approach in implementing LIFE-AR. With the objective of delivering 70% of climate finance at the local level early on in the project, the country decided to focus on selecting a pilot woreda, engaging with communities and delivering investments. Ethiopia adopted a localised and holistic vision on resilience, with all the efforts of this first phase targeting three adjacent kebeles in a single woreda, addressing climate impacts and strengthening livelihood to build communities resilience. The approach includes a mix of public goods (water supply and natural resource management) and private intervention, aiming to boost a sustainable private sector in the area (poultry and dairy farming).

It is anticipated that by the end of this phase Ethiopia will have:

- a fully functioning delivery mechanism channelling climate funds directly to woredas and building the resilience of communities/beneficiaries in 2 woredas across 2 regions;
- implemented a significant number of resilience investments reflecting priorities of women, youth and other marginalised groups;
- strengthened kebele and woreda capacities for long-term climate planning and budgeting;
- enhanced community participation in climate planning and decision making; and
- strengthened bottom-up decision making to influence regional and federal climate resilience policies, strategies and priorities.

Additionally, lessons from this phase will be documented and communicated nationally, across the LDCs and globally through the community of practice currently being established. These lessons will further inform a planned scale up and scale out of activities in the adjacent kebeles and woredas.



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The Least Developed Countries Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR) is a long-term LDC-led, LDC-owned initiative aiming to enhance climate resilience.

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