

UPSCALING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGH ECOSYSTEM-BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

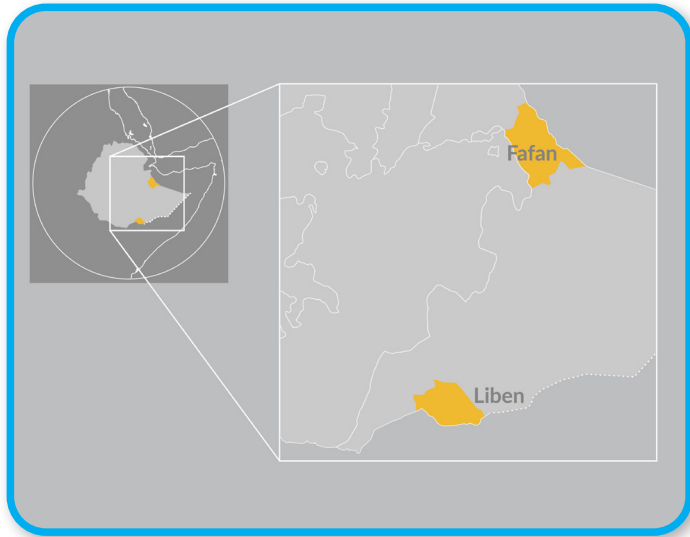


Fig.1:Map of the Project Sites

Project overview

Project location: Ethiopia

Ecosystems under restoration/protection in:

- Fafan and Liben Zones of Somali Region

Key risks being addressed: Droughts, flooding and food insecurity

Project period: July 2019- June 2022

Project objectives:

- **Overall objective:** Enhance the resilience of communities to disasters and climate risks through the piloting and scaling up of Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) activities, reaching 44,000 vulnerable people in approximately 80 communities by the end of the project.
- **Specific objective:** Strengthened integrated risk management and inclusive risk governance by supporting participatory ecosystem and community disaster risk assessments and action planning, implementation of Eco-DRR measures, scaling up of Eco-DRR action and promotion of citizen-based monitoring of disaster and climate resilient policies and practices.

Project budget: USD 823,444

Project Results



Capacity Building

- 18 Community-based Organisations trained on Eco-DRR components and 2,520 community members were sensitized on ecosystem and rangeland restoration and management for addressing overgrazing and deforestation.
- Comprehensive landscape and community-based risk assessments on flooding and drought were conducted, results were verified, and action plans developed.
- 2 Natural Resource Management and 2 Rangeland Management Committees were established and trained, and village by-laws developed for more sustainable ecosystem management.



Advocacy with Government

- Risk assessment result was shared and validated with regional and local government stakeholders. On-going discussions to integrate Eco-DRR measures in the Productive Safety Net Programme V (PSNP) to scale up Eco-DRR in Ethiopia.
- Outreach to the key government offices (agricultural and natural resources management) to collaborate on scaling up of Eco-DRR within the PSNP programme. Government is gradually adopting the "water spreading weir" technology within PSNP programme.



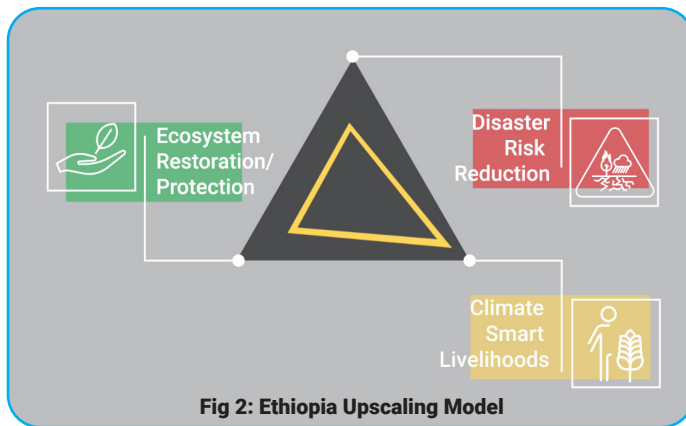
Field implementation for resilience-building

- 15,847 beneficiaries reached of which 45% are women.
- 4 water spreading weirs constructed along with stone bunds to restore 49 hectares of degraded land. The project team is working with GIZ in promoting water spreading weirs as a successful Eco-DRR measure in Somali Region.
- 3 masonry check dams constructed for restoring farm and grassing lands. 1380 people are engaged in this activity on cash for work basis.
- 4 rainwater harvesting underground tanks (birkad) rehabilitated benefiting around 630 households in the dry season.
- A nursery has been established for multi propose tree species such as fruit and fodder to restore rangelands and degraded ecosystems. 79,000 seedlings have been transplanted by the local communities.
- In total 16 hectares land are restored or protected.

Each Eco-DRR project has developed a replicable model for upscaling community resilience through three core components of Eco-DRR:

- Ecosystem Restoration/Protection
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Climate Smart Livelihoods

In Ethiopia, there is a greater emphasis on Climate Smart Livelihoods and Ecosystem Restoration/Protection by demonstrating Eco-DRR rangeland restoration, water management and embedding Eco-DRR measures within the Productive Safety Net Programme V. (Figure 2).



Eco-DRR upscaling model: Addressing multiple risks through innovative water and soil management, rangelands restoration and protection, community participation, stakeholder capacity building and embedding Eco-DRR in institutional mechanisms such as the Productive Safety Net V programme.



Ecosystem Restoration/Protection

- Community members were empowered to participate in rangeland restoration and management, soil moisture conservation, rehabilitation of water sources and improved rangeland management.
- Community members were engaged in developing village by-laws to control over-grazing and tree cutting, producing multi-purpose tree seedlings in nursery, revegetating enclosure areas and individual lands.



Climate Smart Livelihoods

- Improved soil and moisture conservation was implemented through water spreading weirs, soil and stone bunds, check dams that contribute to better pasture and crop productivities based on agreements with all relevant parties to continue proper management and sustainability of the water spreading weirs.
- Farmers were involved in enhancing fodder production for improved livestock breeding to increase food security.



Disaster Risk Reduction

- Organised seasonal weather conferences to prepare sectoral advisories based on seasonal forecast information, established, and trained community-based disaster risk reduction groups on flood and drought risk assessments for preparing local disaster risk reduction plans.
- Rehabilitated rainwater harvesting underground tanks (birkad) to prioritize water needs for humans, and livestock for livelihoods protection, food security and reduction of health risks in the communities.

Key implementing partners: Ethiopian Red Cross, Wetland International, Cordaid, the regional and woreda/district level Agricultural and Natural Resources Offices, GIZ, and Jigjiga University.



Fig 3: The nursery site in Fafan zone



Fig 4: The Rangeland in Fafan zone