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RESILIENCE BUILDING IN ETHIOPIA

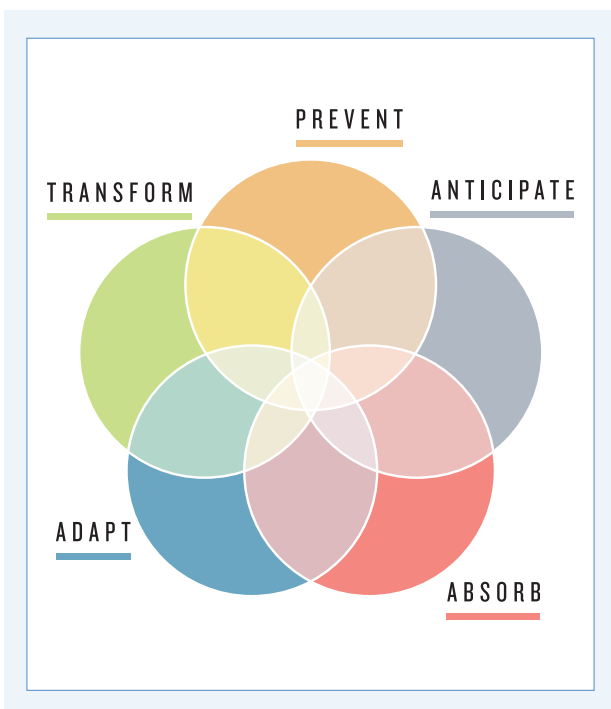
FAO PROGRAMME REVIEW (2024)

PURPOSE:

This document reflects an analysis of ongoing FAO Ethiopia Resilience building interventions as reflected in the Field Program Information System (FPMIS), as they contribute towards the five capacities for resilience building, namely:

- **PREVENTIVE:** reduce existing and future risks.
- **ANTICIPATIVE:** act early.
- **ABSORPTIVE:** the ability to bounce back, overwhelmingly humanitarian (emergency response).
- **ADAPTIVE:** incremental adjustments.
- **TRANSFORMATIVE:** make fundamental changes to the system.

The five capacity areas are in most cases overlapping during specific project implementation, with the classification based on the overarching resilience capacity area.



This review comes at a time when FAO seeks to review its Resilience work in Sub-Saharan Africa in order systematically capture, document, and disseminate insights and best practices related to resilience building within FAO programmes for scaling up. This is intended to facilitate and harness the opportunities in emergency and resilience programming, and integration of emergency, resilience, and development work into the priorities of Member States. *The initiative is in view of the increasing number of the food and nutrition insecure people in Africa, with the Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU) rising from 19.4 percent in 2021 to 19.7 percent in 2022, and the number of people facing hunger increasing by 11 million people since 2021 and by more than 57 million people since the outbreak of the pandemic. A much larger proportion of the population in Africa faces hunger compared to the other regions of the world – nearly 20 percent compared with 8.5 percent in Asia, 6.5 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 7.0 percent in Oceania.*¹ According to the region's most recent economic update, growth in Sub-Saharan Africa was projected to dip to 2.5 percent in 2023, down from 3.6 percent in 2022. Rising conflict and violence across the region exerts a dampening effect on economic activity, with climate shocks poised to exacerbate this fragility. About 462 million people in the region are still living in extreme poverty in 2023 even as growth remains uneven across the continent. While East Africa was set to record a growth rate of 1.8 percent in 2023, West Africa was expected to grow at a rate of 3.3 percent during the same year. Harnessing the potential of natural resources provides an opportunity to improve the fiscal and debt sustainability of African countries. It is envisaged that if Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) can harness its natural resource wealth (oil, gas, and minerals), it can sustainably transform economically and create more job opportunities, while transitioning into a low-carbon economy².

¹ <https://www.fao.org/3/cc3017en/cc3017en.pdf>

² <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/afr/overview> and <https://live.worldbank.org/en/event/2023/state-africa-region-natural-resources-sustainable-future>

It is against this background that FAO's Regional Office for Africa (RAF) is collaborating with Ethiopia, Liberia, Madagascar, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, and Zimbabwe Country Offices to undertake a learning and knowledge sharing initiative. The overall objective is to systematically capture, document, and disseminate insights and best practices related to resilience building for scaling up.

As one of the steps towards achieving the objective, this report is drawn out of the review of operationally active projects within the Field Programme Information Management System (FPMIS) for the period 2019 to December 2024 in Ethiopia that are contributing towards resilience building.

COUNTRY CONTEXT:

With about 123 million people (2022), Ethiopia is the second most populous nation in Africa after Nigeria, and one of the fastest-growing economies in the region, with an estimated 6.4 percent growth in 2021/22. However, it also remains one of the poorest, with a per capita gross national income of USD 1,020. Addressing food insecurity, which is growing due to adverse weather events, locust invasion, conflict, and global conditions leading to high inflation of food prices remains one of the key priorities as Ethiopia aims to reach lower-middle-income status by 2025. Frequent severe weather events alongside long-term impacts of climate change undermine agriculture and pastoral livelihoods as well as food security. The 2022 drought is the worst in forty years, severely affecting millions in the southern and eastern parts of the country. Overall, more than 20 million persons are facing severe food insecurity in 2023³.

The convergence of these shocks is pushing more people into displacement, food insecurity, malnutrition, disease outbreaks, and increased protection concerns amid rising global prices of essential commodities, inflation, and

continual devaluation of the local currency. As of January 2024, about 4 million people in drought affected Afar, Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, South Ethiopia, and Southwest need urgent food assistance, according to the Government and Food Cluster. Overlap of food insecurity, high malnutrition rates with malaria, measles, and cholera outbreaks and livestock emergencies are worsening the situation in drought-affected areas⁴.

To address the abovementioned issues, as well as contribute to the government priorities towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) FAO in Ethiopia is implementing projects that are informed by the five year the Country Programme Framework (CPF) 2022 – 2025 as a tool for strategic cooperation with the Government. The CPF has identified four programme priority areas as follows:

Priority area 1. Innovation for sustainable agriculture production: Promotion for adoption of innovative approaches for sustainable crop, livestock, fisheries/aquaculture, and forestry production systems.

Priority area 2. Nutrition for the most vulnerable and safe food for everyone: Strengthening safe, nutrition-sensitive, and climate-resilient food systems to end hunger, achieve food security, and improve nutrition.

Priority area 3. Natural resource management and agricultural production system: Enhancing natural resource management and agricultural production system to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of ecosystems.

Priority area 4. Promotion of inclusive economic growth and reducing inequalities: Inclusive and gender responsive economic growth, livelihoods enhancement, and extreme poverty eradication.

Resilience building components in areas of climate-resilient food systems to end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and livelihoods enhancement implemented within the Disaster Risk Management framework.

³ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/ethiopia/overview>

⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-situation-report-10-jan-2024>



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FAO RESILIENCE BUILDING PROGRAMME IN ETHIOPIA

FAO defines resilience as the ability of individuals, households, and communities to *PREVENT, ANTICIPATE, ABSORB, ADOPT and TRANSFORM positively, efficiently, and effectively when faced with a wide range of risks and crises while maintaining an acceptable level of functioning without compromising long-term prospects for sustainable development, peace and security, human rights, and well-being for all.*⁵

Ethiopia is a focus country for the regional initiative on Building Resilience in Africa's Dry lands. This initiative aims to strengthen institutional capacity for resilience; support early warning and information management systems; build community level resilience; and respond to emergencies and crises. FAO Ethiopia provides support to the government in strengthening early warning, preparedness, disaster mitigation and response capacity at all levels through building early warning capacity of stakeholders on disasters (flood, drought, and pest/diseases outbreaks) and information exchange.

Disaster Risk Management (DRM) capacity and support to national and regional disaster risk management coordination platforms continue to be strengthened. Specifically, FAO promotes disaster risk reduction approaches and best practices by supporting communities through diversified livelihood options, supporting flood protection, prevention, and mitigation actions for major affected areas of the country.

Investment is being made in support for irrigation development for viable and better livelihood options. Enhancing the social protection of vulnerable communities is progressively being achieved through promotion of social protection and agriculture linkage, capacity building of key stakeholders in the implementation of the Social Protection Policy, and provision of technical support for effective implementation of the National Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP4) of the government. Linkage is being established with social and livelihood protection measures.

The following section explores FAO's contributions to enhancing resilience capacities in Ethiopia, shedding light on the organization's multifaceted approach and its impact on vulnerable populations.

⁵ The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019 (fao.org) page 213 of 239

PREVENTIVE CAPACITY:

reduce existing and future risks.

In agriculture, preventive capacity involves implementing measures to mitigate potential risks. Examples include farmers using crop rotation to prevent soil degradation and pest buildup, reducing the risk of crop failure as well as sustainable land management, implementing practices like contour plowing and cover cropping to prevent soil erosion and degradation, safeguarding agricultural productivity.

Within the scope of implementing the desert locust response programme to mitigate impacts on food security and livelihoods, FAO in Ethiopia continues to enhance the prevention capacities of the government technical line ministry and communities through implementing consistent surveillance measures, facilitating early detection through regular monitoring activities, and effectively reducing locust populations through a series of targeted spray operations.

Through the Global Health Security (GHS) Project in Africa, with financial resources from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Ethiopia is being assisted to build animal health and One Health preventive capacities. The primary objective is to address the challenges posed by the emergence and resurgence of zoonotic diseases, as well as endemic zoonoses and antimicrobial resistance (AMR), by implementing sustainable measures.

Support is being provided to improve national capacity for preparedness, early detection, reporting, and response to zoonoses and AMR threats. Furthermore, FAO seeks to improve strategies to reduce risks from zoonoses and AMR by strengthening One Health platforms and capacities of animal health professionals, private actors, and communities. Improving national capacities to create a policy environment that facilitates national and local commitment and the allocation of resources for improved detection, prevention, and control of zoonoses and AMR is an essential objective of the programme.





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ANTICIPATIVE CAPACITY:

act early.

Agricultural anticipative capacity means early detection and response to impending threats allowing for timely of actions. Some examples include putting in place early warning systems, i.e. utilizing weather forecasting and climate prediction tools to anticipate potential risks like extreme weather events, enabling farmers to take timely actions. It would also entail pest monitoring, i.e. Regularly monitoring for signs of pest infestations and proactively implementing pest control measures to prevent widespread damage to crops.

In Ethiopia, FAO is providing emergency support to mitigate the effects of drought in Oromia region of Ethiopia with resources from Norway. The primary focus of the intervention is to safeguard the livelihoods of pastoralists, improving the productivity of livestock, and enhancing the accessibility and availability of water resources. The anticipated outcomes of this initiative encompass the improvement of food security and nutrition within drought-impacted communities in the Oromia Region through the implementation of targeted emergency livelihoods interventions, as well as improvement of access to livestock feed and improved cash resources for a total of

4 500 pastoralist households affected by the drought. Some of the key initiatives include provision of supplementary feed to communities, unconditional cash transfer to feed beneficiaries as well as provision of extension services.

To mitigate the negative effects of El Niño on agricultural livelihoods in Southern and South-eastern Ethiopia, FAO is supporting communities to take advantage of the positive effects of increased rainfall and build resilient livelihoods. The interventions focus on safeguarding agricultural livelihoods and, as a result, food security in the flood-affected communities through the dissemination of early warning and flood awareness information, as well as the provision of unconditional cash and cash for work (CfW) opportunities. These measures will enable vulnerable households to prepare for and mitigate the impacts of anticipated floods. Additionally, the project will involve strategic interventions to protect community assets, complemented by in-kind support and provision animal health services.

With resources from the Master Card Foundation, FAO's desert locust response programme aims to mitigate impacts on food security and livelihoods. The primary objectives of the interventions included containing the spread of desert locusts, *implementing consistent surveillance measures, facilitating early detection through regular monitoring activities, and effectively reducing locust populations through a series of targeted operations.*

ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY:

the ability to bounce back, overwhelmingly humanitarian (emergency response).

This refers to the ability of the agriculture sector to absorb shocks and recover quickly. Some examples of initiatives within this capacity include establishing seed banks to quickly provide farmers with seeds after disasters, helping them recover and resume agricultural activities promptly. Another example is maintaining emergency feed stocks for livestock to address immediate feed shortages during droughts or other crises as well as having efficient emergency response mechanisms in place, such as stockpiling feed during times of abundance to alleviate livestock shortages during crises.

With resources from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) FAO is providing livelihoods recovery support for drought-affected households in Somali, Oromia, and Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) regions. The focus is to address the adverse effects of drought on the well-being and economic activities of vulnerable communities residing in drought-affected regions of Ethiopia. Key interventions are contributing towards protection of livestock assets of vulnerable pastoral households, prevention of the risk of livestock disease outbreak, provision of multipurpose cash (MPC) to address the immediate needs of vulnerable households, rehabilitation of critical livestock water points as well as establishment of short-term employment opportunities.

As a contribution to the absorption capacities through financial resources from United States Agency for International Development Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA), FAO interventions in Tigray focus on enhancing the food security and bolster the resilience of households that have been adversely impacted by conflict in the region. The support provided aims at enhancing crop production to improve food security and resilience of vulnerable households. Additional resources are contributing towards emergency support to mitigate the effects of drought in Somali, Oromia and SNNP regions of Ethiopia to improve the nutritional stability and safeguarding the resources of pastoralist and

agro-pastoralist households. This is being achieved through the enhancement of access to livestock feed for core breeding and milking animals. In addition, coordination and monitoring of humanitarian interventions is also enhanced through the collection and dissemination of information on drought situations. In the same region, through resources from the European Commission Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) FAO is assisting pastoral and agro-pastoral farmers to enhance their access to livestock feed for core breeding and milking animals, as well as improve access to animal health services, and support forage development.

With support from Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, FAO is working in collaboration with government and partners to improve crop production in Asgede and Makhe Adyabo Woredas of Tigray region with the aim to restore agricultural production. It is expected that the cereal production will be restored through provision of fertilizers. This will be coupled with tailored refresher trainings on fertilizer application and handling, Good Agriculture Practices (GAP), alternative plant nutrition, climate smart agriculture practices, post-harvest handling and value addition. In collaboration with the regional bureaus and research institutes, the training of trainers (ToTs) will be provided to experts from the regional government who will cascade the skills to all the beneficiary households.

With resources from the German Cooperation, FAO is supporting the communities to mitigate the impacts of drought on food security and livelihoods through integrated agriculture interventions such as supplementary livestock feed, crop production support, unconditional cash transfers, animal health services, and water point rehabilitation in Somali, Oromia, SNNP and Sidama regions.



ADAPTIVE CAPACITY:

incremental adjustments.

Agricultural adaptive capacity involves making gradual adjustments in response to changing conditions. Some examples include supporting farmers to adopt new irrigation techniques or crop varieties that are better suited to evolving climate patterns. Another example is investing in flexible irrigation systems that can adapt to varying water availability, ensuring efficient water use in response to climate fluctuations.

With resources from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), FAO is providing *Emergency Livelihood Support for Conflict Affected Households in Afar, Amhara and Tigray Regions of Ethiopia*. The initiative that aims to address the adverse effects of the conflict on the socio-economic well-being of vulnerable communities residing in Northern Ethiopia. Specifically, the project is expected to improve food, nutrition, and income security of conflict-affected households. The main interventions include enhancing the capacities of vulnerable households to produce diversified nutritious foods, as well as safeguard and protect livestock assets. Furthermore, capacities of the relevant mechanisms and institutions to coordinate, monitor and support humanitarian continue to be enhanced while strengthening the community social cohesion.

TRANSFORMATIVE CAPACITY:

make fundamental changes to the system.

This capacity entails making fundamental changes to the agricultural system in response to long-term challenges. Example interventions include, transitioning from conventional to sustainable farming practices to address environmental concerns and ensure the long-term viability of agriculture. Another example includes adopting and promoting certification programs that encourage farmers to transform their practices towards more sustainable and resilient agricultural systems.

In efforts towards sustainable operationalization of One Health (OH) in Africa Region, financially supported by United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), FAO, government and partners are investing in the integration of the One Health approach in medicine, public health, and agriculture to mitigate the burden of emerging infectious zoonotic diseases in the Africa region. The efforts also contribute to Ethiopia's stewardship and responsibility in operationalizing One Health. This intervention will enhance and improve collaboration between animal and human health systems nationally and regionally, establishing coordinated mechanisms for the evaluation of OH operationalization, as well as establishing regional governance mechanism of the FAO-OIE-WHO Tripartite.



RESOURCE PARTNERS:

