



Standard Project Report 2015

World Food Programme in Ethiopia, Federal Democratic Republic of (ET)

Construction of Geeldoh Bridge - Fik Zone

Reporting period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

Project Information	
Project Number	200752
Project Category	Single Country Special Operation
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	N/A
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	N/A
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	N/A

Key Project Dates	
Project Approval Date	September 29, 2014
Planned Start Date	September 01, 2014
Actual Start Date	September 01, 2014
Project End Date	July 31, 2016
Financial Closure Date	N/A

Approved budget in USD	
Food and Related Costs	N/A
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	5,377,595
Direct Support Costs	493,417
Cash-Based Transfers and Related Costs	N/A
Indirect Support Costs	410,971
Total	6,281,982

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Planned Commodities in 2015	0
Actual Commodities 2015	0
Total Approved Commodities	N/A

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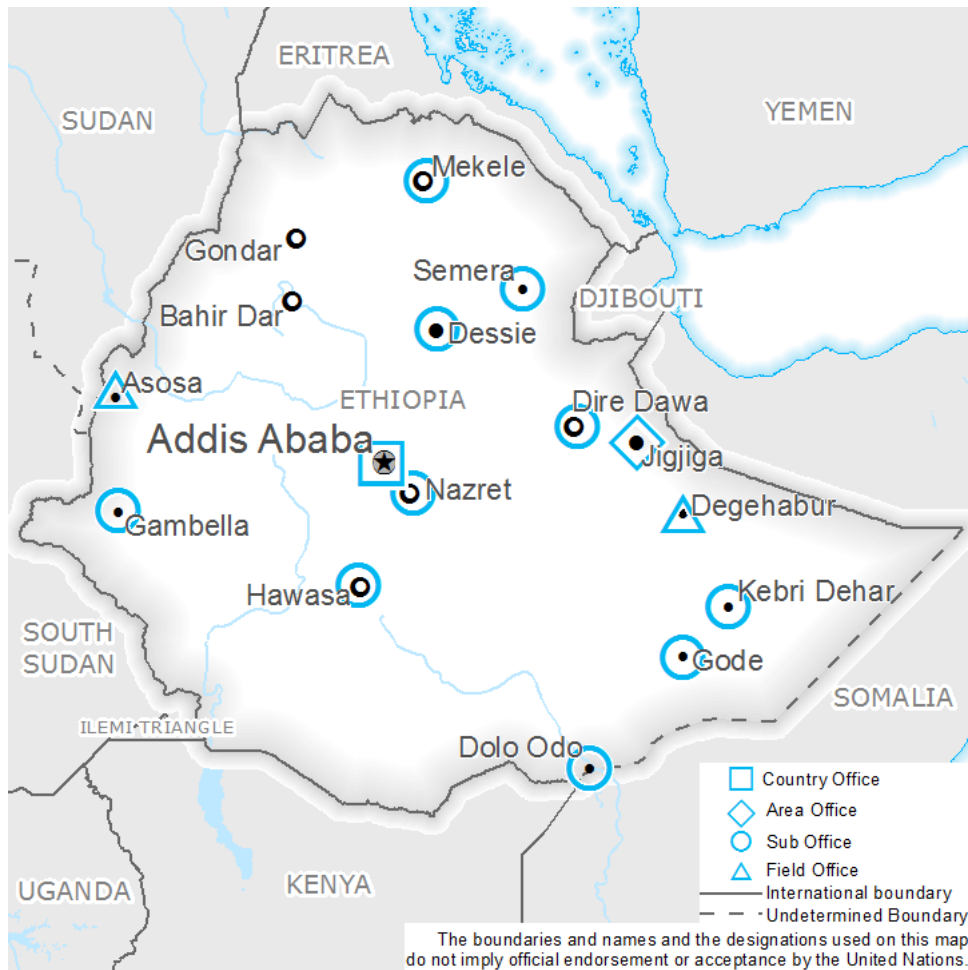
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COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Background

With a population of almost 97 million people, Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa. The country has made impressive strides over the last 20 years in reducing poverty and expanding investments in basic social services - paving the way for the country to meet many of its Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets.

From 2004 - 2013, the World Bank estimates that Ethiopia's economy has had strong growth, with annual gross domestic product (GDP) per capita growth rates of 8.3 percent. According to the Ethiopia MDG Report for 2014, the number of people in absolute poverty fell from 48 percent in 1990 to an estimated 25 percent in 2013/2014. At the same time, the proportion of undernourished people fell from almost 75 percent in 1990/92 to a projected 32 percent in 2014/15 - thereby enabling Ethiopia to reach its MDG Hunger target.

The prevalence of stunting declined from 58 percent in 2000 to 40 percent in 2014, while wasting rates remained at 10 percent during the same period. Net primary school enrollment rates have risen from 21 percent in 1996 to 92.6 percent in 2014, and the gender parity index currently stands at 0.93, indicating a significant improvement in girls' access to education.

The government's longer-term vision is to attain middle-income country status by 2025. To achieve this goal, the government has organized its policy and investment framework under the umbrella of two 5- year Growth and Transformation Plans - GTP I and GTP II. Both GTPs place an emphasis on agriculture as the main driver for growth, coupled with a strong focus on social protection instruments such as the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) to ensure sustained attention on food security and poverty reduction. For example, the latest iteration of the PSNP (PSNP IV) aims to provide conditional food and cash transfers to almost 8 million people per year from 2015

to 2020.

Despite strong economic gains and a comprehensive policy framework for development, the distribution of developmental gains remains uneven. According to the UNDP 2015 Human Development Report, Ethiopia is ranked 174 out of 188 countries in terms of human development. While national figures on nutrition are fairly promising, regional variation is quite pronounced. For example, in Afar and Somali regions, global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates can be as high as 30 percent, and stunting rates in Amhara and Afar are close to 60 percent.

Poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition are all inextricably linked. Over 80 percent of the population living in rural areas is dependent on rain-fed agriculture and livestock rearing as their main source of food and income. In turn, climate shocks are the primary driver behind chronic poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition at household level. The International Food Policy Research Institute's Global Hunger Index scores Ethiopia at 33.9 - or at a "serious" level - even after the impressive gains the country has made from a MDG perspective.

Rainfall data for the period from 1967 to 2000 indicate that Ethiopia's annual variability in rainfall across different zones is among the highest in the world, ranging from a low of 15 percent to a high of 81 percent. The larger the variation in rainfall a household is exposed to, the lower its income and consumption levels. Repeated climate shocks have severely eroded rural livelihoods, leaving households with little capacity to cope and meet their most basic consumption needs. Climate shocks are a major cause of humanitarian crises in Ethiopia. Since 2003, the country has faced five serious droughts affecting millions of people, the most recent of which unfolded over the course of 2015 and was compounded by the global El Niño event.

In 2015, the already fragile situation among food insecure and vulnerable people was exacerbated by the failure of the *belg* rains (February-May) and well below normal rainfall for the main *kiremt* rains (June-September), affecting the main *meher* cropping season that contributes around 85 percent of Ethiopia's total annual food production. With the onset of the El Niño phenomenon, in July 2015, production assessments reported that up to 25 percent of the harvest was lost at the national level, and in some regions this figure rose to 70 percent.

The lack of water has had devastating effects for both human and animal well-being. An outbreak of scabies occurred in large swaths of Amhara, along with communicable diseases in Afar, Oromia and Somali regions. Coupled with a lack of food at the household level, GAM rates reached 20 percent and higher in Oromia, Afar, and Somali regions. Conservative estimates indicate that over 30,000 head of cattle died as a result of no water, pasture or browse. Not only are livestock essential household assets that generate income, but they also represent a key source of meat and milk for pastoral communities. This, too, contributed to the increase in malnutrition across the country.

In the face of the worst drought in over 50 years, the scale of humanitarian needs over the course of 2015 rose dramatically. In February 2015, the Government issued its official Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD), estimating that 2.9 million people required emergency food assistance. By December 2015, this number had risen to 10.2 million - almost a 250 percent increase. With regard to the prevalence of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), in February 2015, some 200,000 children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) were projected as needing MAM treatment. By the end of 2015, this number peaked at 2.2 million young children and PLW, or a 1,000 percent increase.

The adult HIV prevalence in the country is 1.1 percent, with 700,000 HIV positive people and 800,000 orphans and vulnerable children. Significant variation exists between genders, among population groups and across geographic areas. The HIV prevalence rate for men and women is 0.8 percent and 1.4 percent respectively; for rural residents it is 0.5 percent while for urban residents it reaches 3.8 percent. HIV prevalence is disproportionately higher among urban females (4 percent) compared to urban men (2.4 percent).

Ethiopia is also host to the largest refugee population on the African Continent. Over 730,000 officially registered refugees from South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea and Kenya now reside in 26 camps located in five regional states including Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Somali and Tigray. Of the total, approximately one-third are South Sudanese who arrived into the Gambella region in early 2014 following the eruption of hostilities in South Sudan in 2013.

Summary Of WFP Assistance

WFP's role in Ethiopia is to support government policies, programmes and systems that address the multiple dimensions of hunger and undernutrition among the most vulnerable segments of the population and refugees hosted in different parts of the country.

Protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200290 and its successor PRRO 200712 were designed to support and complement the Government's social protection, disaster risk management and nutrition programmes by

providing emergency food assistance, engaging in productive safety net activities, addressing malnutrition, and offering technical assistance. In 2015, these PRROs responded to the dramatic rise in acute food and nutrition needs arising from the failure of both the spring and summer rains and the onset of the El Niño-related drought. Simultaneously, WFP also provided food assistance to chronically food insecure households under the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP).

PRRO 200365 and its successor, PRRO 200700, aimed to support Ethiopia's significant refugee population, focusing on live-saving food and nutrition assistance for over 560,000 refugees in 26 camps across the country.

WFP's country programme (CP) 200253 comprised five components: 1) support to the Government of Ethiopia in the development of a national disaster risk management system; 2) building resilience in food insecure communities through natural resource management activities (Managing Environmental Resources to Enable Transition to More Sustainable Livelihoods); 3) school feeding under the Children in Local Development Initiative; 4) support to people living with HIV and AIDS; and 5) support to smallholder farmers through Purchase for Progress (P4P).

WFP further assisted the government through capacity strengthening efforts. Through its P4P programme, WFP worked with local cooperative farms to source cereals that are then distributed under WFP and government programmes. WFP has also invested in a Food Management Improvement Project that established a commodity management system within the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), which oversees all food commodity movements in the country. Finally, WFP deployed its expertise in food security analysis to support the NDRMC in the preparation of disaster risk profiles at *woreda* (district) level.

WFP has three special operations (SO) in Ethiopia. SO 200711 operated the United Nations Humanitarian Air Services, which enabled the humanitarian community to reach remote areas where refugee camps are located. SO 200358 focused on the construction of a Humanitarian Hub in Djibouti, where WFP and other humanitarian agencies can store cargo intended for operations across East Africa and organise specialized logistics training sessions. Lastly, SO 200752 was launched in 2014 for the construction of a bridge in the Somali Region (Geeldoh) to facilitate access to isolated districts and villages that are cut off from basic services and humanitarian assistance during rainy seasons.

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	458,578	464,775	923,353
Children (5-18 years)	1,171,232	1,146,444	2,317,676
Adults (18 years plus)	1,493,476	1,462,491	2,955,967
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	3,123,286	3,073,710	6,196,996

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Country Programme	1,875	829	171	4,147	85	7,108
Single Country PRRO	352,181	10,879	45,105	25,396	3,389	436,950
Total Food Distributed in 2015	354,056	11,708	45,276	29,543	3,475	444,058

OPERATIONAL SPR

Operational Objectives and Relevance

Currently there is no direct access to Lagahida and Salahad *woredas* (districts) through Hamaro *woreda* in the Ngob (Fik) zone in the Somali Regional State (SRS). These *woredas* have among the lowest levels of basic services in SRS and are usually not prioritized for development initiatives, primarily due to their inaccessibility.

The construction of the Geeldoh bridge over the Wabe-Shebele River will provide access to the two *woredas*. This will yield a number of benefits, such as safe river crossings for the communities, better access to the rest of SRS and with that, likely improved basic services.

WFP launched special operation 200752 to support the construction of the Geeldoh bridge. Contributing to WFP's Strategic Objective 1, the specific objectives of the project were to: (i) enhance efficiencies in the supply of food aid by reducing transport cost and delivery time, (ii) increase local access and trade between communities on both sides of the river, (iii) open an already neglected area for further humanitarian development by improving accessibility, (iv) improve access to health care facilities, education and justice systems, (v) improve security by providing greater access to remote areas, and (vi) improve access for monitoring and evaluation.

Due to their inaccessibility, currently WFP's assistance reaches Lagahida and Salahad *woredas* through the Oromiya region from the west. Once the Geeldoh bridge is finalized and assistance can come from Dire Dawa and Jijiga in the east, turnaround time and transportation costs will decrease significantly, as the distance travelled can be reduced by 75 percent (from just over 1,200 km down to approximately 300 km, or a one-day drive).

During the planning stage of this project, WFP carried out consultations with local communities, the regional government and other stakeholders. The regional government took the responsibility of rehabilitating and maintaining approach roads to the site, and committed to taking over the infrastructure and to providing long term maintenance and security.

Results

Outputs

At the end of 2014, WFP launched the tender for the Geeldoh bridge approach road and abutment works, and the tender was awarded in October 2015. Initial delays of over two months occurred due to a change in the contractor's staff, however, the contractor committed to making up for the time that had been lost. At the end of 2015, the works were in the mobilization stage and were projected to finish in the latter part of 2016.

In 2015, WFP also completed a long-term agreement for bridge supply. This will allow WFP to award the contract for the manufacturing and supply of the 80 meter single span steel bridge at Geeldoh in early 2016. The bridge will be shipped from the supplier's factory to Djibouti port where it will be collected, transported and erected on site under the supervision of the supplier's expert and WFP's Engineering Unit.

Outcomes

As the Geeldoh bridge has not yet been completed, at this stage, there are no outcomes to report for this project.

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

The benefits of this bridge for local socio-economic development will include an accelerated delivery of inputs for basic social services and access to markets, a reduction in transportation costs, and a more efficient distribution of goods and services. It could boost inter- and intra-*woreda* exchange of services, increasing the chances for employment opportunities. It will open up trade routes between the two *woredas* and the regional capital, Jijiga, promoting the growth of local businesses and economies in the two communities. Most importantly, the bridge will reduce the number of river crossings in unsafe vessels.

Communities in the neighboring *woredas* in Oromiya region are also looking forward to the construction of the bridge as it will provide them access to wider markets for their agricultural produce, including grains and honey.

According to a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WFP and the regional government of SRS and the Regional Roads Authority (RRA), the regional government has committed to taking ownership of the bridge after its completion and will be responsible for its maintenance and security after handover. To this end, the handover of the project will include an operations and maintenance manual which will include maintenance, monitoring and inspection requirements for the bridge.

Management

Partnerships

WFP worked closely with the regional government, partnering with the Ethiopia Somali Regional State Roads Construction Enterprise (ESRSRCE) to provide the needed road repairs on the eastern and western approaches to the Geeldoh bridge site. To this end, WFP and the regional government signed a MoU in January 2015.

During the planning stage of this project, WFP carried out consultations with local communities, the regional government, the RRA and the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Bureau, also to ensure that the rehabilitation of both approach roads to the proposed bridge site takes place.

The contract for the construction of the approach roads and abutments was awarded to the ESRSRCE, which is part of the commercial wing of the RRA.

Lessons Learned

During 2015, additional funding was required in order for the project to proceed. The budget shortage was caused by underestimated mobilization cost, and the rapidly rising construction rates in Ethiopia since the initial drafting of the budget. It is clear that issues such as these need to be better managed in future proposals, and market prices monitored closely so that changes in essential requirements can be communicated during the funding approval process.

WFP has a good working relationship with the regional government of SRS. Local WFP management communicates directly to the Regional President to discuss any important issues that need his attention. In addition, WFP's Engineering Unit has a focal point in the regional government who fulfills the role of humanitarian advisor to the Regional President, as well as a local security consultant contracted by WFP to assist as a liaison with the regional government and other stakeholders in the region. Generally, these open communication channels have created good relations and a fostered a problem-solving approach through open discussions.

It has been evident in the road repair works completed by the regional government so far that the most effective line of communication is to liaise directly with senior regional government officials when the contracting party does not fulfill contractual obligations.