

# Transitional Aid Measure: Improved Food Security through Transitional Aid for Resilience (IFTAR)

Improving food security and disaster risk management (Transitional Aid) to enhance Resilience in Afar Region, Ethiopia

## The challenge

The lowlands of Ethiopia's Afar Regional State are one



The Transitional Aid Measure: Improved Food Security through Transitional for Resilience (IFTAR) project is part of the Strengthening Drought Resilience in Arid and Semi-Arid

of the least developed parts of the country. 48% of the region's land consists of marginal soils; the rest is largely dry savannah.

Annual temperatures range from 25°C to 50°C, while rainfall rarely exceeds 300mm and is highly variable, both in quantity and geographical distribution.

Afar Region has a population of almost 1.8 million people, over half of whom live below the absolute poverty line. The region has some of the lowest development indicators in the country, including high infant mortality rates, child stunting and the highest proportion of underweight children in Ethiopia (36 %).

Afar people derive their livelihood either entirely from pastoral livestock farming or from a combination of crop and livestock farming. However, traditional pastoral and agropastoral systems are under increasing pressure, due mainly to population growth and climate change. The frequency of extreme, climate-related weather events such as droughts, floods and related disasters have an adverse impact on food security, hygiene and health.

Lowlands Programme (SDR-ASAL). It operates in 8 districts (woredas) of Afar.

## Our approach

Project name	Improved Food Security through Transitional Aid for Resilience (IFTAR)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Partner organizations	Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
Project region	8 districts in Afar region, Ethiopia
Lead executing agency	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Duration	10/2016 – 09/2021

IFTAR implements three sets of activities:

**Water and Hygiene:** IFTAR aims to improve access to water as well as water quality by introducing collective filter systems. Campaigns to raise awareness of the importance of clean water and hygiene



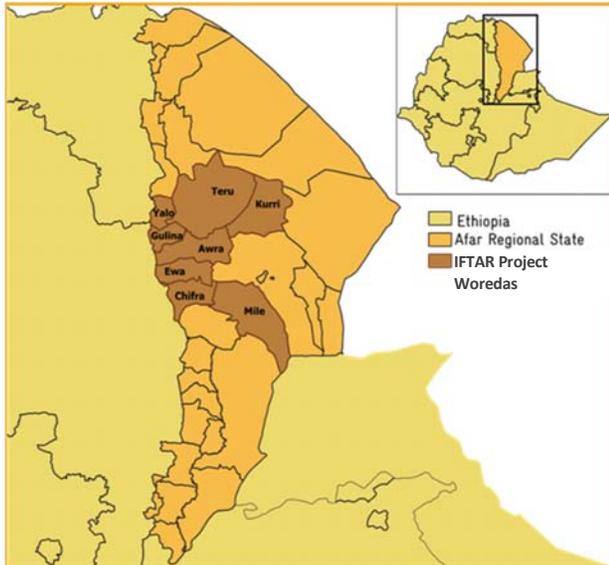
supplement the construction measures and encourage safer food preparation, storage and utilisation.

**Food and Nutrition Security:** IFTAR aims to improve access to food and fodder by creating and managing nurseries and tree protection zones, as well as by promoting the sale of local products such as fruit from trees, forage grasses and meat. The project also aims to improve food utilisation by providing information and training on nutrition and care practices.



**Disaster Risk Management:** In addition to advising the regional Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Committee (DPPC), the project helps to ensure that the population is better protected against drought, flood, livestock disease and other hazards.





**The IFTAR project promotes innovative solutions**, one example is the Waterboxx technology for establishment of fruit trees. The technology saves water by more than 90% when compared with any other planting technologies in the 1<sup>st</sup> year. From the 2<sup>nd</sup> year onwards, the seedlings are effectively established, and no water supply is needed. Within less than a year, the seedlings develop normal taproots that can absorb water and plant function continues as normal in the drier areas of the lowlands.

**A high degree of trust with stakeholders has been created**, on the level of Ethiopian authorities at national, regional and local levels, through the success of existing projects of the SDR-ASAL portfolio such as CDSR-II and ASRP. The Dry Valley Rehabilitation approach started by construction of water spreading weirs (WSWs) and associated dry-stone measures, now supported by biological measures together with the TREE project for production of grasses, fodder trees and high value food trees, in areas rehabilitated by the SDR-ASAL programme.

**The approach relieves migration pressure on pastoralists** by increasing the availability of food,

The IFTAR project sets out to develop further this initial success by adding issues related to water supply and sanitation, food security, infrastructure protection and disaster risk management.

## Our Goals

We aim to increase the capacity of the population and the stakeholder institutions to secure productive livelihoods and food for the long term, while increasing their resistance to climate induced weather extremes.

For achieving the goals, we focus on:

- improving safe drinking water conditions through cistern renovation, simple water treatment and filter systems;
- improving productivity through protected, critical small-scale infrastructure, implemented in cooperation with the communities;
- increasing food and forage availability through tree-protection zones in collaboration with community members;
- ensuring that the regional government authorities possess information relevant to disasters which can be promptly supplied to the population in a form that is locally disaggregated by zone.

animal fodder and water.

## Our Achievements

- 98,500 people have improved access to drinking water, 43,625 people (19,000 women) have been reached with improved sanitation measures and WaSH trainings;
- 12,000 people benefited from sustainable fresh water;
- 3,500 people have improved nutrition diversity;
- 200 Government staff trained;
- 5 WSWs constructed to protect infrastructure such as roads and bridges;
- 4 women-based CBO nurseries have been established;
- 4 boreholes are rehabilitated and equipped with solar pumps, benefitting 10,000 people (45% women) in Awra, Gulena and Yalo;
- 14 cisterns rehabilitated, including the creation of water user groups for each location; improved water access for 34,000 people.

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