

DREAM II First Pre-Conference [Coordination]

SUMMARY PROCEEDINGS

(03/11/2020)

[Welcome]

[Dr Kaba Urgessa Dinssa \(GIZ\) opening remarks](#)

Dr Kaba Urgessa Dinssa mentioned in his opening remarks that the overall theme of the DREAM II conference is the creation of a critical mass around the dry lowland valley approach. And the second one is the practical development of alliances and partnerships and joint-programmes/investment programmes in the lowlands with the private sector and civil society organisations. This follows from the statement signed after the DREAM I Conference in September 2019 and also the emergence of 2020 locus flood and COVID-19 pandemic which emphasised the need for an alignment between the stakeholders active in the Ethiopian lowlands.

[H.E. Ato Awol Elias \(Ministry of Agriculture\) opening remarks](#)

H.E. Ato Awol Elias opened his remarks mentioning that this year has underlined the need to strengthen resilience in the arid lowlands. On top of the long term challenges, the present situation has been extraordinary critical with floods, locust infestation and COVID-19 pandemic which has affected the lowland communities severely. He stressed that we may address this with immediate relief but we also need to contribute to long-lasting prosperous and shock-resistant pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities in our dry lowland areas. Furthermore, he mentioned that we need to put the ideas and priorities of the lowland communities central with their engagement and their unique culture and strengths. We need to come to joint direction that looks at the longer term prospect in the lowlands and take into account the climate change, the invasive species and the access to resources. H. E. Ato also highlighted that we should avoid that with the best intentions we undertake programme that are silo-ed and that we miss the opportunities to learn from each other and create the critical mass for positive change that comes with coordination and cooperation.

[Matthias Spaeth \(German Welthungerhilfe\) kick-off note](#)

Matthias Spaeth stressed in his opening remarks that the lowland areas of Ethiopia, with arid and semi-arid agro-ecology, are under increasing pressure due to several stress factors including climate change, population pressure, natural resources degradation, inadequate policy support and a reduction in local peoples' coping capacity. A lack of sustainable service systems, and limited opportunities for livelihoods diversification, are aggravating the negative impacts on the population. He also mentioned that there is much room for improvement regarding the involvement of actors and stakeholders whose potential has not yet sufficiently tapped, and also for the establishment of coordination mechanisms and modes of cooperation that unfold synergies and mechanism to scale promising and good practices to an extent necessary. Moreover, Matthias highlighted that the new CSO legislation opens avenues in many regards as it allows moving from project-centred to strategic collaboration. The revised definition of administrative activities allows new forms of collaboration and networking with new actors that are crucial in bringing together skills, expertise and other resources to develop inter-sector collaboration.

[Coordination: How to create resilience in the lowlands? On-going activities and the scope for coordination]

Presentation from Somali Regional Government

The Somali region has set a ten-year Development Plan with four main strategic pillars from 2021 to 2030 targeting: livelihood improvement, improved planning, land rehabilitation, rangeland management, WASH, emergency preparedness and capacity building.

The most important ongoing programmes in the Somali region are: the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), one of the key programmes in the region. The Development Response to Displacement Impact Project (DRDIP), the Lowlands Resilience Project (LLRP) and GIZ Strengthening Drought Resilience (SDR) programme.

All the interventions are based on a bottom up and inclusive approach in which activities are planned according to the needs. Communities are represented by the watershed development committee, the participatory rangeland management committee, the kebele development committee, and the kebele and woreda administrations. Awareness creation about the protection, conservation and wise utilization of natural resources is provided in collaboration with the woreda administration, people with potential indigenous knowledge, customary institutions and the community as whole.

There is a need to build a better networking environment between programmes, and there is room for donors and NGOs to develop plans for their interventions based on the regional ten-year development plan. Furthermore, currently a pastoral development policy and strategy for the region were developed which shows a big opportunity for development practitioners.

Presentation from Afar Regional Government

The Afar regional agriculture sector vision is to increase the income of pastoralist and semi-pastoralist areas by creating sustainable agriculture by 2030.

Main objectives of the Afar agriculture sector: 1) increase livestock and fish production and productivity, 2) sustainable natural resource development and utilization, 3) increase crop production and productivity, 4) agricultural inputs and products marketing, 5) building institutional enforcement capacity and 6) sustainable agriculture resilient to climate change

Most important ongoing programmes are GIZ SDR, DRSLP, LLRP and PSNP.

Coordination with programmes, donors and NGOs: Integrate planning, monthly task force meeting Afar Pastoral and Agricultural Task Force, quarter, bi-annual and yearly base field monitoring and evaluation, supervision, Technical Committee, Steering Committee and experience sharing.

Lowland CSOs key thematic areas

Name of CSO	Thematic areas									
	Agriculture and food security	Capacity building	Climate change	Education	Emergency response	Health and nutrition	Market-based livelihoods	WASH	Women empowerment	Peacebuilding and HHRR
PFE		x					x			
APDA	x			x		x		x	x	
ACPA	x			x	x	x	x			
SDD	x				x				x	
AISDA	x		x		x	x		x		x
MCDO	x			x		x		x	x	

[Presentation from Tezera Getahun from Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia \(PFE\)](#)

Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE) is a consortium of 25 CSOs (national and foreign) bringing positive changes in rights and livelihood system of the pastoralist. Its work includes pastoral advocacy, capacity building, networking, empowerment, commercialization and entrepreneurship in Ethiopia. Important advocacy elements: recognition of pastoralism (including agro-pastoralism and other livelihoods in the system) as a way of life and production system. The Forum has members in almost all pastoral regions.

Community approaches: As a consortium, most of the activities are run through members but advocacy activities involve pastoralists and local institutions. Nationally, PFE works with its 25 member organisations (national and international CSOs), affiliates (traditional institutions, pastoral councils), professional associations, national consortia working on various levels and academia and research institutions, and government and legislative organs.

Collaboration opportunities: The biggest scope/added value for collaboration: with GIZ and other partners we have promoted and protected the rights of pastoralist and their institutions, e.g. land issues and resiliency, implementing the AUPPA and UNIYRP, building internal capacity enhancement for PFE and its local member CSOs. GIZ focusing on pastoralist institutions - support pastoralists rather than impose to them a different system.

[Presentation from Hussein Iddris from Afar Pastoralist Development Association \(APDA\)](#)

Over 26 years implementation, using the patterns the Afar already have, the Afar Pastoralist Development Association (APDA) has modelled the way to support the Afar pastoralists into social and economic development through their culture and lifestyle as holistically as possible. The organisation has worked in all but 4 woredas in the region and it is currently working in 24 woredas.

APDA main thematic areas are facilitated through:

- Access to water: rainwater harvesting cisterns, volcanic steam harvesting, ponds/ dams, boreholes and shallow wells
- Veterinary service through treatment, vaccination, fodder when needed; re-stocking after disaster
- Rangeland rehabilitation: watershed management; reseeding, supporting removal of *prosopis juliafora*
- Income generation through cooperatives and microfinance strongly supporting women and linking the community to the market

Community approaches: APDA uses a community-partnering and driven approach. Community development committees are formed in the communities where APDA works, based assessments are conducted, all activities are carried out through the community disaster risk reduction prism, community members are trained in the basic means of service delivery, and deliberate efforts are made to include females in community committees and as extension workers.

Partners and financing instruments: Foundations, NGOs/INGOs and development agencies (KFW, UNFPA and UNICEF). Besides, APDA has developed a social enterprise named 'Gabat' registered in 2019 that allows funds to be generated for development.

Collaboration opportunities: APDA has the ability to support wide programmes such as GIZ building community resilience against shocks, gaining project sustainability in the hand of the community. The community own the problem and go on to work for the solution.

[Presentation from Dr Ali Ahmed Abdi from Aged and Children Pastoralist Association \(ACPA\)](#)

The Aged and Children Pastoralist Association (ACPA) is a local organisation established in 2008. ACPA was the first best development partners in pastoral areas in 2015, and the 2nd best development partners in 2017.

Resilience Innovation for Livelihood Expansion (RILE) project: It is a sub-sector activity focusing on the value chain livelihood under a sub-grant of the GIZ SDR programme. The target areas are north and south Jijiga districts of Fafan zone in Somali regional state. RILE has three key components: 1) enhance livestock feed production and management practices, 2) improve milk hygiene, sanitation and quality, and 3) increase market access and trade linkages.

Lessons learnt:

- Input support for the smallholder farmers is initiation for encouragement to push better production
- Farmers involved fodder plantation as a daily labour also can benefit as training session
- Better collaboration among individuals of producers and retailers helps that to absorb good market

[Presentation from Tesfaye from Support for Sustainable Development \(SSD\)](#)

The Support for Sustainable Development (SSD) organisation was established in 2003 for the development for the poor, neglected and marginalised communities of Afar, Ethiopia.

Community approaches: Linking relief with long term development, having a holistic approach to beneficiary needs, fostering community partnerships and active participation, strengthening local institutions and build the capacity of the beneficiaries, diversifying economic means of the target people, involving all stakeholders at all project cycles (labour, materials, finance, ideas, and so on).

Partners and financing instruments: CLWR/CFGB, Menschen fur Meschen Switzerland and Afar National Regional State.

[Presentation from Lulseged Mekonnen Action from Integrated Sustainable Development Association \(AISDA\)](#)

The geographic area of work is in Afar with interventions in all zones. It is also planned to extend implementation in other regions (Easter Amhara, Southern Oromia and Somali). 282,000 people in Afar have been targeted.

Community approach: working in collaboration and coordination with local actors (Gov, I/LNGOs, CBOs and communities), bringing women and girls at the forefront, enhancing community participation and empowerment, ongoing upgrading of organisational capacity, and exploiting the expertise of government technical experts.

Main funding partners (now and before): GIZ, IRC, WHH/GAA, USAID, Development Fund (Norway), Save the Children International, Merci Corps, CARE, OXFAM, among several others.

Collaboration opportunities: local knowledge and commitment, diversified qualification and experience of staff, proven track records and reputation. *Collaboration with partners:* with GIZ - mutual assessment of resources and problems of water sources with the participation of government and communities. And with government at all levels - design projects based on facts and deep discussions aiming at solving problem and ensuring sustainability.

[Presentation from Zeyneb Abdile from Mother and Child Development Organisation \(MCDO\)](#)

The Mother and Child Development Organisation (MCDO) works in Fafan zone (Tuluguled, Awbare and Qabribayah), Jarar zone (Dhegahbur and Ararso), Dawa zones (Moyale, Mubarak, Hudat and Qadhadumo), and Liban zone (Dheka softi and Qarsadula).

Community approaches: MCDO works directly with communities at the grass root level in order to identify and address the needs and priorities of project which community needs. MCDO aims to support the following different communities: women with FGM survivors, highly vulnerable children, child labour and exploitation, teachers and parents, community leaders, religious leaders, youth associations and women associations.

Partners and financing instruments: Main partners are government offices, NGOs and INGOs and UN agencies.

Collaboration opportunities: The bigger scope/added value of collaboration seen is with GIZ and with other similar organisations/partners. MCDO works in partnership with various international organisations as well as local charity organisations and government institutions. And it is a member of the Pro-Development Network CCRDA.

Q&A from the presentations

There is huge potential for irrigated in Somali region. Do you have any ongoing initiatives?

The Somali Regional Government stressed that there are cluster meetings and other meetings held with NGOs, and these are strong.

How do Somali and Afar governments respond to the problem of engagement of regional and woreda government sector?

The Afar Regional Government indicated that there are awareness creation conferences and there is also community-based engagement at the regional and woreda level. There is planning and agreement on the planning, however, the political situation needs to be separated from the institutional engagement.

A **member from IGAD** mentioned that clarity had to be gained on the coordination aspect. In the first place, he stressed not being sure if a common framework for coordination was in place. He mentioned that without a common goal/interest, it is and it will be very difficult to coordinate. To his understanding, Ethiopia has already endorsed a framework within the IGAD Drought Resiliency initiative, a country programming paper to in drought emergencies, which is a national framework to embark on. He also stressed the importance of being clear in terms of institutionalisation (who is responsible to coordinate what and how). He highlighted that everyone talks about resilience but there is not a common platform to coordinate it: “When we focus on coordination we need to have an institute which is responsible to coordinate, to lead and harmonise through various platforms (it can be a steering committee, a technical committee, a working committee, and any other similar platforms). So we need to be clear and agree on duties and responsibilities of these institutional segments.”

Furthermore, he also mentioned that when we talk about coordination a very important thing is planning and monitoring. “If we are not planning in a harmonised and integrated manner it will be difficult to coordinate. Once we have a harmonised plan, I think, it will be also good to have joint-monitoring, evaluation and learning phase, so at the end of the day we can evaluate all the interventions that we did in with similar indicators, so at the end of the day, we can evaluate ourselves whether we have brought impact implications on the livelihoods of the communities on the ground (...).”

Finally, he highlighted: “Let’s have a common framework, clear duties and responsibilities and who shall lead this coordination. We need to be clear with the institutional set up and with the thematic areas that we are engaged with in order to exchange knowledge, information and the like”.

Where is the boundary with the regional water office? And who is responsible for the sustainability of the built infrastructure?

APDA mentioned that they prioritise the most vulnerable woredas. During emergency the organisation works in all the 24 woredas in the region but their strategy is to mainly work on those woredas with the hardest environments so as to service the most vulnerable communities. They set a strategy with the community, discussed with them about synergies as well as on the sustainability of the infrastructure.

[Discussions in break-out groups]

Break-out group from Afar

1. What are the key objectives in strengthening lowland resilience?

Participants mentioned the integrated land use management plan, watershed development plan, soil and water conservation and biological management, mountain development activities, minimizing unwanted /invaded plant species/parthenium, prosopis, and Calotropis, gully rehabilitation, natural resource conservation activities, rangeland rehabilitation, forage production, crop production, fruit production using irrigation, and DRA system/early warning information implementation.

2. Where should we coordinate? /

3. How to practically improve coordination in current programmes?

It was discussed by participants to coordinate based on the objective of lowland resilience. BoFED should play to coordinate each development activities, the donors should strengthen governmental institutions, the coordination should start at the grass root level/kebele level up to the regional level, a one door approach should be followed. It was stressed to coordinate on livestock productivity, identified places where to implement soil and water conservation practices, usage of alternative energy like stoves to alleviate the problem of deforestation, enhancing community capacity, and support the responsiveness of the community. It was highlighted that projects should be plan and implement in areas where other projects did not reach, otherwise, they become duplications.

Break-out group A

1. What are the key objectives in strengthening lowland resilience?

For USAID, resilience building is a comprehensive framework which is beyond livelihood, which includes different component that contribute to wellbeing, such as health, education, peace and security. It was stressed the need to have a common framework and a common vision. Joint-development planning at the woreda level (government and NGOs), joint-implementation planning at the target woreda and then a common measurement system to see how the sector is performing and implementing. Communication has to be maintained as well through technical working groups. Resilience was understood as the capacity of a community to cope with the natural calamities without compromising the initial functions. "We need to consider when we talk about resilience, that there is the human, social and environmental resilience. We have to integrate them. Build capacity against any shocks and stresses."

Participants agreed on:

- *The objective of building resilience is beyond livelihood; it is related to building capacity against any shocks and stresses to address peace, security, stability and other social services at the household, community and system level*
- *Resilience includes the environment and not only human factors*
- *Diversification to reduce risks*

2. Where should we coordinate?

It was mentioned by one of the participants the need to have a common objective or goal, once they had it, they could have a framework where to embark on. The first phase was understood as the planning phase.

Participants agreed on:

- *Institutional level*
 - *National level: deal with institutional building, policy issues, harmonisation strategies, guidelines development in the context of the lowlands*
 - *Regional level: coordination in harmonisation, coordination in the context of the lowlands*
 - *Woreda level institution*
- *Geographic level (spatial distribution, i.e. regions and zones)*
- *Thematic level*

- *Natural resources and environment management (water, land, renewable energy, etc.)*
- *Market and trade access*
- *Production enhancement and livelihood diversification*

3. How to practically improve coordination in current programmes?

It was stressed that a vision from the government side is changed to diversify and create opportunities, livelihood diversification for the lowland areas. "Once we have a common vision, a common goal for the pastoralist areas; we need to agree at the national, regional and woreda level how to measure and what to reach at the different sectors. We also need to know who is contributing to what so not to overload the whole system". It was highlighted once again the need for a joint-plan at the different levels (guiding log framework). "If we have this log framework, it is not only about learning but also complementing our interventions, that complementarity will contribute to the bigger resilience."

Participants agreed on:

- *Developing a common framework on resilience building initiatives*
- *Having a common goal/vision and understanding*
- *Establishing platforms at the different levels and have a common joint-plan*
- *Developing a clear log frame for the implementation*
- *Agreeing on a measurement method/system*
- *Having a joint/harmonised monitoring, evaluation and learning system*
- *Networking, learning and building capacity in inter-sectoral/intra-sectoral communication*

Break-out group C

1. What are the key objectives in strengthening lowland resilience?

It was mentioned by one of the participants the need to unpack what lowland is. "It is about extreme events (droughts and floods), it is about access to knowledge, information, markets; so really not only connected to decision-making but market opportunities, but also related to a different livelihood style (pastoralism, agro-pastoralism and movement)". "These are the three characteristic that we need to unpack. Probably we are not in a position to solve all of them, but from these, which are the most urgent and doable from our perspective."

Another participant stressed the development of policies appropriate for the lowland context, and in this regard, a better alignment between traditional structures of decision making with the normal administrative structures in the country. While other added: "We need to screen and know what all of this is proven, what is useful to come together as best practices to influence policies and decision-making." It was also highlighted that most of the NGOs are coordinating and aligning with the lowland risk management plan at the humanitarian context, but this is not happening in the development sector. Furthermore, it was also mentioned that there seems there are no prioritisation in the key lowland areas. A platform should be strengthened based on priority intervention areas.

Other participant mentioned that NGOs have the potential to provide good practices and develop good concepts, but how can it be scaled up? The participant saw a big need for more open investment in the local service delivery structures in order to move from a project to a programmatic and holist approach. He didn't see local organisations having the chance to improve their own organisation capacity.

2. Where should we coordinate?

One of the participants mentioned that the coordination can start from a regular learning/exchange platform (monthly/quarterly). "We can gather regular updates from each of the agencies, so we can learn what each organisation is doing."

Another participant mentioned that if we have a kind of consortium approach, strategies come together and have a kind of log frame, we might have the chance to improve the communication and coordination and enhance the impact. Different thematic areas can have an umbrella platform.

3. How to practically improve coordination in current programmes?

It was highlighted to establish a system for thematic areas in order to increase best practices (by system, it was meant a platform, for example, an online platform which could then generate and pull information on issues that are affecting agro-pastoralists), and this could be linked to key local institutions such as the Disaster Risk Management Bureau and the Water Bureau. It was also made important that the Ministry of Peace has a legal mandate to coordinate all pastoral programmes, including humanitarian activities, so the platform could be under the roof of the Ministry of Peace. It was suggested for the platform to be thematic and it should be under or linked to the different institutions involved in Addis but also in the region.

Participants agreed on:

- Question 1: We need to create a platform/consortium/knowledge management to have organisations working together in order to avoid duplicating each other
- Question 2: A platform has to be on different thematic area. We need to look at issues and topics. Therefore cultural issues, health and nutrition, among others. The platform should be thematic.
- Question 3: We need to identify ways to overcome fragmentation.

[Plenary discussion and wrapping up]

What is the takeaway from today's Pre-Conference for our future coordination?

What is expected from all of us to make this coordination a reality?

A Somali representative mentioned that they got good experiences and new information that they have not known before the pre-conference.

Dr Frank van Steenberg from MetaMeta mentioned that his main takeaway point relates to the good basis that the pre-conference has laid to the two coming pre-conferences. He also mentioned that someone should take the lead in developing a pastoralist forum to achieve coordination and development of a framework for the lowlands.

Dr Kaba from GIZ mentioned that there are a lot of actors in the lowlands working in similar areas or in very related activities. "We need to find a road in which can really coordinate our efforts, this is what we learnt from today". "We need to coordinate even starting from planning, we can plan together, we can organise forums together, we can even build capacity together; there are so many things where we can coordinate". "Now we can bring together our knowledge, skills, several technologies and innovations, and even sometimes we can bring together our resources, including money, and the know-how from individuals to coordinate our own efforts and be more effective and efficient".

Dr Elizabeth from GIZ mentioned that she is convinced that the lowlands are offering opportunities which can be part of the backbone economy of Ethiopia; they are treasures which need to be wisely used. "We have to come to which activities can be taken to get a good band leader/director to coordinate. Coordination for actors to come together and between them cooperation is needed". "If everyone knows where his/her place is, cooperating, listening to each other, then it might become a beautiful performance. And how to get there? Training and capacitation." She stressed that there are many stakeholders having a lot of good initiatives and good materials, but for a harmonised performance, coordination, good cooperation and capacitation are needed.

[End]