

# Capacity Development to Strengthening Drought Resilience in the Lowlands of Ethiopia (CDS DR-II)

Supporting to improve conditions and building capacities for pastoralists and agro-pastoralists to enhance their livelihoods in Afar and Somali Regions

## The challenge

Over 7 million people live in the Afar and Somali Regions in Ethiopia; most of them are pastoralists and agro-pastoralists who exclusively depend on semi-mobile livestock farming for their livelihoods. Economic and social systems were well adapted to the local conditions for centuries. But they get under unprecedented pressure from population growth and impacts of climate change, mainly manifested through increasing frequency and severity of droughts and floods. Overgrazing, erosion, deforestation and loss of soil fertility in combination with increasing conflicts over resources are major challenges for the traditional way of life. The Afar and Somali regions are referred to as "emerging regions with limited capacities". In development strategies, the consideration of the specific characteristics of the semi-mobile lifestyles of the Afar and Somali clans and the harsh ecological lowland conditions remain a challenge.

## Our approach

The Ethiopian government has approved a cross-sectoral policy to end drought emergencies in the Ethiopian lowlands, called the 'Country Programming Paper'. The project Capacity Development to Strengthen Drought Resilience in the Lowlands of Ethiopia (CDS DR II) supports the successful implementation of this policy. The underlying principles are:

**Integrated approach:** CDS DR-II is the core project of the Strengthening Drought Resilience in Arid and Semi-Arid Lowlands programme (SDR-ASAL) which consists of seven projects. These projects develop jointly an integrated approach to strengthen drought resilience of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in the Ethiopian lowlands.

Project name	Capacity Development to Strengthening Drought Resilience in the Lowlands of Ethiopia
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Afar and Somali Regions, Ethiopia
Partner organizations	Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
Lead executing agency	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Duration	07/2019 – 04/2022

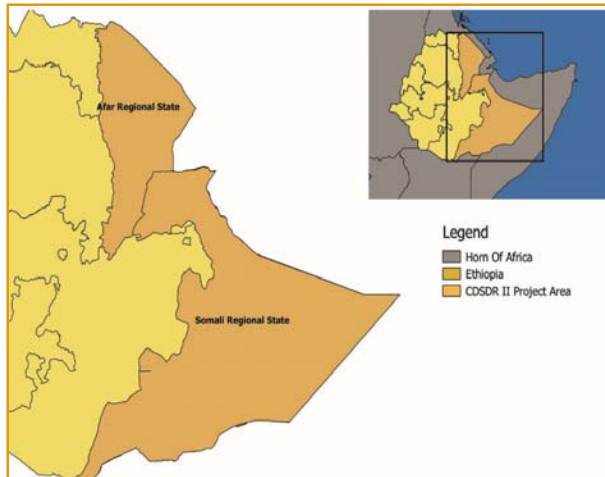
**Systemic approach:** It is based on the rehabilitation of dry valleys and their productive use (DVRPU). Experience shows that the technological measures work well; the management models are now further refined and include capacity development, for independent implementation of the approach in the future.

**Upscaling and capacity development:** The DVRPU approach for the effective and sustainable rehabilitation and productive use of degraded land in dry valleys of the Ethiopian lowlands will be further elaborated upon and anchored at the regional and national level. To this end, planning, technical, economic and organizational elements have been tested and the resulting experience processed into models that allow for the implementation of the approach through third parties. These models provide the foundation upon which a DVRPU concept can emerge and be widely disseminated at the regional and national level. To allow the partner organizations to implement the approach, GIZ will support them to develop the necessary capacities.

**Use of innovative technologies:** Unmanned aerial systems for effective planning, implementation and supervision of rehabilitation measures are tested in the field.



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## Our Goals

State and non-state actors together with pastoral and agro-pastoral communities create the conceptual foundations for the rehabilitation and productive use of dry valleys, based upon:

- Public and private institutions at relevant levels equipped with the necessary skills to improve planning; participatory planning methods enable local extension staff to discuss appropriate organizational, management and use models with local pastoralist and agro-pastoralist (PAP) communities;
- Sustainable management and governance models enable PAP to fully exploit the potential of the DVRPU approach and ensure maintenance of the sites;
- Partners at national and regional level incorporate DVRPU approaches into their policies and strategies; coordination between all implementing stakeholders.

The goals are driven forward by the annual DREAM Conferences. It stands for “Development of Resilience Empowering Alternative Measures in Arid and Semi-arid Lowlands of Ethiopia”. CDSR-II fosters a holistic capacity building and management

approach supporting the implementation of context-specific DVRPU measures. This comprises community planning, physical and biological soil and water conservation, livelihood development, rangeland development, invasive species management, water, sanitation and hygiene and disaster risk management to rehabilitate dry valleys and enhance livelihoods in the lowlands of Afar and Somali Region. To define best practices and coordinate promising approaches, CDSR-II organizes three conferences allowing for all stakeholders’ utmost transparency of ongoing projects and approaches in the thematic area of natural resource management for fostering livelihoods of PAP communities.

- The “DREAM I” conference was held in 2019 in Afar. The conference brought more than 250 stakeholders together. Multiple action plans among stakeholders have been developed. Outcomes of DREAM I: a declaration on cooperation and thematic action plans form a basis for more coherent development cooperation with milestones until DREAM II.
- The “DREAM II” conference in September 2020 will focus on the appraisal of the implemented activities under the topic “Coordination, Cooperation, Capacity Development”. DREAM III in September 2021 will focus on upscaling for PAP in the Horn of Africa through standardizing and institutionalizing successful approaches.

## Our Achievements

- First elements of the elaborated DVRPU approach are tested and disseminated for their technical, economic and organizational suitability;
- The capacities of the DVRPU-relevant education and training institutions and service providers in the regions of Afar and Somali have been extended;
- Advance monitoring and evaluation systems have been introduced to implement drought resilience measures, including successful testing of unmanned aerial systems in our project districts for planning and supervision purposes.

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GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

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