



“Emergency livelihood support to El Niño-affected agropastoral communities of Afar Region”

Project code: OSRO/ETH/602/ITA

Donor: Italy

Contribution: EUR 500 000 (USD 555 905)

Implementation: 29/01/16 – 28/01/17

Target areas: Amibara, Argoba Special, Awash Fentale, Buremudaitu, Chifra, Dewie, Gewane and Talalak *woredas*, Afar Region



Contact

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Objective: To improve food security and nutrition, as well as restore livelihoods, of vulnerable households affected by the El Niño-induced drought.

Key partners: Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Afar Regional Pastoral Agricultural Development Bureau, *woreda*-level Pastoral and Agricultural Development Offices and Lay Volunteers International Association.

Beneficiaries reached: 6 864 households.

Activities implemented:

- Selected eight *woredas* in Afar Region severely affected by the 2015-16 El Niño-induced drought.
- Procured and distributed locally suitable fast-growing forage crop planting materials, including 56 quintals of alfalfa, leuceanea and Sudan grass seed and 50 000 elephant grass cuttings.
- Provided 1 250 households (and *woreda*-level nurseries) with forage crop planting materials.
- Delivered training to 250 model agropastoralists on forage crop production, storage and use, as well as refresher training to community-based rangeland management committees on improved management and utilization of rangeland resources.
- Procured and distributed 775 quintals of cereal seed (maize and wheat), 66 quintals of mungbean seed, 455 kg of vegetable seed (onion and tomato), 28 kg of watermelon seed and 2.2 million sweet potato cuttings.
- Reached 5 614 households with emergency food crop seeds; of these, 1 245 most vulnerable households received two hand tools each (e.g. hoes, watering cans, rakes and sickles).
- Facilitated training for 32 development agents on improved agricultural practices, which in turn trained about 30 farmers in each of their respective *woredas*.
- Trained an additional 72 *woreda* experts on crop and livestock marketing, integrated water resource management and post-harvest management practices for crop and forage materials through the implementing partner Lay Volunteers International Association.

Results:

- Contributed to the largest emergency seed response in Ethiopia’s history, supporting the local production of both food and animal feed.
- Enabled the production of enough fodder to support five heads of livestock per household.
- Enhanced ability of households to achieve higher yields than average through the provision of improved seed varieties and training on good agricultural practices.
- Improved income generation among beneficiary households able to sell surplus at market.
- Evaluated that seed aid was all planted (97 percent of households) and of good or excellent quality (96 percent); 90 percent of households received their seed of choice on time, 80 percent had some or no problems accessing other agricultural inputs and 96 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the seed.