

Ethiopia and IFAD to help families adapt to climate shocks in new multi-million dollar project

ROME, ITALY, November 19, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Rome, 19 November 2019 – Half a million of Ethiopia's most vulnerable families are set to benefit from a new US\$451 million project to increase their resilience to climate shocks in the country's poorest regions.



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Ulaş Demirag, Country Director for Ethiopia.

For more than two decades, climate change has placed a major stress on the Ethiopian economy and on people's livelihoods. Most of the population of lowland areas are dependent on rain-fed agriculture and pastoralism, and are therefore highly vulnerable to droughts, desertification and floods.

A financing agreement for the Lowlands Livelihood Resilience Project was signed today by Gilbert F. Hounbo, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and Zenebu Tadesse Woldetsadik, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Federal

Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies in Rome.

The funding includes a \$90 million loan from IFAD and \$350 million in co-financing from the International Development Association (80 per cent loan and 20 per cent grant) and \$11 million from the beneficiaries themselves.

The project, primarily designed to help achieve Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2 (eradicating poverty and hunger) will install small-scale irrigation technology to reduce dependence on erratic rains. It will also help smallholder farmers to invest in research systems for faster adaptation to climate change.

Project activities will also strengthen rangeland and natural resources management, and improve the delivery of basic social services so that rural communities can withstand droughts and other climate shocks, and reduce asset losses. It will also help mitigate conflicts over scarce resources in fragile pastoral and agro-pastoral ecosystems.

"This new project will develop an innovative value chain approach to leverage private investment, productivity and win-win commercial linkages between local businesses," said Ulaş Demirag, Country Director for Ethiopia. "The approach will enable project clients to sustain and improve their livelihoods after completion of the project."

The project also aims to improve nutrition by providing education on food handling and food preservation, and the production of more nutritious and diverse crops with access to bio-fortified seeds and technical assistance, including on post-harvest handling.

Women (50 per cent of participants) and young people will especially benefit from project activities that will cover the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas in the Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambela, Oromia, Somali and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' regions.

Since 1980, IFAD has invested \$755.5 million in 19 rural development programmes and projects worth \$ 1.8 billion in Ethiopia. These have directly benefited around 11.5 million rural households.

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Press release No.: IFAD/49/2019

IFAD invests in rural people, empowering them to reduce poverty, increase food security, improve nutrition and strengthen resilience. Since 1978, we have provided US\$21.5 billion in grants and low-interest loans to projects that have reached about 491 million people. IFAD is an international financial institution and a United Nations specialized agency based in Rome – the United Nations’ food and agriculture hub.

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