



Programme Workplan for the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

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<b>Implementing Agency:</b>	FAO
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Ethiopia is one of the focus countries of Phase II of the EC/FAO Food Security Programme "Food Security Information for Action".

Problems identified in Ethiopia are related to the lack of a systematic and harmonized system of data collection and analysis. In terms of methodology, monitoring and analysis of data require a cross-sectoral approach.

*EC/FAO Programme activities will be complementary to the activities envisaged under Component II of the EC Project "Support to the Nutrition Programme and the Food Security Information System". The Programme will assist the Government in enhancing food security information by:*

1. *Applying the Food Security analytical toolkit through:*
  - a) *Introducing CountrySTAT for organizing and disseminating statistical data and metadata on food and agriculture;*
  - b) *Setting up and training in the use of the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) Workstation;*
  - c) *Strengthening national agro-meteorological and statistical tools and supporting the national crop monitoring and forecasting system through the Crop Monitoring Box .*
  - d) *Building capacity in "Statistical Information for Application of Climate Data" (SIAC Training).*
2. *Supporting the GoE in providing a platform for food security policy dialogue based on information that cuts across sectors and ensures the linkage between short and long-term interventions through the development and application of analytical frameworks.*
3. *Strengthening information systems and analysis frameworks in relation to land tenure issues.*

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

Ethiopia remains one of the world's poorest nations, with a per capita GDP of US\$100 (around 20% of the average for the countries of sub-Saharan Africa). The overall current GDP is 54,585 Birr million as of 2002/2003. 44% of the 2003 population of 70 million live below the poverty line, with poverty concentrated in rural areas, where 85% of the population live.

Average life expectancy was 43 years in 2003 and is falling due to HIV/AIDS. Infant and child mortality and child malnutrition rates are among the highest in the world, although there have been recent reductions in infant mortality. Based on these indicators, Ethiopia ranks very near the bottom (168<sup>th</sup> out of 173 countries) of the Human Development Index.

The Ethiopian economy is highly dependent on agriculture and an estimated 85% of the population gain their livelihood directly or indirectly from agriculture production. Agriculture in Ethiopia is dominated by smallholder farming. Farms are small and fragmented and access to land is difficult. All land is owned by the state, although farmers have usufruct rights which can be inherited.

A highly relevant aspect of wide-scale food insecurity and malnutrition in Ethiopia is the dependence on rainfall. In general, a major constraint for the sustainable and stable growth of food production in Ethiopia is the fact that small scale agriculture is essentially rain-fed; the unreliability of rainfall in many parts of the country has made farmers vulnerable to crop failures and even extreme droughts. Other factors that worsen the state of food security in Ethiopia include:

- a high rate of population growth;
- inadequate infrastructure;
- limited investment in rural areas;
- HIV rate prevalence estimated at 11% in 2003;
- limited sources of alternative incomes;
- limitations in technology;
- lack of product diversification and market integration;
- limited capacity in planning and implementation; and
- limited access to credit.

Food aid accounts for around one third of traded grains and nearly 10% of the grains consumed. There is a continued reliance on food aid, which has led, over the years, to the institutionalization of food aid related processes and mechanisms that are difficult to adjust to account for broader dimensions of food security.

## **2. Problems to Be Addressed**

The analysis of the complex food security situation in Ethiopia requires systematic, regular and centralized data collection. There are multiple, though fragmented, information systems in place that are faced with the inadequate consolidation/integration of available data and information. Different institutions use different data sets to conduct analysis, leading to diverse results which may inhibit decision-making. In this sense, there is a lack of harmonization and coordination in the dissemination of information.

With regards to the political and institutional reality and the influence they might have on food security analysis and information, Ethiopia has been going through a structural transformation in recent years, including the decentralisation of political and administrative structures. Previously, the government was centralized and the use of data and information was extremely limited at the lower levels of government, woreda, zone or even region. Decentralization should change these dynamics. More capacity building will be required to empower regions to build up their own systems and conduct their own analysis. Current initiatives to improve early warning systems are regionally based.

Emerging policies, such as the move from food-based to cash-based safety nets, demand a new scope for analysis. Safety nets programmes pose critical challenges to Government monitoring systems, as they require a cross-sectoral approach. However, until now, monitoring activities have

been mainly conducted at the sectoral level. In order to address this problem, a food security policy dialogue platform should be created.

### 3. Previous and Ongoing Assistance

There has been a continued reliance and dependency on food aid in Ethiopia. In the last few years, some initiative has been taken to shift from food to cash as the primary input. The idea is that cash is a more flexible resource for households to make decisions upon and may act as an incentive for increased agricultural production by increasing demand.<sup>1</sup> This is based on the development of the Productive Safety Net Programme, which is part of the Food Security Programme, an initiative of the New Coalition on Food Security in Ethiopia (NCFS). This coalition has been made among government, development partners (donors, UN, NGOs etc), civil society and the private sector and the direct mobilization of people at grassroots level; it builds on the PRSP/SDPRP.

In particular, the SDPRP (Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Programme), adopted in 2002, provides the policy base for interventions in agricultural and rural development in Ethiopia. Most programmes financed by large donors like the World Bank and European Union have been based on SDPRP. Donors priorities are almost all defined within the scope of the SDPRP and within this framework, all major donors focus on food security as a key objective. The SDPRP builds on the policy of Agricultural Development-led industrialisation (ADLI) - a long-term strategy for growth and development adopted by the Government in 1993. Donors have been putting increasing pressure on the GoE to address the structural causes of food security.

This framework needs to be understood in light of the progress that has been achieved in terms of donor coordination and harmonization in Ethiopia. On one hand, several sector programs have been developed to bring donors under a Government led umbrella. On the other hand, the increasing shift towards budget support has been accompanied by a harmonization of review processes required by Ethiopia's external partners, including the development of the Joint Budget and Aid Review (JBAR) and the Annual Fiduciary Assessments.

The Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) is the Government agency in Ethiopia responsible for coordinating and implementing disaster management, including nutritional emergencies. The Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit was created under the DPPC in 1998; it chairs a by-monthly Multi Agency Nutrition Task Force with the specific objective of sharing emergency nutrition related information with NGOs, donors and UN agencies and coordinating the emergency response.

**FAO's activities.** Under trust funds projects, FAO's activities have mainly focused on supporting farmer-based seed supply, improved nutrition, household food security and veterinary certification and livestock quarantine.<sup>2</sup>

Emergency and rehabilitation interventions include agricultural assistance to drought affected farmers in Tigray and other mainly affected areas, support in preventing the occurrence and spread of livestock diseases in identified areas and rehabilitation of pastoralists affected by animal losses due to drought and diseases.

With regards to coordination with other UN agencies, FAO has continued its collaboration with WFP on school gardening activities linked with school feeding in the Tigray region. A common platform for sharing information among different stakeholders has been created under the system VAM-SIE in order to enhance the exchange of information.

FAO acts as secretariat of the Disaster Management Agriculture Task Force (ATF) and its two consultative groups: Seed Security and Livestock. This task force and the two consultative groups advise the government and policy makers on issues related to seed and livestock

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<sup>1</sup> A Review for the World Food Programme of Emergency Food Security Assessment Practice in Ethiopia, ODI, July 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Support to NEPAD-CAADP implementation – National Medium Term Investment Programme, TCP/ETH/2908, January 2005, FAO.

emergency issues in the country. Apart from FAO, other members include government departments, NGOs and donors.

FAO and the Emergency Coordination Unit have helped the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Ethiopia to set up the ATF in the main drought-prone areas: Afar, Amhara, Tigray, Oromiya and SNNP. The ATF aims at building capacity for coordination, early warning, planning, monitoring and evaluation in emergency interventions in agriculture in areas that are prone to drought. In order to meet these objectives, FAO has provided equipment and training to the MOARD (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) officers for the collection, mapping and transmission of information. Workshops will be organized with regional focal points to provide the Emergency Coordination Unit with reliable information.

FAO is also a member of the UN Strategic Disaster Management Team, the UN Technical Information Management Exchange Meeting, and the the UN Technical Officers Meeting.

#### **4. Objectives of the Programme in the Country**

The European Commission is currently finalising a financing proposal for “Support to the Nutrition Programme and the Food Security Information System”: Component I consists of “Nutrition-related support to the Enhanced Outreach Strategy” and Component II consists of “Support to Food Security Information Systems”. The second component is highly complementary to EC-FAO Food Security Programme activities. It will also support the CSA and the National Meteorological Service Agency by creating and maintaining a database for food security information. The EC, in agreement with WFP, will rely on FAO’s food security monitoring, statistical and remote sensing expertise.

Taking these issues into consideration, the EC-FAO Programme will:

- 1 Improve access and quality of information by strengthening communication and data exchange among key national institutions. This objective involves the delivery of software tools (GIEWS Workstation, CountrySTAT, Crop Monitoring Box) and standardizing core datasets to enhance compatibility among information systems.
- 2 Provide analytical frameworks and training to build capacity in better analysing food insecurity and vulnerability indicators and improving early warning, needs assessments and the formulation of policy strategies.

#### **5. Expected Outcomes at the End of the Programme**

The following outcomes are expected to be achieved by the end of the Programme:

- 1 Increased national capacity to manage food security information  
The Programme will build national capacity in maintaining and disseminating food security related databases. Digital information will be better organized and standardized. Sophisticated systems for remote sensing data integration will be set up.
- 2 Enhanced capacity in analysing food security and formulating food security policies  
The Programme will build capacity in analysing the state of food security and assist in the formulation of policy strategies on specific themes. It will support the government by setting the ground for policy dialogue and formulating food security strategies on the basis of cross sectoral and integrated background information. It will thus make sure that information, analysis and policy making, at various levels, are linked.

#### **6 Results, Activities and Inputs**

The activities envisaged in the present workplan are consistent with the overall logical framework defined in the EC-FAO Food Security Overall Programme Document.

The foreseen interventions fall into the domain of “Specific Objective 1: Improve availability and quality of relevant food security information” because the gaps identified in this area considerably affect the food security formulation process.

Interventions also fall into the domain of “Specific Objective 2: Reinforce capacity in formulating food security policies, strategies and programming based on food insecurity and vulnerability information”, as they link information and policy formulation, and into the domain of “Specific Objective 3: Raise awareness of governments, local actors and international community, on impact of food insecurity & poverty”.

As specified in paragraph 4, activities will be implemented in a way that ensures synergies with the EC Project “Support to the Nutrition Programme and the Food Security Information System”.

The activities identified are:

1 *Applying the Food Security analytical tool kit through: a) installation and training in the use of the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) Workstation and b) introduction of CountrySTAT and c) introduction of the Crop Monitoring Box and d) building capacity in “Statistical Information for Application of Climate Data” (SIAC Training).*

a) The GIEWS Workstation is an Internet GIS mapping tool for food security and early warning data management. It allows remote sensing data to be integrated with tabular data for early warning and food security analysis. The database function of the workstation is expected to provide a platform for data exchange and management among a variety of stakeholders and to provide catalytic support for linking information to action.

b) CountrySTAT is a system for organizing and disseminating statistical data and metadata on food and agriculture. CountrySTAT gathers and harmonizes scattered institutional statistical information so that information tables become compatible with each other at the country level and with data at the international level. From the technical point of view, the approach is based on the application of data and metadata standards of FAOSTAT and SDMX (Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange promoted by IMF, WB, UNSD, EUROSTAT, FAO) which are integrated into CountrySTAT by definition.

c) The Crop Monitoring tool Box is intended to improve crop monitoring and agro-meteorological capacity. The “CM Box” is an automated software suite that analyses weather data to assess their impact on crop production. It is a complete package including training, hardware, software customized for local use, and the real-time data (such as reference, satellite and weather data) required to operate the system in-country.

d) A course in “Statistical Information for Application of Climate Data” (SIAC training) will be provided to two participants from Ethiopia in 2006 and 2007.

2 *Support to the GoE in providing a platform for food security policy dialogue based on information that cuts across sectors and ensures linkages between short and long-term interventions. This includes the development and application of analytical frameworks.*

This activity will increase the capacity of the GoE to set the ground for policy dialogue and to formulate food security strategies on the basis of cross sectoral and integrated background information. Short and long-term interventions will thus be based on coherence and interrelation.

3 *Strengthening information systems and analysis frameworks in relation to land tenure issues.*

This activity includes three issues, each one can be the subject of a separate study and expert workshop to be organized in the country:

- Strengthening analysis and information on the linkages between land tenure and food insecurity for better food security policies which address land tenure factors.
- Land tenure information for policy-making – this study and workshop should be implemented in at least three regions

representing various agro-ecological settings and institutional-regulatory contexts.

- Land tenure information concerning individual (family) tenure rights and land transactions (formal and informal) – Individuals use various sources of information to document their rights of land-use and land related transactions. Information data and transactions that they support can be formal, i. e. recorded by official land administration institutions, or they can be, to some extent, informal and not recorded. These can be occasionally known through academic case studies and ad hoc social studies. A desk-study aimed at collecting available information would be useful and would serve to integrate undocumented land tenure practices into accessible information systems.

The table below shows how the above areas of intervention relate to the Programme's logical framework:

Specific objectives	Results	Outputs	Areas of intervention
1. Improve availability and quality of relevant food security information	A – Collection of food insecurity and vulnerability data and information is improved or strengthened	1.A.1 – Food insecurity and vulnerability data and information are improved	1a,1b,1c,1d
		1.A.2 – Food insecurity and vulnerability data and information management are strengthened	1a,1b,1c, 1d,2
	B – Analysis of food insecurity and vulnerability data and information is strengthened	1.B.1 – National and regional capacity to analyse food insecurity and vulnerability data is strengthened	1a,1b,1c,1d,2
		1.B.2 – Capacity of using environmental monitoring tools and data for food security assessment are strengthened.	1a,1b,1c
		1.B.3 – GIEWS Workstation is established at global and national levels and capacity in its use is strengthened	1b
		1.B.4 – National and regional capacity for food security assessment is reinforced	2
2. Reinforcing capacity in formulating food security policies, strategies and programming based on food insecurity and vulnerability information.	A – National and local capacity to produce and use information for policy making are reviewed and updated.	2.A.1 – Gaps in national and local capacity to produce and use information for policy making are identified.	2,3
	B – National and local capacity to produce multisector food security information is strengthened	2.B.1 – Response mechanisms to crises and food security policy formation are improved.	2,3
		2.B.2 – National institutional structures and systems are reviewed.	2
	C – Dissemination of food insecurity and vulnerability data and information is strengthened.	2.C.1 – Integrated food insecurity and vulnerability data and information dissemination systems are strengthened	2,3
	D – Capacity to formulate appropriate food security policies in different contexts using adequate information is increased.	2.D.1 – Methodological approaches for integrated use for household, food insecurity and vulnerability data are strengthened.	2,3
		2.D.2 – Guidelines to switch from rehabilitation to development and using appropriate data and information are prepared.	
		2.D.3 – Awareness to embody gender aspects in policies using gender disaggregated information is	

		increased.	
		2.D.4 – Capacity to formulate food security and rural development policies in countries with natural resources under pressure is increased.	
		2.D.5 – Support to selected countries in preparing strategies and operational plans for food security agricultural and rural development is provided.	2
3. Raise awareness of governments, local actors and international community, on impact of food security & poverty.	A – Causes of food insecurity and vulnerability are better understood.	3.A.1 – National context analysis of food insecurity and vulnerability are better understood.	2,3
	B – Good practices in food security, poverty and rural development, institution building and networking are identified, analysed and disseminated.	3.B.1 – Good practices in food security, vulnerability, institution building and networking are identified, analysed and disseminated at national level.	2
		3.B.2 – Good practices in food security, poverty and rural development are disseminated	
	C – Dialogue and exchange of experience within the international community are improved.	3.C.1 – Dialogue and exchange of experience among international community are facilitated	
		3.C.2 – Improved information in qualitative and quantitative terms is provided to the GPPRD.	