



Final Evaluation Report of Climate Smart Integrated Rural Development Project in Selected *Woredas* of Ethiopia

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AF	Adaptation Fund
BL	Baseline
CO ₂ e	Carbon dioxide Equivalent
COVID	Corona Virus Disease
CRGE	Climate Resilient Green Economy
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DNA	Designated National Authority
EFCCC	Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
KII	Key Informant Interview
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOWE	Ministry of Water and Energy
OP	Output
PSNP	Productive Safety-Net Program
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SWC	Soil and Water Conservation
WMD	Well Monitoring Device

Executive summary

This report presents the findings from the end of project evaluation for the project “*Climate Smart Integrated Rural Development ‘project, which was implemented between 2017 and 2022 in selected woredas of Amhara, Oromia, Sidama, Harari regions and Dire Dawa City Administration.*” The project was funded by the Adaptation Fund, and implemented by the Ministry of Finance in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Water and Energy as executing entity.

The project aimed at increasing the productivity of the smallholder farmers by decoupling their dependence from rainfall through the provision of various technological and infrastructure inputs, including creating access to small-scale irrigation services and water supply for household use. The project was primarily targeting highly vulnerable smallholder farmers who dwell on subsistence rain fed agriculture and have low capacity to cope with the high levels of annual and inter-annual rainfall variability in selected woredas of the target areas. At the end of the project and after three years of implementation and one-year extension, a final evaluation of the project was entrusted to Abidan Development Consulting Group team of experts during the period 15 September to 30 December 2022. The objective of the evaluation was to assess progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the Project Document and assess early signs of project success or failure with the goal of identifying the necessary changes to be made in order to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results. Qualitative and quantitative data was generated using various data collection approaches to provide a comprehensive picture of the project’s implementation.

Following a standardized methodology developed by the Evaluation Team and Approved by the client, the overall assessment of the project is moderately satisfactory

Key Findings

Relevance: The project’s goal, objectives and interventions are in line with many of the national, regional and woreda level development priority issues: improved livelihood, creating employment opportunities, climate change and income diversification have regional and federal government priority focuses. The strategic relevance of the project is undeniable, as changing climate conditions create economic, social, environmental and ecological risks for the agriculture and water sectors that is of paramount importance for Ethiopia. The objectives and priorities identified in the project are highly relevant to national climate challenges, including those identified by the GTP II, Ten Years Development Plan (2021-2030), CRGE Strategy, Sectoral Climate Resilience strategies and the NDC.

Effectiveness: The project effectiveness was measured by the extent to which results were achieved as specified in the AF evaluation framework. The AF project undertook the development of a holistic and coordination intervention approach, targeting agricultural, environmental and institutional factors of climate resilience. At the core of this strategy was the development of an integrated model, which combines improved water access and resource rehabilitation and management with livelihood diversification and capacity building actions. The project achieved strong results in a relatively short time. Over 15,000 households got access to safe potable water supply. Furthermore, 8,500 farmers are practicing irrigation agriculture. The project created alternative income sources for 2,556 (750-female) households. Over 3,300 hectares of degraded land treated with physical and biological soil and water conservation measures through the project. Over 20,000 (2,484 Female) community members, woreda experts, development agents, regional and federal experts attended various capacity building trainings, workshops, experience exchange events.

Efficiency: The project resources are fairly and efficiently utilized to change the lives of smallholder framers and mange natural resources. The evaluation revealed that the project is in terms of utilizing the available human resource and budget to change the project activities to output. Key informants at the regional level also indicated practice of joint monitoring and supervision. However, they did not share a well compiled mission reports other than field mission notes to the relevant stakeholders. The budget allocated for monitoring and supervision activity did not take into account the high and increasing inflation rates. The conflict in the Northern part of the country has limited the ability of the federal team to conduct regular monitoring and supervision as they did for other parts of the country. The project was also effective in strengthening institutional capacities for reporting. Project progress recorded regularly and filed, and periodic reports were submitted with expected quality and deadline. However, during the key informants' interview with project technical experts at the regional and local level, it became evident that they had a limited understanding of the structure of the PPR reports. The evaluation team found that the quality of reporting at the activity level varies across regions, which is generally acceptable. The findings also show the project used the existing structure of the government at the three levels of governance to channel funding and coordinating implementation, monitoring and evaluation of project activities but with recruitment of a few staff at the federal and woreda levels. The use of existing staff has dual benefits: use resources efficiently and utilization of existing experiences in undertaking some of the project activities.

Impact: The evaluation suggests that the project has fulfilled its overall project objective of improving the livelihood of smallholder farmers through diversification of income sources. Beneficiaries reported numerous changes in their lives: Greater engagement in agriculture productive activity, improved ability to generate income, empowerment of women and improved gender relations. Beneficiaries in the project were engaged in livelihood activities such as rearing sheep, cow, goat, poultry and beehives, including growing vegetable (Onion, tomato and fruits (apple, avocado, banana etc.) to generate income. In FGDs, farmers expressed a high level of income they have gained from livelihood activities promoted by the project. They pointed that the project increased income and enhanced general well-being of beneficiaries as they are lived in fairly better house and owned better asset and this could be considered one of the promising impacts of the project livelihood interventions. The project also had an overall positive impact on the environment: a large area of protected and well-managed trees is one of the results. Another interesting outcome of this evaluation from impact perspective was that the development of the irrigation scheme like Irrigation scheme development, which contributed to increased crop productivity. During the field visit, the evaluation team learned that beneficiaries participated in vegetable farming have improved their livelihood through irrigation which, in turn, shows the positive impacts of the project.

Suitability

Institutional Sustainability: The sustainability of the results and onward progress essentially depends on the level of participation of local communities in various aspects of the project cycle management. In line with this, during the evaluation, it was found that the participation of target communities in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the project was strong and good partnerships have been established with the community members during the last two years of implementation period, which considered to be benefiting sustainability. The project used a government structure during project implementation and there is a low risk that there is institutional framework for the project intervention to continue. The maintenance of water and irrigation infrastructures is another aspect that is highly dependent on financial sustainability. The role of woreda and regional irrigation and water offices in allocation of funds for periodic major repair and maintenance operations are crucial. However, it is difficult to assess whether appropriate maintenance and repair operations are likely to be expedited when required.

Socio-political sustainability: The sustainability of water schemes and irrigation infrastructures depend on the willingness of project beneficiaries to pay for operations and maintenance,

enforcement of bylaws as well as continuous capacity building measures and access to spare parts. Water infrastructures are managed by water users' associations (WUA), which function generally well and have been trained by the project to optimize the management of strengthened infrastructures. The sustainability of degraded landscapes restoration results depend on the enforcement of community bylaws on utilization, development and management of the degraded communal landscapes as well as support from local law-enforcement institutions. Furthermore, the socio-political sustainability of reforestation activities is highly dependent on local populations' awareness of the importance of such activities. Based on discussions with local community members, it is evident that there is a good level of understanding of erosion control mechanisms, with some community leaders intending to continue reforestation efforts after the project termination.

Financial Sustainability: While it is doubtful that the local governments will have the funds readily available to proceed with the up scaling of the AF project, the demonstrated results of improved poultry, sheep and goat species and other relevant components of the project do form a solid basis to build convincing project proposals and leverage donor funding. The financial sustainability of the up scaling approach is thus rather a question of political will in this respect. For the livelihoods development component, the financial sustainability of the project in the target sites will rely on the farmers' ability to ensure management and breeding of poultry and small ruminants as well as saving money to replace the herd. Direct beneficiaries interviewed during the field missions were very aware of this, so any shortage in savings and poor management will unlikely be by lack of financial safety. However, continuing the up scaling of the AF project beyond the target sites will very much depend on the availability of funds and the political will to allocate necessary funds for the up scaling process. The evaluation team confirmed that the project has given emphasis on local contributions in terms of labor, materials and even financial contributions (in case of water point and irrigation schemes), which considerably increased the degree of sustainability.

Lesson Learned:

A number of lessons learned can be drawn from the experience of the AF project. Firstly, an integrated approach, which combines restoration of degraded landscapes, agricultural practices, alternative income generation measures and access to water have significant potential to transform livelihoods, natural systems and build resilience towards impacts of climate change. Another lesson could be that reforestation by community members on degraded landscapes can be more effective, efficient and sustainable than reforestation by external parties. When building infrastructures such as irrigation canals, water distribution points, reservoirs, ad hoc and third party supervision (i.e. not

by the construction contractor themselves) is required. This minimizes wastage of time and resources during the implementation of the project. A strong training program on business skills, financial management and entrepreneurship is required when setting up user groups. Finally, it is unreasonable to expect being able to measure the benefits of the project in terms of adopting risk reduction within a project time three to four years.

Conclusion

The AF project integrates improving access to water for irrigation and household use, restoration of degraded landscapes and access to income of poor households at a kebele level. In a relatively short period, the project has achieved strong results in these respects. Based on the analysis of the main evaluation themes, and weighted scores for the various evaluation criteria, the overall rating for the project is “**Moderately satisfactory.**”

Key Recommendation

The findings and conclusions of this evaluation led to the Evaluation Team making the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1:	In few project target kebeles, there are remaining activities such as connecting water sources to distribution line or power source or irrigation canal that should be completed without further delay. The responsible regional government bodies have promised to finalize these tasks. Yet, the Federal Ministry of Finance and Bureau of Finance at regional level should follow up and ensure the timely completion and operationalization of these tasks.
Responsibility	MOF, BOFED and Regional Water and Energy bureau
Recommendation #2:	The project covered only two kebeles from a minimum of 15 kebeles per woreda on average. Residents in the remaining kebeles have almost similar economic, social and agro-climatic vulnerabilities. The relevant government stakeholders at all levels should therefore work together to not only ensure the sustainability of outcomes of the project but also to scale up the project to the adjacent kebeles and sites.
Responsibility	MOF, MOA, MOWE and Regional and local government
Recommendation #3	The water schemes and irrigation canals require periodic maintenance and upgrading. Beneficiaries have established user group associations

	and adopted bylaws. They have established a regular fee scheme to cover spare parts and maintenance and management costs. In spite of this effort, the responsible local government organ should continue to monitor, supervise and provide capacity building and technical and financial literacy trainings. It should also provide operation and maintenance support periodically.
Responsibility	Regional Water and Energy Bureaus, Woreda Offices
Recommendation #4	Biological soil conservation practice needs cross-learning and significant time and at least 3 to 5 years cycles to research and identify sound climate resilient strategies, design community-driven management models to see sustainable results. Offices at federal level should ensure that all future activities have a sufficient timeline and budget to enable legitimate and sustained capacity building
Responsibility	MOA, MOF
Recommendation #5	The project has successfully set the process toward an ambitious goal, which requires adaptation and sustained effort to build resilience. As the closure areas are already handed over to communities, the local government should continue provision of technical support and regular monitoring and supervision to ensure the sustainable management, development and utilization of the ex-closure sites.
Responsibility	BOA and Woreda Offices of agriculture
Recommendation #6:	The use of solar power for pumping water for both irrigation and household use is relatively new practice and approach for project areas. Proper documentation and dissemination of lessons and practices would be helpful to build on the lessons for further expansion and scale
Responsibility	MOWE and Regional Bureau of Water and Energy
Recommendation #7:	The alternative income generating sub-components beneficiaries should be supported with financial literacy trainings as well as entrepreneurship skills. Furthermore, they should be linked with saving and credit microfinance institutions. The revolving funding arrangement, which has been put in place should be further monitored and supported in order to

	ensure more community members continue benefiting from the legacy of the project
Responsibility	Regional Bureau of Agriculture, Woreda Office of Agriculture
Recommendation #7:	The project has attempted to ensure active participation of women and youth groups. However, the number of women direct beneficiaries was low compared to men beneficiaries. The relevant project stakeholders at federal, regional and woreda levels should continue to adapt project implementation strategies and project beneficiary selection criteria to bridge these gaps.
Responsibility	All project stakeholders

1. I. Introduction

The Adaptation Fund Board approved the accreditation of MOF as a National Direct Access Implementing Entity on February 26, 2016. MOF then submitted a three years project proposal entitled “Climate Smart Integrated Rural Development Project” in August 2016. The Adaptation Fund Board approved the project in March 2017 and the two parties signed implementation agreement on April 18, 2017. The climate Smart Integrated Rural Development project has been implemented in seven selected woreda of five regional states (Amhara, Oromia, Harari , SNNPR and Tigray) and Dire Dawa City Administration since July 2017. The project targeted highly vulnerable smallholder farmers who dwell on subsistence rain-fed agriculture and have low capacity to cope with the high levels of annual and inter-annual rainfall variability in fourteen kebeles (two per woreda). Three government institutions, namely Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission (EFCCC¹), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), and Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) with their regional counterparts, zone, and woreda level offices have been responsible for the implementation of the project activities at various levels.

This Final Evaluation, which conforms to the Terms of Reference presented in Annex I was conducted in line with the OECD Evaluation Criteria and the Adaptation Fund Evaluation Framework. The evaluation analyses project performance in terms of delivery of outputs and outcomes for long-term impacts, and the use of resources to this end. Furthermore, the evaluation involves understanding what has happened during implementation that affects results to encourage reflection and learning by the Ministry of Finance and key project stakeholders and make recommendations for future relevant initiatives. A strong focus was placed on understanding the links between activities, outputs, outcomes and likely impacts, as well as execution.

The primary audience for this evaluation will be Ministry of Finance, the project executing entities at the federal, regional and local levels, the AF and the Project Steering Committee. The secondary audience would include other project partners and stakeholders. The report will also serve to inform a wider community of stakeholders by communicating the project’s accomplishments and challenges.

¹ EFCCC reestablished as Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and Ethiopian Forestry Development under the current federal government

1.1 Scope and Purpose of the Final Evaluation

The final evaluation covered the whole duration of the project from its starting date in July 2017 to the completion date in April 2022. The overall objective of the evaluation was to assess progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the project document and drawing lessons and developing recommendations, which may help to enhancing future program design, implementation, coordination and monitoring and supervision. It assessed project performance against the following evaluation criteria of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) using the evaluation questions outlined in the Terms of Reference.

- 1. Relevance:** To what extent does the project address the underlying reasons of the project formulation and how does it contribute to Ethiopia's policies? Project contribution to the overall objective of Adaptation Fund? How far it is related to the National Adaptation Plan? Major achievements by the project in supporting national priorities in adapting to climate change; identifying practical indicators of these achievements.
- 2. Effectiveness:** To what extent has the project achieved its lower-level results (outputs) and is on track to achieve higher-level results (outcomes and impact)? Progress made thus far and any deviation from the original plan and the reasons for deviation? Has partnership established with local communities to promote disaster risk awareness?
- 3. Efficiency:** Were the financial resources and other inputs used efficiently to achieve outputs? (Staff adequacy and capacity to implement project activities, any gaps observed? Development of project plans and follow-up strategy? Project coordination mechanisms put in place at federal, regional and local levels? Allocation of finance (justification, monitoring, reduction of expenditure through activity integration)? Activity evaluation at different levels (federal, regional and local stakeholders) and presence regular platform to assess progress? What are the observed changes among the target groups and the key indicators? Internal financial flow control systems (expenditure and audit reports, intervals of reporting)? The degree of participation of communities and other stakeholders in the preparation of work plan, its approval and adjustment? Governance structures and division of roles/tasks in project implementation; regular and effective internal communication among implementing partners?)
- 4. Sustainability:** To what extent are the project's actions likely to be sustained after the end of the project? Preparations being made for the project activities to continue after the Adaptation Fund financing phases out? Potential risk factors (financial, institutional, technical)

for the discontinuity of these activities and remedial measures? Efforts made to institutionalize some of the project activities into the existing government structures at federal, regional and local levels; Dissemination and/or scaling up strategies for the promising and successful practices)

Crosscutting issues of social and environmental impacts, gender equality and risk management were included in the review, to the extent feasible. The evaluation team explored and took into consideration that, under the evolving context of the project, implementation started later than originally anticipated, which may constrain project performance to date. The evaluation exercise was preceded by development of an inception report, which was guided by Evaluation Terms of Reference (TOR) and AF Framework provided by CRGE facility team of MOF. Before embarking on the actual data collection exercise, The CRGE Facility provided project related documents such as project proposal, periodic project reports, periodic monitoring and evaluation reports, list of the project target regions, woredas and kebeles. In addition, it provided contact details of project officers and focal persons at federal, regional and local levels as well as the Designated National Authority (DNA) focal person. The Facility Team has also facilitated kick off meeting with the team of consultants. The federal and regional level executing entities staff provided information as well as collaborated with the consultants in facilitating field missions to the project woredas and sites. At woreda level, the relevant project stakeholders provided data, information and facilitated field assessment at the target sites. The community and direct project beneficiaries participated in focus group discussions, field observations among others.

2. Evaluation Methodological Approach

The evaluation has used the Adaptation Fund project result framework and the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria as a standard by applying it to this specific context. The results framework links baseline, targets, indicators and achievements reported throughout the implementation were used as a frame of reference for the review. The review matrix, which is built around the OECD evaluation criteria covered by the evaluation, is presented in annex II. For each criterion, the matrix identifies evaluation questions and sub-questions, indicators, means of verification and sources of information. The terminal evaluation used a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods and both secondary and primary data to come up with evidence-based assessments. The following sub-sections discuss the sources of data, data collection methods, type of data collected and methods of data analysis

2.1 Document review

The evaluation team systematically reviewed all project-related documentation. Reviewed documents include relevant background documentation, project design documents, baseline analysis, annual work plans and budgets, project budget, project reports (including Project Performance and audits), steering committee meeting minutes, as well as other documents produced by the CRGE facilitating team of MOF. The systematic review of the documents helped the evaluation team develop insight into project performance and achievements, and identify constraints faced and draw key lessons that will be used in future project design.

2.2 Field Data Collection

The fieldwork took place from 07 - 18 October 2022 during which the team collected, synthesized and analyzed data. In the data collection, both males and females were involved in the discussions to obtain their views. . The main objectives of the field missions were to meet and interview key project stakeholders at regional, woreda and local levels, to meet communities and undertake focus groups discussion and key informant interviews, to conduct field observations across the project target kebeles and project sites.

2.2.1 Key Informant Interviews

Key informant interviews (KII) was applied to collect data from “expert sources” In total,13 key informants were interviewed and they included Federal, Regional and Woreda agriculture and irrigation experts. These staff were identified during data collection as key to the work of the project. The interviews were held face-to-face using a semi structured interview guide that was tailored to the specific objectives of the evaluation

2.2.2 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

FGDs was conducted with male and female to generate qualitative data at beneficiary level. In general, a total of seven FGDs were conducted. The consultants attempted to make the FGD sessions as participatory as possible and encouraged active participation and provided their insights, and thought about the project. FGD participants allowed the evaluation team to undertake detailed analysis of the context around the AF project, its relevance, effectiveness and efficiency, results and sustainability as well as the level of involvement of the different stakeholders and concerned communities. Key informants and focus group discussion participants were selected purposively based on their knowledge and participation in the project implementation, sex and social status.

2.2.3 Case studies

The consultant selected specific cases. The case stories emphasized cases that can show the real impact of the project at individual household level. Particular attention was given to women who are involved in income generating activities and earning some income. Ten case studies were conducted across seven project target kebeles.

2.2.4 Field Observation

Direct observations were also important for the assessment of the impact on the project results in particular for the soil and water conservation structures and livelihood activities. The evaluators visited the sample project sites and observed the various activities and results of the project. During the field visits, the evaluator adopted a gender-sensitive approach, making sure that the situation and point of view of women are duly heard and taken into consideration.

2.3 Data Analysis and reporting

Data was collected through household survey, key informants interviews and FDGs. The qualitative statements of respondents were closely reviewed in order to systematically code the themes that they contained and the terms in which they were expressed. Data was categorized along the main themes and sub-themes for synthesis and analysis. The evaluation used a matrix to record and for each evaluation question/criteria, information and data collected from different sources and with different methodology. The evaluator ensured validation and triangulation of data and findings to build robust, credible and useful conclusions and lessons learned. In addition, this evaluation presents pragmatic and feasible recommendations.

2.4 Limitations

The evaluation was generally conducted without major problem. However, the conflict in the northern part of Ethiopia did not allow the evaluation team to conduct field missions in Tigray regional state. The team attempted to conduct telephone interview with government representatives in Amhara regional state as well as selected project beneficiaries in the target woredas.

3. Context and Description of the Project

3.1 Project Context

Ethiopia has a diverse climate that is highly influenced by its topography, ranging from warm and semi-arid to cold and moist (CAARIA, 2016). Ethiopia has experienced both very dry and very wet periods over the past four decades; this strong inter-annual and inter-decadal variability in the country's rainfall makes it difficult to detect long-term trends (McSweeney et al, 2010), especially those that can be attributed to climate change rather than natural influences (CAARIA, 2016). The country has been ranked 5th out of 184 countries in terms of its risk of drought-ranging from extreme events that often result in famine, to dozens of localized droughts with equally devastating effects. Flood and landslide events are also becoming more common; with Ethiopia ranking 34th out of 162 countries in terms of flooding risk, and 5th out of 162 in terms of landslide risk (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, 2018). A regional climate impacts review by the IPCC highlighted threats to rain-fed agriculture in Ethiopia from precipitation changes including the potential for greater soil erosion and crop damage in the event of intense rainfall.

It was reported that small-scale subsistence farmers who have an average of less than a hectare and who practice traditional rain-fed farming methods dominate agricultural production in Ethiopia. These farmers account for 95% of the total area under production and more than 90% of total agricultural output. They are highly dependent on the performance of productive landscapes for income, energy, food, building materials, and water. Agriculture accounts for most jobs and about 40% of output and exports. The proportion of irrigated land in Ethiopia is currently low, with more than 95% of land cultivated without irrigation (FDRE, 2019).

The project document identifies a range of economic, social and institutional barriers including market, governance and political failures, which result in less efficient or less effective adaptation, missed opportunities or higher costs for smallholder farmers. The project in particular identifies that households in the project target Woredas are characterized by:

- small and degraded farm size;
- low income and limited income diversification;
- lack of modern agricultural inputs including drought-tolerant seeds;
- limited access to irrigation facilities;
- shortage of potable water;
- shortage of low-yield livestock varieties;
- limited access to weather information;
- lack of access to value chains;
- limited access to credit facilities;
- low overall literacy rate or educational attainment;
- fragile ecosystems and weak institutions at the Woreda level to prepare climate-responsive plans and budgets;

Climate change further exacerbates communities' already-vulnerable livelihoods and manifests its effects through increased school dropout rates, animal and crop disease, crop failure, livestock loss, malnutrition, human disease, loss of biodiversity, and increased over-exploitation of natural resources such as forest, woodlands, wetlands and pasture. Understanding these baseline barriers and the existing adaption practices of farmers such as crop rotations, mixed crop plating, tree planting, soil conservation, early and late planting and irrigation, the project has designed five interrelated components, which could improve the adaptive capacities of communities to manifested and anticipated impacts of climate change. The project was designed in such a way that it first increases the productivity of the smallholder farmers by decoupling their dependence from rainfall through the provision of various technological and infrastructure inputs and support the communities to diversify their livelihood through various schemes and increase their net household income as well as ensure households are food secure. It also aimed managing the natural resources that provide natural climate resilience.

3.2 Objectives and Components

The overall objective of the project is to increase resilience of communities to recurrent drought in seven agro-ecological landscapes of Ethiopia by focusing on integrated water, agriculture and natural resource management approach. The project addressed the above stated barriers challenges through five interrelated components.

- I. Component 1: Awareness and ownership of adaptation planning at the local level;
- II. Component 2: Water security;

- III. Component 3: Climate smart agriculture – land – water - forest integration;
- IV. Component 4: Climate resilient livelihood diversification; and
- V. Component 5: Capacity building, monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

Planned project outputs under each component and expected outcomes are presented below.

Expected project outcomes

As stated in the project document, the project has the following outcomes and outputs.

Outcome 1.1 Increased capacity to manage current and future drought risks through improved adaptation planning and sustainable management of agro-ecological landscapes;

Outcome 2.1: enhanced and secure access to potable water supply, and small-scale irrigation in drought affected areas

Table 1 - Planned project outputs

Planned outputs
Component 1: Awareness and ownership of adaptation planning at the local level
Output 1.1: Increased awareness, understanding and ownership of climate risk reduction processes and adaptation planning at all levels
Output 1.2: Climate smart development plans developed
Output 1.3: Climate resilient water plans developed
Output 1.4: Climate smart agriculture and land – water - forest integration plans developed
Output 1.5: Climate resilient livelihood plans developed
Component 2: Water security
Output 2.1: Potable water supply increased in target areas
Output 2.2: Irrigation infrastructure for agriculture and livestock watering designed and developed to withstand climate change
Component 3: Climate smart agriculture – land – water – forest integration
Output 3.1: Climate smart agriculture implemented at the farm level
Output 3.2: Integrated watershed management approach used to restore and protect degraded watersheds
Component four: Climate resilient livelihood diversification
Output 4.1: Improved knowledge, understanding and awareness of livelihood opportunities
Output 4.2: Increased capacity of target households to participate in climate resilient, market-oriented enterprises
Component Five: Capacity building, monitoring, evaluation and learning
Output 5.1: Increased capacity and knowledge transfer
Output 5.2: Project results monitored and evaluated and lessons captured
Output 5.3: Results and lessons communicated to key stakeholders and mainstreamed in local planning processes

The objective and the outcomes of the project are in harmony with the Result Framework of the AF and directly contribute to four fund level outcomes: these include;

- **Outcome 1:** Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate induced socio-economic and environmental losses
- **Outcome 2:** Strengthened awareness and ownership of the adaptation and climate risk reduction processes at local level;
- **Outcome 3:** Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change and variability induced stresses- and
- **Outcome 4:** Diversified and strengthened livelihood and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas.

3.3 . Project Implementation Arrangement

The Ministry of Finance manages the overall implementation of the project at the national level. At the federal level, three ministries - Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy, and Environment Forest and Climate Change Commission, which was known as the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, execute the project. At regional level, the project is coordinated through the Finance Bureau of each regional government. The regional equivalents of the Federal Ministries are responsible for the coordination and leadership of the relevant project components. For instance, the Bureau of Agriculture is responsible to coordinate and ensure implementation of crop and livestock related activities of the project. The Bureau of Water, Irrigation and Energy on the other hand is responsible for the execution of water related activities. There are regional project steering and technical committees, which are responsible for the overall oversight and technical guidance of the project.

At Woreda level, the Woreda Office of Finance is responsible for the financial management of the project including local procurement of goods, services and works. The Woreda Office of Agriculture, Water and Irrigation, Forest and Environment are responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the project activities. The Woreda Steering Committee, which is chaired by the Woreda Administrator oversees the project implementation and renders overall guidance to the implementing sectors. The technical experts, hired at the woreda level, in close collaboration with the community Facilitators at each of the project Target Kebeles are responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the project in accordance with the approved work plan. They are also responsible to prepare periodic reports.

3.4 Fund Disbursement and Financial Reporting

As stated in the project document, the project follows the existing financial management arrangement of the Ministry of Finance. After receiving funds from the Adaptation in the CRGE Facility account, it transfers fund to the executing entities in accordance with the approved annual work plan. The federal level executing entities (i.e. MOA and MOWE) receive fund directly from the CRGE Facility for activities, which they directly implement. For regional and local level activities, the CRGE Facility disburses funds to the respective BoFEDs on a regular basis. The CRGE Facility effects fund disbursement into designated project accounts. The financial reporting follows the same channel to that of disbursement but in a reverse direction. The AF Fund Disbursement and Financial Reporting arrangement is highlighted in the following diagram.

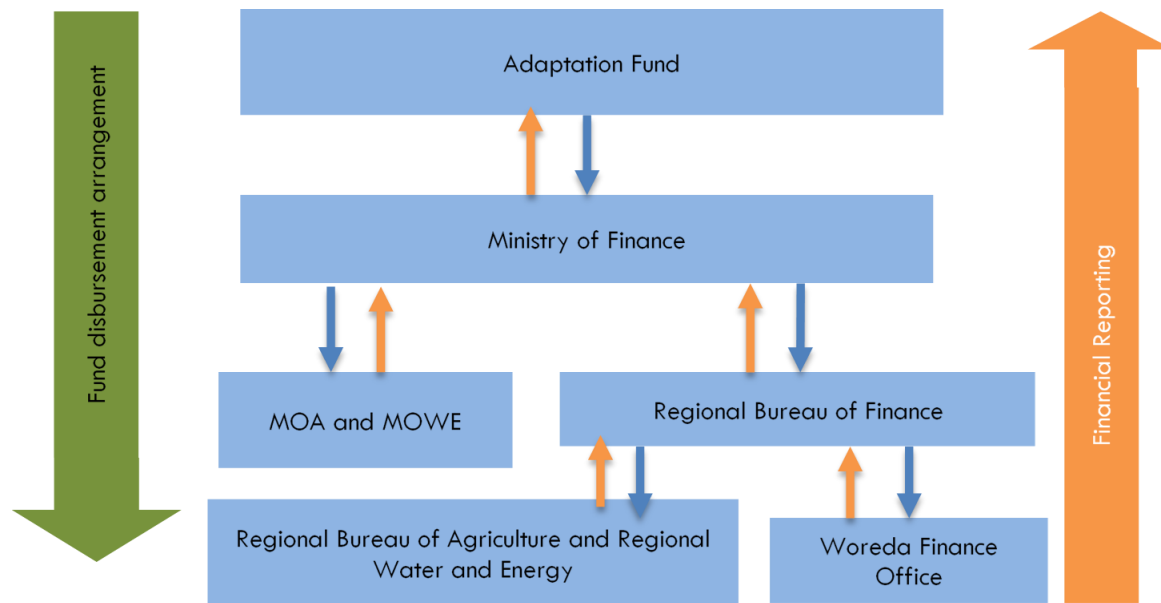


Figure 1 Project Fund Disbursement and Reporting Arrangement

3.5 Project financing

Project financing is described in Table two below. Note that the AF does not request to formally mobilize or report against co-financing sources.

Table 2-Project budget

Description of item/activity	Total cost for all years (USD)
Component 1. Awareness and ownership of adaptation planning at the local level	367,510
Component 2: Water security	4,736,667
Component 3. Climate smart agriculture – land – water - forest integration	1,590,227
Component 4 Climate resilient livelihood diversification	527,371
Component 5 Capacity building, monitoring, evaluation and learning	1,730,290
Project Execution Cost	534,404
Project Cycle Management Cost	501,443
Total	9,987,911.2

On top of the above-indicated fund allocated from the Adaptation Fund, the CRGE Facility team indicated that regions and federal government and communities, have spent over ETB 370 million both in cash and in kind during the life of the project.

4. Evaluation Findings

4.1 Relevance

4.1.1 Strategic Relevance

The project is extremely relevant to the national, regional context in Ethiopia and local contexts of the target communes. The objectives and priorities identified in the project are highly relevant to national climate challenges, including those identified by the GTP II, Ten Years Development Plan (2021-2030), CRGE Strategy, Sectoral Climate Resilience strategies and the NDC. More broadly, the project has been relevant to international development and climate agendas, including the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 and the Paris Agreement. Assessing the project in the light of the AF investment framework, the project aims to enhance the adaptive capacity and resilience of the most vulnerable communities to climate-induced risk in poor societies.

The project also addresses four out of the Eighteen Ethiopia's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) emphasizes 18 adaptation options (FDRE, 2019). The four adaptation options are; (1) enhancing food security by improving agricultural productivity in a climate-smart manner; (2) improving access to potable water; (3) strengthening sustainable natural resource management through safeguarding landscapes and watersheds; and (4) improving soil and water harvesting and water retention mechanisms. The identification of the project target also satisfies the requirement of the Fund as the project target woredas are inhabited by the most vulnerable communities. At the region and woreda level, KIs and site visits suggest that project activities have been highly relevant to the local needs and priorities. In all the case studies, government counterparts, executing entities and beneficiaries indicated that they consider the project relevant and were involved in the design process. Administratively, the M&E Systems Manual and a new screening process for safeguarding has ensured better consideration of these topics during the project planning and implementation. Comparison of the AF document objectives with the key national and strategies (Table 3) demonstrated that:

- The project outcomes and impact would directly contribute to the Ethiopian CRGE Strategy.
- The project outcomes directly align to the achievement of the updated NDC on both mitigation and adaptation.
- The project outcomes and impact would directly contribute to the Ten Years Development Plan in the agriculture and water sectors.

- All project outcomes are aligned with the AF investment framework; although the outcomes on management of degraded, landscapes are supportive of increasing the sink for emissions.

Table 3- Alignment of the AF Project with key Ethiopian strategies and plans

Program/ strategy	Objectives relevant to the AF project	AF project alignment with key strategies
Ethiopia CRGE Strategy 2011 and 2013 Strategy Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The strategy is supported by a series of pillars of action, the first two relevant to the GCF project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pillar 1. Adoption of agriculture and land use efficiency measures; ➤ Pillar 2. Protection and rehabilitation of forests for their economic and ecosystem services including as carbon stocks; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The AF project actions and results would directly contribute to both pillars of the CRGE strategy
Ethiopia's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 2021 - 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In the updated NDC, 40 adaptation interventions covering Agriculture, Forestry, Water, Transport, Urban, Health, Land use and natural resource management, and Climate services and disaster risk reduction sectors have been prioritized; ▪ Furthermore, it includes over 20 mitigation interventions in crop, forestry, transport, cities and buildings, industry, livestock, energy sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All the outcomes of the GCF project are directly align to the achievement of the NDC
National Adaptation Plan (NAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ethiopia developed its National Adaptation Plan 2017 (NAP-ETH) to provide a framework for its response to climate change by building adaptive capacity and enhancing the country's resilience. The Plan included 18 adaptation options and 5 strategic priorities, to be implemented between 2019 and 2030 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ethiopia's NAP emphasizes 18 adaptation options, of which the first four are addressed in this project: (1) enhancing food security by improving agricultural productivity in a climate-smart manner; (2) improving access to potable water; (3) strengthening sustainable natural resource management through safeguarding landscapes and watersheds; and (4) improving soil and water harvesting and water retention mechanisms.

<p>Ten Years Development Plan (2021-2030)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The TYDP envisions to continue aspects of the CRGE strategy including improving income and food security of farmers and pastoralists through climate change mitigation and adaptation actions; ▪ Building a resilient green economy is one of the ten strategic pillars of the TYDP; ▪ Improving access to potable water supply and sanitation services and expanding climate resilient potable water supply systems are among the focus areas of the water resources development ▪ Increasing the share of rural residents with access to 25 liters of water per person per day, out of which 50% is tap water, within one km from 54.88% to 100% is one of the target of the water resources development; ▪ Reducing the reliance on rain-fed agriculture by developing irrigation capacity is one of the major focus areas of agricultural development plan; ▪ Enhancing the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from 7.23 million metric tons to 37.8 million metric tons in the crop production subsector and raising the level of annual additional sequestration of greenhouse gases from 17.55 million metric tons CO₂e to 40 million metric tons CO₂e from emission in the natural resource development subsector are among the targets of the agriculture sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The GCF project interventions and results would directly contribute to a number of TYDP pillars particularly in the agriculture and water sectors
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The consensus among stakeholders interviewed was also of high alignment and contribution of the project in building the resilience of communities to the adverse impacts of climate change as indicted in the CRGE strategy, updated NDC and the GTP-II and NAP Ethiopia. This is to be expected given the timing of the development of the AF project within the sequencing of other national planning and the reason for the project's formulation was to directly support the achievement of these

strategies. The CRGE strategy came first in 2011, with the AF project designed in 2017 after the direct access accreditation of the Ministry of Finance by both the Adaptation Fund in 2016.

4.1.2 Relevance of the project to the Adaptation Fund Strategic Framework

Ethiopia has dedicated to secure significant resources and technical support to build green economy. To capture the full potential of the development plan, it has obtained the finance sources of the adaptation fund for climate finance schemes, which will compensate the country for the provision of environmental services to the world. The Adaptation Fund was established to finance adaptation projects in developing countries that are parties to the Kyoto Protocol, which explicitly focus on the needs of the most vulnerable communities to the adverse effects of climate change. The project has contributed to the achievement of the 6 main core outcome area focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable target beneficiary including women headed households. The project met all the strategic and main outcome and indicators of the AF:

- Reduced exposure at national level to climate-related hazards and threats- national meteorology agency of the country has generated relevant threat and hazard information and disseminated to regional and woreda/district stakeholders periodically on a timely basis
- Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate-induced socioeconomic and environmental losses- seven woreda and 14 local level farmers training centers of the project were increased their institutional & technical capacity to minimize exposure to climate variability risks
- Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes at local level- 100% Percent of the targeted population were understood and aware of predicted adverse impacts of climate change, and of appropriate responses. Furthermore the target beneficiaries intercropping and crop rotation practices, understand and practice irrigation agronomy, livestock feed improvement & management, controlled management of smallholder farmers poultry production, and home steady agroforestry practice were achieved by the project
- Increased adaptive capacity within relevant development and natural resource sectors-the national, regional and woreda relevant sector has increased their responsiveness to the evolving needs from changing and variable climate and the soil and water conservation structures and the water and irrigations schemes were improved to withstand climate change and variability-induced stress

- Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change and variability induced stress- upper watershed rehabilitation has produced Ecosystem services and improved natural assets such as reduced flooding, soil erosion, increased soil moisture retention, increased soil fertility of farm lands and increased ground water discharge under climate change and variability-induced stress. Furthermore, degraded lands closed and protected, constructed check dams, soil bunds, stone bunds, micro-basin, bench terrace, afforested land area, and biological conservation measures forage development as bund stabilizer created, to withstand conditions resulting from climate variability and change.
- Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas- most of the household beneficiary and communities have increased access to livelihood assets, sheep, goat, constructed house, bought urban land for house building and have cash deposit in the bank. Furthermore, most of the targeted population diversified their income with goat and sheep production, apiculture farming, poultry farming, vegetable production, fruit production and mechanization rental service and sustained climate resilient livelihood

4.1.3 Quality of project design

The overall project design is based on a solid and comprehensive presentation of the baseline situation, root causes and barriers. The problem analysis is substantiated by thorough data analysis on rural livelihoods in Ethiopia and climate projections. The relevant project stakeholders at various (federal, regional and woreda) levels have participated in the design of the project in various ways. A set of social, economic, environmental, and institutional criteria was used to select these sites, and is presented in detail in the project document. The regional stakeholders, in accordance with predetermined selection criteria, selected the project target woredas who in their part selected project target kebeles/villages. The 65,360 direct beneficiaries of the project were selected with active participation of woreda administration and community representatives based on predefined criteria such as vulnerability status, land ownership status, willingness to engage in the project among others. The selection process has excluded beneficiaries who are benefiting from similar initiatives and favored female headed households.

The intervention logic is sound and the theory of change has explicitly presented the linkage among the project components. In particular, assumptions and drivers were clearly expressed and the logical sequencing of outputs, outcomes and objectives is convincingly articulated. Another strong aspect of the project design was to build on existing capacities and institutions such as the Water-

users associations, which are critical for the sustainable management and operationalization of the water schemes developed by the project. Compatibility assessment between the project objectives and result framework and Adaptation Fund Strategic objectives shows that the project's results framework strongly aligns Fund's aim and result framework. The project activities are aligned with the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), which focuses on increasing resilience and reducing vulnerability of livelihoods and landscapes.

4.1.4 Relevance and targeting at the grassroots level

Key informant interview participants' and FGD discussants in the entire project targeted woredas and kebeles agreed that the project has addressed their priority needs. It has attempted to enhance their access to improved water supply for household use and livestock drinking. Access to irrigation service has enabled them to produce vegetables and other types of crops for both household consumption and market. Beneficiaries of improved sheep and goat breeds have generated additional revenue and milk for their children. The capacity building measures designed by the project have improved their knowledge; skills in crop management, soil and water conserve nation activities, landscapes restoration, and irrigation practices.

Participants of the FGD have confirmed that selection of direct beneficiaries was participatory and transparent. In all the project target kebeles, community representatives have participated in beneficiary selection process. The selection of watersheds for physical and biological soil and water conservation practices was based on jointly agreed selection criteria and in line with the watershed development and management guideline of the World Bank. In general, the following parameters were used for selection of project target sites:

- Presence of highly degraded hilly or upstream of a watershed that has caused a lot of erosion problems in the area leading to land degradation;
- Problem of water stress that has resulted from the degraded nature of the watershed;
- Vulnerability to climate change and frequency of drought;

Similarly direct project beneficiaries were selected using the following criteria:

- Household head type (male headed versus female headed);
- Farm size;
- Past engagement in similar project activities;
- Willingness to participate;

- Employment status and income level;
- Vulnerability and poverty status;

The field visit, community and woreda stakeholder focus group discussions and key informant interview assessment results witnessed additional household income, improved agricultural crop production and productivity, and enhanced ecosystems services as well health conditions. Women headed households have been equally treated and benefitted from the project, which enable them to exercise their rights in equal access to the project benefits as well as to participate in decision-making. In this regards, the project interventions have addressed the target communities' critical problems of absence of safe water, insufficient rainfall and their exposure to drought. According to the interviews and discussions with project beneficiaries and local government stakeholders, most of the target beneficiaries were largely dependent on productive safety net program of the government. Project beneficiaries confirmed their participation in livelihood activities such as vegetable production, small ruminants rearing and fattening and poultry production. They further reported that they have participated on periodic monitoring and supervision activities. Moreover, the project experts at the woreda level indicated that some of the planned project actions were modified and adjusted to fit local context and needs of project direct beneficiaries during annual planning period. In this regards, the regional government has expressed commitment and allocated additional budget from the government finance that was appropriate in managing the risks of climate change. The views of local government experts from some of the project target woredas are presented hereunder.

Key takeaways from an interview with a “Natural Resource Protection Team Leader” of Aleltu Woreda, Oromia Regional State

- The two project target kebeles (Sedeni Segeda and Tulu Fati Aleltu) were targeted out of the 20 kebeles in the woreda;
- They were selected due to high vulnerability to flood, soil erosion, environmental degradation, low agricultural productivity, limited access to water and absence of similar project intervention;
- These facts make the project relevant to the local context and the needs of communities;
- The project distributed improved goat and poultry varieties to poor households, who were selected based on pre-defined beneficiary selection criteria;
- The key informant believes that the project has enabled destitute households to create assets and improve their livelihood conditions;

- Project direct beneficiaries who received improved poultry have started to generate additional income from sells of eggs;
- Modern beehives beneficiaries are also generating additional income from sells of honey;
- Two deep wells constructed in the two target kebeles;
- Ten water points and two reservoir constructed;
- The deep wells can support up to 500 households for twenty years;
- The direct beneficiaries are engaged in irrigation agriculture due to the opportunity created by the project;
- Before the project, these households didn't practice irrigation agriculture;
- 20 threshers were distributed to unemployed youth who are generating income through provision of crop harvesting services;
- Physical and biological soil and water conservation activities such as terracing, construction of check-dam, soil and water bunds, etc. were conducted;
- Degraded landscapes of the target sites have been restored due to the SWC activities as well as planting of trees;

Interview summary with CRGE Focal Person and Plan and Program Head of Bureau of Water of Harari Region

- The goal, objectives and activities of the Adaptation Fund project are highly relevant to the region's context;
- Harari Region is known as one of the regions in Ethiopia, which have poor water access and coverage. The project has attempted to address one of the main challenges in the region;
- The project interventions have contributed to addressing community needs and priorities of the regional government;
- The livelihood interventions and access to irrigation have the potential to improving food security status of the target beneficiaries;
- The regional government policies and strategies fully support the AF interventions;
- The integration of natural resource conservation with access to water activities have paramount significance and this approach should be scaled up

Interview summary with a Development Agent from Wahil Kebele of Dire Dawa City Administration:

- Wahil kebele in Dire Dawa is one of the most climate risk vulnerable kebele, which has experienced recurrent drought and insufficient rain;
- The integrated and collaborative approaches of the project has significantly benefitted the target beneficiary;
- The project interventions and the results delivered are appropriate, logically linked and addressed the problem of beneficiaries;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The project created additional household income to the project direct beneficiaries; ▪ The target beneficiary identified were the most vulnerable and women headed HH with access to equal opportunity in sharing the benefit and the project results; ▪ The community level project facilitators (hired by the project) have facilitated easy communication between the woreda experts and communities as well as played key role in community mobilization, participation, learning and knowledge transfer;
<p>Interview summary with a project Direct Beneficiary in Wahil Kebele in Dire Dawa City Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Due to the project, the family can fetch potable water within less than 30 min travel compared to 2 hours travel before the project; ▪ Participated in the upper watershed conservation works and obtained income for his family; ▪ Risk of farmland flooding and soil erosion has decreased. On the contrary, soil moisture retention has increased; ▪ Did not practice irrigation agriculture before the project. Due to the project, he is able to practice irrigation agriculture. He is able to harvest 65 quintals of onion and generated additional income; ▪ He has also benefited from improved goat species distributed by the project; ▪ The resilience of his household to shortage of rainfall has improved and he has become less dependent on government productive safety net program;
<p>Interview Summary with a project direct Beneficiary in Sadini Segeda Kebele in Aleleltu Woreda of Oromia Regional State</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This beneficiary is a widow and other of six children; • She received four improved sheep breeds and currently she has eight. She sold one of the sheep and generated 10,000 birr. She used the money to buy agricultural inputs • Before the project, she didn't have experience of sheep rearing poultry production; • She is generating 1,000 birr a month from sales of eggs; • The project has enabled her to diversify her income sources and increased her resilience to the ever increasing weather variabilities and reduced rainfall pattern; • She also received fuel efficient cooking stoves from Project, which has reduced exposure time to smoke in the kitchen.

Overall Rating for Relevance: Highly satisfactory

4.2 Effectiveness

The effectiveness of the AF project relates to how well the inputs and finances are contributing towards the achievement of project outputs, outcomes and fund level results during the project life. The evaluation team noted that there was delay between receipt of the fund from AF and actual start of project execution on the ground as indicated in the annual performance report. The report further indicated that the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and instability in some parts of the country forced MOF to request a no-cost extension. The completion of this project has overdue by two years from the originally planned completion date. The evaluation team looked into key parameters of a project effectiveness assessment as follow.

4.2.1 Delivery of outputs

The project results towards each of the outputs are summarized in the following table.

Table 4-Summary of project results

Outputs	Indicators	Target	Results achieved
Component 1: Awareness and ownership of adaptation planning at the local level			
Output 1.1 Increased awareness, understanding and ownership of climate risk reduction processes and adaptation planning at all levels	No. of woredas mainstreaming climate issues within their development plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One climate mainstreaming framework will be developed Seven Woredas mainstream climate issues into their development plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate smart woreda development plans guideline prepared; Each target woreda formed a planning team and prepared a five years climate smart development plan; 114 (32 Females) HH involved in adaptation planning stage and engaged in the project implementation 10,009 community members (5189 females) participated in various rehabilitation activities, and temporary job opportunities created through engaging in different SWC interventions;
	No. of community groups engaged in adaptation planning (by gender)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 community groups formed and operationalised (1 for each Woreda) 	
	No. of women/men from target HH participating in adaptation planning processes and mobilised to participate in project activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4,375 women and 4,375 men from target HH participating in adaptation planning processes and mobilised to participate in project activities 	
Output 1.2: Climate smart development plans designed	No. of climate smart development plans developed and implemented	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Climate Smart development plans developed

Outputs	Indicators	Target	Results achieved
Output 1.3: Climate resilient water plans developed	Number of climate resilient water plans developed and implemented	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 climate resilient water plans developed and distributed to respective regions
Output 1.4: Climate smart agriculture and land – water - forest integration plans developed	Percentage of committee positions held by women/men from target HH in planning processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% of committee position held by women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Climate smart agriculture and land –water – forest integration plans developed distributed for respective region; Based on the gender mainstreaming strategy of the CRGE Facility, women constituted 50 % of the planning team
	Number of Climate smart Agriculture and land – water - forest integration plans developed and implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Climate smart Agriculture and land – water - forest integration plans developed 	
Output 1.5: Climate resilient livelihood plans developed	Number of climate resilient livelihood plans developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Climate resilient livelihood plans developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Climate resilient livelihood plans developed
Component 2: Water security			
Output 2.1: Potable water supply increased in target areas	Number of female and male headed HHs having access ² to a potable water supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8,750 HH (26% Women headed) have access to a potable water supply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of 12 potable water wells with water yield of more than 150 litre/second completed; 12 wells fitted with solar powered and Electricity; 9 elevated reservoir constructed; 2 Springs developed; 55 water points constructed; Two PVC reservoirs (each with a capacity of 20,000 litters) put in place; Over 15,000 HH benefited from the potable water facilities; Six sanitation troughs and Ten cattle troughs constructed;
	Number of wells constructed to the required standards of the MoWIE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 wells 	
	Number of wells drilled that are fitted with solar powered submersible pump systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 shallow wells fitted with solar powered submersible pump systems 	
	Number of well monitoring devices (WMD) installed in wells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 WMD 	
	Number of elevated reservoirs constructed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 elevated reservoir and water points 	
Output 2.2: Irrigation	Number of hectares of land irrigated from ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 169 Ha of irrigation agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of 4 wells completed;

²Access is taken to mean within one km of an adequate amount of water (20 litres per person) through a public standpipe well or spring.

Outputs	Indicators	Target	Results achieved
infrastructure for agriculture and livestock watering designed and developed to withstand climate change	water supplies and sand dams		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two existing springs and 2 canals from lake, 2 diversion weir, 1 sand dam constructed; 1 Rock-Filled Dam constructed; 5-reservoirs completed; Two water harvesting ponds constructed on 451.12 hectares; 597 hectares of land put under irrigation in 12 sites/kebeles; 11 water user groups were prepared by laws for irrigation, livestock watering and drinking water;
	Number of sites where physical water infrastructure has been improved to deal with climate risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 sites/kebeles 	
	No. of shallow wells with Solar Powered pumps, Hand dug wells and Springs developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 Shallow wells with Solar Powered pumps, 20 Hand dug wells, 7 sand dams and 12 Springs developed for irrigation and livestock watering purposes 	
	Number of water user groups developing and adopting by-laws for irrigation, livestock watering and drinking water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 water user groups 	
Component 3. Climate smart agriculture – land – water - forest integration			<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Output 3.1: Climate smart agriculture implemented at the farm level	Yield (tonnes) in crops from target areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yields in crops from target areas for cereal crops, pulse, vegetables at for crops 28.64, 20.21 and, 130.67 quintals per hectares respectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percolation pit and water harvesting ponds constructed on 194.12 hectares of land; 2,305-meter cube water collection trench that accumulates the overflowing water by stone and gabion check dam; The gully reshaping conducted in 121.25 hectares of farmland; 219.5 quintals of wheat, Teff, & haricot bean seeds; 16,204 HH (1458 Female HH) adopting climate resilient farming practices; 5676 HH Participated in farmer field trials;
	No of target HH adopting climate resilient farming practices disaggregated by type (e.g. soil conservation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 560 HH adopting physical moisture and soil conservation structures, 560 HH adopting biological conservation measures, 560 HH adopting farmland gully treatment and 3,360 HH adopting homestead agroforestry 	
	No. of HH participating in farmer field trials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 870 HH participate in field trials 	

Outputs	Indicators	Target	Results achieved
	Average crop diversity index ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase average crop productivity of female headed HH to 33.23 quintals per hectares 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 321,044 multipurpose trees and grass seedlings and 6850 fruit seedlings performed and planted on 113.4 hectares of land; ▪ 5676 HH beneficiaries as participated in field trials
Output 3.2. Integrated watershed management approach used to restore and protect degraded watersheds	Area of land (ha) rehabilitated (by type)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 140 ha of physical and biological measures on communal land, 14 ha of area closures, 21 ha of upper watershed gully treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1.5 million seedlings have planted on 1042.5 hectares of land; ▪ 1047 hectares of land were enclosed for natural regeneration; ▪ 47 hectares of upper watershed gully treatment conducted; ▪ 1144 hectares of rangeland were managed; ▪ 14 functional community based systems established for grazing and efficient feed conservation management; ▪ Physical and biological soil conservation interventions were conducted on 1018 hectares of land; ▪ 2,164.1 hectares of Homestead farm rehabilitated with agro-forestry and soil conservation measure; ▪ 14 nurseries established/strengthened; ▪ Farmland gully treatment conducted on 121.25 hectares of land; ▪ 153.79 quintals of Carrot, Onion, cabbage, tomato and cover crops like quintals of cuttings of potato and sweet potato procured and distributed;
	Area of rangeland (ha) managed using environmentally sustainable, climate resilient practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 30 ha of rangeland managed 	
	No of functional community based systems for grazing and efficient feed conservation management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 14 functional community based systems established 	
	Area of afforested land (ha)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1600 hectares of afforested/ reforested land 	
	No of nurseries established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 14 nurseries established 	
	No of seedlings distributed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 840 quintal of seeds distributed through MFI 	
Component 4. Climate resilient livelihood diversification			
Output 4.1: Improved knowledge,	No of cooperative and youth groups established;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 700 farmers trained on poultry, beekeeping, forage, loan and savings, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 6 youths and cooperatives with a total member members of 1,373 (264 females) members established;

³The inverse of (the number of crops grown by a household + 1)

Outputs	Indicators	Target	Results achieved
understanding and awareness of livelihood opportunities	No. of cooperatives members (Male and Female) trained and providing assistance to the HHs	meat production, food nutrition, closure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 cooperative members and 14 DAs trained and providing livelihood diversification assistance to the HHs; 12,000 tonnes of different low land fruits, 168 tonnes of local variant potatoes and 420 kgs of various vegetables and 21 quintals of forage seed distributed to the targeted HHs through the MFI 7 Cooperatives established and members trained on seed production and agro-business 7 Youth groups supported to give rental of mechanized agro-services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 group of cooperatives of 206 (54F) members involved in capacity building that focused on poultry development, beekeeping, fruit production, sheep and goat breed, forage, meat production and loan and saving issues; The established groups have been supported and delivered 8 tractors with plough and 20 combiners; 165 agriculture machinery, 153 teff row planter, 8 hand held harvesters and 4 multi-crop threshers provided; 40 water pump generator distributed
Output 4.2: Increased capacity of target households to participate in climate resilient, market-oriented enterprises	Number of women/men from target HH with a new source of income. No of farmers trained and engaged in a new enterprise Number of HH (Male and female headed) accessing credit facilities and market information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,590 Men and 1,820 Women headed HHs with new income source 1,386 farmers trained and engaged in a new enterprise 3,062 Male and 1,313 Women headed HHs accessing credit facilities and accessing market information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,556 (750 Female) HH target farmers and woreda experts attending capacity building, training and awareness creation program on various livelihood diversification options. The training includes (1) Stall feeding; (2) poultry development; (3) beekeeping; and (4) loan and saving; (5) cut and carry system; (6) Artificial insemination techniques; 16,204 (1458 Female) HH accessed credit facilities 17,629 seedlings of improved varieties of vegetables, fruits, cover crops distributed;

Outputs	Indicators	Target	Results achieved
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2590 kg of forage seed varieties of Rhodes, vetch, Sudan grass, suspania, and cow pea distributed; 91 modern beehives; 569 improved sheep and 713 goat breeds; 7,737 improved poultry breed procured and distributed;
Component 5: Capacity building, monitoring, evaluation and learning			
Output 5.1: Increased capacity and knowledge transfer	Number of adjacent woredas practicing integrated climate smart planning, implementation and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 7 project woredas adapt climate smart planning, implementation and monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate smart development prepared for the seven project target woredas; 10,220 (2,184 Female) participants attended capacity building training on: CSA practices, animal production, agri-business and irrigation agronomy, forestry and forest governance; Field day program on pre-and post-harvest practices of crops, soil and water conservation measures, and irrigation schemes, farmers' peer learning practice on fruit and vegetable production was conducted for 1792 (359 Female) smallholder farmers; 112 groups have been established containing 1353 (256 Female) members;
	Number of adjacent kebeles adopting climate smart agriculture (CSA), watershed management and diversified livelihoods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 14 project Kebeles adopt CSA, watershed management and diversified livelihood 	
	No of farmers/pastoralists disaggregated by gender participating in cross visits or view participatory videos by other farmers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 420 farmers (210 female and 210 male) participate in cross visits or view participatory videos by other farmers. 	
	Number of people (community and Woreda agents) trained in CSA, agri-business, seeds, irrigation, post-harvest management and the operation and maintenance of Solar PVs and hand pumps and post-harvest management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 151 woreda experts and development agents trained on CSA, agri-business, seeds, irrigation, post-harvest management, Solar PV and Hand pump maintenance. 102 farmers trained on post-harvest management 	
Output 5.2: Project results monitored and evaluated and lessons captured	Number of analytical reports prepared on meteorological station data and satellite data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 analytical reports prepared on meteorological station data and satellite data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 analytical reports on meteorological station data and satellite data prepared and shared respective regions; The CRGE Facility developed promotional materials and policy on
	Number of CSA project results analyzed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 CSA project results analysed 	

Outputs	Indicators	Target	Results achieved
	No. of communication materials developed and shared with stakeholders to share results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 communication materials developed and shared with stakeholders to share results 	gender and climate change shared to the project implementing and executing entities at various level;
Output 5.3: Results and lessons communicated to key stakeholders and mainstreamed in local planning processes	Number of Climate Smart manuals and guidelines prepared	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Climate Smart manual and guideline prepared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eight Woreda to woreda experience sharing visit was organized on proper management and utilization of closure areas, animal breeding and INRM in watersheds; A total of 1089(200 Female) individuals including farmers, agricultural agents, agricultural cadres, woreda technique and steering committee members and natural resource experts participated in the experience sharing visits; A comprehensive training material on gender and climate change was developed and shared to relevant stakeholders for enhanced capacity on gender and climate change
	2. Number of Federal, Regional and Woreda level media coverage/publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 Federal, Regional and Woreda level media coverage/ publications made 	
	No. of information sharing, consultation and dialogues with state and non-state stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 information sharing, consultation and dialogues with state and non-state stakeholders 	

4.2.2 Achievement of Direct Outcomes

Table 5-Summary of project Outcomes Results

Outcomes	Indicators	Target	Results Achieved
Project outcomes 1. Increased capacity to manage current and future drought risks through improved	1. Number of people suffering losses from drought events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people suffering losses from drought events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project created additional income generating opportunities for over 2,556 (750-female) households 16,204 (1458 Female) HH accessed credit facilities Employment opportunities created for 1373 (256 Female) youth farmers
	2. Percentage of target population adopting risk reduction measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60% of target population adopting risk reduction measures 	

adaptation planning and sustainable management of agro-ecological landscapes	3. Number of kebeles where ecosystem services have been maintained or improved under climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 Kebeles where ecosystem services have been maintained or improved under climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 8,558 HHs (F=2923) households have got access to practice irrigation agriculture, which minimizes dependence on traditional rain-fed agricultural practice; Over 3,300 ha of degraded landscapes managed and conserved using physical and biological soil and water conservation measures (hillside terrace, deep trench, stone and gabion check dam) and biological soil conservation measures; Over 15,000 households got access to potable water supply; Over 20,000 (2,484 Female) community members, woreda experts, development agents, regional and federal experts attended various capacity building trainings, workshops, experience exchange events
2. Enhanced and secure access to potable water supply, and small-scale irrigation in drought affected areas	1. Percentage of HHs disaggregated by gender having access to potable water, irrigation and livestock watering facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to potable water supply in targeted kebeles is 80%, to irrigation is 40% and to livestock watering facilities is 25% 	

4.2.3 Alignment of Reported Results with Field Observations and Beneficiaries Testimony

The evaluation team conducted field observations in effort to directly checking reported results through field visits. The team witnessed alignment of reported results with infrastructures available on the ground including technical quality in most of the visited sites. The team has also conducted group and one to one interview with project beneficiaries and frontline project executing entities on the various capacity building trainings, workshops, experience exchange visits, monitoring and supervision among others. The evaluation team confirms that there are no major discrepancies between the reported results and field observations as well as information gathered during consultations with beneficiaries and other project stakeholders. Summaries and field observations and interview with groups and individuals are presented as below.

Field Observation at Wahel Cluster in Dire Dawa

The evaluators with the assistance of local experts and community representatives conducted field observation at Wahel Cluster, which is part of the Dire Dawa City Administration. Wahil Cluster is comprised of two rural kebeles (Wahil and Lege-Oda-Gununfa) and one urban kebele. The AF project targeted the two rural kebeles. Wahil Cluster is categorized in to agro-pastoral livelihoods zone. Rain-fed agriculture (crop production and

livestock production) is the main source of livelihood. The community earn living from a mixed farming system by producing food crops such as sorghum, maize, groundnut and cash crops such as chat and coffee and rearing livestock (cattle, goat sheep, donkey, camel and poultry). Trade is also widely practiced due to proximity to Dire Dawa City Administration as well as neighboring towns in Oromia and Somali regions. According to key informants from the cluster, the local economy or food production is not self-sustaining. Households can live only for a maximum of 6 months on home produced grains. Most the households depend on external food support from National Productive Safety Net Program. Wahil cluster is predominantly semi-arid climate. It receives average annual rainfall ranging 600 mm where major rainfall falls from April to June.

During the field mission to the project target sites, the evaluators have observed the following:

- Deep wells installed with electric pumps with a capacity of producing water 28 liter per second;
- Completed powerhouse connected to grid and water distribution lines connected to the reservoir pond and pumping system;
- Functional water reservoir pond for irrigation purpose;
- Irrigation water distribution line from the reservoir pond to the farm is delivered at the irrigable farm level and made ready for installment;
- Functional nursery with fruit, animal fodder and tree seedlings such as guava, citrus, Papaya and orange, eucalyptus, sasebania, Lucania;
- Casual workers managing the nursery;

The evaluators also visited the climate smart agricultural practices and watershed management sites of the project. The project implementation in Wahil Cluster has achieved remarkable results. According to community informants, the hillside biological SWC conservation measures such as soil bunds both with trench and grass strips combined with traditional agro-forestry scattered trees on farmlands, and wind breaks/shelter belts around farm boundaries have contributed to the productive use of land in the downstream by preventing soil loss. The intervention by the project has introduced new ideas on how to better protect soil loss and enhance moisture conservation through adopting an integrated approach. Construction of water collection trench (with capacity of 3,256.6 m³) and the use of gabion (2,062 m³) to maintain the structure of stone check-dam (increasing longevity) contributes to enhancing land productivity. Communities have witnessed significant downstream soil erosion and run off reduction.

Summary of FGD with direct beneficiaries in Loka Abaya Woreda, Dessie Kebele

Name of FGD Participants:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Mekidess Borassa (Female) | 6. Alemayehu Chifa (Male) |
| 2. Tore Oshala (Male) | 7. Solomon Letamo (Male) |
| 3. Tesfaye Argeta (Male) | 8. Siyoum Lenjiso (Male) |
| 4. Shonkore Naje (Female) | 9. Degiffe Debissa (Male) |
| 5. Mekonene Cheno (Male) | 10. Meja Mansiso (Male) |

- The project interventions are relevant to addressing the most critical needs of the communities;
- The project provided poultry, sheep, fruit seedling, pump for irrigation purposes, modern beehives to direct beneficiaries who were selected by experts from Woreda, Development Agent and community representatives;
- Before the project, access to safe drinking water was a problem, especially for women;
- Currently, most households have access to safe and drinking water in their backyards and this is a big relief for women and girls as women and girls are responsible in fetching water for drinking and household use;
- Have participated in the implementation of the project activities in various ways including by taking part in beneficiary selection, labor contribution during construction of physical structures such as water points, rehabilitation of degraded areas;
- Construction of deep well, reservoir, 12 water points, 3 sanitation trough, 3 cattle trough and 28,350 watt PV array/ solar system installation;
- Provision of 33 water pumps, improved sheep breed, some farm tools



- The FGD participants confirmed that beneficiaries of the livelihoods support intervention are poor and female headed households;
- They mentioned that these households are generating additional income from sales of eggs, fattened sheep and poultry.

FGD in Bati Bora Kebele of Adama Woreda

Name of FGD Participants:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Deme Deyas (M) | 5. Kacha Belda (M) |
| 2. Ifa Melketo (M) | 6. Eshetu Midekssa (M) |
| 3. Abi Negewo (M) | 7. Megeera Degaga (M) |
| 4. Denissie Degaga (M) | 8. Teo Telila (M) |

- The project has played significant role in restoring degraded landscapes;
- Long lost plant species have regenerated due to the area closure measures of the project;
- Enrichment planting has enhanced plant density, composition and diversity;
- Hillside runoff, which used to cause down-stream erosion, has declined significantly due to the restoration measures by the project;
- They have enacted by-law governing the management, conservation, development and use of the rehabilitated area;
- Group members are practicing cut-and-carry system;
- Some members are benefiting from beekeeping activity;

During the time of the evaluation, the consultant have witnessed that the area is covered with different types of tree species and looks well protected.



The drilling of deep well, construction of reservoir, placing distribution pipeline and water points are finalized. However, there are remaining last mile activities such as connecting the well with power source and distribution pipeline. If these activities are not properly completed, communities will not be able to access water for household use. Similarly, if the 3.4 km irrigation canal is not going to be connected to sources of water, beneficiaries will not practice irrigation agriculture.



After the field observation, discussion was held with Project Coordinator, Woreda Administration, Water Oromia Region Bureau of Water and Energy, and Bureau of Finance and Economic Cooperation (BOFEC). The later confirmed allocation of resource to finalize the last-mile activities, which are critical to put the infrastructures into operation and enable communities benefit. The Bureau Head highlighted that expanding

irrigation agriculture is one of the strategic priorities of the regional government. Once completed, 8207 beneficiaries will have access to safe water and 262 farmers will practice irrigation agriculture on 127 ha of land.

Summary of Field observation in Tulu Fati and Sedeni-segeda Kebeles of Aleltu woreda in Oromia Regional State

- Constructions of two shallow wells at depth on depth of 157 meter, completed installment of 8" u PVC casing to a depth of 150 meters, and tested with a water yield of 5.5 l/s;
- 9 water point constructed at nine sites;
- Electromechanical fitting taking place;
- 5420 individuals are benefiting from the water supply;
- In Tulu fati kebel, the planned irrigation water source (solar powered deep well), was modified and constructed River diversion and irrigation canals;
- Main canal constructed and connected to the reservoir (9,000 m³);
- 28 farmers in Tulu Fati kebele are harvesting wheat on 8 ha of land;
- A river diversion weir with an irrigation potential of 54 ha in Sedeni-Segedi kebele is completed;
- 76 ha of upper watershed closed and protected;
- The grass user group established which comprised of 14 farmers has been managing using cut and carry systems in about 20ha

Summary of Field observation in Sofi Kebele, Harari Region

The evaluators along with the project officers and experts from the Bureau of Agriculture and Bureau Water and Energy conducted field visit to target sites in Sofi Kebele. The team witnessed climate smart agricultural practices, water schemes, livelihoods development activities. During the mission, evaluators also conducted one to one interview with project direct beneficiary household heads. Below are the key takeaways from the field observations:

- Physical and biological soil and water conservation measures conducted in the upstream part of the watershed;
- Some of the SWC measures include: area closure, hill side terrace, trench, upper gully watershed treatment, potting, afforestation/plantation, farm land soil bund, homestead agro-forestry and nursery strengthening;
- Direct project beneficiaries confirmed decline in soil erosion, increased moisture retention, regeneration of lost endemic tree species, reduction in gully and more land available for cultivation, re-emergence of disappeared springs, rising water table and increasing availability of water for irrigation, increase in production and productivity of cereal crops and cash crops and improvement in the capacity of nursery as a result of upgrading action by the project;

- Promotion of fruits and vegetables (cabbage, tomato and green paper), provision of local goat breeds and forage production, which benefited 395 farmers;
- Communities also practiced cut-and-carry system from the area closure sites to feed their livestock;
- 400 community members attended trainings, workshops and participated on experience exchange visits, field days, demonstrations;
- Drinking water schemes, which can support over 5,000 individuals in the two project target kebeles Irrigation scheme completed and operational;
- Two tractors distributed to two organized farmers group with a total of 30 members;
- An irrigation system with a capacity to irrigate 216 ha constructed and operational;
- Water use committee (which is comprised of 3 women and 9 men) established and functional;
- Bylaws governing the use and management of water infrastructures and use for both irrigation and household has been agreed;
- Solar power source is under installment at Sofii kebele, which can be completed within the weeks while the Burqa kebele completed and tested the installed solar power;

Summary of KII with CRGE Coordinator, Bureau of Agriculture and Natural resource and Irrigation of Harari Region

- Existing spring rehabilitated and connected to a newly constructed irrigation canal in Sofi and Burqa rural kebeles;
- The irrigation canal has minimized water wastage and contributed to efficient and effective utilization of water;
- 136 hectare of land (out of the 210 ha of land suitable for irrigation) is irrigated (i.e. 72 hectare in Sofi and 64 hectare in Burka kebeles);
- Farmers are producing onion, Kelt, groundnut, cabbage, carrots and generating additional income as a result of the irrigation scheme;
- Irrigation committee ensures fair and equitable water utilization and sustainable use;
- The project trained and arranged experience sharing visit for the committee;
- Various natural resource rehabilitation works (both biological and physical) such as gully treatment, terracing, soil and stone bund and planting of trees and grasses that can be used also for livestock fodder;
- These biological and physical conservation activities have brought visible changes on the landscapes and the ecosystem;
- Vegetation cover of the areas has improved, and the weather condition is getting better and water discharge to the spring is also increasing;
- A total of 400 improved goat breeds distributed to 134 households;

- Most of the beneficiaries of this package are women and female headed households;
- Two tractors were distributed to organized youth in the two target kebeles;
- The youth group are providing tractor rental services to farmers and generating income;
- Two nurseries established and created employment opportunity for 30 individuals (26F);

Summary of interview from a direct project beneficiary in Soifi from Harai Regional State

- Before the project, her main family income source was sales of firewood;
- Before the project, she cannot produce enough yield due to the erratic and insufficient rain. She can feed her family only for six months with the agricultural yield;
- Participated in the upper watershed conservation and earned additional income;
- Built bench terrace and stone bund on her private farm and practiced crop intercropping;
- Benefit from the irrigation scheme put in place by the project and managed to irrigate 0.75 ha of her land;
- She earned an additional income of ETB 10,000 from sales of irrigated chat;
- She also received five goats (3 female and 2 males for fattening) from the project. She sold one of the male goat for 11,000 ETB. During the time of interview, she owns 10 goats;
- She also received ten improved chicken species;
- Due to the additional income she is generating she is able to send her child to a nearby school in Harar town for high school education;
- Currently she is not engaged in sales of fire wood;
- The soil fertility and soil moisture retention capacity of her farm has improved due to reduced flooding and soil erosion from upper catchment and farm level conservation measures;

KII Summary with a Development Agent from Sofi Kebele in Harai Region

- 1,300 farmers directly benefited from various project supported interventions;
- The local administrator and the technical experts involved in awareness raising workshops;
- Have closely collaborated with the community facilitator and project officer during implementation of the project;
- Before the project, the upstream watershed was highly degraded and devoid of vegetation;
- Organized community groups have conducted various conservation and management measures such as soil bund, stone bund, stone check dam and afforestation activities;
- The vegetation cover of upstream catchment has improved significantly due to the project and contributed to reduced runoff and downstream erosion;

4.2.4 Progress on gender and environmental and social safeguards

The project has treated gender as a cross cutting issue. Gender has been central to objectives and expected results of the project. Gender has been integrated across all components of the project. The beneficiary selection criteria have given adequate consideration in targeting balanced representation of male and female beneficiaries. Woreda and Kebele interview participants confirmed lack of balanced representation of females mostly due to the prevailing male-dominated social system and partly due to less commitment of the project staffs and stakeholders in ensuring women active participation. Respondents indicated that women and girls benefit from most of the water development schemes, as they are the ones responsible for fetching water and other household activities. Women are also generating additional income in the form of wages and from participation on income generating activities of the project. However, review of the periodic reports of the project and result of KII and FGD confirmed lack of balanced representation of the women both as direct beneficiaries of the project actions including representation in the management of water schemes through the water users association.

KII participants from the regional water development bureau indicated that submission of environmental and social safeguard management plan is one of requirements, which bidders must submit. FGD participants at the community level have not reported any damage or accident of whatsoever nature associated with execution of the project activities.

4.3 Efficiency

4.3.1 Financial management

Actual expenditures are compared with the planned budget by component and outputs in Table 5 below. The evaluation team found that the financial documents were generally complete, updated and clear. Some of the financial information including the annual audit report that the evaluation team observed is presented on Table 6. Evidence shows that the operational project team is aware of the financial status of the project. There has been clear communication at all levels on financial matters between the operational project team and the finance team. There has been strong compliance at all levels to the financial management procedures put in place. The independent annual audit reports of the project did not imply any major findings and gap in financial and procurement management.

Table 6-Total Project budget and expenditure by Component and outputs

	Year-1	Year-2	Year-3	Year-4	Total
Component 1: Awareness and ownership of adaptation planning at the local level	367,509.00	-	-	-	367,509.00
Output 1.1: Increased awareness, understanding and ownership of climate risk reduction processes and adaptation planning at all levels	7,500.00				7,500.00
Output 1.2: Climate smart development plans developed	70,762.00	-			70,762.00
Output 1.3: Climate resilient water plans developed	127,895.00	-			127,895.00
Output 1.4: Climate smart agriculture and land – water - forest integration plans developed	91,619.00	-			91,619.00
Output 1.5: Climate resilient livelihood plans developed	69,733.00	-			69,733.00
Component 2: Water security	-	2,482,254.98	1,076,449.54	1,178,871.36	4,737,575.88
Output 2.1: Potable water supply increased in target areas		953,720.17	473,567.76	650,378.63	2,077,666.56
Output 2.2: Irrigation infrastructure for agriculture and livestock watering designed and developed to withstand climate change		1,528,534.81	602,881.78	528,492.73	2,659,909.32
Component 3: Climate smart agriculture – land – water - forest integration	1,075,916.67	453,666.02	26,640.08	19,718.15	1,575,940.92
Output 3.1: Climate smart agriculture implemented at the farm level	379,024.28	245,462.66	21,483.94	14,227.62	660,198.50
Output 3.2: Integrated watershed management approach used to restore and protect degraded watersheds	696,892.39	208,203.36	5,156.14	5,490.53	915,742.42
Component 4: Climate resilient livelihood diversification	216,715.65	206,072.12	88,799.19	29,871.10	541,458.06
Output 4.1: Improved knowledge, understanding and awareness of livelihood opportunities	40,000.00		68,000.00		108,000.00
Output 4.2: Increased capacity of target households to participate in climate resilient, market-oriented enterprises	176,715.65	206,072.12	20,799.19	29,871.10	433,458.06
Component 5: Capacity building, monitoring, evaluation and learning	646,444.86	867,672.57	143,446.54	140,750.36	1,798,314.33
Output 5.1: Increased capacity and knowledge transfer	628,784.86	778,152.23	47,175.70	78,635.69	1,532,748.48
Output 5.2: Project results monitored and evaluated and lessons captured	15,000.00	30,000.00	24,000.00		69,000.00
Output 5.3: Results and lessons communicated to key stakeholders and mainstreamed in local planning processes	2,660.00	59,520.34	72,270.83	62,114.67	196,565.84
Project Management cost	-	606,618.00	116,400.74	190,824.27	913,843.01
Project Implementing entities Fee		16,645.19	42,817.69	114,812.58	227,549.42
Project Executing entities Fee		589,972.81	73,583.06	76,005.75	739,561.62
TOTAL	2,306,586.18	4,616,283.69	1,451,736.09	1,560,035.23	9,934,641.98

4.3.2 Monitoring of project implementation

Monitoring and evaluation is a critical task in project implementation, which benefits project implementers to take corrective measures at an appropriate step to ensure smooth implementation of the project. The findings indicate that staff of the ministry of finance and executing entities at federal level have conducted various joint monitoring and supervision missions. Key informants at the regional level also indicated they have made joint monitoring and supervision. However, it was observed that they didn't share a well compiled mission reports other than field mission notes to the relevant stakeholders. The budget allocated for monitoring and supervision activity did not take into account the high and increasing inflation rates. This, therefore, calls for adjustment of the budget for this purpose for the remaining project period. It was also noted during the evaluation exercise that the conflict in the Northern part of the country has limited the ability of the federal team to conduct regular monitoring and supervision as they did for other parts of the country.

4.3.3 Project reporting

The main reporting documents for AF project are the Project Progress Reports. The CRGE Facility has been in charge of preparing and submitting a consolidated annual progress report to the Adaptation Fund Secretariat on behalf of Ministry of Finance. During the key informants' interview with project technical experts at the regional and local level, it became evident that they had a limited understanding of the structure of the PPR reports. However, all the project staffs have clear understanding of their reporting responsibilities. Woreda level experts submit technical report to the regional project coordination office, which ultimately sends a consolidated report to the Federal Sector Ministry with copy to the Regional Bureau of Finance and Economic Cooperation. The Woreda office of finances consolidate financial reports and send to the Bureau of Finance on quarterly basis, which further consolidates and sends to the CRGE Facility at the Ministry of Finance.

The CRGE Facility has given access to the evaluation team to the periodic reports received from the project target regions. The evaluation team found that the quality of reporting at the activity level varies across regions, which is generally acceptable. A good practice for the future would be to centralize all reports in a shared folder that can be readily accessed by any of the project team members, including evaluators.

4.3.4 Institutional arrangements and coordination

While MOF is an implementing entity, CRGE Facility coordinates the implementation of the project. Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and Ministry of Water and Energy (MOWE) participate in the execution of the project. At the regional level, BOFED coordinates the implementation and

undertakes financial management. The regional replica of the MOA and MOWE are executing entities. The merger of Ministry of Livestock and Fishery to the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources to form the Current Ministry of Agriculture during the course of project implementation has moved livestock related project tasks and mandates under the MOA. The CRGE facility in MOF is responsible for the overall coordination, leadership and financial management and reporting of the project. At the *woreda* level, WoFED manages the project fund. Project steering and technical committees at regional and *woreda* level closely oversee, supervise and monitor the implementation of project in their respective regions and *woredas*. Discussions and interviews with the committee members revealed that both committee functioned synergistically to closely oversee progress and train frontline experts to undertake the planned activities. The general governance in the project implementation combines vertical and horizontal relationships. The executing ministries have two-way communication where they plan and implement activities jointly through the fund they obtain from the MOF. The project used the existing structure of the government at the three levels of governance to channel funding and coordinating implementation, monitoring and evaluation of project activities but with recruitment of a few staff at the federal and *woreda* levels. MOF and the executing ministries, regional bureaus and *woreda* offices have assigned additional staff and experts who support the project hired technical and finance experts. The use of existing staff has dual benefits: use resources efficiently and utilization of existing experiences in undertaking some of the project activities.

Rating: Satisfactory

4.4. Impact

As stated in the theory of change and project result framework, the achievement of the immediate outcomes of the project could contribute or leads of the realization of the overall objective of the project, which is ***“To increase resilience to recurrent droughts in 7 agro-ecological landscapes in Ethiopia.”*** As indicated in the table 4 and 5, the project has delivered most of the project immediate and intermediate results (outputs and outcomes). The realization of project outcomes, combined with the validation of associated assumptions increases the likelihood of project impact after AF funding stops. In this regard, most of the project assumptions are assessed as valid. The government has executed an integrated project implementation approach at the watershed level. The key informant interview participants from government institutions at all level confirmed existence of strong political willingness at all level to mainstream climate change consideration into planning. The delivery of integrated climate smart development plan for all project target woredas is a clear manifestation of mainstreaming effort. The establishment and operationalization of Water users associations, capacity-building measures and existence of government institutions, which are responsible to lead and coordinate actions, similar to ones supported by the project will increase the likelihood of project impact. The WUAs have showed their ability to take responsibility for the maintenance of water infrastructures. Organized community groups who are investing their effort and time in managed the restored landscapes have secured certificate of ownership, which grants the group the legal right to protect, manage, and benefit in sustainable way. The intervention strategy of the AF project is closely aligned with the mandates of the executing entities. Opportunities to mainstream the project into large-scale agricultural programmes such as the resilient landscapes program, national irrigation program were suggested during the evaluation mission. The practical impact of the project along key impact variables are highlighted as follow.

4.4.1 Contribution to income diversification of farmers

Significant number of beneficiaries were engaged in livelihood activities such as sheep and goat rearing, poultry, honey and vegetable (Onion, tomato and fruits (apple, avocado, banana etc) production. During the FGDs, these beneficiaries testified generation of additional income due to these project supported actions. For instance, in Alleltu woreda, a woman respondent stated, “I had nothing before the project. I currently own nine sheep. I sold three and used the money to buy essentials for my family and buy fertilizer. In a number of cases, FGD participants reported poultry production, goat/sheep rearing and vegetable production increased their incomes and livelihood. Moreover, discussions with woreda CRGE experts working in the site clearly showed that the project

has contributed to poverty reduction and enhanced wellbeing at household level. Some beneficiaries have constructed better house and owned better asset. In the below box, a case study from Gunenfeta kebele of Dire Dawa City Administration is presented to show case the livelihood transformation of a direct project beneficiary.

Name of the beneficiary: Nebiya Hussien

Age: 25

Gender: Female

Marital Status: Married

- Has two children;
- She is economically dependent on her husband;
- She received 5 goats from the Project (3 female and 2 male);
- During the interview, she own eight goats. She sold four goats and earned 30, 000 Birr. She then purchased a cow with Birr 15, 0000 birr and the cow;
- Currently she is getting two litters of milk per day;
- She sells one litter and consume the remaining one litter;
- Before the project, she did not have her own asset;
- Currently her average family monthly income has increased to over 4,000 birr;

4.4.2 Improved agricultural practices and production

The project direct beneficiaries witnessed improvement of crop productivity due to improved agriculture practices (e.g improved variety seeds and improved agronomic technology and irrigation water management) supported by the project. Focus Group Discussions participants and interviewed farmers have confirmed yield increase and associated additional income. Project activities on vegetable production, distribution of improved seeds coupled with intensive practical trainings have improved the food and nutrition situations of households. Small-scale irrigation scheme beneficiaries in Diredawa and Loko Abaya reported an income rise due to increased productivity of horticultural crops. FGDs in Diredawa stated, *“We are producing vegetables, which have high market demand. We did not have the opportunity to produce such high productivity and nutritious vegetable in the past. We are generating additional income from sells of vegetables and meeting the consumption needs of our family at the same time.”* Some beneficiaries also confirmed that they got new knowledge and skill on how to prevent their crop (wheat and bean) from a crop disease called *wag (rust)*. Moreover, the training and technical support provided by the project have

enhance their farming practices. A FGD participant stated, “Before the project, we refused to grow beans because of disease, but now we know how to deal with it.”

The success of irrigation beneficiaries participating in improved seed project activity described below is a case in point.

Mohammed Ibrahim is a smallholder farmer from the Logo Gunnfeta Keblee, Diredawa. He is 40 years old and lives with his wife and seven children (4 male and 3 female). He is one of the project irrigation beneficiaries and received improved onion seeds from the project. Before the project, he used to produce cereals on the small plots of land he owns. He never produced enough for both household consumption and marketing. With the project, he switched to onion production through irrigation. He received both improved seed and trainings. This has given him a year round production opportunity and increased income from sales of surplus to the local market. With the support from project and his strong effort, he initially produced and earned more than 60,000 birr. The additional support from the project and through his own commitment, in the second year, he generated more than 80,000 Birr. His annual income from practicing irrigation supported vegetable production has enabled him to open a mini-shop with a capital of 200,000 birr for his wife. Mohammed is happy and proud that he is able to support his large family and send his children to better school. He has a plan of buying a plot of land in Dire Dawa City and Build a house for his family.

4.4.3 Improvement in ecological conditions of degraded landscapes

Most agriculture experts agreed a decrease in soil erosion and soil fertility improvement due to the upstream soil conservation measures and soil fertility management measures, supported by the project. Ex-closure sites in most of the project target sites have demonstrated greater success and attracted the attentions of farmers, representatives of local administration, development agents, government officials, and NGOs. Some of the restored landscapes are serving as a demonstration and learning sites. Lost plant species have re-appeared due to the project interventions and the restored sites have been certified and put under a community management regime with clearly defined governing bylaws.

Rating: Moderately Satisfactory

4.5 Sustainability

The sustainability of a project's actions after the end of project depends on the extent to which beneficiaries and stakeholders' participation at various stages of the project, complexity of project actions and the capacity building and knowledge transfer measures, alignment of the government priorities, benefit sharing arrangements, etc. The AF project design has given adequate attention to ensuring the sustainability of project results beyond the life of the project. The sections below provide a more general analysis of the sustainability of the project's outcomes, in socio-political, financial and institutional perspectives.

4.5.1 Socio-political sustainability

The sustainability of the AF in the project target sites will mostly depend on technical and financial factors. However, socio-political element such as the continued functioning of associations, enforcement of bylaws, peace and stability are also key determinants of project sustainability. The up scaling of the project to other sites within the project woredas and beyond will only be sustainable if there is enough political will at the woreda, regional and national leveles to foster the project initiatives. Indeed, communities that only benefitted from the project are more likely to durably adopt all best practices form the project. In this respect, AF project actions will need to be taken over by future initiatives. The sustainability of water schemes and irrigation infrastructures depend on the willingness of project beneficiaries to pay for operations and maintenance, enforcement of bylaws as well as continuous capacity building measures and access to spare parts. Water infrastructures are managed by water users' associations (WUA), which function generally well and have been trained by the project to optimize the management of strengthened infrastructures. Even though some conflicts over water use have arisen in some sites, WUAs were able to seek assistance and the project was able to assist in solving the conflict. After the project termination, the responsible government office at the woreda level (Woreda office of water) and the Woreda Administration will need to play a mediator role when WUAs are unable to settle conflicts by themselves.

Similarly, the sustainability of degraded landscapes restoration results depend on the enforcement of community bylaws on utilization, development and management of the degraded communal landscapes as well as support from local law-enfacement institutions. Furthermore, the socio-political sustainability of reforestation activities is highly dependent on local populations' awareness of the importance of such activities. Based on discussions with local community members, it is evident that there is a good level of understanding of erosion control mechanisms, with some community leaders

intending to continue reforestation efforts after the project termination. Key informants from the woreda Office of Agriculture as well as from the Office of Woreda Administration, which chairs the woreda steering committee, have expressed their commitment in ensuring the continuity of positive outcomes of the project in soil and water conservation and management of restored watersheds. The AF project has raised political awareness on integrated approach, which combines access to water for both household use and irrigation, provision of alternative livelihoods, management and conservation of degraded landscapes to building resilience of rural communities to the adverse effects of climate change.

4.5.2 Financial sustainability

For the livelihoods development component, the financial sustainability of the project in the target sites will rely on the farmers' ability to ensure management and breeding of poultry and small ruminants as well as saving money to replace the herd. Direct beneficiaries interviewed during the field missions were very aware of this, so any shortage in savings and poor management will unlikely be by lack of financial savviness. However, continuing the up scaling of the AF project beyond the target sites will very much depend on the availability of funds and the political will to allocate necessary funds for the up scaling process. While it is doubtful that the local governments will have the funds readily available to proceed with the up scaling of the AF project, the demonstrated results of improved poultry, sheep and goat species and other relevant components of the project do form a solid basis to build convincing project proposals and leverage donor funding. The financial sustainability of the up scaling approach is thus rather a question of political will in this respect.

The maintenance of water and irrigation infrastructures is another aspect that is highly dependent on financial sustainability. While users' associations are well-structured in both cases and have the responsibility to perform minor maintenance interventions (e.g. canal dredging), more substantial operations such as repairing the spillway will be beyond the reach of users' associations. The role of woreda and regional irrigation and water offices in allocation of funds for periodic major repair and maintenance operations are crucial. However, it is difficult to assess whether appropriate maintenance and repair operations are likely to be expedited when required. Another concern is that, with the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, more funds are likely to be spent on emergency measures in the coming years, which could be at the expense of longer-term maintenance.

4.5.3 Institutional Sustainability

The project design, implementation and management found to be participatory at various stages. Key informants at Federal level have confirmed the presence of active participation at all stages of the project. Similarly, informants from regional and woreda levels indicated active participation during the design of the project, including during selection of project target woredas, kebeles and feasibility assessment. All the consulted key informants underlined that the problems, which the project has attempted to solve are integral part of the woreda development planning and fall within the mandates of the executing offices. The Woreda executing offices have assigned office spaces, staff and logistics to the project. The project is well integrated into the existing government structural setups at all levels. At Federal level, there is reasonably good coordination between relevant institutions. The Ministry of Finance regularly organizes joint monitoring and supervision missions where experts from the executing entities and the National Designated Authority take part. The regional Steering Committees and Technical Committees exist to integrate the project with the existing government system. The Woreda level Steering Committee and the Woreda level Technical Committee are both active and function well as meeting places for government and project staff. Good working relationships have been fostered, and government and project staff monitor project activities jointly. The government views the AF project as a good model, and so government staff work closely with project staff as a result. The woreda level steering committee has full responsibility for implementing woreda level project activities and liaising has not been a problem. At local level, the project was organized in such a way that it empowers communities and links them more effectively than before to government institutions, so there is sufficient reason for their activities to continue. Moreover, there are community level bylaws that are emerging based on traditions, which are instrumental in achieving project outcomes. For instance, in Sofi Kebele in Harai region, farmers have adopted bylaws for the regulation of irrigation water use and management and protection of rehabilitated land in the upstream of the watershed.

The integration of climate change as one of the key strategic pillars of the Ten Years Development of Ethiopia as well as mainstreaming of climate change actions into the development plans of key sectors are sufficient to ensure institutional sustainability of the integrated approach and principles of the AF project. Furthermore, the significant attention and priority given to expansion of irrigation agriculture and restoration of degraded landscapes could be another reason to believe the institutional sustainability. Furthermore, the capacity building and trainings provided by the project could enhance institutional sustainability at local level. The engagement of the newly established

Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands Development and its regional and local replica in leading the irrigation development activities as well as participation in the joint execution of future initiatives would add to the institutional sustainability of the project's impacts.

Rating: Moderately Satisfactory

4.6 Factors affecting Performance

4.6.1 Preparation and readiness

The project document did not contain a proper stakeholder analysis. However, the key project executing entities have a well-established institutional arrangement from federal to local levels. These institutions also have adequate staff at all levels in most circumstances. They have ample experience of executing national flagship programs and programs. The Ministry of Finance and the Bureau of Finances in the project target regions have also adequate experience and capacity in program management, financial management and coordination. The preparation of the project was participatory in general. Experts from the project executing entities have actively participated during the design of the project. They have played key role in establishing the project objectives, components, outcomes, outputs and activities. The regional level respondents confirmed their participation in the identification of project target woredas and sites. The CRGE Facility had organized serious of the project-launching, inception and planning workshops before commencing actual project implementation. Initial staffing and regular readiness procedures were expedited in a relatively timely manner before the project implementation kick off. The Baseline study was finalized within the first six months of project implementation.

4.6.2 Quality of project management and supervision

Generally, the Project Coordination Units at federal, regional and local levels functioned well despite a challenging environment. There was not major staff turnover within the core team and did not impede implementation. Local technical staffs at Woreda level were active and competent, and provided progress reports to their respective regional bureaus on quarterly basis. The Finance team from the CRGE Facility conducted regular financial spot-checks and provided on-job training to the project finance team at woreda level. The project supervision and coordination from the federal level (Ministry of Finance) was generally effective. The minutes of meetings of the PSC, which were shared with the evaluator team highlight that the project steering committees at regional and woreda levels have played their oversight, coordination and problem solving roles. Interviews held with numerous stakeholders during the evaluation process have shown that the project was

perceived as driven by the country. Ownership of the project interventions is generally stronger at the local and regional level than at the national level.

4.6.3 Responsiveness to Human Rights and Gender Equity

Generally, the project aims to support the livelihood of low-income farmers. As part of the initial project design and planning stage, the project aimed to conducting a gender analysis to identify the gender dimensions of vulnerability to climate change and develop strategies to address specific gender inequalities, risks and opportunities (see activity 1.1.2 of the main project document). Most of the project indicators are disaggregated by gender. Several dimensions of the UN Common Understanding on the human rights-based approach are reflected in the project strategy, especially:

- people are recognized as key actors in their own development, rather than passive recipients of commodities and services;
- strategies are empowering, not disempowering;
- both outcomes and processes are monitored and evaluated;
- the development process is locally owned; and
- Situation analysis is used to identify immediate, underlying and root causes of development problems.

When gender-disaggregated participation to training sessions or other project activities was registered, this did not lead to any specific action, initiative or analysis that would reflect an active ownership of gender mainstreaming approaches. Although this was a weakness of the original project design, a gender action plan could was developed in the course of project implementation

4.6.4 Communication and public awareness

The project has developed a gender sensitive communication and knowledge management strategy describing several communication interventions undertaken by the project to both disseminate its results and support some of the project interventions. Besides traditional media such as posters presenting agricultural weather bulletins disseminated during market days at the local level, the most notable communication materials produced by the project were the radio and television broadcasts. A documentary focusing on the project performance was produced and disseminated in 2021. The documentary has contributed to raise awareness for a wide audience on the impacts of climate change and the adaption measures to minimize the effective of climate change. Over seven analytical reports on meteorological station data and satellite data were prepared and

shared to regions. The CRGE facility has developed promotional materials and gender policy on gender and climate and disseminated to relevant stakeholders at federal, regional and woreda levels. It also produced comprehensive training material on gender and climate change and shared with relevant stakeholders for enhanced capacity.

5. Challenges and Lesson Learned

5.1 Challenges

Despite the several achievements, some challenges were also faced during project implementation.

The major challenges were:

- **COVID-19 Pandemic:** The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic has a direct negative impact on the implementation of the project. The pandemic has restricted movement of project staff at all levels (Federal, Regional and woreda) and beneficiaries which contributed to the dalliance of the of some of the project activities
- **Price/ Market inflation:** High inflation on the cost of materials for the construction of both drinking and irrigation schemes is reported as a challenge. The cost of drilling borehole is very high compared to the originally planned budget.
- **Reshuffle of Regional Government Official and staff turnover:** reshuffling of government officials, who have the decision making power was one of the challenges, was one of challenges faced during the implementation of the AF project. The time lag between someone leaving a position and assignment of new official delays project decision making and financial transactions. There was also core project staff turnover, which impeded the execution of the project.
- **Delayed and lengthy procurement procedure:** The procurement (bidding) process of goods and services for water schemes development at times took long than planned. This has contributed to the delayed completion of not only the development of water schemes but construction of distribution of lines, fitting with electro-mechanical systems, and other last mile task.
- **Delayed budget disbursement:** Some of the project activities were hampered in their execution due to fund disbursement delays
- **Security problem:** The conflict and insecurity, especially in Northern Ethiopia has resulted in the frequent discontinuity of the implementation of the project activities which has a direct negative impact on the realization of the project outputs and outcome

5.2 Lesson Learned

In the course of project implementation, important lessons have emerged from good practices and challenges faced. The key observed lessons are the following.

Table 7- Lessons learned

Lesson learned #1:	Integrated approach, which combines restoration of degraded landscapes, agricultural practices, alternative income generation measures and access to water have significant potential to transform livelihoods, natural systems and build resilience towards impacts of climate change
Lesson learned #2:	Reforestation by community members on degraded landscapes can be more effective, efficient and sustainable than reforestation by external parties.
Lesson learned #3:	When building infrastructures such as irrigation canals, water distribution points, reservoirs, ad hoc and third party supervision (i.e. not by the construction contractor themselves) is required. This minimizes wastage of time and resources during the implementation of the project
Lesson learned #4:	A strong training program on business skills, financial management and entrepreneurship is required when setting up user groups
Lesson learned #5:	It is unreasonable to expect being able to measure the benefits of the project in terms of adopting risk reduction within a project time three to four years;
Lesson learned #6:	Creating access to irrigation agricultural practices is an effective way to increase agricultural yields, ensure food security and surplus production for market;
Lesson learned #7:	Project implementation has been hampered by the limited capacity of some implementation partners. This risk should be mitigated in future projects by conducting capacity assessments either at the design or at the inception phase of the projects
Lesson Learned #8	The entry and use of solar pump technology in the project areas is seen as the biggest experience
Lesson Learned #9	Participants in KIIs reported that It is a good practice to see that abandoned areas that are considered useless can be used for agriculture when they are not restored

Lesson Learned#10	Regional Government political commitment for the sustainability of the project is very important. The fact that the regional governments have provided additional support for water drilling has made a difference
Lesson learned #11	Working through government structure not only helps build the capacity of the government but also increases the ownership to the project provided capacity building goes hand in hand using innovative approaches
Lesson learned #12	What the evaluation team learned from the project is economic empower to women enhance women decision making in their household and increase their level of confidence. As it was observed during the evaluation exercise, vulnerable women can become change agent with demonstrated success
Lesson Learned #13	As indicated by project beneficiaries, improved seed variety was found to be more productive and acceptable by the target beneficiaries
Lesson Learned #14	The grass production in the closure areas in all visited sites was successful. The grass production would have been more successful if it was supported by area closure so as to protect the grass. Grass seeds available in the area closure can grow well if the area is closed (protected)

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

6.1 Conclusions

The AF project was designed to demonstrate the viability and effectiveness of an integrated solution to a major development challenge in Ethiopia, namely climate change induced threats to communities and natural systems. Among the main strengths of the project is its undisputable strategic relevance, as changing climate conditions create economic, social and environmental risks for rural communities, where over 80 percent of Ethiopians live.

A key achievement is the viability of a holistic intervention strategy, encompassing the agriculture, water, landscapes restoration, livelihoods enhancement and institutional factors for climate change resilience. The AF project integrates improving access to water for irrigation and household use, restoration of degraded landscapes and access to income of poor households at a kebele level. In a relatively short period, the project has achieved strong results in these respects. Over 8,500 households practicing irrigation agriculture are able to produce more than once per year. This has allowed them to generate additional income from sales of various products. The project has also restored degraded landscapes and contributed to soil and water conservation, restoration of lost plant species, reduced run off and soil erosion.

The project has introduced livelihood options created employment opportunities for agricultural households. The project has also ensured equity and fairness in beneficiary selection and targeting women headed households. It has achieved most of its intended results within budget or with additional budget allocated from government. In terms of population buy-in, the project followed a community-centered approach, which allowed building ownership of most project activities and maximizing the chances of these activities continuing after project closure. In addition, the project supported the establishment of users' associations, which will be tasked with the autonomous management and maintenance of the irrigation schemes, water facilities and restored landscapes.

Overall, the project achieved significant results in strengthening resilience and adaptive capacities of target communities to the impacts of climate change, providing the validity of the AF project. Based on the analysis of the main evaluation themes, and weighted scores for the various evaluation criteria, the overall rating for the project is **“Moderately satisfactory”**, below.

Table 8- Evaluation Rating Table

Evaluation Criteria	Assessment Discription	Rating
A. Strategic Relevance	The strategic relevance of the project was very strong. The project aligned with priorities of the country, the Adaptation Fund	Highly satisfactory
1. Alignment to GTP-II and Sector Strategies	The project was fully aligned with GTP-II, CRGE Strategy and Agriculture and Water sector development plans of the country	Highly satisfactory
2. Alignment to AF strategic priorities	The project's results framework aligned in particular with Outcome 4 as well as Outputs 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Adaptation Fund	Highly satisfactory
3. Relevance to regional, sub-regional and national environmental priorities	The project was extremely relevant to the national context of Ethiopia, AU's Agenda 2063 and local contexts of the target regions. It aligned with Ethiopia's NAP priorities, NDC	Highly satisfactory
4. Complementarity with existing interventions	The AF project complemented other relevant initiatives such as the small-scale irrigation program, SLMP, PSNP, REDD+.	Highly satisfactory
B. Quality of project design	The project design was based on a solid and comprehensive presentation of the baseline situation, root causes and barriers. The intervention logic was sound and the logical sequencing of outputs, outcomes and objectives was convincingly articulated.	Satisfactory
C. Effectiveness	Most of the project outputs and outcomes were achieved. Despite a satisfactory implementation of other components of the project, the water schemes development activities were partially completed in some of the project target sites. This leads the overall effectiveness to be rated as "moderately satisfactory"	Moderately satisfactory
1. Delivery of outputs	Out of 14 initially planned outputs, 12 (86%) were totally achieved 2 (14%) were partially achieved. The outputs critical to the achievement of outcomes were mostly achieved	Satisfactory

Evaluation Criteria	Assessment Discription	Rating
2. Achievement of outcomes	Most of the outcomes target were partially achieved, as measured by the project's outcome-level indicators. The achievement of some project targets requires further assessment and ex-post analysis.	Moderately satisfactory
3. Likelihood of impact	The project does not feature overall objective- or impact-level indicators. The likelihood of impact was assessed depending on whether the most important direct outcomes were achieved, assumptions on the causal links between outcomes and outputs are in place. The achievement of some of outcome target requires further investigation and ex-post analysis. Hence, the expected impacts of the project are moderately likely to materialize, given that some of the targets cannot be assessed yet	Moderately likely
D. Financial Management	Regular communication among the project financial team at all levels and consistent financial spot-checks by the CRGE Facility team to the project target woredas, capacity building trainings and workshops, recruitment of a dedicated finance officer in each project target woreda have made the project financial management effective.	Satisfactory
1.Completeness of project financial information	Financial documents made available with the evaluator were generally complete, updated and clear	Satisfactory
2.Communication between finance and project technical staff	The operational project team at all levels were aware of the financial status of the project. However, there were limited communication and information sharing throughout implementation in terms of sharing financial matters between the operational project team and finance experts at regional and federal levels	Satisfactory
E. Efficiency	The project was implemented through an adaptive management approach, which helped reduce the risk of inefficiency. However, some inefficiencies remained, which could have been prevented	Moderately satisfactory

Evaluation Criteria	Assessment Discription	Rating
F. Monitoring and Reporting	Monitoring and reporting were generally adequate to track project results and adjust project implementation	Moderately Satisfactory
1. Monitoring design and budgeting	A generic monitoring plan was outlined in the project document, with associated budget. However, no exact methodology for each M&E activity was developed, and the cost associated with these methodologies was not assessed	Moderately satisfactory
2. Monitoring of project implementation	The project followed an adaptive management approach in its M&E, and several joint monitoring and supervision were conducted during the life of the project. There were also regular financial monitoring and spot-checks by the CRGE Facility finance team. Some weaknesses in project monitoring remained nevertheless	Moderately satisfactory
3. Project reporting	The main reporting documents – namely Project Performance Reports – were generally complete and helpful documents to track project progress.	Satisfactory
G. Sustainability	The relevant government stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project have directly engaged in the design, implementation, monitoring and supervisions of the project. The government assigned its own staff in addition to the experts hired by the project.	Moderately likely
1. Socio-political sustainability	The AF project has raised political awareness on integrated approach, which combines access to water for both household use and irrigation, provision of alternative livelihoods, management and conservation of degraded landscapes to building resilience of rural communities to the adverse effects of climate change. The relevant government bodies at various levels expressed their commitment in ensuring the continuity of positive outcomes of the projects in soil and water conservation and management of restored watersheds	Likely
2. Financial sustainability	Continuing the upscaling of the project beyond the target sites will very much depend on the availability of funds	Moderately likely

Evaluation Criteria	Assessment Discription	Rating
	and the political will to earmark necessary funds for the upscaling process.	
3. Institutional sustainability	All the consulted key informants underlined that the problems, which the project has attempted to solve are integral part of the woreda development planning and fall within the mandates of the executing offices. The Woreda executing offices have assigned office spaces, staff and logistics to the project. The project is well integrated into the existing government structural setups at all levels	Highly likely

6.2 Recommendations

Based on the evaluation findings, the recommendations presented in Table 9 below can be made.

Table 9- Key Recommendations

Recommendation #1:	In few project target kebeles, there are remaining activities such as connecting water sources to distribution line or power source or irrigation canal that should be completed without further delay. The responsible regional government bodies have promised to finalize these tasks. Yet, the Federal Ministry of Finance and Bureau of Finance at regional level should follow up and ensure the timely completion and operationalization of these tasks.
Responsibility	MOF, BOFED and Regional Water and Energy bureau
Recommendation #2:	The project covered only two kebeles from a minimum of 15 kebeles per woreda on average. Residents in the remaining kebeles have almost similar economic, social and agro-climatic vulnerabilities. The relevant government stakeholders at all levels should therefore work together to not only ensure the sustainability of outcomes of the project but also to scale up the project to the adjacent kebeles and sites.
Responsibility	MOF, MOA, MOWE and Regional and local government
Recommendation #3	The water schemes and irrigation canals require periodic maintenance and upgrading. Beneficiaries have established user

	group associations and adopted bylaws. They have established a regular fee scheme to cover spare parts and maintenance and management costs. In spite of this effort, the responsible local government organ should continue to monitor, supervise and provide capacity building and technical and financial literacy trainings. It should also provide operation and maintenance support periodically.
Responsibility	Regional Water and Energy Bureaus, Woreda Offices
Recommendation #4	Biological soil conservation practice needs cross-learning and significant time and at least 3 to 5 years cycles to research and identify sound climate resilient strategies, design community-driven management models to see sustainable results. Offices at federal level should ensure that all future activities have a sufficient timeline and budget to enable legitimate and sustained capacity building
Responsibility	MOA, MOF
Recommendation #5	The project has successfully set the process toward an ambitious goal, which requires adaptation and sustained effort to build resilience. As the closure areas are already handed over to communities, the local government should continue provision of technical support and regular monitoring and supervision to ensure the sustainable management, development and utilization of the ex-closure sites.
Responsibility	BOA and Woreda Offices of agriculture
Recommendation #6:	The use of solar power for pumping water for both irrigation and household use is relatively new practice and approach for project areas. Proper documentation and dissemination of lessons and practices would be helpful to build on the lessons for further expansion and scale
Responsibility	MOWE and Regional Bureau of Water and Energy
Recommendation #7:	The alternative income generating sub-components beneficiaries should be supported with financial literacy trainings as well as

	entrepreneurship skills. Furthermore, they should be linked with saving and credit microfinance institutions. The revolving funding arrangement, which has been put in place should be further monitored and supported in order to ensure more community members continue benefiting from the legacy of the project
Responsibility	Regional Bureau of Agriculture, Woreda Office of Agriculture
Recommendation #7:	The project has attempted to ensure active participation of women and youth groups. However, the number of women direct beneficiaries was low compared to men beneficiaries. The relevant project stakeholders at federal, regional and woreda levels should continue to adapt project implementation strategies and project beneficiary selection criteria to bridge these gaps.
Responsibility	All project stakeholders

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Appendix

Annex 1- Evaluation TOR

GENERAL INFORMATION

Services/Work Description: Final Evaluation of the Adaptation Fund Project “Climate Smart Integrated Rural Development project” in seven selected Woredas in four regional states and Dire Dawa City Administration

Duty Station: Addis Ababa and travel to the nine regions and selected project woredas and kebeles

Type of the Contract: Consultancy Firm

I. BACKGROUND / RATIONALE

Ethiopia ranks as one of the countries at most “extreme risk” of climate change. Sixty percent of the country is dry land, where annual rainfall is becoming increasingly unpredictable and is contributing to the rising frequency and severity of drought. Climate change therefore has significant implications, given the reliance of many of the communities in these areas on rain-fed agriculture.

The Government of Ethiopia has fully recognized the need to urgently manage the mounting challenges posed by climate change and made a policy decision to pursue development based on climate resilient green growth principles. This is articulated in the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy.

Ethiopia is implementing CRGE since 2011 and further integrated CRGE strategy into the second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP-II) (2015-2020) and CRGE is one of the key pillars of the ten-years perspective plan. Ethiopia has also submitted one of the most ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which aims 64% GHG emission reduction by 2030, consistent with the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The realization of the CRGE vision and achieving the NDC commitment requires significant investment in the key CRGE sectors (agriculture, forest, energy, urban development and housing, transport, etc.), continuous capacity building and unreserved political commitment at all levels. The Ministry of Finance (MOF) in collaboration with the Environment, Forest and Climate Change (EFCCC) and other stakeholders has established and operationalized the Ethiopian Climate Resilient Green Economy Facility (CRGE Facility) with the key objective of climate finance mobilization from international climate finance institutions and bilateral development partners and support climate change mitigation and adaptation projects programs across the country.

As part of this responsibility, the MoF has accessed USD 10 million from the Adaptation Fund for the implementation of “**Climate Smart Integrated Rural Development project**” in fourteen rural kebeles across Seven Selected Woredas in five regional states and Dire Dawa City Administration.

This three-year project was designed to reverse the downward poverty spiral that the community is locked into and increase their productivity in a changing climate. The project increases the productivity of the smallholder farmers by decoupling their dependence from rainfall through the provision of various technological and infrastructure inputs, including creating access to small-scale irrigation services and water supply for household use. Cognizant of the fact that an economically empowered community is more resilient to climate change and also contributes more to the national economy, the project also supports the communities to diversify their livelihood through various schemes and increase their net household income as well as ensure households are food secure. Furthermore, the project strives to manage the natural resources that provide natural climate resilience.

The project integrates water, agriculture and natural resource management approaches at the landscape level and aims to achieve to important outcomes:

Outcome One: increased capacity to manage current and future drought risks through improved adaptation planning and sustainable management of agro-ecological landscapes;

Outcome Two: enhanced and secure access to potable water supply, and small-scale irrigation in drought affected areas.

The project will increase the productivity of the smallholder farmers by decoupling their dependence from rainfall through the provision of various technological and infrastructure inputs, including creating access to small scale irrigation services and water supply for household use. The project targets highly vulnerable smallholder farmers who dwell on subsistence rain fed agriculture and have low capacity to cope with the high levels of annual and inter-annual rainfall variability in the fourteen target Kebeles. The project has five interrelated components and fourteen expected outputs in total which is elaborated in the below table.

Project/Program me Components	Expected Concrete Outputs	Expected Outcomes
1. Awareness and ownership of adaptation planning at the local level	Output 1.1: Increased awareness, understanding and ownership of climate risk reduction processes and adaptation planning at all levels Output 1.2: Climate smart development plans developed Output 1.3: Climate resilient water plans developed Output 1.4: Climate smart agriculture and land – water - forest integration plans developed Output 1.5: Climate resilient livelihood plans developed	Increased capacity to manage current and future drought risks through improved adaptation planning and sustainable management of agro-ecological landscapes

2. Water security	Output 2.1: Potable water supply increased in target areas Output 2.2: Irrigation infrastructure for agriculture and livestock watering designed and developed to withstand climate change	Enhanced and secure access to potable water supply, and small-scale irrigation in drought affected areas
3. Climate smart agriculture – land – water - forest integration	Output 3.1: Climate smart agriculture implemented at the farm level Output 3.2: Integrated watershed management approach used to restore and protect degraded watersheds	Increased capacity to manage current and future drought risks through improved adaptation planning and sustainable management of agro-ecological landscapes
4. Climate resilient livelihood diversification	Output 4.1: Improved knowledge, understanding and awareness of livelihood opportunities Output 4.2: Increased capacity of target households to participate in climate resilient, market-oriented enterprises	Increased capacity to manage current and future drought risks through improved adaptation planning and sustainable management of agro-ecological landscapes
5. Capacity building, monitoring, evaluation and learning	Output 5.1: Increased capacity and knowledge transfer Output 5.2: Project results monitored and evaluated and lessons captured Output 5.3: Results and lessons communicated to key stakeholders and mainstreamed in local planning processes	Increased capacity to manage current and future drought risks through improved adaptation planning and sustainable management of agro-ecological landscapes

The Environment Forest and Climate Change Commission (EFCCC), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), and Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) with their regional counterparts, zone, and woreda level offices are responsible for the implementation of the project activities at various levels.

The implementation of the Project has started in April 2018 and the CRGE Facility under Ministry of Finance would like to undertake mid-term review of the project from its inception to date. Hence, this term of reference is to hire highly qualified national consultancy firm to conduct the final project evaluation of the Adaptation Fund project.

The normal project period has been completed, however, due to know reasons the project is still under implementation with no cost extension time approved by the Adaptation Fund Secretariat board. This is therefore; the final evaluation will be conducted with high accuracy and tight deadline. Hence the selected consultancy firm should take this in mind and missing to meet deadline will result contract termination and legal responsibility.

II. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE SERVICE / WORK

2.1. Objective of the assignment

The final project evaluation will assess progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the Project Document, and assess early signs of project success or failure with the goal of identifying the necessary changes to be made in order to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results.

2.2. Main Tasks and Scope of the work

A. Main Tasks of the Assignment

The consultant is expected to undertake the following tasks:

1. Carry out a desk review of relevant project documents to be provided by CRGE Facility, which will include project proposals, Results framework, progress reports, learning studies and other relevant documents, a range of which will be agreed upon and made available during the inception period.
2. Develop an inception report meeting detailing the end line design, methodology (sampling design and data collection and management protocol), measurement of indicators, data collection instruments, work plan schedule and budget to carry out the assignment. This will be developed and finalized in consultation with CRGE facility.
3. Conduct field data collection including key informant or in-depth interviews in the project locations, Focus Group Discussions (FGD's), physical observation and most significant change documentation, and beneficiary household surveys, etc. using digital data collection mechanisms unless it's impossible to do so.
4. Perform traceable data sanitization and analysis and all quantitative data analysis. A competent do-file if STATA (or syntax if other software) for data management and analysis processes, all raw and clean data including field notes and reports, audio recordings and transcripts for qualitative work, as well as other data will be required as part of the submission. A simple inventory of material handed over will be part of the record if any.
5. Develop and submit concise but comprehensive draft and final project midterm evaluation reports in electronic and printed format (final report).
6. Present key findings as a part of the online learning review with relevant IP colleagues and CRGE teams and across all key stakeholders.

B. Scope of the Work

The scope of this assignment will cover the following areas:

The final project evaluation is expected to assess the project progress broadly in accordance with the Adaptation Fund result framework and OECD-DAC evaluation criteria including impact, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, benefit to gender equality consideration and environment and social safeguards. The final project evaluation will be conducted in 6 project target woredas across four regions and Dire Dawa City Administration as well as assess federal level implementation entities. The CRGE Facility midterm evaluation template will be used in accordance with the result framework of the project.

Evaluation Framework and Evaluation Questions

This evaluation seeks to assess the project in accordance with the OECD-DAC Evaluation criteria. The project overall performance will be assessed in terms of Impact, Effectiveness, Sustainability, Relevance and Efficiency. Each separate project objective will be assessed against the Effectiveness, Sustainability, Relevance and Efficiency criteria, to allow for an overall assessment on project performance, as well as the relative success of the different aspects of the project. Finally, the evaluation will also demonstrate the learning from the project, through highlighting best practices, project failures, and policy recommendations and opportunities to scale up. Below, the OECD-DAC criteria by which the project will be evaluated are outlined. The criteria have been adapted to develop prompting questions that are specific to this evaluation.

Impact

Impact is the positive and negative changes produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended. This involves the main impacts and effects resulting from the activity on the local social, economic, environmental and other development indicators. This evaluation will review both intended and unintended results and must also include the positive and negative impact of external factors, such as climate, weather and financial conditions.

The following prompting questions will be used to assess the impact of the project:

- What has happened because of the project?
- What real difference has the activity made to the participants?
- What changes that the project has resulted in have been positive and which have been negative?
- How many people have been affected by the change?
- Was the change that was seen expected based on the Theory of Change?
- What were the unintended results of the project?
- What happened that was not part of the Theory of Change?
- Does the project contribute to the achievement of the overall development goal?
- Did the project contribute to any unintended positive or negative impacts/effects?

Effectiveness

Effectiveness is the extent to which the project outcomes and objectives were achieved. It assesses how effective the project was in bringing about change in relation to the resources at its disposal. Effectiveness assesses the change at an outcome level. It assesses the contribution of the project towards the project results that are considered within the project's sphere of influence.

The following prompting questions will be used to assess the effectiveness of the project:

Effectiveness – To what extent has the project achieved its lower level results (outputs) and is on track to achieve high level results -impact- and outcome objectives?

- Is the project producing the expected outputs?
- What is the status of the project compared to the planned impact- and outcome objectives?
- What are the prospects of reaching impact- and outcome objectives?

- What is the quality of the project activities in view of the relevant guidelines and standards (such as the soil and water conservation guideline, water infrastructure construction guidelines and standards)?
- Has there been any unexpected results/impacts (positive or negative) as a result of the project implementation?
- What measures can be taken to further strengthen the project's implementation with regards to quality and pace?
- To what extent has the project partnered with local communities and other stakeholders to promote environmental and disaster risk awareness?
- To what extent has the project contributed to gender equality and the empowerment of women and disadvantage groups?
- What was the contribution of the relevant activities towards achieving the objectives? Did other factors outside of our control lead to positive outcomes?
- Was the project approach and management structure effective in delivering desired/planned outcomes? The extent that the project achieved results in terms of defined project interventions and result indicators
- Whether the planned benefits have been delivered and received, as perceived by all key stakeholders;
- Satisfaction of the beneficiaries and local government stakeholders in terms of timely availability and quality of project inputs (materials, finance, and human resources); quality of results (respect for standards);
- To what extent did the Project's M&E mechanism contribute to meeting project outcomes?
- How effective were the strategies and tools used in the implementation of the project?
- How effective was the project in responding to the needs of the beneficiaries?
- The level of real costs involved with achieving results, and compare costs to benefits for the project and relevant project components in a pedagogical manner.
- If the assumptions and risk assessments at results level turned out to be inadequate or invalid, or
- unforeseen external factors intervened, how flexibly management has adapted to ensure that the results would achieve the purpose etc.;
- Whether the balance of responsibilities between the various stakeholders was appropriate,
- Whether unintended results have affected the benefits received positively or negatively and could have been foreseen and managed; and
- Whether any shortcomings were observed due to a failure to take account of cross-cutting or overarching issues such as gender and environment during implementation.

Sustainability

Sustainability is concerned with measuring whether the benefits of an activity are likely to continue after donor funding has been withdrawn. Sustainable projects are financially stable in that the activities continue once funding has been withdrawn. They are also

environmentally sustainable in that they ensure the environment in which the project operates will continue to be appropriate to project activities, and is not degraded to the detriment of other environmental needs.

The following prompting questions will be used to assess the sustainability of the project:

- To what extent will activities continue after donor funding ceased?
- To what extent will the impact and outcomes continue after donor funding ceased?
- To what extent does the intervention reflect on and take into account factors which, by experience, have a major influence on sustainability like e.g. economic, ecological, social and cultural aspects?
- What is the willingness and capability of participants to continue with the project activities after project end?
- What is the willingness and capability of other stakeholders to continue with the project activities after project end?
- Is there any evidence that the activities of the project are being replicated by other actors or communities?
- What were the major factors which influenced the achievement or non-achievement of sustainability of the programme or project?

a. Policy support: How far the national, regional strategies and priorities are affecting project results positively or adversely; and level of support expected from local government and other actors;

b. Institutional capacity:

- The extent to which the project is embedded in local government structures; how far good relations with existing structures and facilities have been established;
- Whether the community and government structures appear likely to be capable of continuing the flow of benefits after the project ends (is it well-led, with adequate and trained staff, sufficient budget and equipment?)
- Whether counterparts are well prepared for taking over of the project results technically, financially and managerially?

c. Socio-cultural factors:

- Whether the project was in tune with local perceptions of needs and ways of producing and sharing benefits;
- Whether it respects local power- structures, status systems and beliefs, and if it sought to change any of those, how well-accepted are the changes both by the target group and by others; how well it is based on an analysis of such factors; and the quality of relations between the external project staff and local communities.

d. Financial sustainability:

- Whether the products or services being provided are affordable for the intended beneficiaries and are likely to remain so after funding will end; and economic sustainability.

- The adequacy of the project budget for its purpose particularly phasing out prospects;

e. Technical (technology) issues:

Whether

- The technology, knowledge, process or service introduced or provided fits in with existing needs, culture, traditions, skills or knowledge;
- The degree in which the beneficiaries have been able to adapt to and maintain the technology acquired without further assistance; factors which influenced the achievement or non-achievement of sustainability of the project.

Relevance

Relevance is the extent to which the objectives of development interventions are consistent with participant requirements, country needs, global priorities, and partner & donor policies.

The following prompting questions will be used to assess the effectiveness of the project:

- To what extent does the project address the underlying reasons of the project formulation and how does it contribute to Ethiopia's policies.
- To what extent is the project contributing to the overarching goals of the GCF Investment objectives?
- To what extent the projects is successful in assisting Ethiopia in achieving its targets as described in the CRGE strategy by 2025 and reach the targets of building communities resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change? This should also include an assessment of other key policies, notably the NAP, CR strategies for the Agriculture and forest and the water and energy sectors)
- To assess the degree to which the project log-frame including the indicators and theory of change are relevant, realistic and, propose recommendations for Review, in conjunction with all relevant stakeholders
- To what extent are the objectives of the project still valid? Has anything changed during the project duration – have certain challenges become more or less relevant – what are the main challenges now?
- Are they the same as the beginning of the project? Were the activities carried out relevant to the emerging challenges?
- Are the activities and outputs of the project consistent with the overall goal and the attainment of its objectives?
- Are the activities and outputs of the project consistent with the intended impacts and effects?
- To what extent does the intervention comply with development policy and planning of the recipient country or the partner government?
- How important is the intervention for the target group and subgroups (e.g. women), and to what extent does it address their needs and interests?
- To what extent did the project achieve its intended outcomes? Any unintended consequences of the project design?

- The extent to which the project has been consistent with, and supportive of, the policy and program framework within which the project was implemented and whether it supports the short term and long-term strategic plans of NRC and SEM?
- Whether the inputs, strategies, and project management structure realistic, appropriate and adequate to achieve the stated outcomes?
- To what extent did the project design, approach and management help to respond to the most significant challenges of refugees and host communities?
- The extent to which the objectives of the project are consistent with the target beneficiaries' needs/priorities. To what extent is the project design consistent with the local situation and coherence with on-going initiatives?
- What threats and opportunities existed during the course of the project, and did the project approach and structure adjust in an effective and timely manner so that the project remained relevant? What other adjustment options might have been necessary?
- To what extent was the approach and management of the project relevant to regional and national development needs and agendas?
- The quality of the problem analysis and the project's intervention logic and logical framework matrix, appropriateness of the objectively verifiable indicators; analysis of assumptions and risks;
- Is there a strong sense of ownership among the recipient communities and stakeholders? The stakeholder participation in the design and in the planning, management/implementation/monitoring of the project, the level of local ownership, absorption and implementation capacity?
- Clarity and appropriateness of project implementation arrangements and structures;
- The realism in the choice and quantity of inputs (financial, human and admin resources)
- The appropriateness of the recommended monitoring and evaluation arrangements;
- The extent to which the nature of the problems originally identified has changed.

Efficiency

Efficiency measures the outputs -- qualitative and quantitative -- in relation to the inputs. It is an economic term which signifies that the project has used the least costly resources possible in order to achieve the desired results. This generally requires comparing alternative approaches to achieving the same outputs, to see whether the most efficient process has been adopted.

The following prompting questions will be used to assess the effectiveness of the project:

- Are the project activities cost effective and the expenditures justifiable when compared to the plans, progress and output of the project? And what are the options for improving the cost-efficiency of the project
- Is the division of task between the project's federal, regional and local stakeholders efficient in project execution, taking into consideration for instance organizational structures, coordination, management, division of roles, administrative capacities, human resources, technical support, etc.?

- What tangible changes has the project brought on the beneficiaries to date?
- The degree to which project coordination mechanisms established at the federal, regional and local levels properly function?
- To what extent are approval mechanisms and processes, including Annual Workplan preparation, approval and revision, supporting or constraining the implementation process?
- Assess the efficiency of the project financial management including internal control mechanisms at federal, regional and local levels
- Was the project or project implemented in the most efficient way compared to alternatives?
- Was the process of achieving outcomes efficient? Did the actual outcome justify costs incurred? What was the cost benefit ratio?
- Did the project activities overlap, duplicate or complement other similar interventions funded by the Ethiopian government, other NGOs or donors? Could a different approach have produced the same or better results?
- How efficient was the management and accountability structures of the project?
- Assess the partnership model and its efficiency in achieving the intended outcomes.
- How did the project's financial management processes and procedures affect project implementation?
- Did the project produce results within the expected time frames and in line with the work plan and related planning documents?
- To what extent are activities implemented as scheduled, and to what extent they are implemented at planned or below planned cost?
- How regularly and well are activities monitored by the project and corrective measures applied as necessary? Quality of monitoring: its existence (or not), accuracy and flexibility, and the use made of it; adequacy of baseline information;
- Are the inter-institutional structures adequate to allow for efficient project monitoring and implementation, and are all partners been able to provide their contributions to the project, and are there good relations between the project management and with existing partner institutions?

Gender, good governance, diversity and conflict sensitivity

To examine the project in relation to gender this evaluation applies the above criteria in respect to the different experiences according to gender.

- To what extent was the project implemented in a conflict-sensitive manner (identification of project sites and communities, selection of beneficiaries, approach to rehabilitation of rangeland and water points, etc.), promoted the do-no-harm principles and contributed to reduction of conflicts among and within communities?
- How has the program contributed to women participation and empowerment (decision-making, livelihood support and access to resources and investments) and transformation

of gender relations at household and community level? What gaps remain to be addressed in this respect?

- How has the program contributed to enhanced local governance effectiveness and efficiency, social accountability, participation, transparency, non-discrimination, and rule of law in relation to the project objectives?
- How was the project more or less impactful for women?
- How was the project more or less effective for women?
- How is the project more or less sustainable for women?
- How was the project more or less relevant for women?
- How was the project more or less efficient for women?

Lessons Learned and Recommendations

- What lessons can be learned from the programme thus far in regard to its relevance, coherence, effectiveness, impact, efficiency and sustainability, gender equity, transversal good governance and conflict sensitivity and ways of bringing about positive change at systemic, operational and institutional levels?
- What are the recommendations for future engagements/subsequent project phases looking at the project focus area, set-up, partnerships, modalities and approaches, etc.?
- What are the good practices and methods that could be expanded to other similar areas/communities (outreach) and scaled-up? What would be effective ways to scale up?

Cross-cutting issues, Risk Management:

- What is the effectiveness of the monitoring and reporting arrangements in place?
- To what extent has gender equality and empowerment of women been addressed in the design, implementation and monitoring of project and what have been the results so far?
- Are any unintended negative effects on these cross-cutting issues observed in the project?
- Assess how the project has monitored, reported and addressed the risks outlined in the project document.
- Assess if there are risks beyond the ones identified in the project document that may threaten or have delayed project implementation and (if applicable) how these are being or can be addressed.

III. EXPECTED OUTPUTS / DELIVERABLES

The consultancy assignment is expected to produce **four** deliverables. These include:

- ❖ **Inception Report and outline:** the consulting firm should produce the inception report of 30 pages and outline within **15 working days** after signing of the contract. The inception report should be prepared following and based on preliminary discussions with the CRGE Facility after the desk Review, and should be produced before the review starts (before any formal

midterm interviews, survey distribution or field visits). The report should be submitted for review and approval by the CRGE Facility. The report will provide understandings of the task based on document review, rationale and a detailed description of the evaluation methodology and tools, highlight of midterm evaluation questions, analytical methods, and budget with a breakdown of costs and detailed work plan for the entire exercise. Any draft questionnaires or interview forms will also be submitted for review at this stage.

- ❖ **Draft final project evaluation report:** within 45 **working days** after the inception report is cleared by the technical team of the CRGE facility team members in MOF. The draft report should include a draft set of recommendations lessons learnt, as well as copies of the raw data, the cleaned data, and any syntax used for data analysis.
 - ❖ **Validation workshop:** This should be organized within 15 days after the submission of the draft midterm. The exact date and venue of the workshop will be decided by the MOF. The latter also invite participants and organizes the workshop
 - ❖ **Final project evaluation report:** This should be submitted within 10 days after the incorporating comments during the validation workshop of the draft final evaluation report
- All deliverables will be written in English. The final report shall be no more than 120 pages, including annexes. The CRGE Facility team and key stakeholders in the review should Review the draft and final report and provide an amalgamated set of comments to the consulting firm within an agreed period, addressing the content required (as agreed in the TOR and inception report).

IV. METHODOLOGY / APPROACH OF THE SERVICE (WORK)

The midterm review should employ a combination of both qualitative and quantitative methods and instruments. The final methodological approach including interview schedule, field visits and data to be used in the review should be clearly outlined in the inception report and be fully discussed and agreed between the GOE and the firm. The consulting firm is expected to clearly outline the proposed methodology and/or approach expected to be employed including the use of primary data, Review and analysis of relevant secondary data sources. The proposed methodology should include desk Review, focus groups discussions and collection of data through semi-structured interviews with key informants, regional meetings with implementation stakeholders, field visit to a selection of sites, as agreed with national stakeholders.

A detailed methodology should be outlined in an inception report to be approved by the Ministry of Finance and the implementing partners

Kick off Meeting – the consultants, which the firm deploys, should have initial kick off meeting with the CRGE Facility team to determine and discuss issues related with the Review including the TOR and work plan

Literature: The consultant will conduct a desk Review of all relevant documentation of the project such as the project document, the CRGE Strategy, Sectoral Climate Resilience Strategies, annual work plans, periodic narrative and financial reports, the GCF fund Result/Investment framework.

Consultation Meetings: The consulting team should consult national and regional authorities and other relevant stakeholders.

Household Survey: Representative sample beneficiaries of the project will be interviewed to assess the project midterm result.

Key Informant Interviews and FGD: Key informant and focus group discussions shall be conducted with men and women, beneficiaries and other key stakeholders including implementing partners. All interviews should be undertaken in full confidence and anonymity. The final review report should not assign specific comments to individuals.

Field observations: the team of consultants shall undertake field visits and observations to the project sites.

The project final evaluation should also assess value for money and undertake case study

Additional instruments and tools: The consulting firm should undertake value for money analysis and beneficiary's testimony (which is captured through case studies). The number of case studies should not be less than 5 (five) from sample woredas. The consulting firm can suggest additional instruments that might be important during the process that would be helpful for the review, however, it must be agreed with the client before its application.

Approach and methodology can be adjusted based on the consultants' experience and on the details of the information required.

V. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT / REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

The Consulting firm will work in close collaboration with MoF, particularly with CRGE Facility team members particularly the M&E team.

- Experts of the consulting firm will be given access to relevant information necessary for execution of the tasks under this assignment,
- The firm will be responsible for providing working station for the experts it deploys (i.e. laptop, internet, phone, scanner/printer, etc.) and must have access to a reliable internet connection.
- The firm will organize transportation, accommodation and DSA expenses while travelling to the field.

VI. Ethics

This final project evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG⁴ 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation'. The consulting firm must safeguard the rights and confidentiality of information providers, interviewees and stakeholders through measures to ensure compliance with legal and other relevant codes governing collection of data and reporting on data. It must also ensure security of collected information before and after the review and protocols to ensure anonymity and confidentiality of sources of information where that is expected. The information knowledge and data gathered in the evaluation process must also be solely used for the review and not for other uses with the express authorization of MOF and Implementing Partners.

VII. REQUIRED COMPETENCIES

7.1 Firm Level requirements:

⁴ UNEG, 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation', June 2008. Available at <http://www.uneval.org/search/index.jsp?q=ethical+guidelines>.

- The applicant firm should have at least 7 years of relevant experience; should have excellent track record of engagement in climate change program design, implementation, measurement, monitoring and evaluation;
- The firm should submit copy of renewed license and latest audit report;
- It should also present evidence on previous engagement in similar or related assignments;
- The firm should also provide evidence of experts who will conduct the assignment.

7.2 Consultancy team competencies

The firm is expected to have a team leader and four team members

Team Leader:

- Post-graduate qualification in Agricultural Economics, Development Studies, Economics, Resources and Environmental Economics, Agriculture, Gender and Development, Climate Change, Natural Resources Management, Environmental Science and other related disciplines;
- At least 10 years of experience in result based project planning, monitoring and evaluation with extensive experience in climate finance;
- Hands-on experience on climate change and environments management and project evaluation (mid-term, final and impact evaluation experience),
- Demonstrable experience in leading the design and appraisal of complex, inter-disciplinary projects/programs;
- Good inter-personal communication skills;
- Demonstrable experience in environment particularly climate adaptation and mitigation;
- Knowledge of the result framework of the GCF project has an advantage;
- Excellent report writing skills; and
- Proven capability to meet deadlines and work under pressure.

Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

- Masters Degree in Agricultural Economics, Economics, Environmental Economics, Environmental Studies, Development Studies, and related fields of study,
- A minimum of 7 years professional experience in result based monitoring and evaluation of rural development projects/programs,
- Hands-on experience on climate change, environment, and related project management,
- Knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research and data analysis methods and tools
- Experience in conducting project evaluation like mid-term review, final evaluation , impact evaluation of projects/programs
- Demonstrated experience in facilitating stakeholders
- Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written;
- Proven experience in formulation of climate change related projects/programs for multilateral organizations

- Proven capability to meet deadlines and work under pressure;

Forester/NRM Specialist

- Master degree or above in Forestry, Natural resource management, environmental science, or other relevant disciplines
- A minimum of 7 years professional experience in project/program design and management
- Demonstrated experience in sustainable forest management, with good understanding of drivers of deforestation in Ethiopia
- Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written;
- Proven capability to meet deadlines and work under pressure;

Gender and Environmental and Social safeguard Specialist

- A post-graduate degree in Environmental Management, Environmental Science, Gender and development and related discipline;
- 7 years of practical experience in environmental planning and management, environmental and social safeguard assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment;
- Strong track record of conducting environmental/social safeguards studies for significant projects;
- Gender analysis and gender auditing;
- Excellent report writing skills;
- Proven capability to meet deadlines and work under pressure.

Irrigation Specialist

- A post-graduate degree in Irrigation Engineering, Hydrology, and related disciplines;
- A minimum of 7 years of professional experience in designing and management of small and medium scale irrigation schemes;
- Prior experience in irrigation schemes in the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- Ability to draw out design specification and costing of small- and medium-scale irrigation schemes;
- Knowledge of and ability to apply Ethiopian water resources policy, strategy and program development to the design and assessment of irrigation schemes;
- Excellent report writing skills; and
- Proven capability to meet deadlines and work under pressure;
- Adequate experience in formulation of climate change related projects/programs for multilateral organizations.

Language and Other Skills

- The consulting team should have excellent knowledge of English, including the ability to write reports clearly and concisely and to set out a coherent argument in presentation and group interactions
- The consulting firm should also draw team of experts who are excellent in local languages like Amharic, Affan Oromo, and other local languages,
- Computer skills: full command of Microsoft applications (word, excel, PowerPoint) and common internet applications

VIII. CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROPRIETARY INTERESTS

The consulting individuals shall not either during the term or after termination of the assignment, disclose any proprietary or confidential information related to the consultancy service without prior written consent. Proprietary interests on all materials and documents prepared by the consulting firm under the assignments shall become and remain projects/property of the MOF.

X. Application process and timeline

We invite interested firms to submit both Technical and Financial Proposal in two separate envelopes sealed in one submission envelope. The technical proposal should specifically include:

- Proposal describing how the consultant firm meets the selection criteria and their understanding of the ToR;
- Proposed methodology, possible risk and measures to be taken
- Sampling method and sampling size;
- Proposed activities schedule/work plan with time frame.
- Overview of the firm/company competencies
- Two reference letters from recent clients with contact details of the referees
- Roles and responsibilities of the Firm team members
- Copy of CV of each team member who will be involved in the mid-term review

The technical proposal will be weighed at 70% and the financial 30%. Only applications scoring higher than 60% on the technical proposal will be taken into account for the financial proposal.

The financial proposal should detail itemized fees. Financial proposal with clear description of budget items, unit of measurement and quantity, unit rate, total budget, and any applicable tax (not more than 1 page).

Annex 2- Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources of information	Method of data collection
Relevance			
1. To what extent was the project aligned with the CRGE Strategy, GTP-II and the AF Strategic Priorities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level of alignment between the project and the CRGE Strategy and the AF's strategic priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project document and annual plans, National policy documents, plans and strategies; AF strategic priorities; Project implementing and executing staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review Interviews
2. To what extent did the project respond to the climate change adaptation needs and priorities of Ethiopia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level of alignment between the project with the NAP, Ethiopia's mid-term development plan, the CRGE Strategy, NDC and poverty reduction strategy; Level of alignment between the project and local needs and priorities; Level of complementarity between the project and other existing initiatives including the GCF project? Evidence of coordination between relevant ongoing initiatives such as the SLMP, GCF project, REDD+ Investment Program, the national small scale irrigation program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project document, annual plans; National and sub-national development plans; climate change strategies, other environmental agreements; project executing staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review Interviews
3. To what extent did the project go beyond the business as usual development approach to embrace a strong adaptation rationale?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The adaptation rationale of the project; The extent to which the project responds to current and future climate threats and impacts; The degree to which the project addresses the root causes of communities vulnerabilities; The degree to which climate change adaptation is fully and systematically integrated into project activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project document; Annual plans; Mid-term development plan of Ethiopia; Poverty reduction strategy of Ethiopia; CRGE Strategy; NAP Project staff at various levels; climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review Interviews Field visit
Effectiveness			
1. Was the project successful in delivering its outputs and achieving targets as per the project logframe?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and type of outputs delivered against the logframe; Timeliness of output delivery against the work plan Quality of outputs delivered including timeliness and durability; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning documents; Annual work plans; Progress reports; Monitoring reports; Project staff at various levels; Project direct beneficiaries; Direct onsite observations; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review; Interviews; Field visit
2. Did the outputs contribute to the achievement of the project outcomes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and extent of achievement of milestones toward meeting direct outcome indicators Evidence of contribution of the project to direct outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic project monitoring and supervision documents; quarterly and annual work plans; project staff at various levels; Direct observation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review; Interviews; Field visit

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources of information	Method of data collection
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project steering committee meeting minutes; 	
3. Did intended impacts of the project effectively materialized as a result of the project outcomes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and extent of achievement towards meeting impact/objective indicators Evidence and extent of barriers or enabling conditions toward achievement of impact indicators; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic project monitoring and supervision documents; quarterly and annual work plans; project staff at various levels; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review; Interviews; Field visit
4. Did the project generate adverse environmental, social and economic effects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature and likelihood of adverse environmental, social and economic effects from the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct observation Project steering committee meeting minutes; 	
Financial Management			
1. Was the rate of disbursement consistent with the work plan, the length of implementation to date and the outputs delivered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget execution per year, component and output, against total budget; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and reporting reports; CRGE Facility financial reports; Annual audit reports; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews Desk review
2. Did the project comply with financial reporting and/or auditing requirements/schedule, including quality and timeliness of reports?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion and types of financial reporting and/or auditing materials submitted a) correctly and b) on time Quality of financial reporting/auditing materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial reporting/auditing documents (quarterly, annual reports) Financial Officers and project coordinators; AF reporting requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews Desk review
Efficiency			
1. To what extent were the outputs achieved in a cost-effective manner?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level of alignment between planned and incurred implementation costs; Evidence of use of financially sound practices for project execution and management; Quality and timeliness of procurement processes Cost-effectiveness of human resources arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial reporting/auditing documents (quarterly, annual reports) Financial Officer and project coordinators; AF reporting requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews Desk review
2. Did the timing and sequence of activities contribute to or hinder efficiency?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timing and sequence of outputs against work plan; Nature and delays generated by implementation bottlenecks; Number and nature of measures implemented to enhance cost- and time-effectiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual plan; Annual reports; Financial reports; Annual audit; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review; Interviews
Monitoring and Reporting			
1. Was the monitoring plan well-conceived, and sufficient to monitor results and track progress toward achieving project outputs and direct outcomes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of SMART indicators Existence and quality of baseline assessment, logical framework, roles and responsibilities, budget and timeframe, work plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual plan; Baseline report; Monitoring and supervision reports; Project coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review Interviews
2. Was the monitoring plan and framework operational and effective to track results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of budget allocated and utilized for monitoring and supervision; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual plans; Minutes of meetings; Monitoring and supervision reports; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews Desk review Field visit

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources of information	Method of data collection
and progress towards objectives?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequency of monitoring and supervision missions; # of monitoring and supervision reports; Coherence between types of reported results and delivered results on the ground; Coherence between types of progress and activities reported by local stakeholders and the indicators used to assess results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project coordinators and local staff; Periodic project reports 	
3. Did the project comply with the progress documentation and monitoring reporting requirements, schedule, including quality and timeliness of reports?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Types and number of reports; Quality and timeliness of reports; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and supervision reports; Periodic project reports; Project staff and government stakeholders at various levels; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews Desk review
4. What corrective actions were taken in response to monitoring reports?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of management response/changes in project strategy/approach as a direct result monitoring mission reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic project reports; Workshops/Meeting minutes from technical group, steering committee; Project staff at various levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews; esk review
Sustainability			
1. Did the project design and implement an appropriate exit strategy and measures to mitigate risks to sustainability?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existence and quality of a plan to manage financial, socio-economic, institutional, governance and environmental risks Existence and quality of an exit strategy Degree of coherence between actions taken during implementation to avert sustainability risks and prepare project exit, and intended plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project document; Project staff; Executing entities staff at various levels; Project monitoring and supervision reports; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews Desk review Field visit
2. What factors in place enabled or hindered the persistence of achieved direct outcomes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type of arrangements that support or hinder the continuation of project activities or results; Type of political and social conditions affecting the sustainability of direct results; Types and intensity of bio-physical conditions affecting the sustainability of direct results; Level of dependence of achievements on future funding for their sustainability and likely availability of such resources; efforts made to institutionalize some of the project activities into the existing government structures at federal, regional and local levels; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents; Periodic reports; Observations; Consultations with the relevant stakeholders at all levels; Project staff; Monitoring and supervision reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews Desk review Field visit
3. To what extent is replication or upscaling of project activities ongoing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existence and type of contextual factors supporting or hindering replication/upscaling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project document; Annual plans; Periodic reports; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews Desk review Field visit

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources of information	Method of data collection
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples of actions undertaken by the project to support upscaling and replication Evidence of monitoring on the upscaling actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and supervision reports; Consultation with communities; Observation; Project staff at various levels; 	
Cross cutting			
1. Were the stakeholders' communication and consultation mechanisms effective and inclusive of women and youth groups?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and type of stakeholder engagement activities at each stage of the project; Evidence of participation of women and youth groups at various stages of the project; Proportion of male/female project direct beneficiaries; Proportion of women attending meetings, workshops, experience exchange events; Extent of beneficiary needs integrated into project design; Representation of women in the Water-users associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop participants list; Minutes of steering committee and other meetings; Project direct beneficiaries; Field observations; Project staff; Government staff who are members of the steering committee at various levels; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review Interviews Field visit
2. To what extent did the project apply the UN Human rights-based approach, and Strategy for gender Equality and the Environment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level of alignment between project AF Policy and Strategy for gender Equality and the Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project document; Annual plans; Monitoring and supervision reports Planning documents Project staff at various levels; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review Interviews Field visit
3. To what extent did the project design, implementation and monitoring take into account gender inequalities and differentiation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of gender responsive project indicators; Gender action plan; Project beneficiaries selection criteria; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project document; Annual plans; Monitoring and supervision reports; Project staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review Interviews Field visit
4. Did the project effectively communicate lessons and experience with project partners and interested groups?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and quality of knowledge sharing mechanisms put in place; Evidence of existence and use of feedback channels by partners and interested groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge sharing materials; Consultation with the project stakeholders and steering committee members Monitoring and supervision reports; Project staff; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review Interviews Field visit

Annex 3- List of Respondents Matrix

Table 10: Government Stakeholders

Respondent category	Organization	Number
Experts /Officials	CRGE Facility/ Ministry of Finance	
Experts /Officials	Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)	
Experts /Officials	Ministry of Water and Energy	
Experts /Officials	Woreda office of irrigation, land, and forest, and water supply	
Regional/Woreda	Project Coordinators	
Regional level experts	Regional bureaus of irrigation, finance, water resource management, forest and land administration	

Table 11: Number of farmers for interviews and focus group discussions

Region	Woreda	Number by sex
Oromia	Aleltu	7 male and 4 female
Sidama	Loka Abaya	7 male and 3 female
Harari	Sofi	6 male and 6 females
Dire Dawa	Wahil Cluster	5 male and 3 female

Annex 4- List of Documents Consulted

The following documents were consulted during the main evaluation phase:

- Project document;
- Agreement document between AF and Ministry of Finance;
- Baseline Study;
- MOU between Ministry of Finance and project Executing Entities (MOA and MOWE);
- Annual plans;
- Quarter reports;
- Monitoring and Evaluation Plan;
- Monitoring and supervision mission reports;
- Minutes of Project Steering Committees at regional and Wroeda levels;
- Audit report;
- Project Completion report;
- Annual progress reports submitted to the Adaptation fund;
- Training agendas and participant lists;
- Project communications materials including documentary;
- High-level project budget (costs);
- Detailed project budget (i.e. by result);
- No-cost extension request;
- Cash advance requests documenting disbursements;
- Fund disbursement request letters;
- Funds Transfer documents;