

SDG: #3 #5 #6 #10 #13

COUNTRIES: Ethiopia

VALUE: €7,447,926

DURATION: October 2021 to February 2025



Strengthening Climate Resilient Systems for Sustainable Delivery of SCRS-WaSH: Technical Assistance Project

The United Kingdom is the lead bilateral donor in the Water Sanitation and Hygiene sector in Ethiopia. Through this support, the UK assists the Climate Resilient pillar of the Government of Ethiopia's flagship One WaSH National Programme (OWNP) through the Strengthening Climate Resilience Systems in Water Sanitation Hygiene (SCRS-WaSH) programme (2019 – 2026) in prioritised drought affected areas.

Objectives

The Project supports three levels of beneficiaries: federal level, regional level, and facility level, across 13 regions in Ethiopia. Key project objectives include:

1. Strengthening management systems of water supply systems in 30 rural multi-village schemes in drought-prone areas to transition them into sustainable business models and integrating climate resilience strategies into existing and new water supply schemes;
2. Establishing systems for post-construction maintenance and spare part supply to improve non-functionality of multi-village schemes and create job opportunities by supporting women

Under the SCRS WaSH programme, NIRAS is implementing the rural-focused Technical Assistance Project to strengthen climate-resilient delivery systems to amplify the impact of financial aid that has been provided to the OOWNP. The TA component is led by NIRAS in consortium with Water Aid.

- and youth-led Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) for post-construction maintenance management and spare parts supply;
3. Formulating a National WaSH Financing Strategy with an emphasis on domestic resource mobilisation;
4. Piloting innovative private sector supplies with an emphasis on effective Menstrual Hygiene Management products, in order to address the challenge of "period poverty" at targeted programme schools; and
5. Sharing learning to inform the Government of Ethiopia's policies and the next phase of the OOWNP.

Climate resilience and gender and social inclusion are themes that cut across all project activities. The SCRS-WaSH project team is collaborating with the Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE), particularly the Water Supply and Sanitation Infrastructure Management Directorate and Water Supply Study, Design and Construction Monitoring Directorate, and the Ministries of Health (MoH), Education (MoE); Finance (MoF), Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Job creation, and their respective Regional Bureaus in the intervention regions.

Project Achievements

Strengthening Management systems of rural multi-village water supply schemes



Figure 1: Source Catchment protection work at Ebo MVS, Raya Azebo woreda, Tigray Regional State

Diagnostic assessments and Business Plans have been developed for all 30 rural multi-village water supply schemes and major improvements in their operations and management have been achieved. The project team is working mostly with MoWE departments, respective regional bureaus and locally with the schemes directly to diagnose strengths, weaknesses, gaps and bottlenecks and develop and implement plans for improvements in their operations:

Technical and Managerial Trainings provided to 683 utility board members and staff on topics such as utility management & board functions, water tariff setting, electro-mechanical O&M, financial management, GIS mapping of the schemes, asset management and maintenance and non-revenue water reduction etc.

Customised training is provided to develop and implement Business Plans, including capacitating rural schemes with essential tools and equipment and on-the-job training.

Major improvements in the performance of all 30 MVSs operations have been achieved across the six MVS utilities system strengthening pillars (i.e. policy implementation, strategy and management, human resources, financial management, technical operations, and commercial operations).

Climate Resilient Water Safety Planning



Drainage system construction at Derara Gorbe booster station, Awada Boricha Utility, Sidama Region

To improve the climate resilience of water resources in drought-prone areas targeted by the project, Climate Resilient Water Safety Plans (CR WSPs) have been prepared in collaboration with government, utilities and community stakeholders. These assess the implications of current and anticipated climate change impacts and environment induced risks to the safety and security of drinking water from catchment to point of consumption by identifying hazards and level of risks that affect adequacy, quality and sustainability of water supply service delivery. CRWSPs have been prepared and validated to date for 29 utilities (one utility could not be accessed due to insecurity) to ensure water security and sustainability of service delivery.

Training and workshops on CR WSPs have also been organised for a total of 252 government experts and technical and management personnel of target utilities with Joint field work conducted to transfer practical knowledge. Regional and woreda government stakeholders and utilities have been made increasingly aware of climate change and environment-induced risks posed to the water supply. Improved structural designs have been introduced to address flood risks on schemes infrastructure.

CR WSP implementation by the local governments and utilities has been very encouraging, with tangible improvements observed in flood protection and source catchment rehabilitation and protection.

SCRS-WaSH has brought the development of these plans to a new level by incorporating advanced tools such as the use of GIS technology and satellite imagery for source catchment delineation, resource mapping, current land use mapping and analysis, geolocating water supply system components and risk areas, including erosion and flood hazard mapping, as well as overlay analysis to identify risks to water source and infrastructure. Source catchment hydrogeology and aquifer assessment formed a key part of the water source security risk analysis, since different aquifers respond differently to the impact of climate change. Integration of Climate information - both historical and projected - is essential for adaptation planning. Therefore, SCRS-WaSH also introduced Climate Analysis as key part of the CR WSP process with Global Circulation Models (GCM) projections downscaled for the target source catchments



Jeldessa woreda MSE, Dire Dawa

Establishing and capacitating women and youth-led MSEs for maintenance and spare parts

NIRAS has supported these groups to be organised as MSEs for the provision of maintenance services and spare parts supplies to water supply facilities:

- To date, all 30 women-led MSEs have been set up and trained, comprising 353 people: 220 female (62%) and 133 male (38%).
- Support to the preparation and implementation of Business Plans, including marketing strategies, creating linkages with market outlets, demand creation and the provision of maintenance tools and fast-moving spare parts to support start-up businesses.
- Over 60 technical and vocational education trainers from RWEB and other experts have been provided with Training of Trainers (ToT).
- Twelve regional bureaus have provided working premises for the MSEs and training apprenticeships delivered in collaboration with water utilities and woreda offices to maintain water infrastructure systems.

Development of a WaSH Finance Strategy

The project team has spearheaded the development of Ethiopia's first draft National WaSH Finance Strategy, leveraging international experience, key informant interviews and quantitative financial analysis. The Strategy aims to maximise domestic resource mobilisation for the WASH sector, identify a range of domestic finance options and estimate their revenue potential to unlock financial pathways for sustainable WaSH. Following a validation workshop in November 2023, the draft strategy has been reviewed by the MoF and the MoWE. The final strategy was submitted to both the MoF and MoWE by August 2024 to mobilise resources effectively for Ethiopia's WASH sector.

Addressing period poverty to keep girls in school

With the overall goal of improving girls' school attendance and educational performance, the SCRS-WaSH team has provided reusable menstrual hygiene kits, together with underwear, to 35,000 school girls across 150 schools. In addition to making MH products more accessible, the project printed behavioural change materials that were shared with the schools to create awareness and break down taboos. These are targeted at boys and girls, as well as teachers and parents. ToT has been completed for Gender Club leads and School Directors in Afar, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Dire Dawa, Gambella, Harari, Oromia, Sidama, the former SNNPR, Somali and Tigray. This has cascaded down to enhance awareness, ownership, and sustainability of these gains among the community.





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