

Information Sheet

Household water economy assessment



Research-inspired Policy and Practice Learning in Ethiopia and the Nile Region (RiPPLE) is a DFID-funded Research Programme Consortium hosted by WaterAid Ethiopia

RiPPLE Information sheets introduce an aspect of RiPPLE, related issues and references to further resources.

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Overview

A central objective Growth Long-term Action Research Studies (LARS) in Ethiopia's Oromia region focuses on assessing opportunities for, and challenges to, building resilience of communities and households vulnerable to climate change related hazards, with the broader objective of informing government and agency planning and implementation on climate change policy, planning, and response.

Identifying appropriate water sector policies that aim to mitigate climate change related hazards and build resilience of at-risk populations requires an analytical framework with the capacity to identify which areas are vulnerable to specific hazards, and within those areas, which groups are vulnerable – when, why, and to what extent.

Study approach

The central objective of the HWEA component of the Growth LARS is to provide an information system and analytical tools to assess water access of different wealth groups at household level within different livelihood zones. The information system developed through the HWEA will be both predictive and prescriptive. The study hopes to

1. Assess baseline household access to water for various water uses (domestic and productive) across wealth groups in a transect of livelihood zones (LZ) from highland to lowland (Wheat, Barley & Potato LZ; Sorghum, Maize & Chat LZ; and Shinile Agro-Pastoral LZ) with a focus on assessing how differential access to water affects livelihoods security and potential for resilience in different livelihood zones.
2. Drawing on groundwater availability mapping undertaken by BGS, assess how the groundwater resource base currently affects the opportunities for household water security in each LZ and how the resource base might affect opportunities for water-based adaptation measures in the future.
3. Assess likely impacts of climate change-related geophysical shocks and hazards (e.g. increased incidence and intensity of drought or higher intensity of rainfall) on household access to water and on livelihood security to better identify the most vulnerable groups and geographic areas.
4. Assess likely impacts of climate change adaptation schemes on different households in each LZ.

Methodology

Methodological components of the baseline data collection include: livelihood zoning; key informant interviews at woreda and community/kebele association (KA) level; focus group interviews with wealth group representatives in each KA and hydrogeology/water source site visits – in each KA – to assess local water availability.

Groundwater availability mapping, developed by the British Geological Survey (BGS) at a national level, is expected to be completed for the livelihood zones. It will contribute to the identification of areas most vulnerable to drought, as well as identify types of water-based interventions that are possible and appropriate for specific areas. Scenario Analysis will also take place alongside RiPPLE's income diversification and climate change teams to project likely impact of CC on household access to water, food and income.

Study outputs and links to action

Outputs will include water economy baselines for each livelihood zone, modelling projections, and related written reports and recommendations.

Capacity of woreda water officials, built through their participation in data collection and analysis teams, is expected to provide a strong foundation for continuation and use of the information. On a broader scale, the findings and recommendations resulting from the study are expected to inform government and agency planning and implementation on climate change policy, planning and response, in particular as these are pursued through the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) for climate change in Ethiopia.