

Information Sheet

Frequently Asked Questions about RiPPLE

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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What is RiPPLE?

Many people ask the question: “What is RiPPLE?” Is it an NGO? A research organisation? Something to do with government? In fact it is not one or the other.

RiPPLE is a 5-year programme, legally registered in Ethiopia as a project of WaterAid-Ethiopia. It is funded by DFID (UK’s Department for International Development) and it is led by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), UK with a consortium formed of 3 other partners.

These are one NGO – WaterAid-Ethiopia (WAE)– and two other research institutes Institute for Development Research (IDR), Addis Ababa University; and the International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC), in the Netherlands.

Working with the four main partners are many network partners. These include the Regional Water Bureaux of the focus regions, the Federal Water Ministry Research and Development Department, the Faculty of Journalism and Communications at Addis Ababa University and a variety of international research, consultancy and technology organisations.

How does RiPPLE’s research link with implementation?

RiPPLE’s research method is Action Research – working jointly with stakeholders to test new approaches and learn from their experience. Therefore it works very closely with existing implementers in the water and sanitation sector. RiPPLE itself does not implement water and sanitation schemes, but works in partnership with those who do (Government, donors, NGOs and private institutions like World Bank Woreda Support Groups), and aims to learn from their work. RiPPLE’s research findings are intended to help implementers, as well as policymakers, planners and donors, to improve services for the rural community.



Sanitation research team meets the health office in Mirab Abaya Woreda, SNNPR

How does RiPPLE work in the regions and woredas?

RiPPLE is working in three regions of Ethiopia: Benishangul-Gumuz, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) and Oromia. Within each region, RiPPLE is currently focusing on two woredas which have been agreed with the regional government. In future years it will engage more widely within the Nile Region and share lesson-learning throughout the region.

RiPPLE’s main office is in Addis Ababa, with regional offices in Assosa, Awassa and Harar. The LPA platforms (see Infosheet on LPAs) in each region and at each level will communicate and share experiences, particularly seeking to support scaling up of local initiatives and findings.

For practical reasons it was not possible to begin work on all themes in all regions at once. The findings of initial scoping studies in the three regions resulted in the different research themes and components of RiPPLE beginning their work in different regions. Initially, the Growth theme is working in Oromia (focusing on East Harerge), the Finance and Mapping themes in Benishangul-Gumuz, and the Governance and Planning theme and Sanitation component in SNNPR. In the longer term, all the themes will work across all three regions in an integrated way.

For more information on the regions and woredas where RiPPLE is working, see the Infosheet on woreda selection.