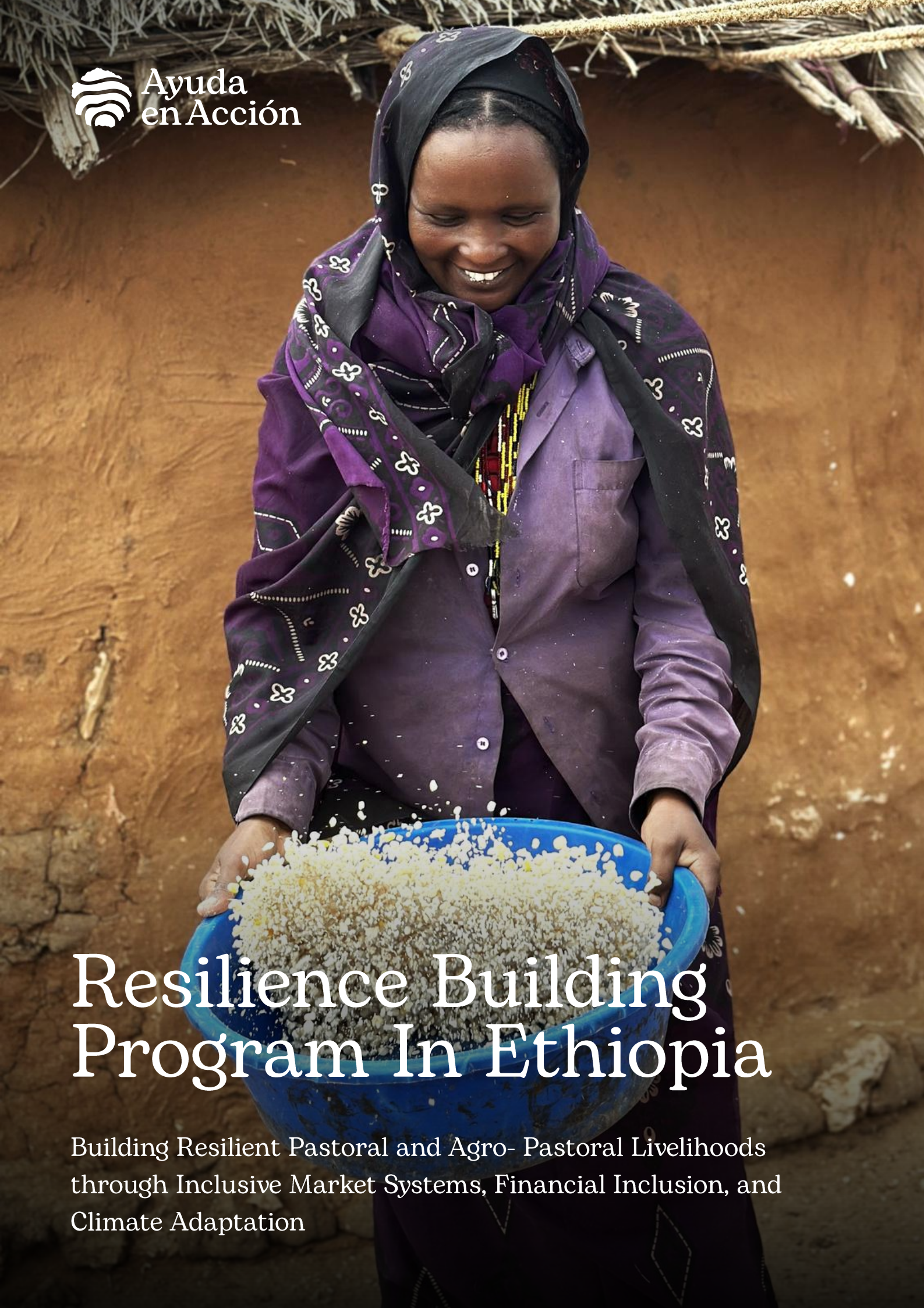


Ayuda en Acción

Resilience Building Program In Ethiopia

Building Resilient Pastoral and Agro- Pastoral Livelihoods through Inclusive Market Systems, Financial Inclusion, and Climate Adaptation

Resilience Building Program Overview

Building on 8 years of continuous impact since establishing our independent country program in 2018, Ayuda en Acción bridges immediate humanitarian aid with long-term climate resilience in Ethiopia's drought-prone Regions. Having successfully implemented over 12 multi-donor funded projects, our current Resilience Building Program (2023–2026), funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and Italian Devlopement Agency (AICS), and co-funded by Ayuda en Acción reaches over 34,998 households. Applying an innovative and inclusive Market Systems Resilience Framework, we strengthen livestock value chains, expand financial inclusion, enhance rangeland governance, and unlock economic pathways for women and youth, morninga and holticulture value chain while leveraging digital tools and local government partnerships to build shock-resistant, self-reliant pastoral communities.



"We were trained, equipped with essential veterinary supplies, and linked with private drug suppliers, making treatments affordable and boosting livestock health across our community."

Community Animal Health Worker
Luben Dabassa

Key achievement (2023-2026)

Jointly supported by AICS and AECID, the program provided emergency food assistance and protected pastoral livestock through expanded water and veterinary services. It accelerated local economic recovery and gender equality by advancing financial inclusion for women, funding women-led cooperatives, diversifying livelihoods, and deploying climate early warning systems tailored to female producers.



81,450
EURO LOAN DISTRIBUTED FOR UNION

5,887
HOUSEHOLDS PROTECTED THEIR LIVESTOCK AGAINST CLIMATE-INDUCED DROUGHT

7,144
PEOPLE ACCESSED FINANCIAL INCLUSION

15
COOPERATIVES IMPROVED COMPETITIVENESS AND GOVERNANCE

11,617
HOUSEHOLDS ACCESSED LIVESTOCK HEALTH SERVICES

4,988
HOUSEHOLDS DIVERSIFIED LIVELIHOOD SOURCES

7,577
PEOPLE ACCESSED CLIMATE INFORMATION

39,000
PASTORALISTS & AGRO-PASTORALISTS ACCESSED WATER FOR THEIR LIVESTOCK

6,467
HOUSEHOLDS MEET HUMANITARIAN FOOD & OTHER BASIC NEEDS

Total beneficiaries

94,764
LOAN DISTRIBUTED FOR UNION

15,794
HOUSEHOLDS

Climate Resilience through Moringa Innovation

Why Moringa?

Long Ignored a backyard crop despite feeding over five million people, Ethiopia's native Moringa stenopetala (Shifera) is finally moving from the margins of agriculture to center stage. Integrated initiatives are now transforming this drought-resilient, nutrient-rich "miracle tree" into a regional pillar for food security , commercial crops/ commedity and climate resilience.

Objective

To tackle food insecurity, environmental degradation, and rural poverty across Wolaita, Gamo, Konso, and Derashe zones by scaling Moringa as a climate-resilient anchor crop—transforming local food systems, building climate resilience, and creating green jobs.

Global Alliances & Participatory Implementation

The program bridges grassroots community ownership with international excellence. Ground-level implementation is led in close collaboration with regional bureaus, research institute and south Ethiopia Agro industrial park cooperation to ensure sustainability, while regulatory compliance is anchored with the Ethiopian Standards Authority and Arba Minch University for technology development and research, , and food safety standards. On the global stage, **QOMER**- spain based private sector in product and bio-ingredient development, Poly-technic university of Madrid **(FUCOVASA)** in production research and processing technology and Ayuda en Acción to lead moringa market systems and multi-stakeholder governance—connecting Ethiopian smallholders connnecting SME and coopratives to domostic and international market.

Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP)

Co-led by the Regional Bureau of Agriculture with Ayuda en Acción serving as Secretariat, the Regional Moringa, Avocado, and Mango Platform unites over 40 partners across government, the private sector, UN agencies, and academia. The platform bridges research with policy, working directly with the Ministry of Agriculture to standardize national moringa holestic/ agronomic manuals and extension packages while unlocking private-sector finance, organic inputs, and structured market linkages for SMEs and cooperatives.



Gender equality & women's economic empowerment

The resilience program in Southern Ethiopia places women at the core of agricultural transformation, empowering over 14,400 women across Wolaita, Gamo, Konso, and Derashe. By integrating female producers into cooperative leadership, eco-friendly processing, and certified organic production (GAP/GMP), the initiative elevates women from backyard subsistence to commercial enterprise—positioning them as qualified suppliers for high-value domestic and international markets.



Project impact

28,300+
TOTAL IMPACTED BENEFICIARIES
(14,400+ WOMEN)

90 Ha
MORINGA COMMERCIAL COOPERATIVE
OWNED BY FARMERS

19,000+
DIRECT PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

3,500
FARMERS TRAINED IN GAP , RECIVED
IMPROVED MORINGA & ORGANIC STANDARDS

19,027 Direct Project Beneficiaries
2,000+ Households supplied with certified, high-yield seedlings
5,000+ Community members reached through nutrition and culinary campaigns
9 SMEs & 3 Cooperatives equipped with green processing infrastructure (oil & powder)
5,000+ community members benefited from food preparation demonstrations and awareness sessions on healthy nutrition



Pillar 1

Competitiveness and Governance of Cooperatives

Pastoralists and agro-pastoralists are increasingly integrated into inclusive and competitive livestock market systems through strengthened cooperatives, improved access to finance, enhanced partnerships, and inclusive governance mechanisms.

Empowering Pastoralists and Agro-Pastoralists through Inclusive Livestock Market Systems

Inclusive Leadership

40% increase in women's participation in cooperative leadership structures, strengthening the decision-making role and voice of women and youth across market systems.

Institutional & Business Capacity

2 Unions and 13 Multi-Purpose Cooperatives strengthened through upgraded governance, financial management, business planning, & improved commercial readiness for collective livestock marketing.

Partnerships & Market Linkages

Strategic B2B linkages forged with banks, government agencies, livestock buyers & private actors, securing access to livestock waiting centers, market infrastructure, & formal higher-value markets.
Access secured to livestock waiting centers and market infrastructure.

Financial Inclusion & Literacy

Expanded access to tailored savings, credit, and financial services for cooperative members alongside targeted financial literacy and strengthening access for women business management training.

Value Chain Participation & Resilience

Pastoral communities positioned within higher-value livestock chains, unlocking income diversification opportunities and building household and institutional resilience against climate and gender equality as well as, inclusiveness market shocks.



Pillar 2

Building Resilient Livestock Production Systems

By strengthening local cooperatives, opening access to inclusive financial tools, building strategic market linkages, and prioritizing inclusive women leadership, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists are successfully transitioning into inclusive , resilient livestock market systems.

11,617 HHs

Improved Livestock Health Services

Supported through strengthened veterinary systems, expanded animal health services, and increased availability of vital inputs and advisory support—backed by enhanced technical capacities of animal health workers and extension agents.

39,000

Livestock Got Access Water Accessed strategic livestock water resources, rehabilitated grazing lands, and strengthened community rangeland management for collective drought preparedness.

5887 HHs

IBLI Insurance Coverage

Protected their livestock against drought risks through Index-Based Livestock Insurance (IBLI)

1,141 ha

Rangeland rehabilitation/ restored hectares of land.







By combining **dryland research, climate-smart technologies**, and **strengthened extension services**, pastoral communities built long-term livelihood resilience—improving livestock productivity, optimizing natural resource decisions, and empowering local institutions to anticipate and recover from climate shocks.

For pastorlist & agropastoralist community

AeA resiliance frame work

How do we define resilience?

Resilience is the ability of people, communities, or systems to withstand, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses while maintaining essential functions.

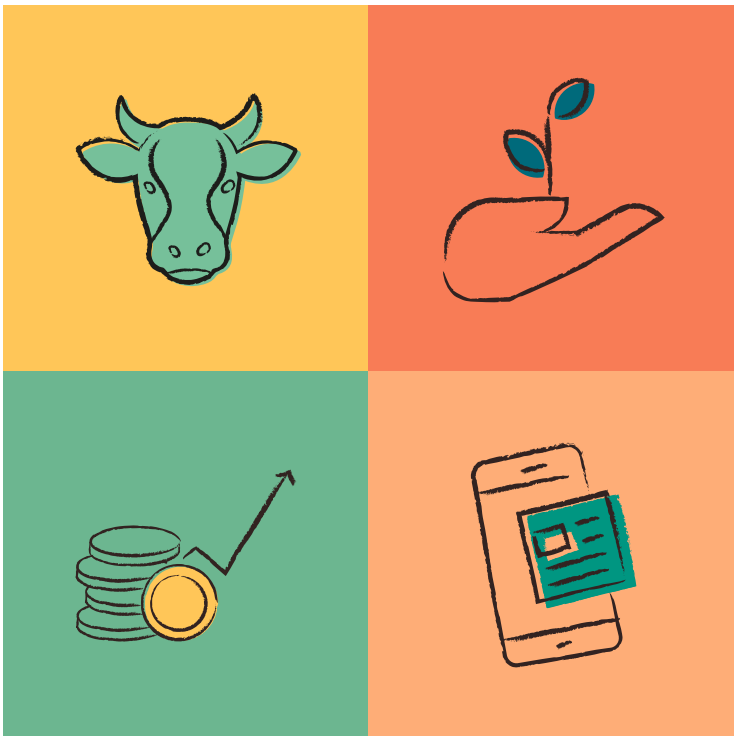
How do we implement support?

We implement support by strengthening market infrastructure and finance, delivering livestock health and rangeland services, expanding SACCOs and drought-tolerant farming, and rolling out digital pastoral information systems.

Result Reduce livestock mortality, climate smart production and Sustainable natural resource governance

Result Reduce Vulnarablity , expand income oportunities and sustanable livelihood pathway

Pillar Two
Resilient Livestock Production Systems



Pillar Three
Adaptive Capacities & Livelihood Diviersification

Pillar One
Commpitativeness & Inclusive Livestock Market

Pillar Four
System and Institution

Result improve market access, diversifies income and became compiataive actors

Result Improve preparedness, Enhance coordination and strong institutions capable of leading



Photo credit| Mhiret Wasihun

Pillar 2

Building Resilient Livestock Production Systems

Skills Development and Capacity Building

Delivered vocational, technical, and business skills training for women, youth, and community groups.
Enhanced employability and self-employment opportunities.
Strengthened leadership, financial literacy, and enterprise management capacities.
Improved capacity of local institutions to support livelihood development initiatives.

Household Resilience Strengthened

Improved capacity of households to cope with economic and climate-related shocks.
Enhanced self-reliance and sustainable livelihood opportunities.
Strengthened food security and income stability among pastoral and agro-pastoral communities.

Women and Youth Economic Empowerment

Expanded economic opportunities for women and youth through income-generating activities.
Strengthened entrepreneurship and business development skills.
Increased participation of women and youth in local markets and livelihood enterprises.
Enhanced decision-making power and economic independence of vulnerable groups.

Income Diversification

Promoted alternative and complementary livelihood options beyond livestock production.
Supported small businesses, microenterprises, and value-added economic activities.
Reduced dependence on climate-sensitive livelihoods.
Increased household income sources and economic resilience.

Climate-Resilient Crop Production

Introduced and promoted drought-tolerant crop varieties.
Strengthened climate-smart agricultural practices among agro-pastoral households.
Improved food production, nutrition, and household food security.
Enhanced adaptation to recurrent drought and changing climatic conditions.

Strengthened Enterprises & SACCOs

Improved institutional and managerial capacities of enterprises and Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs).
Enhanced financial management, governance, and service delivery systems.
Increased access to savings, credit, and investment opportunities. Strengthened enterprise sustainability and business growth.

Pillar 4

System and Institutional Strengthening

Build resilient pastoral systems by scaling digital tools, establishing multi-stakeholder coordination platforms, and advancing community- based disaster risk management mechanism. This work enhances government capacity, strengthens regional extension networks, and optimizes data-driven planning through centralized information hubs. in this way local institutions are empowered and prepared for responding and sustainably leading climate and market adaptation.



Photo credit | Mhiret Wasihun

1

Digital Solutions & Information Systems

Scaling digital tools, market platforms, and centralized Pastoral Information Hubs for real-time data collection and evidence-based planning.

2

Disaster Risk Management & Preparedness

Advancing Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) to strengthen early warning networks, contingency planning, and emergency response.

3

Extension Systems & Technical Training

Upgrading extension service delivery and delivering technical training to government staff, community leaders, and field agents.

4

Governance & Institutional Capacity

Enhancing the capacity of local government offices to effectively plan, coordinate, and deliver essential pastoral development services.

5

Regional Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration

Establishing regional platforms to unite government, private-sector actors, research institutions, and communities for joint planning.

6

Resilient Coordination & Policy Engagement

Strengthening sector-wide coordination, institutional dialogue, and policy integration to foster long-term local ownership.

Cross-cutting approaches, inclusive livelihood & enablers

Six core enablers underpin our four pillars to drive sustainable resilience:

- Multi-stakeholder partnerships, expanded financial inclusion,
- Women and youth leadership
- Digital innovation
- Climate-smart adaptation
- Evidence-driven learning.



Overall Resilience Impact Statement

Pastoral and agro-pastoral households, institutions, and market systems are better equipped to anticipate, withstand, adapt to, and recover from climate, economic, and social shocks. By integrating competitive livestock market systems, resilient production, diversified household livelihoods, and strengthened local institutions, the program delivers long-term, sustainable livelihood improvements across the region.

Strengthening accountability trough CFRM

Ayuda en Acción Ethiopia applies a participatory MEAL approach to track progress, measure results, strengthen accountability, and use evidence for continuous improvement. The system supports effective planning, implementation, evaluation, and learning across project and programme levels.

Monitoring

Regular field monitoring and joint supervision with implementing partners and government stakeholders.

Monthly and quarterly review meetings with consortium and other partners held to track progress against targets, identify challenges, and agree on corrective actions.

Digital data collection and monitoring tools are used, including KoboToolbox, to improve the quality and reliability of evidence.

Community feedback and response mechanism

CFRM established to strengthen accountability, transparency, & community engagement. Accessible channels, including the toll-free hotline (6824), suggestion boxes, kebele-level CFRM committees, and face-to-face dialogue, enabled beneficiaries to provide feedback, raise concerns, submit complaints, and seek information. The mechanism supported timely responses, improved project implementation, and strengthened community trust, ownership, and accountability

The interventions used baseline, monitoring, assessment, and evaluation tools to generate evidence, measure results and changes, and inform decision-making. Key tools included baseline/endline surveys, post distribution monitoring, geospatial assessments, outcome assessments, and beneficiary feedback mechanisms.

Lessons learned

Institutional Capacity & Financial Inclusion

Lesson Technical training for pastoral cooperatives yields limited commercial growth unless accompanied by formal financial integration.

Application Combining business management training with credit guarantee mechanisms (such as the Awash Bank risk-sharing model) successfully unlocked commercial loans, enabling cooperatives to scale livestock trading and fodder operations sustainably.

Climate Resilience & Indigenous Knowledge

Lesson Early warning systems and climate adaptation initiatives achieve higher community adoption when traditional mechanisms are integrated with modern tools.

Application Blending indigenous seasonal forecasting with digital Pastoral Information Centers and Index-Based Livestock Insurance (IBLI) strengthened community trust, decision-making, and disaster preparedness.

Gender Mainstreaming & Inclusive Leadership

Lesson Overcoming socio-cultural barriers to women's leadership in cooperative governance requires structured community dialogue alongside targeted skills training.

Application Pairing gender-responsive leadership training with open community dialogues created measurable shifts in local attitudes, resulting in increased female representation in decision-making roles.

Adaptive Management & Multi-Stakeholder Coordination

Lesson Multi-partner development projects require continuous, structured coordination platforms to prevent operational delays and align priorities.

Application Establishing joint field monitoring and quarterly multi-stakeholder review meetings enabled early bottleneck identification, streamlined partner alignment, and enhanced overall donor accountability.

Photo credit Project Filed Team



AECID is develpement agency that works to promote health , gender equality and rural devlopment and responses to climate change in Ethiopia.

AICS is Italy's development agency managing humanitarian aid and devlopement It finances strategic initiatives targeting rural development, water access, basic service delivery, and institutional capacity for pastoral communities.

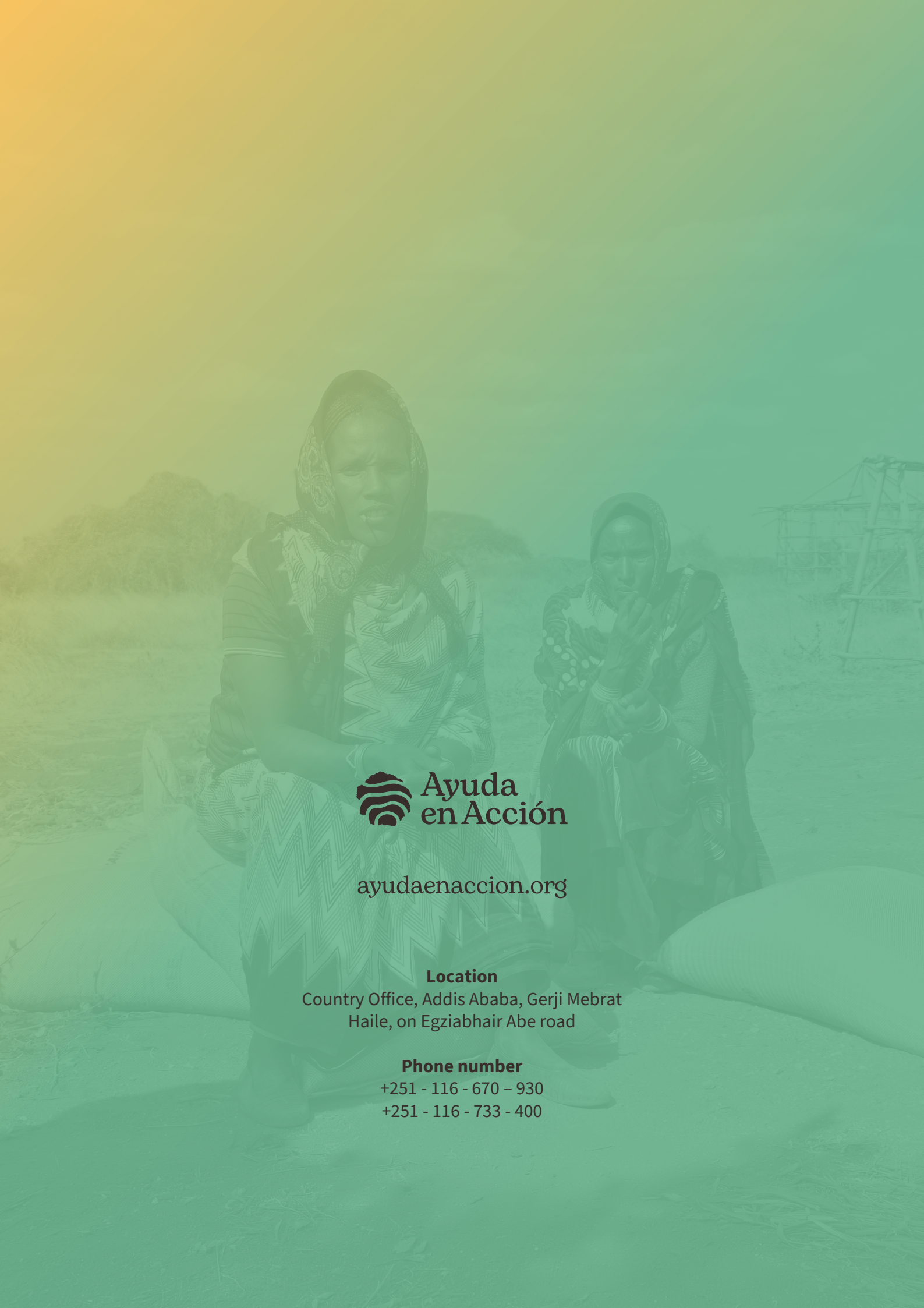
Ayuda en Acción is an international development organization. It executes strategic initiatives targeting market development, financial inclusion, climate-resilient enterprises, and institutional capacity for vulnerable communities.

CESVI is an international humanitarian organization. It executes strategic initiatives targeting climate-smart agriculture, disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action, and community capacity building for vulnerable pastoralists.

CIFA is an local non-governmental development organization. It executes strategic initiatives targeting rangeland management, animal health services, dryland fodder systems, and local capacity for pastoral communities.

ILRI is a global agricultural research center. It executes strategic initiatives targeting livestock market resilience, climate insurance, innovative production tools, and evidence-based policy for pastoral communities.

Alliance2015 is a strategic network of European development NGOs, including Ayuda en Acción and CESVI. It executes joint initiatives targeting emergency preparedness, climate resilience, food security, and poverty reduction for vulnerable communities.



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