




ETHIOPIA

EARLY WARNING – EARLY ACTION



LEAP- Livelihoods, Early Assessment and Protection

Innovative Climate Risk
Management for Food Security | May 2012

Partnership between the World Food Programme and the Government of Ethiopia

From Managing Disasters to Managing Risk

Natural disasters are leading causes of hunger and affect all dimensions of food security including economic and physical access to food, availability and stability of supplies, and nutrition. In Africa alone, 650 million people are dependent on rain-fed agriculture in marginal environments that are affected by water scarcity and land degradation. These areas face high levels of weather and climate risk associated with recurring droughts and floods, making these areas the most affected by food insecurity.

Climate change will exacerbate existing threats to food security and nutrition through a combination of factors including gradual environmental degradation and intensified extreme weather events. Projections suggest that the number of people at risk of hunger could increase by up to 20 percent by 2050 due to the adverse impacts of climate change.

In collaboration with partners, the Government of Ethiopia and the World Food Programme (WFP) are developing an integrated risk management tool to help manage the risks to food security posed by climate hazards.

LEAP - Climate Risk Management in Ethiopia

Ethiopia is particularly vulnerable to drought and flood risks whose pattern, intensity and frequency will change in a changing climate. To address the challenge of coping with the adverse impact of climate change on food security, the Government of Ethiopia launched a comprehensive National Food Security Programme (NFSP) in 2004 and established the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP).

LEAP Food Security Early Warning Tool

The LEAP food security early warning tool converts agro-meteorological data into crop or rangeland production estimates and quantifies the financial resources needed to scale up the Productive Safety Net Programme in case of a major drought.

LEAP provides a transparent and verifiable way to trigger contingent funds to enable an early response before the most severe consequences of drought affect people's lives and livelihoods.

The meteorological information used in LEAP comes from satellite data and a network of automated and conventional weather stations. To improve the quality and availability of this data, the LEAP project is investing in the national meteorological infrastructure through the installation of automated weather stations (37 have been installed, 20 more will be provided in 2012).

During LEAP's second phase (2011-2013), the Government and WFP, in partnership with international universities and research institutes, will refine and finalise the system and look at how to support other countries interested in a similar system.



The PSNP is part of the Government of Ethiopia's NFSP which aims to shift millions of chronically food-insecure rural people from recurrent emergency food aid to a more secure and predictable form of social protection that can help propel people out of hunger and poverty.

This programme prevents vulnerable households from selling livelihood assets in times of crisis and promotes community disaster risk reduction activities in the form of public works, using food and cash as payment.

As part of the NFSP, the Government of Ethiopia partnered with WFP and the World Bank to improve its capacity to manage drought and flood risk by developing an integrated national risk management framework through the LEAP project. The LEAP project supports the national risk finance and management frameworks by linking early warning, contingency planning and capacity building to a US\$160 million contingency fund.

National Solutions for Climate Risk Management

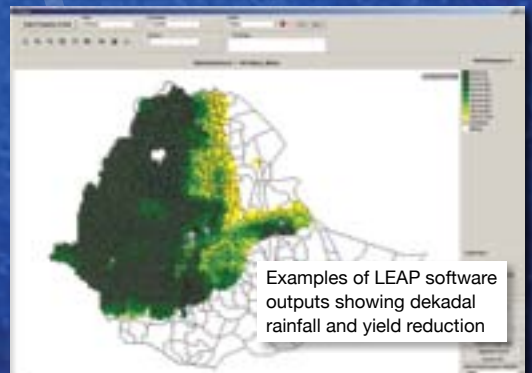
LEAP is an excellent example of how WFP supports governments to develop climate risk management frameworks that integrate risk transfer mechanisms, such as weather index insurance, into traditional risk management and social protection schemes. The combination of these approaches improves the effectiveness of safety net programmes and reduces the negative impact of climate disasters on the most vulnerable people. The capacity of governments to prepare for disasters is also strengthened through effective integration of contingency planning and early warning systems with contingent finance and risk transfer tools that ensure resources are available when needed.

These risk management strategies represent a shift from traditional disaster response to

more cost effective disaster risk management approaches. WFP and Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) have also provided significant capacity building support training more than 100 experts representing various government agencies, NGOs, private sector and UN agencies in 2011 only.

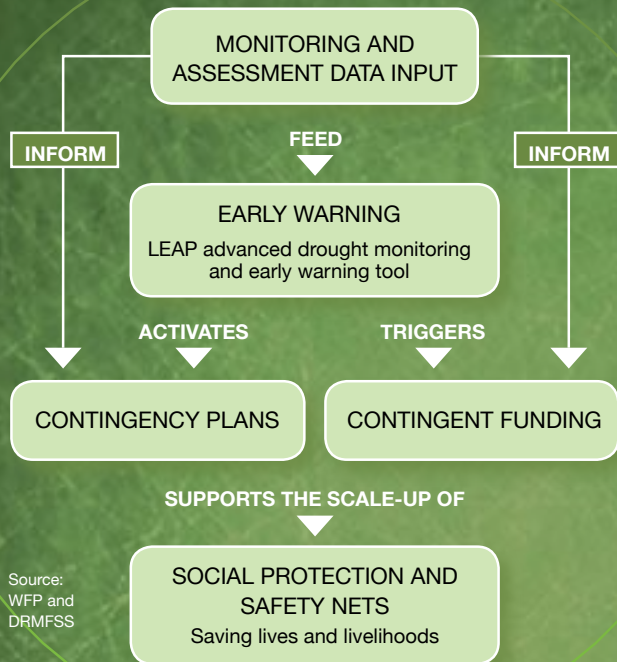
Setting Standards in Supporting National Climate Risk Management

Building on the success of LEAP, WFP is committed to continue providing support to build comprehensive risk management frameworks that address food insecurity in a more cost-effective manner. Working closely with governments and partners, WFP can help tailor interventions that provide more sustainable solutions and enhance local risk management programmes and capacities, including safety nets and livelihood protection schemes.



Examples of LEAP software outputs showing dekadal rainfall and yield reduction

Climate Risk Management Mechanism



“LEAP is an innovative tool that has been instrumental in strengthening Ethiopia’s early warning and response system.”

H.E. Ato Mitiku Kassa, State Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Disaster Risk Management & Food Security Sector, Ethiopia

“The LEAP Software has greatly helped us in improving our capacity in providing timely and objective based early warning information to our users.”

Ato Dula Shanko, Director General Meteorological Agency, Ethiopia

Source:
WFP and
DRMFSS

The World Food Programme is the world’s largest humanitarian organization fighting hunger worldwide, providing assistance to about 100 million of the most vulnerable people. As a result, WFP has one of the deepest pools of technical expertise of any organization globally in food security-related disaster risk reduction, ranging from food security early warning, climate experts, vulnerability analysis, and emergency response and recovery, to resilience building. WFP and its partners implemented activities to address disaster risk in 65 of the 81 countries where WFP operated in 2011.

DRMFSS is the nodal agency of the Government of Ethiopia within the Ministry of Agriculture mandated to coordinate and manage all pillars of Disaster Risk Management in Ethiopia, besides addressing acute and chronic food insecurity. DRMFSS leads the national DRM coordination forums.

and the design and implementation of risk assessments, Early Warning Systems and Contingency Planning besides leading the Risk Financing Mechanism.

This initiative is supported by the World Bank and the Government of Spain

For more information:

Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector – Government of Ethiopia
www.dppc.gov.et

World Food Programme - Office for Climate Change, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction
www.wfp.org/disaster-risk-reduction

