

Promoting access to natural resources

Context

Despite the radical transformation of Ethiopia's political landscape over recent years, the situation remains unstable in the country, located in the Horn of Africa. The past few years have brought a surge in ethnic conflicts and Ethiopia remains one of the countries with the highest numbers of internally displaced people worldwide. Moreover, the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are compounding the situation. Through its work, HEKS/EPER aims to make rural communities more resilient to natural and humanitarian disasters. Greater resilience enables citizens to secure their livelihoods sustainably. HEKS/EPER's new strategy to 2024 renders its working methods more flexible on the ground, enabling it to forge new networks and alliances and simplify cooperation with the relevant stakeholders.

Objectives, priorities, activities

To boost long-term resilience to climatic risks and disasters, project work must take into account the underlying social, economic and ecological structures. Organising peasant families into cooperatives is therefore part of the activities. This assists peasant farmers in sustainably managing their land and promotes networking with local partners and producers. Promotion should be given primarily to women and other social groups exposed to discrimination, by affording them access to land. Besides protecting and restoring ecosystems, HEKS/EPER also collaborates with local authorities in implementing early warning systems to help avert disasters.

Target groups

Some 120,000 people are expected to benefit directly from project activities between 2021 and 2024. This support benefits roughly 330,000 people indirectly. Humanitarian aid projects also reach another 560,000 people.





Partnerships, networks, alliances, memberships

The HEKS/EPER Country Office works with various NGOs, local research institutions and interest groups from the private sector and with local authorities. The Country Office is a member of the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), the Water and Pastoralist forum, the ACT Alliance forum and of the World Bank Natural Resources, Climate Change and Food Security Technical Committee.

HEKS/EPER on the ground

HEKS/EPER operates an office in Addis Ababa staffed by fifteen persons who coordinate the country programme. There is also another office with ten staff members in Yabelo in the Borana zone in the south of the country.

Topics and working approach

Programme activities and monitoring are conducted through inclusive cooperation with the local people and all other key stakeholder groups. In this way, local knowledge feeds into project work. The focus is on empowering communities and local decision-makers such that they can discharge their responsibilities to their community.

Country:

Ethiopia

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