

Summary (in English!)

In the summary you should briefly describe:

- *which innovation or innovative idea is to be stimulated or executed/supported with this project*

The massive responses to disasters that Ethiopia has experienced in the past have been primarily determined and delivered by external stakeholders. Whilst the interventions have been life saving they also tended to focus on the delivery of cash or food through free distributions or work schemes. This approach both ignored and failed to develop the potential community capacity to respond to the impact of disasters and develop future resiliency and preparedness. More recently the Government of Ethiopia introduced the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) which now programmes multi-year delivery of resources to those suffering chronic food insecurity. The delivery of these resources are through similar schemes as before with the aim that it creates both household and community resilience to future disasters. Review undertaken shows that households who receive cash payments have benefited greater than those receiving food payments in terms of stabilisation and increase in asset base. There is little known at the moment about the creation of community assets and their long term impact on improving resiliency sustainable, but the lack of community ownership in these assets is a major concern. More worrying however, is the finding of an exclusion error with 71% of non beneficiaries; these persons reported experiencing food shortages each year, but were unable to enrol in the PSNP and they are very likely to experience household asset depletion¹. This, in conjunction with other targeting and design issues of the PSNP, highlights again the failure to provide sufficient cover and demands the utilisation of knowledge and capacity at community level effectively.

Tearfund UK and Tear Netherlands have been working in partnership with large national churches in Ethiopia since 2003. Through this work it has been possible to support local partners to implement approaches which develop and empower community based organisations, such as local churches and Self Help Groups (SHGs), to provide sustainable solutions to peoples' livelihood needs. It is believed that such community structures can be developed and empowered to provide an effective means to creating disaster resilient communities. One aspect of innovation

¹ S. Devereux & R. Sabates-Wheeler (2006): Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), Trends in PSNP Transfers within Targeted Households.

therefore will be to apply approaches of community empowerment to the new focus of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). The creation/empowerment of local community institutions will provide the mechanism for informing, educating and mobilising the vulnerable communities on DRR as well as empower and create the institutional platform from which they could advocate for appropriate national, regional and local policies and programmes.

Tearfund and Tear have also supported the introduction of a number of innovative approaches to capacity building of both partners and communities which will be utilised and further developed with this programme:

- Focus on learning: In Ethiopia didactic ‘teaching’ education is the norm. Since 2004 Tearfund and Tear have introduced approaches which stimulate and support self organised learning. This approach stimulates and supports individuals to identify their learning needs and supports them through an action and reflection process to address these. So far these approaches have been supported through expatriate input. It is proposed that these approaches be applied again to this programme but this time to be supported by a local ‘Ethiopian’ facilitator.
- Using/establishing local CBOs: Tearfund supported the introduction of Self Help Groups² to Ethiopia in 2002. Since this introduction all current partners of Tearfund and Tear have adopted SHGs as a viable structure to creating sustainable livelihoods in both urban and rural contexts. Tearfund has also supported local church mobilisation approaches with urban churches, which have successfully resulted in the support of sustainable community initiatives, such as in regards to SHGs and HIV and AIDS programmes. The role and potential of the local church and SHG structure in the context of DRR has yet to be explored and realised. This programme plans to support local partners to undertake this work and if necessary develop with communities additional structures to ensure DRR is realised.
- Participatory Assessment of Disaster Risk (PADR) tool: Tearfund has developed the PADR tool in order to support work with communities on DRR. The tool is based on an integration of the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework with that of the Disaster Crunch Model. Participatory learning approaches are

² Groups of 15-20 people who voluntarily meet on a weekly basis for mutual support and improve their lives. Each member commits to save money each week. When sufficient funds have been saved loans are given to members for purposes such as to establish income generation activities.

then used to work with communities so that they can identify and understand hazards, their own vulnerabilities and root causes of these and their capacities to bring about effective change. It is believed combining the use of this tool and effective community empowerment approaches, will result in communities being less at risk of suffering disaster.