



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale

2024 | Summary Report

Ethiopia

Evaluation of the initiative
“Emergency initiative to
support migrants and
returning migrants and host
communities”
(AID 11547 and AID 11548)



This independent evaluation was commissioned by Office III of the Directorate General for Development Co-operation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation to **Fondazione punto.sud** through a public tender procedure pursuant to Article 36 of the Public Contracts Code.

punto.sud Foundation **evaluation team**: Monica Favot - Team Leader, Silvia Charlotte Rowe, Gabriele Sospiro, Fredu Nega Tegebu, Birhanu Getachew Legese, Milkessa Dejene Robi.

Backstopping and quality assurance: Federico Bastia

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The opinions expressed in this document represent the views of the evaluators and do not necessarily coincide with those of the client.

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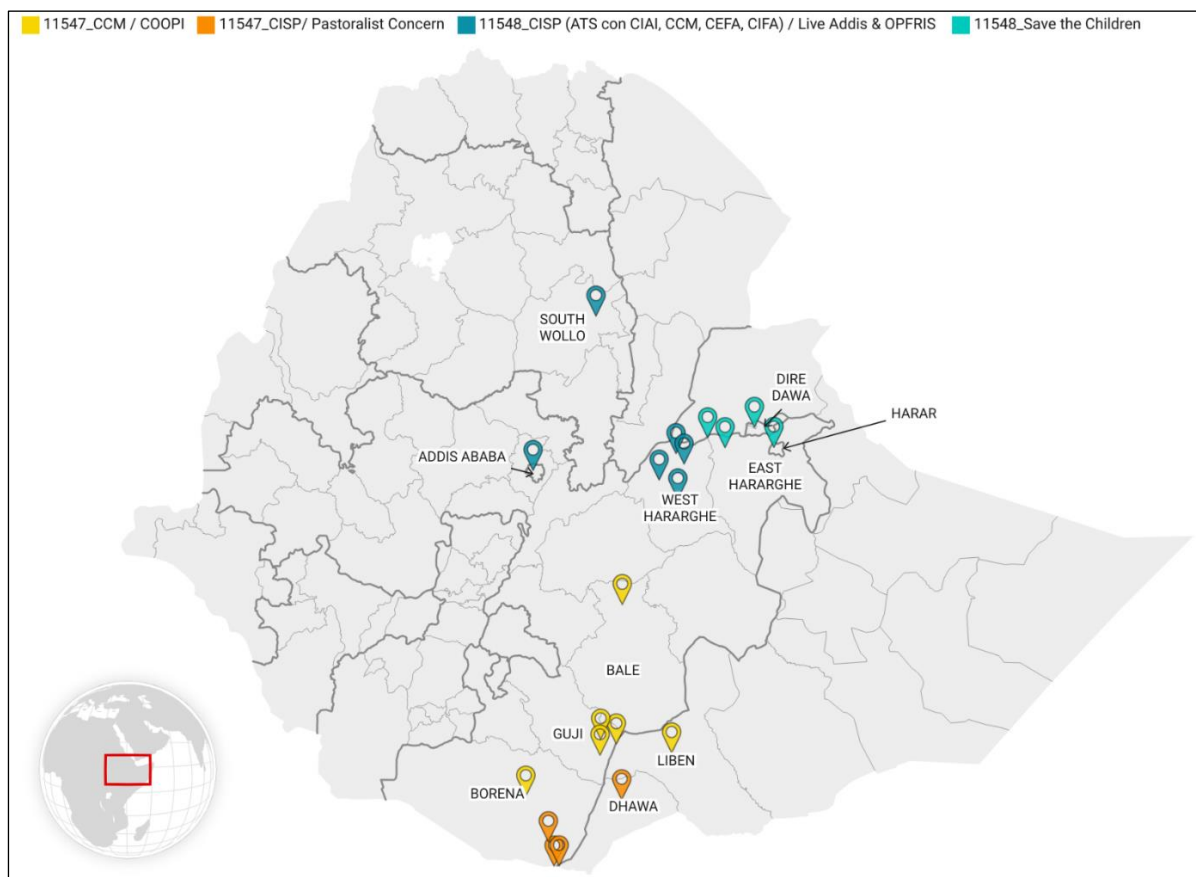
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List of acronyms

| | |
|--------------|--|
| AICS | Italian Agency for Development Cooperation |
| AMREF | African Medical and Research Foundation (NGO) |
| BoLSA | Office of Labour and Social Affairs |
| CAHW | Community health workers |
| CBCPM | Child protection mechanisms at EU level |
| CBCPM | Community-based child protection mechanism |
| CBO | Community-based Organisations |
| CCM | Medical Collaboration Committee (NGO) |
| CIAI | Italian Children's Aid Centre (NGO) |
| CISP | International Committee for the Development of Peoples (NGO) |
| CRGE | Climate resilient green economy |
| CW | Community Workers |
| DGCS | Directorate General for Development Cooperation (MAECI) |
| DPPO | Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Office |
| EDF | Ethiopian Defence Force |
| FGD | Focus Group Discussion |
| FTR | Family Tracing and Reunification |
| HC | Health Centre |
| HEW | Health Extension Workers |
| HP | Health Posts |
| IDSR | Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response |
| IGA | Income-generating activity |
| IOM | International Organisation for Migration |
| IPPS | Infection Prevention and Patient Safety |
| IWRM | Integrated Water Resources Management |
| LF | Logical Framework |
| LMO | Land management offices (woreda offices) |
| MoLSA | Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs |
| MoWCY | Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs |
| NFI | Non-food items |
| PHCU | Primary Health Care Units |
| R | Result |
| SO | Specific objective |
| ToR | Terms of Reference |
| TVET | Technical and Vocational Education and Training |
| UAG | Unidentified Armed Groups |
| VNO | No Cost Variation (also NCE = no cost extension) |
| VSLA | Village Savings and Loan Associations |
| WCA | Women and Children Affairs |
| WLO | Woreda Livestock Office |
| WoHO | Woreda Health Office |

1. Locations

The “Emergency initiative to support migrants and returning migrants and host communities” was implemented through two programmes (AID 11547 and AID 11548), each consisting of two projects, between 2019 and 2023 in Ethiopia, in the following areas:



| Project code | Region | Zone | Woreda |
|---|--------|--|-----------------------------------|
| AID 11547_CCM/COOPI | Oromia | Guji | Liben and Gumi Eldalo |
| | Somala | Bale | Madda Walabu |
| AID 11547_CISP | Oromia | Liben | Deka Suftu and Karsa Dula |
| | Somala | Borena | Guchi and Moyale Oromia |
| AID 11548_CISP (ATS with CCM, CEFA, CIAI, CIFA) | Somala | Dhawa | Hudet and Moyale |
| | Oromia | West Hararghe | Chiro, Habro, Daro Labu and Mieso |
| AID 11548_Save the Children | Amhara | South Wollo | |
| | Oromia | Special status city of Addis Ababa | |
| AID 11548_Save the Children | Oromia | Hararghe est | Deder and Goro Gutu |
| | | Special status city of Dire Dawa - Harar | |

2. Context

Ethiopia, with a population of approximately 100 million, is a country characterised by significant cultural diversity and considerable development potential. However, it faces severe challenges related to climate change, widespread poverty, and political instability. The country is particularly vulnerable to environmental shocks, with cyclical droughts and floods exacerbating food insecurity and forcing millions to rely on humanitarian aid. In 2025, it is estimated that over 20 million Ethiopians will need assistance, with more than 4 million internally displaced persons.

The interaction between environmental crises and social tensions has further exacerbated inter-ethnic and regional conflicts, leading to forced population displacements and tensions between host communities and displaced persons. Environmental degradation has particularly affected pastoral and agropastoral communities, drastically reducing available resources and increasing competition for access to land and water.

Economically, Ethiopia has experienced significant growth in recent decades, but deep vulnerabilities remain. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, high inflation and shortages of essential goods have worsened living conditions, with about 25% of the population living below the poverty line in 2024. Rising food prices and unemployment exacerbate the risk of food insecurity and social unrest.

Politically, the country continues to face instability, with conflicts between ethnic groups and regional crises hindering development and humanitarian efforts. While progress has been made in managing internally displaced persons, the government's capacity to respond effectively to emergencies remains limited. However, Ethiopia has joined international agreements to address the issue and has developed strategies for managing internal migration.

Ethiopia is also a key hub for migration in the Horn of Africa, hosting over 900,000 refugees from countries such as Sudan and Somalia. It serves as a starting point and transit route for migration flows leading to the Middle East, Europe, and Southern Africa. Irregular migration is one of the most critical challenges, with 73% of migrants relying on smuggling networks, exposing them to trafficking and exploitation risks. Particularly critical is the flow of returnees from Saudi Arabia and Yemen, who often face significant reintegration challenges upon their return.

International cooperation has played a vital role in addressing these challenges, combining emergency aid with sustainable development strategies. Interventions have focused on food security, community resilience, and improving agricultural practices to reduce dependency on external aid. Additionally, protection mechanisms for migrants and refugees have been strengthened, with programmes aimed at combating human trafficking and supporting the reintegration of returnees.

Despite the progress made, Ethiopia continues to face significant obstacles related to political instability, resource scarcity, and the effects of climate change. Migration pressure and internal conflicts require coordinated international efforts to ensure effective and sustainable responses. The initiatives implemented represent a step forward in improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable populations, while also promoting stability and long-term development.

3. Scope and objective of the evaluation

3.1. Description of the initiative

The emergency initiative to support migrants and returning migrants was implemented through two programmes (AID 11547 and 11548), each consisting of two projects, implemented between 2019 and 2023 in Ethiopia.

Emergency initiative to support returning migrants and host communities

AID 11547 - Emergency initiative to support environmentally displaced persons and host communities to strengthen resilience in the Oromia and Somali regions of Ethiopia

AID 11548 - Emergency initiative to combat human trafficking and the exploitation of migrants and support the reintegration of returnees

In the frame of AID 11547 programme, the following projects were implemented:

| | | |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| Project title | Focus on IDPs: basic services, resilience and social inclusion on the border between Somalia and Oromia regions | |
| Implementing agencies | CCM (in ATS with COOPI) | |
| Project code | 01/ETH /11547 | |
| Expected duration | 21 months Start: 01/05/2019 End: 31/01/2021 | |
| Actual duration | 25 months Start: 25/07/2019 End: 24/08/2021 | |
| Results, sectors and total expenditure AICS contribution | Result 1 - Health | 340.500,88 € |
| | Result 2 - Education/Protection | 186.051,57 € |
| | Outcome 3 - Water, sanitation, environment, land, natural resource management and climate change | 243.776,43 € |
| | Outcome 4 - Agriculture and Food Security | 150.429,81 € |
| | Direct cross-cutting and indirect costs | 350.091,78 € |
| | TOTAL | 1.270.850,47 € |
| Total budget | 1.270.850,00€ | |
| Beneficiaries reached | 90,371 persons of whom 39,785 (44%) women | |
| Amendments | VNO #1 Prot. no. 71: approval date 16/07/2020 VNO #2 Prot. no. 12450: approval date 07/05/2021 | |

| | | |
|---|--|---------------------|
| Project title | Integrated approaches in Dawa and Borena areas (AID): support and resilience for displaced populations and residents of Hudet, Moyale and Guchi districts. | |
| Implementing agencies | CISP with local partner Pastoralist Concern | |
| Project code | 02/ETH /11547/BIS | |
| Expected duration | 18 months Start: 01/08/2019 End: 31/01/2021 | |
| Actual duration | 22 months Start: 19/09/2019 End: 18/07/2021 | |
| Results, sectors and total expenditure AICS contribution | Result 1 - Water, sanitation, environment, land, natural resource management and climate change | 165.191,00 € |
| | Result 2 – Education | 123.207,00 € |
| | Result 3 - Agriculture and Food Security | 100.611,00 € |
| | Result 4 – Health | 70.165,00 € |
| | Direct cross-cutting and indirect costs | 165.731,18 € |
| | TOTAL | 622.976,18 € |
| Total budget | 629.150,00 € | |
| Beneficiaries reached | 107,040 people of whom 49,348 (46%) are women | |
| Amendments | VNO #1 Prot. no. 5271: approval date 01/02/2021 | |

In the frame of AID 11547 programme, the following projects were implemented:

| | | |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Project title | Promoting social cohesion in Ethiopia: Opportunities, protection and employment for returnees, minors and potential migrants (HOPE) | |
| Implementing agencies | CISP (in ATS with CIAI, CCM, CEFA, CIFA) and local partner Live Addis | |
| Project code | 11548/ETH/01 | |
| Expected duration | 21 months Start: 01/01/2019 End: 30/09/2020 | |
| Actual duration | 28 months Start: 16/04/2019 End: 15/08/2021 | |
| Results, sectors and total expenditure AICS contribution | Result 1 - Governance and civil society, promotion of human rights, democratic participation and situations of fragility | 139.630,18 € |
| | Result 2 - Protection | 188.581,77 € |
| | Result 3 - Support for endogenous, inclusive and sustainable private sector development | 187.497,41 € |
| | Direct cross-cutting and indirect costs | 214.290,64 € |
| | TOTAL | 730.000,00 € |
| Total budget | 757,780 (€730,000 AICS contribution) | |
| Beneficiaries reached | Direct: 15,800 people Indirect: 761,000 people | |
| Amendments | VNO #1: approval date 21/7/2020 VNO #2: approval date 15/5/2021 | |

| | | |
|--|--|---------------------|
| Project title | Prevention and support actions for children and young people involved in risky migration and trafficking along the 'Eastern migratory route'. | |
| Implementing agencies | Save the Children | |
| Project code | 11548/E2H/02 | |
| Expected duration | 18 months Start: 01/04/2019 End: 30/10/2020 | |
| Actual duration | 22 months Start: 16/04/2019 End: 31/03/2021 | |
| Results, sectors and total expenditure AICS contribution ¹ | Result 1 - Protection | 130.508,68 € |
| | Result 2 - Protection | 143.379,05 € |
| | Result 3 - Protection | 130.430,74 € |
| | Direct cross-cutting and indirect costs | 145.407,66 € |
| | TOTAL | 549.726,13 € |
| Total budget | 638,159.18 € (550,000 AICS contribution) | |
| Beneficiaries reached | Direct: 2,936 people Indirect: 700,000 people | |
| Amendments | Budget realignment: approval date 17/01/2020 VNO #1: approval date 03/07/2020 VNO #2: approval date 19/10/2020 VNO #3: approval date 09/11/2020 | |

3.2. Objectives of the evaluation exercise

As outlined in the Terms of Reference (ToR), the evaluation aims to ensure transparency and accountability, optimising the quality and impact of cooperation and emergency interventions. Based on objective data, it analyses the relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability of the initiatives, providing a solid foundation for improving the effectiveness of future interventions, ensuring that they are sustainable and adequately address the humanitarian and development challenges of Ethiopia.

General Objectives

The evaluation examines the initiatives implemented in Ethiopia under the AID 11547 and AID 11548 programmes, with a particular focus on supporting displaced populations and host communities, as well as efforts to combat human trafficking.

¹ The crosscutting activity (LF att. 0) was equally divided between the three outcomes

The general objectives include:

- Improving transparency and accountability, ensuring a clear report of activities and outcomes.
- Optimising future programming by aligning interventions with the needs of beneficiaries and the priorities of the Ethiopian government and international frameworks.
- Promoting learning and improvement by documenting lessons learned to strengthen community resilience.
- Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in reducing poverty (SDG 1), inequalities (SDG 10), and promoting safe migration (SDG 10.7).

Specific Objectives

The evaluation is guided by specific objectives that delve into various key aspects:

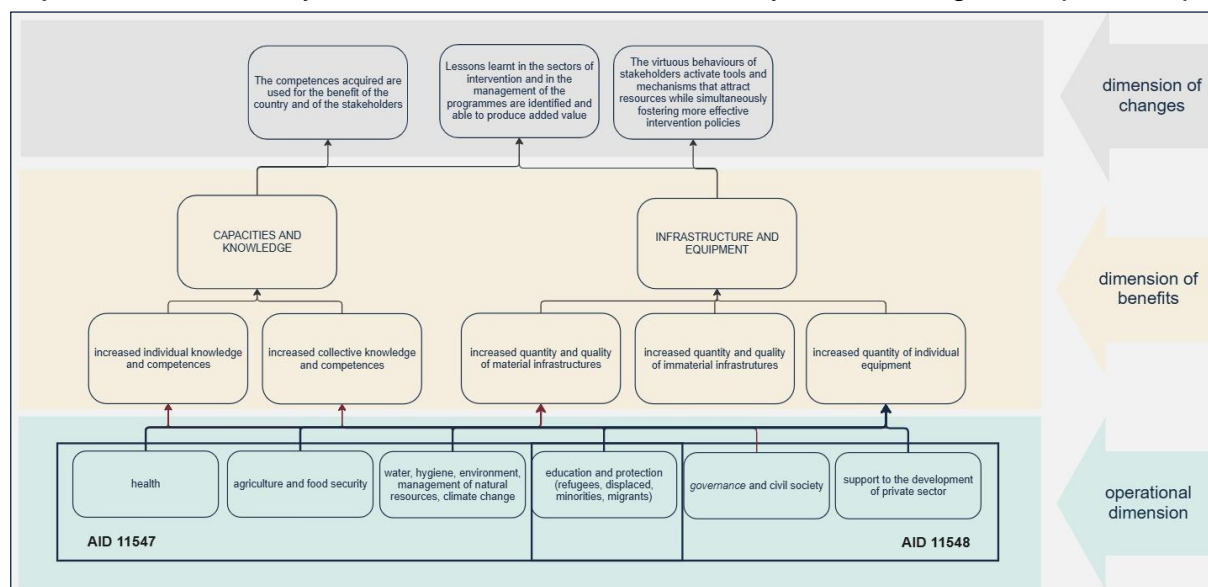
- Analysis of results and impact, measuring the effectiveness of the projects in terms of improvements in social, economic, and environmental conditions. Special attention is given to access to basic services such as healthcare, education, and WASH systems, with a focus on women, children, and persons with disabilities.
- Identification of best practices, highlighting the most effective strategies for community resilience, including innovative solutions such as mobile clinics and climate-smart agricultural techniques.
- Evaluation of coordination among stakeholders, examining collaboration between civil society organisations, local authorities, and other stakeholders to avoid duplication and ensure complementarity of interventions.
- Sustainability of initiatives, analyzing the institutional and financial capacity of the projects, the effectiveness of exit strategies, and the involvement of local institutions.
- Alignment with national and international frameworks, verifying the consistency of initiatives with Ethiopian policies and international commitments, such as the "New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants". Special emphasis is placed on the integration of cross-cutting principles such as human rights, gender equality, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion.
- Evaluation of project coherence, examining the logical framework of each intervention to verify its validity and alignment between objectives, activities, and expected outcomes.

4. Theoretical and methodological framework

The evaluation approach, developed according to the method of Fondazione punto.sud, was defined in the initial phase of the assignment to enhance the cooperation model of the programmes and projects under analysis. Despite the differences, the evaluation highlighted the added value of the projects examined and identified common observation dimensions.

The methodological approach included the reconstruction of the theory of change, the identification of the main assumptions underlying it, the evaluation questions based on the various OECD-DAC criteria, and the tools for data collection and analysis. The initial analysis produced a logical systematisation, highlighting the connection between

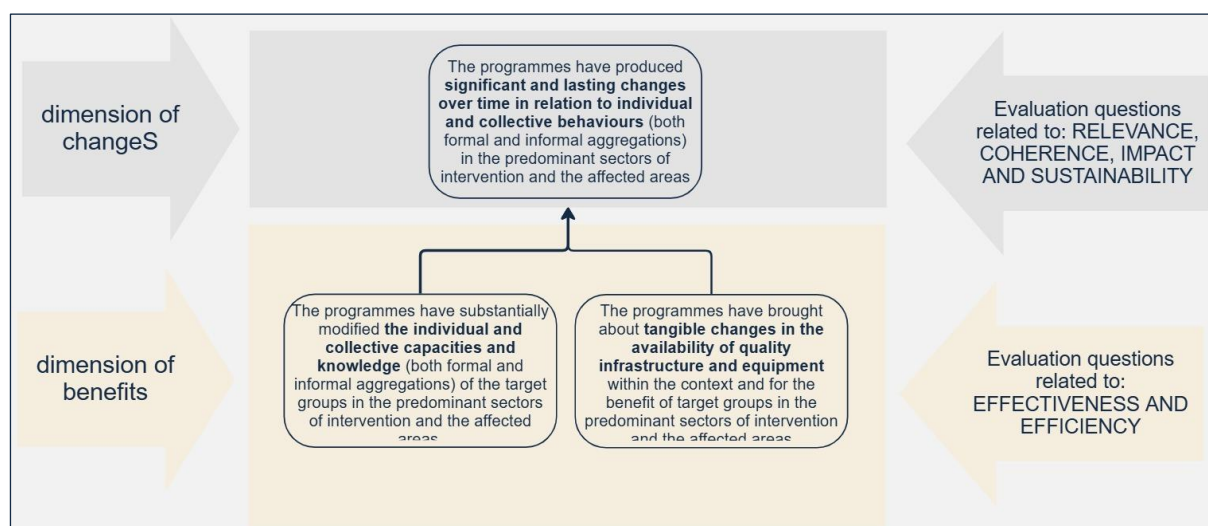
conditions, actions, outputs, and outcomes, in order to understand the achievement of objectives and identify critical elements, as illustrated by the following conceptual map.:



The evaluation analysis was based on three main dimensions:

- Operational dimension, focusing on the implementation of project activities, alignment with national and international policies, governance mechanisms, and resource allocation.
- Produced Benefits, focusing on the impact of activities on target groups, analysing the increase in skills, availability of infrastructure, and strengthening of networks. Internal and external factors influencing these benefits were also considered.
- Induced Changes, focusing on how the benefits were utilised by the target group, by observing transformations at both individual and community levels.

The initial systematisation allowed for the identification of operational models and causal relationships between the actors involved. Change hypotheses were formulated, and evaluation questions were defined to verify them in a structured manner. The hypotheses are illustrated in the following infographic:



Thanks to the reconstruction of the theory of change, the main evaluation questions were identified for each of the OECD-DAC criteria.

| Relevance | Coherence |
|--|---|
| <p>a.1. How do the programmes contribute to achieving the strategic objectives of the Country and Italian Cooperation?</p> <p>a.2. How does the sectoral component contribute to achieving the political objectives of the Country?</p> <p>a.3. To what extent are the programmes relevant and consistent with the needs and priorities of national stakeholders (particularly the beneficiaries)?</p> <p>a.4. How were the needs/priorities that emerged during the implementation of the programmes taken into account?</p> | <p>b.1. To what extent do the programmes (and/or the sectoral component) add value to other initiatives, avoiding potential duplications?</p> <p>b.2. Do the programmes (and/or sectoral components) align with the mission and vision of the various national and international partners involved? Are they consistent with/complementary to other initiatives of partner organisations (or in other contexts)? (Focus on the humanitarian-development nexus and 'new way of working')</p> |
| Efficiency | Effectiveness |
| <p>d.1. To what extent was the management structure and the tools used adequate, particularly in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Management of budgets and activities of the individual programmes, in accordance with the agreement signed by the implementing partners and the funding entity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Internal and external communication → Clarity of decision-making processes → Financial and narrative reporting → Internal monitoring and evaluation (including the clarity of indicators and tools for data collection and analysis) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Risk management | <p>c.1. Was the specific objective of each programme, as formulated and pursued, achieved?</p> <p>c.2. Which activities (or sectors) have demonstrated the greatest and most effective contribution to the objectives of each programme? What were the main success factors?</p> <p>c.3. Were there any internal/external factors that prevented the sector/programme (or project) from achieving the expected results and delivering benefits to the various target groups (especially women and children)?</p> <p>c.4. What changes (in the policies and practices of organisations and sectors) can plausibly be attributed to the initiative?</p> |
| Impact | Sustainability |
| <p>e.1. To what extent have the programmes been able to contribute to the strategies of partner organisations and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?</p> <p>e.2. What evidence can be found to support actual changes in beneficiaries, particularly with regard to the sustainability of benefits and how they are expected to lead to higher living standards?</p> <p>e.3. To what extent have the programmes allowed for the identification and sharing of good (and bad) practices and lessons learned, including in relation to management?</p> <p>e.4. Has the implementation of activities and/or the achievement of programme outcomes resulted in unforeseen effects (positive and/or negative)? To what extent?</p> | <p>f.1. To what extent have the programmes activated mechanisms for environmental, financial, political, and institutional sustainability?</p> <p>f.2. To what extent are the partners (and/or Italian cooperation) committed to ensuring the continuation of benefits after the end of the programmes?</p> <p>f.3. To what extent has the organisational capacity of key stakeholders been strengthened through the programmes?</p> <p>f.4. Have the programmes (and/or their components) been implemented according to intervention models that could be replicated/scaled?</p> |

The evaluation questions were subsequently broken down and disaggregated for each homogeneous stakeholder group and by type of collection method, in order to create a coherent data collection system within the evaluation group and to identify from the outset how to triangulate the information collected.

Sources of information

The evaluation exercise was based on various data collection methodologies, including document analysis, online surveys, semi-structured interviews, group discussions, and case studies. The document analysis included project management and strategic materials, highlighting that the indicators used focused mainly on processes rather than on impacts on beneficiaries. The online survey was administered to CSOs and

partners to collect data on OECD-DAC criteria, often used as a basis for in-depth interviews with key stakeholders.

The interviews, conducted both in person in Ethiopia and online, involved 79 participants, including 42 representatives from national government institutions, beneficiaries, and local staff. The case studies provided a description of direct experiences from some beneficiaries, offering qualitative insights. The selection of participants for data collection followed criteria related to the geographical areas of intervention, the quality of available sources, logistical and security challenges, overlap of interventions, and the availability of staff involved in the projects.

The areas analysed included Oromia, Hafar, Addis Abeba, and Dire Dawa, chosen based on the concentration of activities and safety considerations. The available documentation provided details on the activities carried out, but only partially on the changes produced, with baseline data rarely available. The complex socio-economic context made it difficult to monitor outcome and impact indicators. Additionally, security conditions and the difficulty in locating beneficiaries and stakeholders required the reorganisation of field visits and the involvement of more experts to ensure the reliable collection of evidence.

The overlap of interventions over time made it difficult to identify actual beneficiaries, especially almost two years after the conclusion of the projects. To mitigate this difficulty, the "snowball" technique was used, and different sources were cross-referenced to ensure the reliability of the collected data, avoiding misleading expectations regarding future funding. Another challenge was the limited availability of the original staff involved in the projects, with many operators no longer reachable or no longer employed by the organisations involved.

Despite these challenges, the evaluation is based on objective and credible data, although not statistically representative. The evidence gathered provides the DGCS with useful elements for improving management, planning, and future interventions. The evaluation allowed the identification of strengths and weaknesses, offering concrete recommendations to refine development cooperation strategies.

5. Presentation of results

5.1. Relevance

The AID 11547 and AID 11548 programmes represent a significant commitment from Italy to support sustainable development and humanitarian aid in Ethiopia, aligning with the country's national priorities and the objectives of Italian Cooperation.

AID 11547 addressed critical issues such as food insecurity, water scarcity, and climate change resilience, focusing on vulnerable communities, particularly in rural areas. The programme promoted sustainable agricultural practices, integrating them with Ethiopia's Climate-Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy, and improved water resource management in regions like Oromia and Somalia, which were severely impacted by drought. The emphasis on disaster preparedness strengthened community resilience. AID 11547 also responded to unforeseen challenges, such as prolonged drought and forced displacement of rural populations due to conflict, maintaining a continuous monitoring system that allowed for real-time adjustments to interventions. Additionally, the programme worked closely with the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (DRMC) and local authorities to align with national policies, avoiding overlaps and maximising impact.

AID 11548 played a central role in managing migration in Ethiopia, particularly focusing on irregular migration and human trafficking. The programme supported national policy objectives, including the Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking, and offered interventions to combat trafficking and promote the socio-economic reintegration of returnees. AID 11548 provided psychosocial support to returnees and trafficking survivors and created economic opportunities through vocational training and access to social services. It also conducted awareness campaigns to educate communities about the risks of trafficking and safe migration practices. During the design phase, key obstacles for returnees were identified, such as psychological trauma, economic instability, and social stigma, with the programme responding with targeted interventions. Moreover, AID 11548 demonstrated great adaptability, responding to evolving migration dynamics, such as changes in migration routes and exploitation risks. It worked in collaboration with Ethiopian authorities and international organisations, participating in platforms such as the EU+ Migration Group and the Khartoum Process, to ensure complementarity with national and regional migration policies, maximising the effectiveness of interventions.

Both programmes adopted flexible approaches and regularly involved stakeholders during planning and implementation, adapting to emerging challenges and ensuring that interventions effectively addressed local needs.

5.2. Coherence

The AID 11547 and AID 11548 programmes have demonstrated strong coherence in aligning with Ethiopia's national priorities, addressing environmental vulnerabilities and migration management, respectively. Both have contributed to responding to the country's humanitarian and economic challenges, complementing other initiatives and fostering effective collaboration among the various stakeholders involved.

Added Value. Both programmes avoided duplication through strategic mapping and frequent consultations with stakeholders. AID 11547 integrated existing projects, such as water supply initiatives, enhancing the effectiveness of interventions through integrated water resource management practices and climate-resilient agricultural techniques. The programme supported the resilience of vulnerable communities, such as those in Oromia and Somalia, working in synergy with other international projects, such as those of UNICEF. AID 11548, on the other hand, strengthened existing efforts to combat human trafficking and support returnees, introducing additional services such as psychosocial support, vocational training, and community awareness campaigns.

Alignment with the Mission of Italian Cooperation. Both programmes are perfectly aligned with the objectives of Italian Cooperation, which aims to promote sustainable development and ensure social equity. AID 11547 supported community resilience through sustainable agricultural practices and natural resource management focused on climate change, in line with long-term development goals. Similarly, AID 11548 contributed to the protection of human rights and strengthened the empowerment of returnees, addressing the socio-economic causes of irregular migration.

Complementarity with other initiatives. Both programmes worked closely with other organisations, maximising the impact of their interventions. AID 11547 collaborated with FAO and WFP to improve food security and included a strong gender mainstreaming component, supporting local women in community decision-making. AID 11548, collaborating with IOM and local NGOs, emphasised the importance of

trafficking prevention and proposed integrated solutions for the socio-economic reintegration of returnees, ensuring inclusivity in its actions.

Coordination Mechanisms. Effective coordination with Ethiopian authorities was crucial for both programmes, ensuring that activities were aligned with national policies. AID 11547 worked closely with the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (DRMC) and regional authorities, while AID 11548 actively participated in platforms such as the EU+ Migration Group and the Khartoum Process. These mechanisms allowed for the avoidance of duplications and made the interventions more effective and relevant to the country's needs.

5.3. Efficiency

The use of resources in the AID 11547 and AID 11548 programmes was found to be adequate and precise, despite the challenges encountered during the implementation phase due to the COVID-19 pandemic and widespread instability. Both programmes benefited from a non-costly extension, which allowed for the adaptation of activities to address security issues and price fluctuations.

AID 11547 demonstrated effective budget and activity management, with 83% of survey respondents identifying budget management as one of the most successful aspects. Internal and external communication was well executed, actively involving local stakeholders and authorities, particularly at the woreda level, where beneficiaries were engaged. Financial and narrative reporting was timely and accurate, with 100% of respondents rating the management of narrative reporting positively. Despite the monitoring challenges posed by security concerns, the presence of local staff and coordination with authorities ensured an adequate monitoring system. A negative aspect was the misalignment of some indicators within the logical framework.

AID 11548 showed good management of the budget and activities, promptly addressing challenges, particularly the high staff turnover at the woreda level and the impact of COVID-19. Despite these difficulties, the programme ensured the continuous implementation of activities through good relationships and coordination mechanisms. 60% of participants highlighted budget management as a strength. Internal and external communication, including with local authorities and AICS headquarters in Addis Ababa, was effective, although it was suggested that communication with other local NGOs operating in the same areas could be improved. Similarly, financial and narrative reporting was accurate and punctual, despite the complexity of the partnership. However, misalignments in indicators and an excessive number of indicators in the results emerged, which made monitoring and evaluation challenging.

5.4. Effectiveness

The evaluation of the effectiveness of the projects within the AID 11547 and AID 11548 programmes considered the progress of activities and the results achieved by the end of the implementation period. Despite the challenges posed by the complex context, all activities were completed adequately, with the expected results being achieved. The projects, carried out between 2019 and 2021, were influenced by significant events, such as the spread of COVID-19 in March 2020, which led to the suspension and reorganisation of many activities, particularly those involving the gathering of people. Movement restrictions caused delays in progress. Additionally, the killing of Oromo singer/activist Hachalu Hundessa in July 2020 sparked violent protests and

communication difficulties due to internet shutdowns. In 2020, clashes intensified in Oromia, particularly in the woredas of Gumi Eldalo and Liben, which remained inaccessible for weeks. The instability continued in 2021, with renewed conflicts between Guji and Borana and the conflict in Tigray, leading to further displacement and government interventions to resettle the displaced populations.

In the following tables, the analysis of the results of project activities related to the two programmes is presented for each sector, along with comments on the main deviations observed.

| | |
|---|---|
| AID 11547 | |
| CCM/COOPI - Focus on IDPs: basic services, resilience and social inclusion on the border between Somalia and Oromia regions | |
| RA1: Improving access to and quality of basic health services in camps and host communities, particularly for the most vulnerable groups such as children and pregnant women. | |
| SECTOR: Health | Average % realisation of activity 101% |
| The six activities in the health sector included the establishment of mobile clinics for basic healthcare services and acute malnutrition screening, the rehabilitation and maintenance of healthcare facilities in host communities, and training courses for healthcare workers and community members. The courses focused on hygiene promotion, health, and epidemic prevention. Due to difficulties in Oromia, the goal of rehabilitating healthcare facilities had to be modified with a no-cost extension. By the end of the project, some equipment was transferred to national authorities. Despite extensive community and healthcare worker involvement, the Oromia region reached fewer beneficiaries compared to the Somali region. | |
| RA2: Facilitating access to education, protection and social inclusion of IDPs in host communities. | |
| SECTOR: Education | Average % realisation of activity 100% |
| SECTOR: Protection (refugees, displaced, minorities, migrants, other) | Average % realisation of activity 103% |
| The second project outcome was achieved through four activities across two sectors. In the education sector, a temporary learning centre was established to ensure the continuity of education for displaced children, with the Afgoye school selected in collaboration with local authorities. In the protection sector, activities were carried out to raise awareness among teachers, healthcare workers, and community members on the prevention of violence, child protection, and the promotion of social inclusion. Additionally, non-food item kits were distributed to 1,700 vulnerable families, surpassing the initial target of 800 families. | |
| RA3: Ensure better access to WASH facilities within camps and host communities. | |
| SECTOR: Water, Hygiene, Environment, Territory, Natural resource management, Climate change | Average % realisation of activity 93% |
| The third project outcome includes seven activities, such as raising awareness about access to water, promoting health, and training on agro-ecological techniques and conservation systems. A key component was the extension and rehabilitation of water schemes to provide drinking water to displaced people, the construction of a rainwater reservoir in Sera Kebele, and the distribution of water purification filters, along with donkeys and carts for transportation. The choice of filters was modified based on feedback from local authorities and beneficiaries, changing from sand and ceramic filters to the Sawyer filter, which was more suitable for displaced persons. | |
| RA 4: Improving the food security of agro-pastoral communities through support for agriculture and animal husbandry. | |
| SECTOR: Agriculture and food security | Average % realisation of activity 108% |
| The eight activities in the agriculture and food security sector, part of the fourth project outcome, included data collection to select beneficiaries for agricultural and horticultural activities. Training sessions were provided on modern farming techniques and water conservation in arid environments, as well as on sack gardening. Subsequently, agricultural inputs were distributed to families, and fodder banks were established. Additionally, support was given to strengthening local veterinary services to protect livestock, which is particularly important for pastoral communities in the intervention areas. | |
| CISP - 'INTEGRATED APPROACHES IN DAWA AND BORENA ZONES (AID): support and resilience for displaced populations and residents of Hudet, Moyale and Guchi districts'. | |
| RA1: Improving access to safe water, strengthening sanitation practices and improving environmental management in target communities. | |

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| SECTOR: Water, Hygiene, Environment, Territory, Natural resources management, Climate change | Average % realisation of activity 100% |
| The first project outcome, related to water, hygiene, environment, and climate change, involved five main activities: the rehabilitation of water supply systems, the construction of latrines in displacement camps, health and hygiene campaigns, and environmental education sessions in schools. These activities focused on the sustainable use of natural resources. Additionally, training was organised for women's groups on the production of energy-efficient stoves, aimed at supporting families in preparing low-cost meals and generating income. | |
| RA2: The provision of educational services in selected districts in the Dawa and Borena areas is strengthened. | |
| SECTOR: Education | Average % realisation of activity 117% |
| The second project outcome aimed to strengthen the education system in the Dawa and Borena areas by rehabilitating four schools and providing equipment and materials to 16 schools. The activities were adapted from the initial location plan, with the collaboration of the local woreda offices of Guchi and Moyale to ensure proper school selection. In total, more than 2,500 direct beneficiaries were involved. | |
| RA3: Food and nutrition security of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities has improved | |
| SECTOR: Agriculture and food safety | Average % realisation of activities 189% |
| The third project outcome focused on agriculture and food security, with an emphasis on supporting veterinary services for displaced people's animals. Four activities were implemented in collaboration with the livestock and pastoral development offices of the woreda. These included restocking animals lost during the conflict (involving 150 families) and a vaccination campaign. Training sessions were also held for 30 CAWHS, and 500 vaccination voucher packages were distributed for over 14,000 animals. This approach fostered a partnership between government agencies and private veterinary pharmacies, bringing lasting benefits to pastoral communities. | |
| RA4: The health of at-risk groups (children, women, elderly and disabled) in resident and displaced communities in the target areas has improved. | |
| SECTOR: Health | Average % realisation of activities 195% |
| The fourth project outcome focused on health, with four activities aimed at raising awareness about health risks in displacement camps and providing preventive materials such as water disinfectants and mosquito nets. Training sessions were organised for healthcare workers, and eight informational campaigns were held in 8 kebeles of Hudet and Moyale, reaching approximately 5,300 families. At the end of the project, the trained healthcare workers will continue to support these activities with the help of local health offices. | |

AID 11548

CISP (CIAI, CCM, CEFA, CIFA) - Promoting social cohesion in ETHIOPIA: Opportunities, protection and employment for returnees, minors and potential migrants (HOPE)

RA1: Government services and civil society in the territories of Amara, Oromia and Addis Ababa are strengthened and have developed a collective awareness and knowledge of the migration phenomenon and updated the local development agenda to foster the socio-economic inclusion of returnees and potential migrants.

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| SECTOR: Governance and civil society | Average % realisation of activity 114% |
| The project placed significant emphasis on strengthening governance and civil society, focusing on raising awareness about regular and irregular migration, gender-based violence, abuse, and exploitation. Fourteen activities were carried out, including training sessions for government officials, task force members, and civil society associations. Awareness platforms were created to share information among key stakeholders, such as religious leaders, educators, and representatives from the government and private sector. Additionally, awareness campaigns were conducted in the woreda of Mieso, Habro, and Chiro, and theatrical events and the "Path of Life" programme were introduced in schools to raise students' awareness of the risks of illegal migration, receiving widespread appreciation. | |
| RA2: Potential migrants and returnees in the target areas rebuild family and identity ties and have access to health and social services for psychological support and mutual aid. | |
| SECTOR: Protection (refugees, displaced, minorities, migrants, other) | Average % realisation of activities 128% |
| The second outcome of the project included fourteen activities focused on providing healthcare and psychosocial support to young people and women who are victims of violence and exploitation. A pilot service was launched at the Chiro Hospital, a database was created for street children, and a socio-anthropological study was conducted on migrants and returnees. Additionally, psychological counselling, job orientation, healthcare follow-up, training on reproductive health, hygiene, psychosocial reintegration, and violence prevention services were offered, involving employers as well. The integrated approach effectively addressed the physical, psychological, and social needs, receiving widespread appreciation for its focus on prevention and raising awareness of the risks associated with migration movements. | |

RA3 Potential migrants and returnees from the target areas have developed new opportunities for employment and socio-economic inclusion that benefit the well-being of the community.

SECTOR: Support to the private sector development

Average % realisation of activity **161%**.

The third outcome of the project includes nine activities aimed at supporting the development of the private sector by enhancing skills and economic opportunities for community members, particularly young people and women. Training courses were offered in cooking, tailoring, hairdressing, and business management. In collaboration with the local authorities of the West Hararge Zone, microenterprises were established for the production of soap and berberè, involving over 40 people, including migrants and returnees. Furthermore, a microcredit guarantee fund was established, enabling more than 100 individuals to start income-generating activities.

Save the Children - Prevention and support actions for children and young people involved in risky migration and trafficking along the eastern migration route or who have returned to Ethiopia

RA1: Strengthening institutional actors, community protection mechanisms and coordination platforms that provide quality protection services to migrant, returned or potentially vulnerable children.

SECTOR: Protection (refugees, displaced, minorities, migrants, other)

Average % realisation of activity **100%**

The first outcome of the project included six activities aimed at strengthening the protection of migrants and returnees, improving awareness of protection mechanisms among institutions, NGOs, and communities. Key activities included mapping child protection mechanisms and conducting a skills assessment, as well as a study on migration dynamics along the eastern routes, with a focus on unaccompanied minors and gender. A coordination mechanism was established between key stakeholders, such as the Regional Task Force and local authorities, to enhance coordination against trafficking. Training sessions and community dialogues engaged government actors and local organisations, while a communication campaign helped reduce social stigma towards returnees by disseminating crucial information.

RA2: Improving the economic opportunities and resilience of families with dependent children, vulnerable youth and returnees.

SECTOR: Protection (refugees, displaced, minorities, migrants, other)

Average % realisation of activity **100%**

Three activities were carried out to improve economic opportunities and resilience for families in the affected areas, including the promotion of savings schemes for youth and caregivers. A total of 94 savings and loan groups were established, with 1,478 members, each receiving start-up capital of €680 and a control mechanism. Memoranda of understanding were prepared with the relevant government offices to monitor the action. The income-generating activity was highly appreciated and considered one of the most significant for the long-term benefit of the communities.

RA3: Improving access to adequate protection, care and integration services in communities of origin for migrant, transit and returnee children.

SECTOR: Protection (refugees, displaced, minorities, migrants, other)

Average % realisation of activity **100%**

Among the project's activities, the most significant and innovative was the construction of a shelter for migrant minors in Dire Dawa, completed in December 2020, along with the provision of psychosocial support. To ensure its sustainability, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Save the Children, the Women and Children Affairs, and the Labour and Social Affairs of Dire Dawa, defining the roles of each actor. Additionally, Save the Children contributed to the national working group for the revision of the Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) guidelines, highlighting the importance of temporary facilities for family reunification. At the end of the project, the management of the shelter was transferred to the Women and Children Affairs of Dire Dawa.

5.5. Sustainability

The sustainability analysis of the AID 11547 and AID 11548 programmes highlights the commitment to ensuring long-term benefits through environmental, financial, political, and institutional sustainability mechanisms. Both programmes have implemented measures to promote sustainable natural resource management, strengthen the financial management of local NGOs, and involve government authorities to integrate outcomes into development plans. They also focused on the continuation of benefits by establishing long-term partnerships and enhancing organisational capacities through targeted training. The intervention models were

designed to be scalable and replicable, as demonstrated by the adaptation of the projects in other regions. Despite the successes, challenges were faced in ensuring the financial independence of local organisations and adapting to socio-political changes. The programmes stand as examples of integrated approaches addressing both humanitarian and development challenges.

5.6. Impact

The AID 11547 and AID 11548 programmes have made significant contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a multisectoral approach that addresses immediate needs while promoting long-term development. AID 11548 supports SDGs 8, 16, and 5, focusing on combating human trafficking and the reintegration of returnees, while AID 11547 supports SDGs 1, 2, 6, and 13, improving access to water and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

Both programmes have improved the living standards of beneficiaries, with AID 11548 seeing an increase in income for 75% of vocational training participants and a reduction in anxiety symptoms for 60% of beneficiaries. AID 11547 has increased crop yields by 70% and improved health through access to clean water. The programmes have also promoted the sharing of best practices, such as community support networks for returnees (AID 11548) and water management committees (AID 11547), which have enhanced sustainability and collective accountability. Both programmes have shown positive impacts but also highlighted the need to adapt to evolving contexts, making them exemplary models of humanitarian and development initiatives.

5.7. Cross-cutting issues.

The AID 11547 and 11548 programmes in Ethiopia have addressed cross-cutting issues such as human rights, gender equality, and environmental concerns, using a holistic approach. Both programmes integrated human rights considerations, particularly to protect migrants, especially returnees, from violations. Gender issues were central, with gender-sensitive approaches to ensure protection for vulnerable women during migration. Furthermore, the programmes considered the environmental impact, addressing climate change as a driver of migration and promoting sustainable practices.

To monitor and evaluate these issues, monitoring and evaluation frameworks were implemented, measuring the impact on human rights, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. Periodic reports highlighted successes and areas for improvement.

In conclusion, the programmes demonstrated a commitment to a holistic approach, aiming to create a resilient and equitable framework for migration management, addressing immediate needs and contributing to long-term solutions for migrants and host communities.

6. Conclusions

The AID 11547 and AID 11548 programmes have addressed socio-economic challenges and migration-related issues, focusing on resilience and food security (AID 11547) and migration, human trafficking, and the reintegration of returnees (AID 11548). Aligned with Ethiopia's national priorities and the objectives of Italian

Cooperation, the programmes achieved the expected results despite operational challenges, effectively utilising resources.

The programmes had a significant impact on the strategies of partners, beneficiaries, and the Sustainable Development Goals, although there are still challenges, such as ensuring the financial independence of local organisations and adapting to socio-political and environmental changes. The programmes serve as effective models for future interventions, demonstrating the efficacy of integrated and multi-sectoral approaches.

Regarding the hypothesis:

1. Significant changes in behaviour. The programmes triggered lasting changes, particularly in the management of migration processes and the protection of minors.
2. Changes in capacities and knowledge. The programmes enhanced skills in health, agriculture, and entrepreneurship through training and awareness-raising activities.
3. Infrastructure and equipment. Concrete changes were made, such as the rehabilitation of healthcare and educational facilities, and the establishment of psychosocial support for vulnerable youth and women, improving the quality of infrastructure in the target areas.

7. Lessons learnt and good practice

The implementation of the AID 11547 and AID 11548 programmes has provided valuable insights for humanitarian projects in complex contexts. The lessons learned highlight the need to thoroughly understand the local context, adopt integrated multi-sectoral approaches, strengthen community resilience, use feedback mechanisms, and be sensitive to conflicts to achieve sustainable outcomes.

Key lessons learned:

- Understanding the context: A deep understanding of local dynamics is crucial for developing effective interventions.
- Integrated multi-sectoral approaches: Addressing complex challenges requires strategies that combine health, education, water, hygiene, and livelihood support.
- Community resilience: Equipping communities with the skills needed to address immediate needs and prepare for the future is essential for lasting results.
- Adaptive feedback mechanisms: Continuous engagement with beneficiaries allows for real-time strategy adjustments, improving the effectiveness of interventions.
- Management of unintended consequences: It is important to plan ahead to anticipate and mitigate risks, such as tensions between vulnerable groups and host communities.

8. Recommendations

The recommendations derived from the AID 11547 and AID 11548 programmes aim to enhance the effectiveness, sustainability, and impact of future humanitarian initiatives:

1. Enhance the engagement of target groups and stakeholders. Increase the active participation of the individuals and formal and informal groups intervening in the target area at every stage of the programme to align interventions with local needs and promote sustainability through regular consultations.
2. Strengthen coordination among stakeholders: foster collaboration between governments, NGOs, and local communities (direct and indirect project beneficiaries) through formal coordination mechanisms to optimise resource use and improve intervention efficiency.
3. Focus on long-term resilience: integrate strategies to build resilience by investing in training on sustainable livelihoods, environmental adaptation, and disaster preparedness.
4. Implement robust monitoring and evaluation systems: develop monitoring frameworks that combine both qualitative and quantitative indicators to assess long-term effectiveness and enhance accountability.
5. Adapt to evolving contexts: maintain flexibility in programmes to respond to emerging needs by regularly reviewing goals and strategies based on new data and changing situations.