



# Progress Report

## Progress Report No.: 4

<b>Contract Number:</b> 2825-00/2017/GenPro/2-L&R/2017
<b>Title of the Intervention:</b> SWEEP-Water for Food Security, Women's Empowerment and Environmental Protection in East and West Belessa, Ethiopia
<b>Project Period:</b> 01.10.2017-30.9.2020

### Reporting period:

Reporting period: <b>01.01.2019-31.12.2019</b>	Report submitted on (date): <b>28.02.2020</b>
Due date: 29.02.2020	

The answer to all questions must cover the reporting period as specified above. The report must be completed and signed by the contact person of the Contractor. The information provided in this technical report must correspond to the financial information provided in the financial report. Please expand the paragraphs as necessary.

ADA will reject any incomplete reports.



AUSTRIAN  
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## **List of Abbreviations**

Austrian Development Agency (ADA)  
Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)  
Bahir Dar University (BDU)  
Child marriage (CM)  
Community Score card (CSC)  
Development Agents (DA)  
Female Head of Household (FHH)  
Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)  
Government Offices (GOs)  
Government Transformation Program (GTP II)  
Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs)  
Health Extension Workers (HEW)  
Household (HH)  
Income Generating Activity (IGA)  
Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)  
Learning program Alliance (LPA)  
Natural Resource Management (NRM)  
Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)  
Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD)  
Open Defecation Free (ODF)  
Partner Capacity Assessment (PCA)  
People with Disabilities (PWD)  
Program Steering Committee (PSC)  
Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP)  
Steering Committee (SC)  
Social Analysis and Action (SAA)  
Selection, Planning and Management (SPM)  
Ventilated Improved Pit Latrine (VIPL)  
Village Saving and Loans Association (VLSA)  
Water Resource Development (WRD)  
Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)  
Water Sanitation and Hygiene Committee (WASHCo)  
Women Development Army (WDA)

## Summary of the Progress of the Intervention (Not More Than 1 Page)

Over the past year the project has progressed very well. The engagement of beneficiaries and government partners in the entire project cycle management (planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) was paramount and enabled us to accelerate the implementation these last 6 months (especially for the irrigation schemes). All stakeholders have been very active in ensuring ownership and quality of implementation. The participation and engagement of marginalized groups such as female head of households and persons with disabilities is also encouraged by the communities and has increased over time.

By December 2019, the project enabled a total of 70,309 people (89% of SWEEP's target) to access safe water for domestic and productive uses through the construction of 83 new and rehabilitation of 174 non-functional water supply schemes and through the distribution of 1,869 household water filtration kits<sup>1</sup>. Watershed development works were undertaken and a total of 1,769.1 hectares of land - 50% more than our initial target - were treated with physical and biological measures. Furthermore, a total of 2,680 committee members are knowledgeable on the management of water supply schemes, irrigation schemes as well as watershed development works. The construction of 6 solar driven units, 1 surface dam and 3 irrigation schemes are also under completion, and will be finalized in the next quarter.

CARE is also on track to achieve its objective of empowering marginalized beneficiaries socially and economically, and women in particular. To date, a total of 101 VSLAs with 2,179<sup>2</sup> female members saved a total of ETB 702,521 (about \$23,417), which represents a 750% increase compared to the amount saved as of December 2018. There was also a significant increase in the number of VSLA members (1,491) who took a loan (about \$22,420) and engaged in income generating activities. The social norms change process is being led by community members, including power holders and government representatives. Women who are in leadership positions have not faced any backlash, and female community members, female head of households and people with disabilities also feel increasingly confident to voice their concerns at the community and household level.

Finally, the numerous review meetings and supervision visits conducted at zone, woreda and kebele levels with representatives of Government offices, service providers and community members has also proven successful. The participation and contribution of the community and Government representatives has been exemplary and essential for the success of SWEEP and to take mitigation measures when needed. The government also started to act upon some of the communities' requests- in fact, there was a 36% increase in the satisfaction of beneficiaries with Government services compared to the baseline. This improvement is also a result of the use of the Community Scorecard- to date, a total of 31 CSC sessions took place with 1,848 (467 female; 4 persons with disabilities) service providers and users and a total of 9 action plans were developed and are currently being implemented.

Eventually, the combination of the SAA, VSLA and CSC is uniquely successful in simultaneously improving not only the livelihood of the communities we work with but also in gradually transforming social norms that are detrimental to women and girls' wellbeing and in increasing government's accountability towards marginalized citizens.

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<sup>1</sup> Response to ADA specific comment 1

<sup>2</sup> 16 members left the groups since the last reporting period.

## Background/ context (update)

There have been no major changes during the reporting period with regards to the framework conditions except for the political instability occurring in Amhara region, mainly in Central Gondar Zone, including in West and East Belessa. There were frequent political and social mobilizations during the first six months of the year (January-June 2019), followed by a reduction from July-December, with still some sporadic uprisings. These events contributed to a slight delay in the implementation of some of the planned project activities. For instance, government officials and experts at all levels, but mainly at Zone and Woreda, were very busy managing the political situation or were not able to go to their offices, which made it difficult for CARE to invite them for project related meetings, discussions, consultations and take decisions with them for the implementation.

Furthermore, since all the Project Steering Committee (PSC) members are heads/ representatives of government offices, it was difficult to discuss and consult timely with them on the challenges encountered for some important activities such as the irrigation scheme and job creation interventions. The replacement of woreda chief administrators, government office heads and the turnover of government experts also contributed to the late execution of these activities.

Nevertheless, after the development of a rapid action plan in the second half of the year, CARE was able to make up for the lost time and sped up the implementation from September to December 2019.

## Stakeholder analysis (update)

The number of project participants who benefited from the project are presented below:

OUTPUTs	Number of People					Progress (%)
	Original target	Revised target	Reached/benefited			
			Female	Male	Total	
Output 1: Water supply schemes fully functional and accessible to the community	72,550	78,625	33,968	36,341	70,309	89%
Output 2: Irrigation systems improved and fully functional	4,000	4,000	215	217	432	11%
Output 3: Natural environment around watersheds developed and protected	50,000	50,000	19,765	24,203	43,968	88%
Output 4: Capacity developed within community to manage and operate water resource systems sustainably	2,085	3,058	1,381	1178	2,559	84%
Output 5: Marginalized groups engaged in income generating activities	1,308	2,308	1756	187	1,943	84%
Output 6: Community engaged to challenge existing gender roles and expand the role of women and girls	3,750	3,750	2,033	1,960	3,993	106%
Output 7: Increased capacity for joint learning	226	226	80	206	286	127%
Output 8: Increased capacity of local government to engage with community to address needs	280	280	100	171	271	97%

During the reporting period, there have been no changes of the organization's structures, processes and management capacities for implementation.