Country Diagnostic Report
Ethiopia

REACH
Improving water security for the poor
Ethiopia has made impressive gains in growth and poverty reduction since 2000.

Growth and Transformation Plans, GTP-I and –II outline the strategy to achieve Ethiopia’s goal of middle income country by 2025.

BUT there are specific water-related risks to growth and transformation.

Ethiopia has made remarkable progress in reducing income and food poverty and growth deficiencies in children.
Annual rainfall and GDP growth for Ethiopia between 1980 and 2006 showing how Ethiopia’s GDP is tied to rainfall. From 2006 onwards (not shown in the figure) Ethiopia has experienced above average rainfall and a steady rate of GDP growth of around 10%. As of 2015, Ethiopia has entered a drought period.
Water Security Observatories

Sustaining growth: the Awash basin

Managing fragile environments: the learning watersheds

Sustaining human development: the OneWASH plus small towns
A focus on the Awash basin

- The Awash is a large-scale observatory where difficult hydrology influences economic activities
- 10.5 million people depend on Awash basin’s surface and groundwater
- Used for irrigated agriculture, pastoralism, industrial water use and drinking water

Groundwater (black) and surface water (white) availability by basin
Increased demand with economic and population growth

Environmental pollution from economic growth

Saline lake overflowing in river

Managing water for different users

Irrigation expansion and changing livelihoods

Observatory 1: Awash Basin

REACH Improving water security for the poor
Agriculture sustains low- to medium-income livelihoods. They are ‘at risk’ groups who are vulnerable to poverty.

Ethiopia has **high soil erosion rates**, especially on croplands.
- The resulting sediments are a **threat to infrastructure**.
- Soil erosion is estimated to cause **reductions in GDP** from 2% to 6.7%.

Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and Sustainable Land Management have potential to mitigate degradation and reduce vulnerability.
Observatory 2: Learning watersheds

- Sustainable land management:
  - Supports *agricultural productivity*
  - Avoids the *negative economic and livelihood impacts*

- Potential for greater understanding of how *land degradation can be counteracted*, and *effects on hydrological flow regimes*

- Using paired watersheds to study complex relationships between water security and poverty in rural small-scale agriculture in the Ethiopian highlands
Sustaining human development

• Provisional GTP-II targets to increase access to water from 58% in 2015 to 83% in 2020
  – **Institutional challenges** arise from fragmentation between water resources management with WASH
• Household water security: health, education and livelihood
  – The burden of water collection predominantly falls on women.
  – Poor water security impacts children through disease, limiting education and increasing early marriage
UNICEF integrated WASH programmes in Ethiopia focusing on two towns:

- **Wukro**: drought-prone highlands of Tigray rapidly developing
- **Maksegnit**: moisture-reliable highlands of Amhara with 29% of populations below the poverty line

UNICEF is currently expanding water supply and sanitation provision in the towns. Building on research and data collected by UNICEF and IRC to assess sustainability.

Access to water by income quintiles highlighting inequalities
Water insecurity is a major concern, threatening Ethiopia’s current progress to middle income status, and poverty reduction efforts.

REACH will use a risk-based approach to help inform policies that balance growth and poverty reduction across multiple scales.

REACH seeks to inform sustainable pathways to water security in Ethiopia through tailoring investment in infrastructure, institutions and information.
Thank you