

RELIEF SOCIETY OF TIGRAY

2012 Annual Report



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Transforming Lives and Livelihoods in Tigray, Northern Ethiopia



Our **VISION**

We seek a future where poverty has been eradicated and all people enjoy equitable access to development opportunities and benefits.

An Ethiopia free of
poverty and injustice

Our **MISSION**

Our Mission is to contribute to the eradication of poverty in Ethiopia by promoting livelihoods on a sustainable basis within the context of stimulating wider economic dynamism and growth in the Regional State of Tigray.



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Our Guiding OBJECTIVES

1 TO REDUCE CURRENT HIGH LEVELS OF CHRONIC HOUSEHOLD FOOD INSECURITY

Our core concern is to reduce the high levels of chronic household food insecurity that prevail in Tigray, which we consider an inherent component in building sustainable livelihoods.

2 TO EMPOWER COMMUNITIES AND MOST POOR AND VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS

We will advocate and strive to empower communities and individuals to pursue their right to a decent standard of living, with a specific emphasis on the poorest and most vulnerable especially: female headed households, landless youth and people with disabilities.

3 TO PROMOTE EQUITY IN DEVELOPMENT

Our program has a particular focus on identifying and reducing prevailing differentials in poverty levels, power and opportunities between men and women so that development outcomes benefit all equally.

4 TO PROMOTE THE SUSTAINABLE USAGE OF RENEWABLE AND NON-RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES

We promote the sustainable usage of renewable and non-renewable natural resources in pursuit of sustainable livelihoods and overall economic development.

Our WORK

REST works directly with communities to increase their incomes, improve health and education services, increase and diversify agricultural production, protect the environment, build appropriate water supply and sanitation systems, address child malnutrition, and strengthen local capacities in development.

Drawing on our long experience and close relationship with the people and the Administration of Tigray, we play multiple and complementary roles as direct implementers of programs and projects, initiators and promoters of innovation in livelihood development and rural economic growth, and as facilitators of community development and empowerment in almost every Wareda of the Region.

We advocate on behalf of the poor, especially excluded and marginalized sectors of society, and contribute to the evolution of development policy and strategy at regional, national and international levels so that the voices of the poor are heard.

Our HISTORY

REST was founded in Ethiopia in 1978. We initially started as a relatively small organisation in response to the needs of Tigrayan refugees displaced by drought and food insecurity to neighbouring Sudan.

As famine conditions worsened in 1984/5 affecting large numbers of the Tigrayan population, we initiated a large scale cross border relief operation that lasted until 1987. At the same time, we implemented a range of agriculture (seeds, tools, and oxen), water, environmental, health and education activities in order to keep families on the land, and to restore their productivity.

When the civil war ended in 1991, REST registered as a local Nongovernmental Organisation (NGO), and has since focussed on multi-sector, long term development programming while retaining some capacity in emergency response. Today, we are one of the most prominent local NGOs in Ethiopia with a proven track record in successfully changing the lives of the most poor.

Report from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Partners,

Year by year signs of good progress towards food security are becoming more and more evident. The past year was no exception. With your unwavering support and the commitment of REST staff, local government and thousands of communities throughout Tigray, in 2012 we achieved unprecedented results.

We brought clean water to nearly 900 parched villages and scaled-up our work in natural resource management to curb the impacts of climate change. Thousands of poor farming households saw their livelihoods improve when we launched a number of new technologies, especially in irrigation; introduced a range of profitable agricultural enterprises; and improved smallholder access to financial services and markets. Our integrated efforts in health, sanitation and nutrition have ensured that families are not only better off, they are also healthier and more likely to take advantage of the development opportunities around them.

As social protection policy starts to take shape in the country, REST also continues to be at the forefront in delivering the productive safety net program. We now reach over 750,000 chronically food insecure individuals in 12 Woredas, or about 60 percent of the total PSNP caseload in Tigray. Generously assisted by USAID, the results of 2012 speak for themselves: some 121,000 households officially graduated out of REST's current PSNP operational Woredas, which is double the number of graduates compared to 2011, and nearly 70 percent of all PSNP households that graduated in Tigray in 2012 in all 31 official PSNP Woredas. These, and many other results, are resounding proof of the fact that REST is still an influential and indispensable player in Tigray's development landscape.

On a sad note, in August 2012, all of us at REST were deeply shocked and saddened by the untimely death of PM Meles Zenawi. One of the founders of REST, and a close friend and comrade, Meles Zenawi can best be described as a visionary, strong leader and an impassioned patriot who put development and the people of Ethiopia first. The architect of numerous post-liberation policies, Meles will be sorely missed, though his legacy for a more prosperous and peaceful Ethiopia and more broadly Africa, will live on forever.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of REST's partners and generous donors who have again supported us in their own way and in accordance with their means. I am counting on your renewed support in 2013 if we are to experience another year of exceptional accomplishments in the fight against food insecurity and poverty.

My gratitude also goes to my fellow Board members for their unflinching support and constant patronage of REST's work throughout 2012. I look forward to your continuing collaboration in the future.

Teklewoini Assefa

“With your unwavering support and the commitment of REST staff, local government and thousands of communities throughout Tigray, in 2012 we achieved unprecedented results.”

Our CONTEXT

Tigray is an ancient land bestowed with a rich culture, language and archaeological heritage; and a resourceful and resilient people.

LOCATION

Tigray is the northernmost of the nine Regions of Ethiopia and occupies an area of just over 50,000km². It is bordered by Eritrea to the north, Sudan to the west, the Afar Region to the east, and the Amhara Region to the south and southwest. The terrain is mostly high plateau (1500 to 2300 masl), cut through by deep ravines. Excluding Makelle town, the state capital, there are five administrative zones comprising a total of 47 Waredas (districts) and 673 Tabias (sub-districts).

POPULATION

According to official figures, the Tigray population is 4.807 million people (female: 2.44 million and male: 2.36 million) and growing at an annual rate of 2.5 percent. Comprised of 757,065 households, some 30-40 percent of these are headed by women. Eighty five percent of the population resides in rural areas.

CLIMATE

Tigray is classified as arid/semi-arid. The average annual rainfall is between 200 to 1600 mm depending on the agro-ecology. Rainfall is erratic and concentrated in the meher rain season beginning in mid-June to about mid-September, making Tigray the driest Region relative to altitude, in comparison with the rest of arable Ethiopia. Droughts are frequent.

LIVELIHOODS

Tigray's economy is anchored on agriculture which annually accounts for half of the Region's GDP. Livelihoods are built around smallholder farming of highland crops such as sorghum, teff, millet, maize and pulses; and the keeping of livestock, mostly cattle, goats and sheep. Smallholdings account for 95 percent of the cultivated land and contribute to about 96 percent of the annual agricultural output.

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

- » Chronic poverty affects half of the Tigray population. This group has insufficient means to meet its annual minimum subsistence needs.
- » Low agricultural productivity due to dependence on rainfed farming, land degradation, climate stresses, small plot size, low use of technology and lack of diversification and knowledge/capacity.
- » Substantial environmental degradation and soil erosion. Only small portions of land are covered by vegetation and almost 90 percent of land is under continuous cultivation.
- » High levels of risk and vulnerability associated with dependence on agriculture for rural incomes, markets for food, erratic rainfall, climate change and conflict.
- » Unacceptable high levels of ill-health and undernutrition in adults and children.
- » Limited capacity to migrate to more prosperous futures.

POSITIVE INDICATORS

Much investment has gone into lifting people out of poverty and making them more resilient. This builds on the solid foundation that already exists in Tigray: hard working and committed communities, solid government leadership and strong local organizations like REST, united in the pursuit of development.



Our DIVERSE PROGRAM

REST's programs and activities are wide-ranging and use community based, participatory approaches to bring about improvements in the lives and livelihoods of the most poor and vulnerable in Tigray. Female Headed Households, landless youth and people with disabilities are our priority target groups.

In 2012, we successfully assisted 1.38 million people in 38 Waredas, and achieved 90-100 percent of our planned activity targets.



POTABLE WATER

Access to clean water is the foundation of all development. By digging 876 new hand dug wells, RRWHS, boreholes, and capping springs, we were able to provide clean water to 298,557 people and 82,060 animals in 24 Waredas.



NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

To conserve the environment we treated 20,134 hectares of catchment areas, planted over 28 million tree and shrub seedlings, and created a further 30,700 hectares of new area enclosures bringing the total to 173,290 hectares.



SMALLHOLDER LIVELIHOODS

We improved livelihoods by supporting water harvesting, irrigation, high value crop production, forage and animal waterhole development, agricultural enterprises, road networks and marketing groups/ cooperatives for 23,429 farmers.



HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Communities became healthier by receiving MCH, RH, HIV/AIDS, and nutrition promotion services; and smarter by having access to Alternative Basic Education, Adult Functional Literacy, better quality Formal Schools by 17,380 child and adult students.



SOCIAL PROTECTION

We are building resilience by helping to save and rebuild lives, and ensuring communities are better prepared for natural and manmade disasters. We focus on early warning, relief food/non-food aid, micro-insurance, and productive safety nets, reaching over 860,000 people in need.



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

By building the capacity, skill and knowledge base of poor communities, households, institutions and government, they were better able to steer the course of their own development, take advantage of opportunities, make effective use of resources, and act on their rights. Integration of gender equality in all our activities is a priority.

Sustainably managing TIGRAY'S NATURAL RESOURCE BASE

THE CHALLENGE

While natural ecosystems are meant to sustain life, ecosystems and regenerating bio-capacity in Tigray, by contrast, are severely degraded and pose a major threat to agricultural livelihoods and household wellbeing.

It is currently estimated that up to half of all arable land in Tigray is moderately to severely eroded changing once cultivable lands into barren wastelands. Soil erosion is said to be occurring at a rate of 30-70 tons per hectare each year, while vegetation cover is thought to be as low as 2-3 percent and will deteriorate further if management practices are not changed. As land degradation amplifies the negative impacts of drought, productivity decline will worsen. The World Bank has estimated that a 2.2 percent fall in productivity has occurred each year since 1985 mostly due to soil erosion.

The causes and consequences of environmental destruction are many and they are interconnected:

- » Unprecedented settlement expansion where even steep mountainsides are farmed. Cultivable land has become increasingly scarce as population grows but livelihoods remain reliant on subsistence agriculture.
- » Soil erosion leading to desertification and loss of a production base.
- » Deepening impacts of climate change.
- » Unsustainable agricultural practices including the use of dung for fuel rather than as organic fertilizer.
- » Rampant deforestation – current forest and woodlot cover is only about 1.6 percent.
- » Vicious cycle of over-use of land in order to meet basic food security causing decreased fertility. Even the practice of fallow is slowly disappearing as the pressure for more land for agriculture, fuel, construction and grazing mounts.

ACTION

Over the years REST has focused much of its attention on ending and reversing the damage done by environmental degradation on food security. We have focused our efforts on clusters of activities such as soil and water conservation (SWC), reforestation and land enclosures; and sought to improve farming practices and influence policies concerned with ecosystem management and preservation through intensive capacity building and evidence-based advocacy. The objective is to make land and water resources more resistant to climate change and halt soil erosion so that land and agricultural productivity can be raised.

Our best results in combating environmental challenges are evident when natural resource activities are tailored to agro-ecologies, and they are integrated, linked and sequenced at the watershed level. Abiding by this proven REST approach has multiple benefits: it can sustainably boost food production, raise rural incomes, and improve household and community health and nutrition – all of which contribute to better quality of life and livelihoods.

REST's Environmental Rehabilitation and Agriculture Development Department – ERAD is responsible for the stewardship of natural resources in the Waredas where we work. In the past year ERAD operated in 12 Waredas, and worked with almost 474,000 farmers on regenerating the environment and raising productivity in agriculture.

OUTCOMES

1. SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

Tigray is arid and dependant on rainfed agriculture for its food production. Because of these factors, water retaining, moisture conserving and groundwater recharging measures are needed to protect soils and lock-in the moisture necessary to growing food and increasing the capacity of farmers to adapt to climate change.

The technology packages we used to avert soil and moisture loss and nutrient depletion in 2012 included:

Catchment treatment: We applied a broad spectrum of SWC measures on 25,455 hectares of degraded catchments across 16 REST program Waredas which is over 92 percent of our 2012 planned target.

Gully reclamation: Deep and wide gullies caused by severe soil erosion have expanded onto farmlands at an alarming rate. To prevent gullies from spreading further, ERAD together with communities treated 109 large gully sites extending 117 kilometres in length, using a variety of physical and biological conservation techniques before handover of treated areas to farmers and landless youth for farming.

Water harvesting check dam ponds: A very successful REST innovation designed to collect water for crop irrigation purposes, 56 water harvesting check dam ponds were constructed across big gully sites and degraded stream beds during gully treatment in 2012. These sturdy structures have already begun irrigating 461 hectares of farmland enabling vegetable and fruit production to occur at least two to three times a year.

Flood diverting check dams/spate irrigation: Spate irrigation is commonly practiced in Raya Azebo. Annually floodwaters flow from the highlands where it is diverted and stored on land plots for later use in crop and vegetable production. In 2012, a total of 28 spates were constructed to high standards in Raya Azebo, and are expected to irrigate close to 422 hectares of farmland.

Percolation structures: Positioned in upper-catchments to catch and filtrate upstream water runoff into groundwater systems, in the past year 304,069 percolation structures with a combined water holding capacity of 1,960,406m³ were successfully constructed.

Moisture harvesting on apportioned hillsides: Late onset and early cessation of seasonal rainfalls is a usual phenomenon in Tigray often resulting in moisture stress and high susceptibility of cultivated and uncultivated lands to wind and water erosion. To overcome such problems, a wide array of soil and water retention and conservation measures are applied on degraded mountainsides which are then allocated to landless youth to pursue agricultural enterprises such as beekeeping and plantation of multipurpose tree species. In line with these dual objectives, in 2012 we invested in the treatment of 504 hectares of degraded land and mountainsides with different moisture harvesting structures. Over 1,620 landless youth benefited from the scheme and are on track to generating new income from what were once dry and unproductive wastelands. A further 90 hectares of agro-forestry sites were also treated to promote rural incomes.

Biological soil and water conservation (BSWC): Complementary and mutually reinforcing physical and biological SWC activities are implemented side by side to best conserve and sustain soil and water resources. Our strategy in 2012 involved out-planting over 2.04 million vetiver grass splits and elephant grass cuttings on physically treated gullies, on 58,646 kilometres

of bunds and 66,848m³ of reshaped (to 45°) gully banks; while 8,110 kilograms of various grass and tree seeds were collected and sown within 19,790 kilometres of agro-forestry bunds.

Micro basins for forest plantation: To boost the survival rate of the millions of tree seedlings planted out, we constructed 90,125 different moisture harvesting basins within plantation sites in integration with terraces and other physical SWC measures. Based on REST experience, these structures are:

- » effective in low and medium rainfall areas for growing trees and harvesting moisture
- » effective in controlling runoff and assisting water table recharge
- » structures for tree and other species planting

Capacity building: Implementing such a vast and impressive program would not be possible without local know how and technical expertise. A core component of any REST activity, over the past year we trained and shared knowledge with 2,531 farmers, SWC technical leaders, Development & Extension Agents, Water User Associations, communities, government administrators and line bureau experts through practical and theoretical lessons, workshops and exposure visits.

Given the gravity of climate change impacts on natural resources, REST also considered it important to train 48 regional government and REST's own technical experts on "natural resources and climate change" so that they are better equipped to deal with, and mitigate the impacts and consequences of changing weather on farming systems that rely exclusively on natural resources.

ACHIEVEMENTS WE ARE PROUD OF...

- » By constructing 56 check dam ponds across streams, water reservoirs have reinvigorated enabling 224 poor households to harvest food crops 2 to 3 times a year through dry season supplementary irrigation on 461 hectares of farmland deemed wasteland just months before.
- » Significant increases in household incomes were made possible when farmers employed improved agricultural practices and treated the soils on which they eked out a living. From a 0.25 plot of land it is now possible to harvest high value crops like fruit and vegetables at least twice a year, from which EB 41,240 can be generated. This is a 75% increase in income compared to income earned from rainfed cereal crop harvests.
- » New supplementary irrigation schemes are a major stimulus for moving farmers from subsistence to more market oriented farming. The transformation of degraded lands has enabled farmers to grow surplus crops which are sold for profit at local markets, which in turn spurs savings and migration into more profitable livelihoods.
- » The stock of local knowledge and technical know-how around physical/biological conservation measures and natural resource management overall is growing exponentially each year. In 2012 over 2,500 frontline workers and farmers acquired new skills with which to combat climate change and avert environmental disasters that harm and block basic survival strategies.





2. REFORESTATION

The REST reforestation program integrates plants/forests (biological) with SWC (physical) to sustainably improve the environment. Forests assist to regulate water-flow, prevent soil erosion, facilitate nutrient recycling – characteristics that are critical to improving watershed productivity and resilience to climate and other environmental changes. They also provide various socio-economic services such as generating wood products for farming, income and energy sources.

To take advantage of the benefits reforestation offers, REST’s program advances two strategies: a) plantation of new forests in badly soil and biodiversity degraded/deforested areas to replenish and re-establish vegetation cover; and b) enclosure of degraded watersheds so as to both initiate and facilitate the recovery of original forest biodiversity by reducing pressure or intrusion from humans and animals, allowing for the regeneration of natural resources. Beyond the environmental benefits are the economic benefits of reforestation. Another strategy is to train and provide inputs to poor farmers and youth to develop woodlots and grow high value fruit crops from which high incomes can be made.

Tree and shrub seedlings for reforestation activities are mostly produced at the 94 REST central nurseries that are operational in 15 Waredas (a nominal amount of seedlings were purchased from government run nurseries and private producers). We provide basic nursery materials (polythene tubing, thatching, manure, pesticides), while trained nursery technicians and supervisors from the community assist in running the nurseries throughout the entire tree production cycle. Capacity among these dedicated

workers is so high that in 2012 they were able to collect 8,530 kilograms of local seeds for the production of a remarkable 28 million tree and shrub seedlings. About 60 varieties of trees and shrubs were raised, of which 28 were indigenous and 32 were exotic species, all of which are particularly useful for land conservation, as bio-fuel, and animal feed. REST nurseries also produced 3.03 million Faidherbia, Moringa, Agav, and Jatropha seedlings which are both in high demand and have a high economic value.

July to August is typically the season for planting tree and shrub seedlings – a month after pits are dug by communities. A total of 29 million pits were prepared for this purpose on communal hillsides, on private farm plots and at institutions like schools. A plant survival rate of 77% was recorded.

Type of plantation	Number seedlings out planted	% of 2012 plan
Communal	17,577,208	96%
Private	9,341,733	104%
Individual	4,649,323	97%
Agro-forestry on farmland	1,948,621	143.6
Agro-forestry on backyard	994,436	91.5
Apportioned hillsides	1,632,554	99.5
Gully plantation	116,799	142.0
Social Institutions	1,125,491	117.3
Total	28,044,432	99.3

3. AREA ENCLOSURES

Area enclosure practices – a low input rehabilitation measure in which badly eroded land is protected from cutting and grazing to enable vegetative regeneration – were first trialled and brought to scale in Tigray by REST in the early 1990s.

Area enclosures are popular and serve two purposes: a) they enable quick recovery of degraded lands and reestablishment of destroyed ecosystems, and b) they make available new forest products for household use like ploughshares and house construction, and for economic activities like fodder production for livestock assets and beekeeping.

By working closely with communities we achieved impressive results in 2012:

- » Over 142,590 hectares of existing area enclosures remained well guarded and protected throughout the year.
- » Over 30,700 hectares of new area enclosures were created which is double our 2012 plan.
- » Over 17,100 hectares of hillsides planted with trees and shrubs in July/August and protection systems well established.
- » Over 6,000 hectares of new area enclosures designated for agro-forestry use.
- » Nearly 13,200 hectares of matured area enclosures handed over to 14,134 households in 5 Waredas.

WHAT WE GOT RIGHT?

Many development practitioners would agree that the impacts of forestry interventions are a long term process. But with three decades of practical experience under our belts, our achievements are many and have contributed to changing the Tigrayan landscape on a permanent basis.

In 2012 alone we:

- » Produced over 28 million tree seedlings and out planted these on 14,750 hectares of communal hillsides, grazing lands, and agro forestry sites in 15 REST operational Waredas. These efforts have assisted to minimize soil erosion and lower surface temperatures making it more conducive for farming and underground water recharge.
- » Augmented good incomes for thousands of farmers who planted fast growing tree species like Eucalyptus and will sell these as timber and firewood for a good profit.
- » Created and maintained 196,503 hectares of area enclosures, assisting poor farmers to weather frequent shocks like drought by making grasses readily available for animal feed, rebuilding resilient ecosystems, creating stocks of fuel wood from pruned branches, and creating alternative sources of income through apiculture and tree sales.

WHEN WATER IS LIFE



THE CHALLENGE

When Tigrayans say “water is life” they really mean it. That is because Tigray is one of the driest parts of Ethiopia. Rainfall is mostly mono-modal, sporadic and sparse, averaging about 300-500 mm each year. With such conditions, water shortages are common and generally worsening in the face of environmental degradation and frequent drought.

Living with constant water stress is clearly debilitating. The gradual disappearance and pollution of traditional sources of water such as rivers, streams and springs, means women and girls are spending more and more time walking to fetch water and less time on development opportunities such as education and income generation. Poor hygiene and sanitation due to lack of water in most communities have resulted in a high infant mortality rate as well as widespread suffering from water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea, intestinal parasites, and dysentery.

WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO?

While many investments have been made to improve water supply in Tigray, much more still needs to be done. As one of the leaders in water provision in Ethiopia, REST offers a range of technology options from hand dug wells and springs, to boreholes and roof rainwater harvesting schemes and we construct water points in a wide array of settings.

Our goal is to alleviate the problems associated with the lack of access to safe water in rural communities in Tigray consistent with Millennium Development Goal 7.

We seek to achieve this goal by:

- » increasing safe water coverage to a minimum of 90 percent in all REST program areas
- » reducing time spent on water collection by women and girls from 2-3 hours to no more than 30 minutes, giving girls more time to go to school and study; and women more time to do other productive work, take part in community affairs and perform household duties
- » promoting personal and environmental hygiene leading to better health
- » having in place effective maintenance systems so as to provide adequate quantities of water on a continuous basis
- » integrating the development of potable water with a broad range of environmental conservation initiatives to avoid depletion of water tables

WATER ACTION

The approaches and measures we take to develop water schemes are unique, inclusive of communities and particularly suited to the Tigray context.

We specifically focus on:

- » Hand dug wells
- » Shallow and deep boreholes
- » Spring development
- » Roof rainwater harvesting

THE WAY WE OPERATE

STRATEGIC APPROACHES

Involvement of communities, especially women, in the development of water supplies to build ownership of common resources, and encourage the proper management and maintenance of finished water points.

Use of appropriate and affordable technology for ease of management and for sustainability. Grassroots level Water & Sanitation Committees are established at every completed site.

Integration of all water points with conservation and other WATSAN activities at the watershed level in order to replenish aquifers, and to ensure water resources are properly used and stored at home to avoid water contamination.

STEPS IN DEVELOPING WATER SUPPLIES

Feasibility & Site Selection is the first step in determining where potential water sources exist using an array of technical approaches by professional hydro-geologists in collaboration with communities.

Community buy-in involving a share of responsibilities (fees, labour, construction materials, guarding, leadership) and local ownership of developed water resources is essential for effective long-term operation and maintenance of the schemes.

Construction & handover encompass the local provision of skilled/community labour to build the water points; REST input supplies; establishment of W&SC as per established bylaws; and formal handover to users and government sector offices.



Every water scheme we help establish is constructed by our own experienced Team of water technicians, hydro-geologists, geologists, drillers, mechanics, plumbers, electricians and blacksmiths. Throughout the working year, they are successfully backed-up by our own drilling rigs and equipment such as generators and dewatering pumps. Fully equipped water maintenance workshops (permanent in Makelle and mobile) ensure equipment is well kept and operational at all times, minimizing construction delays.

OUTCOMES

With communities we successfully developed 876 water schemes in 24 Waredas bringing clean water to some 298,557 people and 82,060 livestock at a cost of EB 130 million, and also established 876 WATSAN Committees. The actual type of water supply option we choose in each location was dependent on the geology and accessibility of the area and specific site.

In 2012 we finished construction on:

475 Hand Dug Wells in 22 Waredas to depths of 10-15 metres for 142,258 people. 90 Hand Dug Wells are also under construction and will be completed in 2013 → 90% annual target achieved

65 Springs with troughs and reservoirs ranging from 7m³-10m³ for 20,165 people and 23,335 animals in 10 Waredas, while 20 are under construction → 85% annual target achieved.

326 Shallow Boreholes drilled to 50-65 metres in 21 Waredas for 101,306 people and 10,514 students attending school using REST truck mounted drilling rigs → 88% annual target achieved.

6 Roof Rainwater Harvesting Schemes in schools and clinics for an estimated 263,729 community members, 10,574 students and 28,135 animals.

Rehabilitation of 40 Hand Dug Wells, 17 Springs, and 30 Shallow Boreholes for 23,378 people and 48,000 animals

Ensuring the viability of SMALLHOLDER LIVELIHOODS



CURRENT CONSTRAINTS

In economies like those that exist in Tigray, income diversification is an absolute necessity if the poor are to move permanently out of poverty. There are constraints however to immediately realizing this goal: agricultural households are generally poor and few produce surpluses. Lack of capital to invest in yield increases by way of improved knowledge, equipment, seeds and technologies, are main causes. The grim reality is that only 20 percent of cropped land in Tigray is devoted to the production of cash crops, severely inhibiting the potential to grow household incomes from within agriculture. Imperfect markets and limited non-farm opportunities are compounding factors.

ACTION

For several years now, REST, through its Smallholder Livelihoods Program has invested heavily in removing the obstacles to better futures by creating alternative income opportunities for the rural poor. Our program relies on best-bet solutions that can progressively and sequentially build diverse and durable rural livelihoods using innovative agricultural technologies; and by diversifying both crop and livestock production. Strategies that strengthen markets and increase farmer capacity complete the market chain cycle.

ACHIEVEMENTS

There are several categories of activities that make up the REST Smallholder Livelihoods Program:

WATER HARVESTING AND SMALL SCALE IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT

With worsening impacts of climate change on hydrological cycles and rainfall patterns, we are assisting farmers to access and control water resources, raise on-farm productivity and build resiliency into rural livelihoods through small-plot crop irrigation. Employing water efficient and labour saving irrigation technologies, in 2012 together with communities we developed 59 different structures and set-up Water User Management Committees after conducting social and economic feasibility assessments, and hydrology and land surveys.

To exploit the newly available water, 156 Rope and Washer Pumps, 61 Family Drip Kits and 103 Motorized Water Pumps were distributed to 363 households on a credit basis, along with technical training enabling the irrigation of an additional 158 hectares of farmland.

Irrigation Structure	No.	Hectares Irrigated	Households Benefiting
Irrigation Check Dams	12	211	844
Spate Irrigation	4	650	2,600
Mini Dams	3	155	620
Small River Diversions	25	781	3,124
Springs for Irrigation	13	118	472
Electric Pump Irrigation	2	48	192
TOTAL	59	1,963	7,852

PRODUCTION OF ECONOMICALLY VALUABLE CROPS

Given the centrality of crop production in farming systems in Tigray, REST has sought to augment farmer incomes and diets by encouraging the adoption of agricultural production systems that bring high rates of return, and have good market potential such as fruit, vegetables and other drought-tolerant crops in 15 Waredas.

- » **Fruit Production and Promotion:** Production of quality fruits is a viable small enterprise with many nutritional benefits too. Growing in demand, we supplied fruit seedlings to 4,725 poor farmers (f=1,003) and provided multiplication materials (scions, rootstock, and seeds) and technical assistance to raise 275,500 orange, mango, apple, avocado, papaya, coffee and lemon seedlings in our 7 multipurpose nurseries. Seedlings were then planted on mostly irrigable farmlands and homestead backyards covering 207 hectares.
- » **Vegetable Production and Promotion:** Increased diversity within existing cropping systems was made possible by distributing 209 kilograms of vegetable seeds (tomato, onion, swiss-chard, carrot, lettuce, pepper), and 228 quintals of planting materials (potato tuber, garlic, onion, shallot bulbs)

to 1,407 (f=627) and 678 (f=214) farmers, respectively. Planted on a total of 215 hectares of farmland, access to either markets, irrigable farm plots or other water sources was a prerequisite for participation.

- » **Oil Crop Distribution:** Oil producing crops like groundnut are a useful alternative for raising farm incomes. In 2012, REST provided 11 quintals of groundnut seeds to 63 farmers (f=6) residing in lowland areas where the conditions for groundnut production are more suited (Seharti Samre, Mereb Leke, Kolla Tembien and Tanqua Abergelle). Time was spent with farmers demonstrating how best to produce high quality groundnuts, and on linking them with producer groups and cooperatives for more effective marketing of their products.
- » **Micro Gardens:** A newly introduced initiative, micro gardens are ideal for poor women heads of households who lack access to irrigable land and are labour poor. Established in backyards for the purpose of growing vegetables such as carrots, onions and tomatoes, micro gardens are based on simple kitchen-garden techniques, and are easy to set-up. With close supervision and technical support from REST, achievements over the past year included:
 - » Establishment of 735 micro gardens exclusively for poor women heads of households in 15 Waredas with technical and input support from REST.
 - » Sale of surplus vegetables earning most women an extra EB 25/week.
 - » Improved family health owing to increased consumption of fresh vegetables.
 - » There are also notable increases in the supply of vegetables in local markets which is expected to benefit communities in general.

HOUSEHOLDS WHO BENEFITED FROM VEGETABLE AND FRUIT PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES TOLD US THAT:

- » Their livelihoods have improved to the extent that many households are now free from any form of aid.
- » For the first time ever, they were able to cover all their farm and household expenses, and send their children to school.
- » Hundreds of local jobs on nurseries have been created earning many technicians EB 30.00 a day.
- » Rapid graduation out of the Productive Safety Net Program had occurred.
- » Farmers have become free of debt with some now saving up to EB 80,000 annually with the Dedebit Credit and Savings Institution, the local MFI.
- » Home improvements and purchase of land for house construction have become common.

ENHANCING THE PRODUCTIVITY OF LIVESTOCK

Lack of adequate fodder and water are main hindrances to maximizing the income and nutritional potentials of livestock ownership. Serious land degradation along with pasture depletion and overstocking are main causes. To reverse these constraints and capitalize on the current high demand for animal products in Tigray, we strategically work on improving livestock quality and expanding opportunities for income from livestock products by developing forage and water supplies, and creating livestock agro-enterprises.

FORAGE DEVELOPMENT

Major feed resources in Tigray are crop residue, followed by natural pasture, browse and crop aftermath. Free uncontrolled grazing dominates grazing systems on mostly common property lands, but these are insufficient to fill feed requirements for growing livestock populations and agro-enterprises like dairy flourishing across the region. REST intervenes by enriching overgrazed closure areas and communal grazing lands to bring about changes in grassland dynamics, plant composition and/or herbage biomass.

- » **Enrichment of Area Enclosures:** A total of 25 quintals of local forage seeds were collected and over-sown on 623 hectares of already treated area enclosures in 12 Waredas. These enclosures are protected from free grazing and human intrusion allowing the forage to reach maturity within a minimum of 2 years, after which time botanically well composed hay and other feed supplies, can be harvested, aiding animal health and productivity. The ability to withstand droughts as a result of access to communal forage resources is an additional benefit.
- » **Enrichment of Grazing Lands (Grass & Legume):** Additional nutritious forage was grown on 247 hectares of degraded grazing lands by improving the quality of indigenous grasses and legumes and mixing these with 35 quintals of improved forage seeds like Rhodes, oats and other legumes based on agro-ecological considerations. Improved forage seeds were derived from: 16 quintals from REST seed multiplication centres, 13 quintals from seed stocks, and 6 quintals were purchased.
- » In total, REST runs 7 forage seed multiplication centres in Ahferom, Kolla Tembien, Raya Azebo, Tanqua Abergelle, Mereb Leke, Degua Tembien and Kilte Awlealo. These nurseries managed to collect 12 quintals grass seeds and 44 quintals of legume seeds worth more than EB 314,252 which were distributed to poor farmers over the past year. To expand the varieties of available forage, over 668,000 elephant grass cuttings were also propagated at the nurseries.
- » **Promoting Zero-Grazing:** We promoted zero grazing by educating 141 livestock owners on the pros and cons of zero grazing versus free grazing, and feed production for stall grazing; and by setting-up community institutions in the form of 11 Zero Grazing Advocacy Committees. Each Committee is comprised of 10 trained, influential members of the community (elders, religious leaders, Tabia government

representatives, mass associations, livestock owners, youth and female heads of households) who are responsible, with trained livestock owners, for influencing and persuading communities to adopt zero grazing as the preferred grazing option, and change behaviours around conservation based farming practices. Zero grazing has several benefits: it improves the quality and productivity of animals; it protects and controls against transmissible diseases; it minimizes land erosion; and it conserves manure to enrich soils and as a source of energy, earning it the catchphrase “from zero grazing to zero poverty”.

- » **Inter-cropping Legumes with Cereals:** Inter-cropping is the practice of growing more than one crop simultaneously in alternating rows on the same field. Some of the main benefits of inter-cropping legumes with cereals are yield increases per area of land, soil enrichment, and enhanced animal nutrition due to eating legumes which have high protein content. Legumes also bring down the high cost of feed protein supplementations, thus providing a significant cost saving to resource poor farmers. To boost both livestock and crop productivity close to 8 quintals of legume seeds were under-sown on 55 hectares of land with cereals across 5 Waredas. Instilling this practice in farming systems involved 140 farmers receiving training on best ways for managing the integration or under-sowing of legumes with cereal crops, and the importance of such practices. Significant improvements in livestock diets, meat and milk production, and land fertility are expected.

LIVESTOCK WATERING POINT DEVELOPMENT

Water is the most important nutrient in animal feed and for animal health, and constitutes 88 percent of the content of milk, but like livestock feed, it is in short supply. To therefore protect livestock assets we constructed 31 livestock watering ponds with a collective water holding capacity of 49,082m³ of water (1 pond holds 1,583m³). This amount of water is sufficient for an estimated 91,255 animals for one solid month during dry periods, and for about two months during the wet season, making it possible to avert stress migration of animals in search of water.

Wareda	Number Troughs	Number Livestock	HHs Benefiting
Wukro	3	7,600	1,470
Gulo Mekeda	2	2,814	389
Ganta Afeshum	2	2,327	142
Hawzien	2	7,581	576
Ahferom	3	24,089	882
Werie Leke	2	1,952	250
Kolla Tembien	3	3,206	220
Degua Tembien	3	8,934	736
Tanqua Abergelle	3	7,600	876
Seharti Samre	3	14,559	697
TOTAL	25	91,255	7,544



CATALYSING AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES

Several innovative and contextually viable agricultural enterprises were offered to farmers in 2012:

DAIRY

Found in Western Tigray, for the past 13 years REST has promoted the adoption of Begait cows and bulls to low and midland areas of Tigray. Known for their ability to survive in harsh conditions, high milk yields and short gestation times, 69 Begait dairy cows were distributed to 69 farmers (f=10) in 5 Waredas (Seharti Samre, Gulo Mekeda, Adwa, Hintalo Wajerat, Maeday Bayzana) enabling them to establish dairy enterprises and to assist family nutrition through the consumption of dairy products. Training on shelter and feed preparation was also given to ensure proper care of the animals.

APICULTURE

Honey production is a long time tradition in Tigray, most commonly practiced in backyards, and now in enclosures. To enhance honey production levels, skills, and incomes, 41 landless youth and 59 poor households each received modern bee hives and complimentary training on aspects of honey production, and beekeeping management. The formation of honey cooperatives is the next step.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND FATTENING

To generate good earnings from livestock assets, we:

- » **Small Ruminant Rearing:** Distributed 1,190 small ruminants to 231 farmers (f=131) in 6 Waredas at a rate of 5-6 ruminants per household. Training was also provided.
- » **Animal Fattening (3 month cycle):** To meet the demand for meat, 648 small ruminants were distributed to 156 farmers (f=94). Every farmer received training on marketing and animal care.
- » **Cattle Fattening:** A recent initiative, Wareda Purchasing Committees with REST were responsible for buying and distributing 147 heads of cattle to 127 farmers (f=19) following intensive training.

POULTRY

Because of the rapid economic returns, 420 farmers, mostly women, received 5-6 day old chicks and training on poultry management and marketing across 6 Waredas. Support was also given to all 10 existing poultry cooperatives set-up by REST last year, to ensure proper operations.

Availing basic social SERVICES TO THE POOR

ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES

Even though many more Tigrayans today are enjoying superior health and nutrition security than ever before, close to 40 percent of the population still experiences hunger and misses out on vital nutrients (carbohydrates, fats and protein) needed for basic wellbeing. The fact that 43.7 percent of children under 5 years of age are stunted, and at least a quarter of women are malnourished and receive little delivery assistance from a health professional, is symptomatic of the poor health and undernutrition prevailing in the Region. High rates of malaria, waterborne diseases and poor feeding practices are other major contributors.

As a major actor in health programming in Tigray, we centre our attention on activities in which we enjoy a comparative advantage. Grassroots focused, we seek to create better access to preventative and basic health services among women, children (0 -24 months) and poor communities in general.

In partnership with the Tigray Health Bureau and communities, in 2012 the REST Health Department implemented a variety of health and nutrition activities in 38 Woredas – 27 rural Woredas and 11 urban Woredas.

ACHIEVEMENTS

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

The rates of morbidity and mortality among women and children in Tigray are high. By strengthening the Health Extension Service Program we hoped to improve mother and child health in a number of areas.

- » **Antenatal Care (ANC):** Awareness of the importance of ANC is growing and this is backed up by our records. Over the past year, a total of 3,552 mothers sought out ANC services in the REST program area for the 1st time while 5,944 pregnant mothers returned for a 2nd or more times. About 3,550 mothers and their partners were tested for HIV/AIDS (of which 63 were positive and referred on for PMTCT). Influenced by improved health seeking behaviours and the

commitment and skills of Health Extension Workers (HEWs) and MCH clinic staff, delivery services at MCH Centres have also improved due to counselling and support on birth preparedness and complication readiness resulting in 1,137 mothers opting to deliver at a health institution.

- » **Postnatal Care (PNC):** Provided in MCH Centres, over 2,240 recently delivered mothers presenting one or more risk conditions sought out PNC services and these were satisfactorily dealt with. Additionally, close to 1,200 mothers received family planning services for the 1st time, and 8,720 for the 2nd or more times.
- » **Under Five Sick Baby Clinics:** In the 'under five sick baby clinic' found in the Shire MCH Centre supported by REST, a total of 17,043 children received various services of which acute respiratory infection, malnutrition and diarrheal disease were the three top cases of ill-health. Immunization also featured prominently in the clinics with 3466, 3303 and 2929 children vaccinated for BCG, DPT3 and measles, respectively; while more than 17,350 under 5 children accessed laboratory services in the MCHC.
- » **Outreach Services:** To address unmet basic health needs and also make communities aware of health issues, once a month MCHC staff visited households in 20 Tabias around Shire offering outreach services such as vaccinations to children and mothers, under five sick baby examinations and treatment, antenatal and postnatal services, family planning and growth monitoring.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (RH)

Our Reproductive Health program was implemented in 13 Woredas in integration with our Productive Safety Net Program. It focused on the training of health workers and local women's and youth association leaders on methods for promoting the increased use of RH/FP information and counseling services; and strengthening referral and follow-up mechanisms. Ultimately, the goal was to bring about positive attitudinal and practical changes in the way adults and adolescents understand and make use of important RH/FP services available to them.



According to the Ethiopian Health Sector Annual Plan, the total population in the 13 Woredas we are working in is 1,348,627. Out of this, 316,927 are women in the reproductive age group, and 467,974 are adolescents (years 10-24), necessitating an urgent call to action.

We responded in 2012 by:

- » Facilitating outreach RH/FP services to 33,840 by HEWs and the Women's Association.
- » Mobilizing 83,300 women in the reproductive age group (15-49) by Women and Youth Associations.
- » Reaching out to 113,092 adolescents/youth by peer educators and health workers.

FAMILY PLANNING

Family planning is essential to improving maternal and child health, and a core REST health initiative. Over the past year we:

- » Provided family planning services to 79,841 persons.
- » Distributed almost 637,000 contraceptives (pills, ECP, injectable, implant, and condom) with accompanying health information.
- » Held 24 health education sessions on harmful traditional practices, HIV/AIDS, and the importance of family to 23,169 people using 7 mobile vans in 37 districts.
- » Prepared and distributed 102,536 IEC/BCC materials (Family Health Card etc.), and 15,600 immunization diploma cards to support the work of Health Centres and Health Posts. Trained 497 Youth Peer Educators
- » Disseminated information about RH/FP to 309,756 youth at Youth Friendly Sites.
- » Provided health education on preventing fistula, and referred 35 identified cases of fistula to the Makelle Fistula Hospital. REST covered the cost of treatment and ongoing care.
- » Supplied IEC/BCC materials and audio visual equipment to facilitate the work of Peer Educators who hold bi-monthly discussion forums on reproductive issues in each Youth Friendly Centre. As a result 309,756 (65% female) and

39,664 (72% female) adolescents and youth aged 10-24 years were successful in receiving reproductive health information and services, respectively.

YOUNG INFANT AND CHILD NUTRITION

Context and culture specific messages on health and nutrition appear to work well in changing behaviours and attitudes in grassroots settings; and we have tailored infant and child nutrition education activities to do just that. Implemented in 12 of REST's productive safety net program Woredas (Ahferom, Degua Tembien, Kolla Tembien, Mereb Leke, Werie Leke, Tanqua Abergelle, Kilde Awlealo, Hawzien, Ganta Afeshum, Gulo Mekeda, Raya Azebo and Hintalo Wajerat), messages were uniquely delivered by 9,958 trained members of the Women Development Army (WDA) at public work sites, during public gatherings, at food distribution centers and through home visits, effectively linking to existing health systems. The technique used is called "Community Conversations" – a participatory model of public discussion – reaching a total of 147,896 (80% female) community members in 1,096 sessions.

The results of our approach are impressive, with improvements registered in all areas.

Main Messages	Baseline Survey (%)	Impact Survey (%)
New born received mothers breast milk within one hour	79	90.1
Knowledge on the advantage of colostrum milk	36.2	87.2
Knowledge on the advantage of breast milk	52	77
Mothers breastfed their infant ten and above times within 24 hours	46.2	84
Mothers started infant complementary feeding at six months	51	73.6

Basic EDUCATION SERVICES



‘Going to school’ has rightfully emerged as the top priority for most children and parents in Tigray. This follows many years of dislocation caused by war, hunger and exclusionary cultural traditions. Instead, today remarkable achievements in education have been registered in the region, especially at primary school level.

More is needed however to increase school entry by disadvantaged children in rural areas, and to also upgrade the quality of educational services on offer to both children and adults. Making sure that girls have equal access to learning is just as important.

These are the reasons why REST has chosen to work on alternative, non-formal schooling in remote places rather than formal education, as these are the areas where greater social and gender disadvantage are more evident. Non-formal schooling is relatively flexible and more compatible with the lifestyle of students, making it more attractive for participation.

Our program consists of four parts:

1. Alternative Basic Education (ABE) for school age children (7-14), especially girls;
2. Integrated Functional Adult Education (IFAE);
3. Women Literacy Program (WLP); and
4. formal school support through physical capacity building activities.

ALTERNATIVE BASIC EDUCATION (ABE)

ABE is designed for children residing in remote rural areas with limited access to formal education due to distance and other socio-economic factors. This approach targets children from age 7 to 14 and involves a three year learning cycle. Depending on performance, successful graduates typically transition over to formal schooling at grade 4 or grade 5 levels.

- » Over the past year we had over 3,732 poor, rural children that were enrolled in 52 REST assisted ABE Centers in 12 Waredas. Out of this total 1,765 or 47 percent of students were female. This is less than our expected annual target, but nevertheless marks significant progress in reaching gender equity in primary schooling. Only 18 students dropped out of the 2012 academic year.
- » The program supported 108 ABE Facilitators to run the classes with an emphasis on reading, writing and arithmetic. Lessons are contextualized to make learning easier and more relevant.
- » Final exam results are encouraging. Of the 3,567 students who sat for the exams, 98 percent passed and were promoted to the next grade level, with girl students out-performing boy students. This marks an improvement over last year’s results, but falls short of MDG targets due to unacceptably high rates of educational wastage (repetition and dropout). In fact, 4.4 percent of ABE dropouts were girl students and is attributed to household labour needs, migration to other areas, and transfer to formal schools.

- » To upgrade the quality of ABE Centres we construct classroom structures to improve the learning environment which up until now meant classes under tree-shades and sitting on rocks and dirt floors. In 2012, REST finished the construction of 69 classrooms carried over from 2011, completed the construction of 27 new classrooms out of the 2012 annual program, with 45 classrooms close to completion – almost 141 new classrooms go operational in 2012. REST provided the industrial construction materials (cement, corrugated iron sheets), while communities contributed their labour and local materials such as stone and sand, to realize this impressive result.
- » Further upgrades were realized through the supply of 11,400 text books on Tigrinya language, English, mathematics and environmental science; and the publication of 321 Facilitator Teaching Guides. Contributing to a conducive school environment, we also supplied 678 combined desks and 107 blackboards, raising poor children off dirt floors and onto proper desks where they can learn with ease and dignity. A total of 60 new and 102 existing ABE Facilitators received comprehensive first time, or refresher training, respectively.

INTEGRATED FUNCTIONAL ADULT EDUCATION (IFAE)

To take advantage of the many development opportunities presently available to smallholder farmers, REST operates an Integrated Functional Adult Education program in 12 Waredas. IFAE is an innovative way for adults to both acquire a basic education and learn about life skills that are ultimately beneficial to rural livelihoods. For example, by learning how to write, read and do arithmetic, the poor gain skills and are better able to understand extension information on improved agricultural practices or the use of technologies, negotiate for fairer prices for their produce, or take part in training programs that require a minimal level of literacy as a pre-requisite for participation.

The IFAE is a two year course with classes running during the slack farming period from December up to June each year. In a week adults are expected to learn for about 6 hours, but the classes are flexible and scheduled around their work hours and most convenient locations.

Training was given to 104 IFAE Facilitators to make sure the program ran smoothly.

WOMEN’S LITERACY PROGRAM (WLP)

Similar operationally to the IFAE, the Women’s Literacy Program is however exclusively for rural women and it incorporates a savings component. This type of program approach is based on the premise that women learn better and are more willing to discuss issues of a personal nature when there are no men around.

A total of 1,309 adult women took part in the WLP in 2012 in twelve Waredas. About 969 of them successfully completed level 1 of the two year program, while 275 completed level 2, which is a 96 percent success rate. Apart from learning to read, write and calculate, they learnt about health issues, animal fattening, and how to set up small businesses.

To promote a savings culture adult literacy students are organized into groups of 25 women with each member voluntarily contributing a pre-determined savings amount ranging from EB 2 – 10 per week. Collected savings are kept in group bank accounts. So far the women have saved EB 66,028.00 with which they hope to leverage additional credit from local microfinance provider, DECSI, to establish small agricultural enterprises.

FORMAL SCHOOL SUPPORT

Aimed at supporting improvements in the physical quality of formal school services, two activities were pursued by REST in 2012. They consist of:

- » **Hygiene Infrastructure:** In an attempt to create a more conducive school environment, REST choose to construct 48 dry latrines in a total of 29 government primary schools. All are completed and are now functioning. Lack of water and absence of hygiene infrastructure like latrines are however a major disincentive for school participation and escalates the rate of drop outs, especially among girl students.
- » **Classroom Infrastructure:** Plans are underway to build 54 additional classrooms in 11 formal primary schools on a mostly public work basis, in 11 Waredas. Construction materials have been purchased and are at site to begin construction works. Communities in turn have collected needed local materials and are ready to build the new rooms. Once completed, these school structures will properly house 5,400 students who currently learn sitting under temporary shelter like trees or grass matting. Delays in the procurement of construction materials did mean that classrooms were not all completed on time.

AGRICULTURE
HEALTH
ENVIRONMENT
IRRIGATION
GOOD GOVERNANCE
FAMILY PLANNING
NUTRITION



LITERACY NUMERACY

- » 6,939 adults enrolled in 12 Waredas
- » 3,164 female
- » 3,775 male
- » 93% completed course
- » 477 drop-out



OUTCOMES

- » Over 6,900 adults know how to read, write and do basic maths.
- » Farmer knowledge about new technologies has improved along with their incomes.
- » Notable improvements in health-knowledge and wellbeing are evident.

Protecting LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS

THE CHALLENGE

Life in Tigray is laden with risk. From one year to the next, it is not uncommon for families or entire communities to be rocked by drought, rising food prices or chronic illness. Such frequent shocks in the absence of sufficient buffers, invariably results in the loss of productive assets, causes deeper poverty and erodes the ability of the poor to cope with stresses - continuously reinforcing the cycle of poverty and food insecurity from which they are seeking to escape.

As a result, each year around 2 million people in Tigray need some form of external assistance to help meet their annual food needs, build their capacity to cope, and keep their livelihoods on track.

SETTING THE CONTEXT

There were several challenges to food security in 2012. Late and sporadic rainfall caused production levels to fall by about 10 percent in major affected areas. Symptomatic of moisture stress, fewer hectares of farmland was planted than originally planned, and to at least salvage some production, many farmers shifted from high yielding long-cycle crops to short-cycle varieties that produce less. Extended dry spells, hailstorms, and pest infestation exacerbated the situation, triggering price hikes in major food staples including livestock. Wage rates for agricultural (weeding, harvesting) and other forms of labour luckily increased as did the price of some farm products (e.g. poultry) offsetting production and income deficits in hard hit areas. Nutrition rates stayed normal and no major disease outbreaks were reported. Up to 393,949 people in Tigray required emergency relief assistance; out of which averages of 130,933 people were assisted by REST in 10 Woredas. A further 1.2 million people received safety net support of which 705,177 was provided by REST.

ACTION

Building resilience and improving the wellbeing of people in critical situations is at the core of the REST social protection agenda which has three dimensions:

1. Protecting people against shocks and making them less vulnerable to these shocks
2. Protecting against extreme poverty and its effects on wellbeing
3. Supporting the less active poor (e.g. the aged, children)

ACHIEVEMENTS

Disaster Risk Management - DRM

REST applies various DRM measures to predict, mitigate and manage imminent disasters.

Preparing for disaster shocks

Avoiding the loss of life and damage to property when disasters strike, is far better than taking action after a crisis has spiralled out of control.

RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES

By distributing emergency food aid...

Prevailing emergency conditions in Tigray, meant the continuation of our work with JEOP (Joint Emergency Operations Program), a consortia of one local (REST) and six international (CRS, CARE, FHI, Save US, Save UK, WVE) NGOs led by CRS Ethiopia, to deliver 13,190 MT of grain, pulses, vegetable oil and CSB to an average of 130,933 disaster affected people in Ahferom, Mereb Leke, Werie Leke, Ganta Afeshum, Gulo Mekeda, Hawzien, Kilde Awlealo, Degua Tembien, Seharti Samre and Raya Azebo.

With the distribution of a monthly ration package consisting of 15kg cereal + 1.5kg pulses + 0.45kg vegetable oil = 16.95kg donated by USAID, and a supplementary ration of 4.5 kg CSB for 35 percent of the affected population, especially children, most obtained the minimal nutrition requirement of 2200 kilocalories per day.



EARLY WARNING

Systematic collection of early warning data on crops, livestock, water, pasture and market conditions by SMS & other means across ten Woredas helped us to detect unusual price or production trends which in turn alerted us to pending stresses needing attention.

CAPACITY IN EWS

A key strength is the ability of communities and local governments to predict and manage disasters themselves. We assisted by training over 970 EW committee members and experts to be better equipped to deal with regular hazards.

SAFE FOOD STORAGE

An extra 5 x 500MT capacity Rubb Halls were installed in 3 Woredas, guaranteeing the timely, efficient and safe delivery of food items before the assets of the poor are divested. This brings our total food storage capacity to 40,250 MT

SURVEYS OF THE EMERGENCY FOOD AID PROGRAM FOUND THAT:

- » Food distributions were considered relevant, efficient and effective
- » Many who were interviewed said that they were not forced to sell any of their assets since they had food aid to eat
- » An overwhelming 94% of males and 86% of females interviewed voluntarily attended public meetings on registration procedures to correct targeting, of which 91% said they were satisfied with the way registration was conducted which is a major indicator of beneficiary satisfaction and sense of equity where access to emergency resources is concerned
- » About 83% of respondents stated that they walk up to two hours to reach food distribution points (FDPs) to receive their food aid, and that they felt safe on the way to and from FDPs

By distributing quality blankets...

For the poor and marginalized, owning a warm blanket is considered an unaffordable luxury. Thanks to Japanese peace organization RKK and their annual blanket campaign, thousands of poor households living in emergency conditions received over 5,000 blankets brought to Tigray by RKK volunteers. The poor, including people with disabilities, orphans and people living with HIV/AIDS were prioritized.

By building resilience in older people...

Older people are generally more at risk when disaster strikes because they have fewer labour and material assets and may be too weak to withstand the gravity of shocks on their health, food consumption and incomes. Working in partnership with Help Age/BMZ, we granted agricultural packages (shoats, poultry, beekeeping), and facilitated access to village saving and loan schemes, and other business opportunities, as an emergency response activity for some 689 elderly people experiencing disaster stress. Implemented in 4 Woredas, by intervening in this innovative way, progress was made in increasing the economic status and self-help capacities of older people, ultimately contributing to their independence, security and resilience.

AVERTING DISASTER EVENTS AND CONSEQUENCES

The best way to block the paths of destruction caused by repeated shocks is to build resilience into the lives and livelihoods of the chronically poor and their community's.

There are several proven methods that REST has introduced to do precisely this, and at the same time safeguard the productivity of people who depend on agricultural production for their livelihoods.

Insuring smallholder farmers

When REST began working on Weather Index Insurance in 2007, it hoped to generate alternative types of coping strategies to help weather vulnerable farmers fight against drought related risks.

WHAT IS INDEX INSURANCE?

Index Insurance is a financial product linked to an index highly correlated to local yields. Contracts are written against specific perils or events (e.g. area yield loss, drought, flood) that are defined and recorded at regional levels (e.g. at a local weather station)

What started as a pilot with 200 farmers in the village of Adi Ha, Kolla Tembien, has now grown into a successful market-based risk management product that has been adopted by thousands of farmers across several Waredas.

The initiative works by integrating disaster risk reduction, with affordable risk transfer, and prudent risk-taking to avenge livelihoods when weather disasters occur.

On the ground the program involves a mix of Weather Index Insurance with disaster risk reduction (DRR) and long-term credit to allow sustainable investments in agriculture. Based on agro-ecology, farmers labour on a range of DRR activities such as soil and water conservation, water harvesting and farm soil fertility management (e.g. compost preparation), and in exchange they receive insurance coverage. This approach fits well with the long-time practice of Food-for-Work or Cash-for-Work common to Tigray, in that it assists poor farmers who cannot afford to pay cash for insurance services to instead take part in a number of risk reducing activities, for which in return they receive an insurance coupon as payment for their labour contribution.

Weather Index Insurance has now expanded to 76 villages and 19,407 households. Spread across 9 Waredas, around 6,068 farmers opted to pay for their insurance premium in cash; while 13,339 farmers who participate in the productive safety net program were allowed to pay 10 percent of the premium in cash and the remainder as paid in-kind labour – also known as Insurance-for-Work. Actual rainfed crops insured during the year included both long-cycle varieties (maize, sorghum, wheat, and barely) and short-cycle varieties (teff and beans).

Disaster Risk Reduction activities such as trenches, percolation ponds and supplemental irrigation were developed collaboratively with communities and the Bureau of Agriculture. Robust across a variety of climate scenarios and adapted to the specific needs of the 76 villages, these measures are designed to restore the fertility and hardiness of degraded soils and its capacity to rebound after future shocks.

Based on 2012 rainfall data collected from weather satellites, at least 45 villages were considered partially drought affected and therefore insurance payouts were indispensable. Private insurance companies – Nyala and Africa Insurance - paid out a total of EB5, 809,890 to 12,702 farmers (clients).

Number villages insured	76
Number insured clients or farmers	19,407
Premium value 10% cash	EB400,891
Premium value 90% labour in-kind	EB3,615,400
Premium value 100% cash	EB 830,483

TIGRAY PRODUCTIVE SAFETY NET

Part of a country-wide program, the specific REST productive safety net program is now operational in 12 Waredas in Tigray and serves an unprecedented 705,177 chronically food insecure people annually (nearly 60 percent of the entire Tigray PSNP caseload). About 563,583 of these are able bodied and receive food transfers in exchange for their labour on public work for five days a month. The remaining 141,594 are unable to work due to age, disability or illness, receiving unconditional transfers instead. Just over 57,900MT of transfers were given out.

The PSNP aids food access and consumption, and it protects assets. For the past seven years it has arguably given us the tools and resources with which to plug household food

PROGRAM – PSNP

shortages during peak hunger periods, which in turn has acted to offset common but life threatening survival strategies like the distress sale of productive assets. And, it has fostered the renewal of the natural resource base in Tigray, making it possible to raise productivity and stimulate rural enterprise and livelihoods.

Thanks to USAID, we were genuinely able to make vulnerable communities more resilient by investing in local capacity, health, water and the natural environment; and we were able to speed up the time it takes to become food secure by implementing public work activities that both increase and diversify productivity.

Typical activities in watersheds included: water harvesting, small scale irrigation, soil and water conservation, reforestation, area enclosures, forage development, water supply for humans and livestock, health/nutrition education, basic education and adult literacy, disaster risk management and capacity building for all.

REST PSNP Waredas: Ahferom, Degua Tembien, Mereb Leke, Werie Leke, Kilde Awlealo, Raya Azebo, Ganta Afeshum, Gulo Mekeda, Hawzien, Samre Seharti, Tanqua Abergelle, Kolla Tembien.



GRADUATION WITH RESILIENCE TO

Pulling poor, vulnerable households out of food insecurity, and keeping them there, requires more than just safety nets. While the PSNP has created the springboard towards graduation and then food security, it is initiatives like GRAD that push the poor over the line.

Launched in April 2012 in four Waredas (Raya Azebo, Offla, Enda Mehoni, Alamata), GRAD moves one step further than its predecessor PSNP Plus, in innovatively linking PSNP households to profitable value chains; by stimulating access to a range of financial services; and by nurturing the entrepreneurial side of smallholders, building their know-how in marketing, business, and the technical aspects in

ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – GRAD

running agricultural enterprises. Additional education on health, nutrition, gender and climate change were included to build more resiliency into chosen livelihoods.

Progress to date is notable:

- » All four GRAD offices are up and running with expert staffing.
- » DECSI was selected to receive a Guarantee Fund worth \$214,320 to support work on Value Chains.
- » After studying potential Value Chains four were selected: honey, livestock (shoat production and cattle/shoat fattening), vegetables and pulses. Business plans were also developed.

- » 3,882 smallholders, of which 49 percent are women, have benefited from GRAD in the first year. They have received training and loans for agricultural inputs worth \$1.02 mill.
- » 150 Village Economic Saving Associations were established to promote the culture of savings and sound business management. Already VESA have saved \$7,500 with DECSI and RUSACCO's.
- » IGA in poultry and micro-gardening were made available to 800 Women Headed Households to bolster their incomes.



ACCELERATED GRADUATION

In the Tigray context a household is considered to have graduated out of the PSNP when it has attained food self-sufficiency.

Comparing outcomes in 2012, more households graduated in REST's safety net Waredas than in Government managed safety net Waredas. Of the 206,354 households in our safety net 19,561 or 9 percent successfully graduated by the year's end compared to an average of 4 percent elsewhere.

It is clear that while social transfers (food and cash) are effective in smoothing consumption and protecting existing assets;

transfers on their own are inadequate for building sustainable livelihoods and resilience against fluctuations and shocks.

Combining complementary interventions such as the PSNP with GRAD so that poor households have the food they need to stay healthy, and they can retain and acquire even more assets, directly increases the chances of more household income and assets and multiplies the chances of them being ready to graduate.

Tactically building upon the PSNP, in 2012 we delivered both 'livelihood protection' and 'livelihood promotion' as a package approach and we got the results. Nearly 20,000 households are now more capable of acquiring their own food, they have better and more diverse sources of income, and they can access markets and the capital they need to invest further in improving their livelihoods, and standard of living, especially the health and education of their children.

EMPOWERING WOMEN



THE CHALLENGE

At REST, we recognize that women in Tigray are generally poorer than men, and they face more discrimination. While they make up some 51 percent of the population, and head over 30 percent of households, our own studies have confirmed that women still own fewer assets, receive less education, lack employment opportunities, and have less voice in decision-making. They are also more likely to suffer from illness and malnutrition predominantly as a result of work responsibilities in and outside the home, and on various community development activities.

ACTION

Remarkable work has been undertaken to overturn the particular constraints faced by women. By treating 'gender equity' as a crosscutting issue we have tried to raise women's incomes and expand their livelihoods into more traditional male economic

activities. Various education and capacity building activities have in turn informed women of the issues that affect their health, and the measures they need to take to kick start independent economic activities, or take more pro-active roles in the running of their communities. Women are now more confident and capable.

To best serve its work with women in the field, REST has continued to refine its in-house Gender Policy and it has been more pro-active in recruiting and training new and existing staff, as well as appointing gender specialists in most of our Field Coordination Offices.

In total 545,545 poor women and their families benefited from the REST development program in 2012. The following stories are just a few examples of how REST is changing the lives of women in Tigray.

HOW MANY BENEFITED FROM OUR GENDER WORK?

- » 377,016 women PSNP beneficiaries
- » 1,090 WHH poultry enterprise
- » 8,317 WHH dairy enterprise, cattle & small ruminant production & fattening
- » 176 WHH high value vegetable & fruit production
- » 572 WHH micro gardens
- » 225 WHH small scale irrigation (hand dug wells)
- » 1,673 WHH received credit loans for Value Chain engagement
- » 1,475 Village Economic Savings Association
- » 2,628 WATSAN
- » 39,632 women received emergency relief assistance
- » 4,073 women farmers took out Weather Index Insurance
- » 832 women enrolled in adult functional literacy
- » 31,760 health and nutrition
- » 1,978 WHH capacity building on business skills, food processing etc.
- » 6 women self-help groups established each with 10-15 members and in total 78
- » 606 sector office specialists and REST Woreda staff trained on gender

CASE STUDY 1: MICRO GARDENS

The area around Zalambessa in Gulo Mekeda Woreda has seen its fair share of suffering and upheaval. Once the frontline in the Ethio-Eritrea war, it is also an area characterized as extremely drought prone with limited opportunities for economic growth, especially since trade between Tigray and Eritrea came to a sudden halt in 1998 when the war started.

Woizero Tiblese Meles knows firsthand how war combined with drought can devastate everything a family cherishes and needs to stay alive. A participant in the REST Productive Safety Net Program, Woizero Tiblese heads a family of 9 which she once cared for using limited cash earned from petty trade or by migrating to places where she could at least sell her labour. Apart from the distress her absence from home caused, the returns from such casual and seasonal work was never enough to feed and clothe her family, or send her children to school.

In 2010, REST decided to include Woizero Tiblese in its very successful 'micro garden project'. Using her small 200m² plot of land, she began growing a variety of vegetables for the very first time.

Micro gardening is a relatively new initiative designed by REST to assist poor, rural women headed households. Comprised of simple agronomy involving local materials and hand tools, the aim of the initiative is twofold: to improve family diets through the consumption of nutritious rich food, and to increase household income through the sale of surplus produce and high value seedlings. For best results, micro gardens are linked to backyard shallow hand dug wells constructed as Public Works and simple water technologies like Family Drip Kits (FDK) which are produced in Makelle, the capital city of Tigray.

After receiving training from REST and a package of inputs like fertile soil, decomposed manure and watering cans to prepare the garden beds, Woizero Tiblese began growing tomatoes, onions, lettuce, cabbage and garlic with the assistance of FDK. Pretty quickly the profit from sales began to roll in.

Income from the sale of vegetable produce: tomato: EB 2,000, onion: EB 1,800, cabbage: EB 100, garlic: EB 1,900, lettuce: EB 500. Total: EB 6,300.00

Income from the sale of vegetable seedlings: onion: 140, lettuce: EB 100, swiss-chard: EB 80, cabbage: EB 60, pepper: EB 50. Total: EB 430.00

Minus expenses (EB): water fee per production season EB 1,015.

Average Net Profit: EB 5,715

From depending on food aid, Woizero Tiblese now has EB 4,000 in the bank, is able to feed her family using nutritious food and send all her children to school. Though micro gardens are a simple technology, they offer big rewards when it comes to changing lives and livelihoods.

CASE STUDY 2: POULTRY

Rainfed agriculture is a risky business in Tigray where drought is common and few smallholder farmers have the extra resources to buy improved, drought-resistant seeds or fertilizer needed to protect and raise future harvests.

Woizero Abrehet Kelelom, a subsistence farmer, who lives in Adigudom, southern Tigray has opted out of this cycle of poverty by getting involved in poultry production. Aged 42 years and with four children to take care of, Woizero Abrehet began by first learning about raising chickens and managing a poultry business, and how to operate hatcheries. And she joined a Poultry Cooperative in the town. The new knowledge she gained gave her the confidence to acquire 90 chicks from the Cooperative in six rounds. Slowly as they began to mature and lay eggs, Woizero Abrehet was able to collect an average of 150 eggs every week of which 20 were consumed by her family, and about 130 sold for EB 2 each. Every month this nets her about EB 800 – a marked improvement on waiting for food aid to feed her family.

Encouraged by her success, Woizero Abrehet purchased another 1,500 day-old-chicks from a Makelle poultry producer at a cost of EB 25,000. She went on to raise, and then sell this new stock to neighbouring farmers within just one month for a lucrative profit of EB 30,000.

Woizero Abrehet now envisages a brighter future for herself and her family: "I am thrilled to be a Cooperative member as this has given me access to important training, hatching equipment and start-up stock. Poultry production is a good business for poor women like me. Hard work gives you quick profits. I now have EB 10,000 in the bank and plan to expand into fattening cattle, sheep and goats for even more profit. My family is now safe, healthy and happy".



Our GOVERNANCE

The following principles, practices and structures establish the framework for the governance of REST.

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

REST is registered as a National Nongovernmental Organization with the Federal Republic of Ethiopia Charities and Societies Agency, and is domiciled in Ethiopia. REST's registered office is at Makelle, Tigray.

LEADING OUR ORGANIZATION

The General Assembly is made up of members of the community, government, civil society organizations, and private sector, and elects the REST Board of Directors.

Our current Board is comprised of 9 elected Directors who serve four year terms on a voluntary basis. The Board is responsible for directing REST's activities towards the achievement of its vision and fulfilment of its mission. It is responsible for approving strategic direction, monitoring its implementation and fulfilling stakeholder's expectations. It is also responsible for REST's overall performance, and compliance with relevant laws and ethical standards.

Directors of the Board are drawn from a broad cross-section of the Tigrayan community with a diversity of experience and skills.

- » **Ato Abay Woldu**, Board Chair, President of the Tigray Regional State
- » **Ato Teklewoini Assefa**, Board Secretary, Executive Director of the Relief Society of Tigray
- » **Ato Desta Bezabeh**, Board Member, Head of the Tigray Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development
- » **Ato Negga Berhe**, Board Member, Head of the Tigray Bureau of Water Resources
- » **Ato Hagos Godefay**, Board Member, Head of the Tigray Bureau of Health
- » **Dr Kendeya Gebrehiwot**, Board Member, Dean of the Makelle University
- » **Woizero Kudusyan Negga**, Board Member, Speaker of the Tigray Regional House of Representatives
- » **Ato Muluwerk Kidanemariam**, Board Member, Dean of the Sheba University College
- » **Woizero Nafekush Dessie**, Board Member, Chair of the Women's Association of Tigray

OUR STAFF

Our staff are some of the most professional in their field. They are committed to the fight against poverty and food insecurity, bringing compassion and experience to REST's work in every corner of Tigray.

REST employs 1,010 staff of which 350 are based in the Head Office in Makelle; 142 in our fourteen Wareda Coordination Offices (Adwa, Ahferom, Degua Tembien, Ganta Afeshum, Gulo Mekeda, Hawzien, Hintalo Wajerat, Kilte Awlealo, Kolla Tembien, Merib Leke, Raya Azebo, Samre Seharti, Tanqua Abergelle, Werie Leke); 16 in the Liaison Office in Addis Ababa; and 502 technical and logistics personnel.

Our staff are of high technical and program calibre and experience, and are well equipped to perform the tasks expected of them, especially the potential to serve the people of Tigray. Although staff are remunerated at local rates, staff retention is generally high owing to high levels of job satisfaction, and opportunities for continuous training and education for both male and female staff.



MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Executive Director is responsible for the day-to-day management of the activities of REST as delegated by the Board. The following management team is responsible for the implementation of organizational strategies, development of policies and management of issues and of the performance of the organization. They are supported by Division Managers and their staff:

- » **Ato Teklewoini Assefa**, Executive Director
- » **Ato Mekonnen Abreha**, Deputy Director
- » **Dr Mulugeta Berhanu**, Liaison Office Coordinator & Manager
- » **Ato Desta Gebremicheal**, Head of the Environmental Rehabilitation & Agricultural Development Department (ERAD)
- » **Ato Getachew Haile**, Head of the Rural Water Supply Development Department
- » **Ato Tedros Gebrezgabeh**, Head of the Irrigation Development Department
- » **Ato Tesfay Gebreyesus**, Head of the Health Department
- » **Ato Assefa Sisay**, Head of Finance & Purchase Department
- » **Ato Tekle Gebremicheal**, Head of the Supply & Maintenance Department (SMD)
- » **Ato Getachew Kelayu**, Head of the Planning & Coordination Department (P&C)
- » **Ato Aregawi Desta**, Head of the Human Resources Department

OTHER GOVERNANCE PROCESSES

PLANNING AND CONTROL

REST produces a five-year strategic plan, annual plans and detailed budgets, which are approved and regularly monitored by the Board and the Management Team.

AUDIT ACCOUNTS

REST's Constitution requires that proper books of accounts are kept, true and complete accounts are maintained and audited annually by a registered company auditor, and the financial statements and the auditors' report are laid before the Annual General Meeting. In order that monthly management and annual accounts represent best practice and are of the highest standard, REST complies with all applicable accounting standards and guidelines. REST's external auditors are Chartered Accountants Authorized by the Ethiopian Charity and Society Agency. In addition, REST engages its own permanent auditor for internal audit services.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Management and the Board monitor the organization's performance, from implementation of the mission statement and strategic plan through to the performance of the organization against operating plans and financial budgets. Performance indicators are reported to the Board on a monthly basis. This enables Directors to monitor REST's performance in terms of: strategic performance, governance, organizational capacity, and the impact of our work.

REST POLICY AND STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

EQUALITY POLICY

Because in most societies the poorest and least powerful tend to have less access to opportunities and less capacity to take full advantage of them, we focus on the right to development by creating equal access to development assets and opportunities especially for marginalised and disadvantaged groups e.g., women, female headed households, rural landless households, and people with disabilities.

POLICY FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Our policy for sustainability encompasses four main strategy components:

- » Empowerment through capacity building of individuals and communities
- » Asset and natural resource protection, usage and development
- » Handover process and exit strategies
- » Participatory approach

HIV/AIDS POLICY

To curb the rising threat of HIV/AIDS on the health, livelihoods and survival of the Tigray people our HIV/AIDS policy stipulates:

- » Focusing on slowing down/reversing the rate of HIV infection through community based education promoting awareness and BCC.
- » Integration of HIV/AIDS prevention into all operational programmes as a cross-cutting development issue.
- » Strengthening home based care support for those living with HIV/AIDS.
- » Provision of livelihood support for vulnerable children orphaned through HIV/AIDS.

Internal organisational policy:

- » HIV/AIDS prevention and appropriate behavioural change is promoted through educational programmes with REST staff
- » Staff are encouraged to avail of voluntary counselling and testing services
- » Free condoms are made easily available to all staff

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT POLICY

REST recognizes that achievement of its mission, goal and objectives is dependent on the quality, effort and cooperation of its personnel and that continuous institutional capacity building is the main route to effective and more sustainable performance. High levels of motivation and commitment are common among our staff, but it also requires conscious investment and strategies to develop skills, knowledge, and positive organizational values.

The objectives of our human resource development policy are:

- » To attract, develop and maintain an organisational workforce which can effectively meet our needs
- » To promote gender equality in our organisational structure
- » To create a conducive working situation for self-learning and development, whereby the potential of each employee can be fully realized, their commitment to the success of the organization secured, and staff turnover minimized



FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

Total specified cash and in-kind donations were EB 832,135,279 (\$ 44,499,213) in 2012 for designated programs and operating costs. Total expenditures including operating costs incurred in 2012 were EB 996,515,131 (\$53,272,403). At year end, the deficit from operating activities was EB 164,379,853 (\$8,790,366) arising from increased value of in-kind budget or food commodities resources due to food price inflation during the year 2012

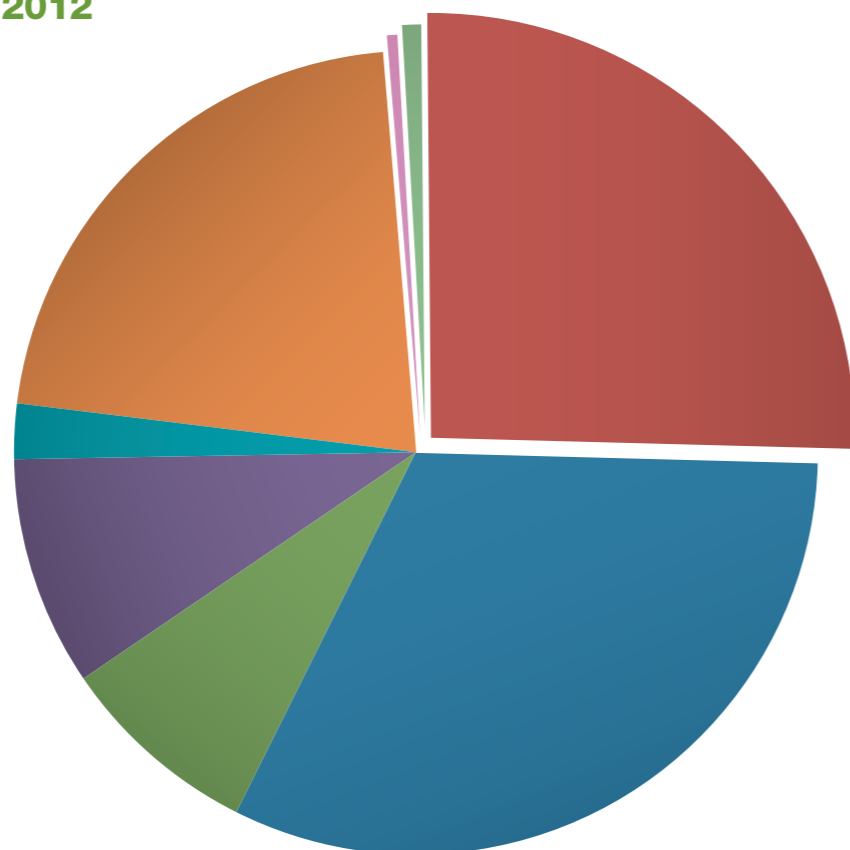
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES For the year ended 31 December 2012

Income	Ethiopian Birr	\$US
Donations in Cash		
Natural Resource Management	124,261,584	6,645,004
Potable Water Supply	159,637,323	8,536,755
Smallholder Livelihoods	39,532,356	2,114,030
Essential Health Services	43,340,334	2,317,665
Basic Education Services	11,055,309	591,193
Social Protection	104,167,167	5,570,437
Women's Empowerment	1,746,461	93,394
Building Capacity and Institutions	3,174,495	169,759
Donations In-kind (value converted to Birr)		
Cereals	194,046,671	10,376,827
Vegetable Oil	62,570,484	3,346,015
Pulses	47,445,353	2,537,185
Corn Soy Blend (CSB)	21,851,836	1,168,547
Community contributions	824,166	44,073
Prior Year & Other Income		
Other income	15,463,379	826,919
Prior year's income	3,018,356	161,409
Income from operating activities	832,135,279	44,499,213
Expenditure		
Expenditure in Cash		
Natural Resource Management	120,480,403	6,442,802
Potable Water Supply	149,859,188	8,013,860
Smallholder Livelihoods	38,643,430	2,066,494
Essential Health Services	43,302,423	2,315,638
Basic Education Services	10,785,933	576,788
Social Protection	103,256,404	5,521,733
Women's Empowerment	1,958,689	104,743
Building Capacity and Institutions	3,713,199	198,567
Expenditure In-kind (value converted to Birr)		
Cereals	375,026,429	20,054,889
Vegetable Oil	36,820,836	1,969,029
Pulses	47,730,205	2,552,417
Corn Soy Blend (CSB)	24,249,043	1,296,740
Losses: exchange rate	1,364,653	72,976
cereals, vegetable oil, pulses	7,740	414
fuel	20,429	1,092
Other Expenditure		
General & Administration	37,467,731	2,003,622
Prior year expenditure	1,139,080	60,913
Prior year expenditure	368,126	19,686
Expenditure from operating activities	996,193,941	53,272,403
Operating Fund Balance	(164,379,852)	8,790,366

Our ORGANIZATION

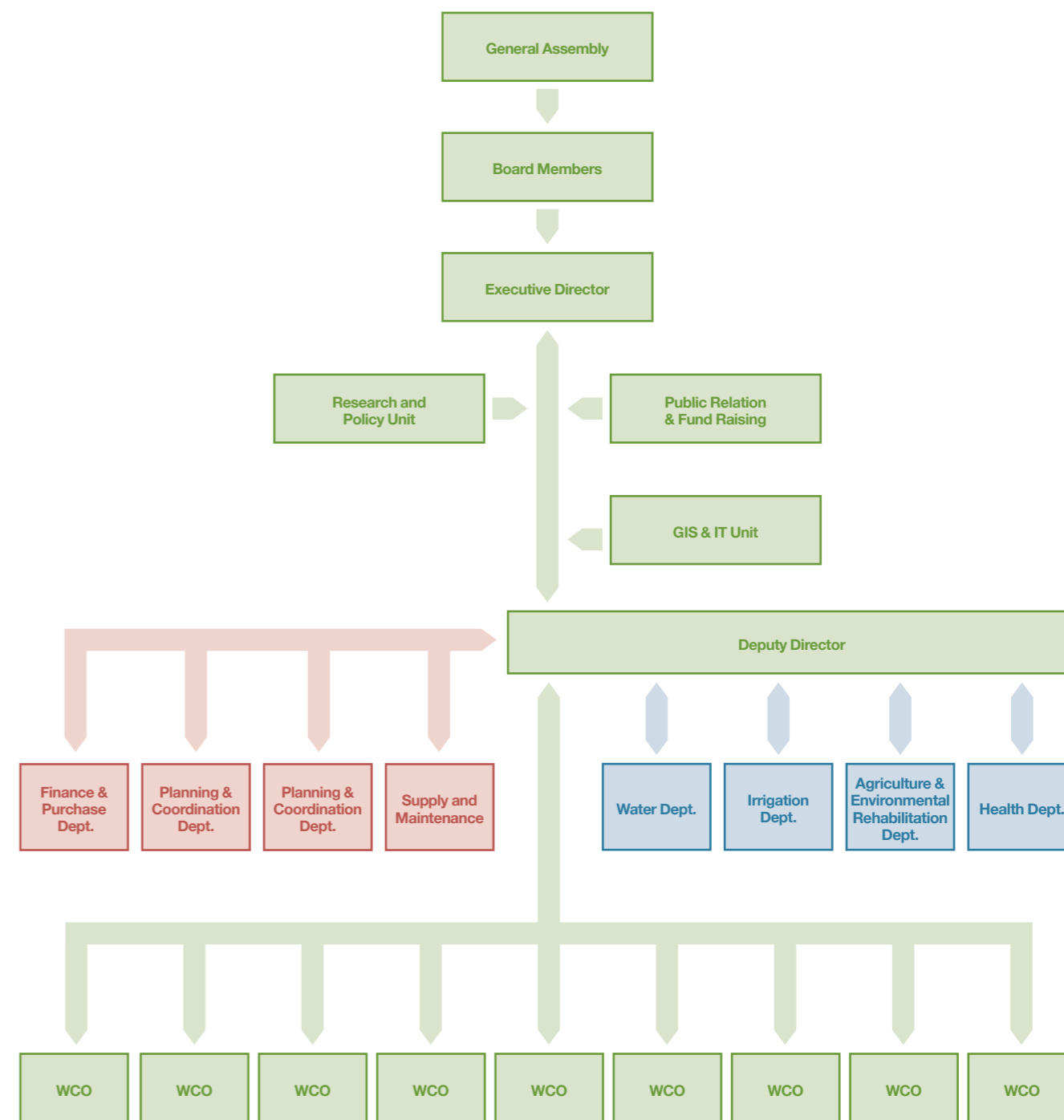
EXPENDITURE BY SECTOR IN 2012

- Natural Resource Management
- Potable Water Supply
- Small Holder Livelihood
- Essential Health Services
- Basic Education Services
- Women's Empowerment
- Social Protection
- Building Capacity and Institution



SUMMARY INCOME & EXPENDITURE

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT (BIRR)
Sum of donation in cash	486,915,033.22
Sum of donation in kind	326,738,510.76
Sum of prior income	18,481,734.90
TOTAL INCOME	832,135,278.88
Sum of Expenditure by programs	472,320,859.98
Sum of distribution expenditure	485,219,335.73
Sum other expenditures	38,974,935.66
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	996,515,131.37
Operating Fund Balance	-164,379,852.49



OUR VALUED PARTNERS - *thank you*

Much of the work of the Relief Society of Tigray is made possible through the generous support of numerous donors, and partner organizations. We appreciate all offers of assistance, no matter how great or small, from financial and in-kind donations to technical advice, which enables us to take action in the fight against poverty and food insecurity.

PARTNERS

- » Alive & Thrive
- » Barr Foundation
- » Bread for the World (BfW)
- » British Council
- » Christian Relief & Development Association (CRDA)
- » Development Fund Norway
- » Glimmer of Hope (Charity Water, ICD, Friends Helping Others)
- » Help Age International
- » Help for a Drop of Water
- » Horn of Africa Regional Environmental Centre (HoREC)
- » Kerngroep Netherlands
- » Kinder Unserer Welt (KUW)
- » Last Ten Kilometres (L10K)
- » Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
- » Oxfam America
- » Packard Foundation
- » PACT Ethiopia
- » Pathfinder International
- » Planet Wheeler Foundation
- » RKK Japan
- » Sustainable Land Use Forum/Environmental Protection Agency (SLUF/EPA)
- » Trocaire
- » Water Partners International
- » WellWishers Australia

BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL DONORS

- » European Union (EU)
- » IFAD
- » United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- » United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- » World Bank
- » World Food Program (WFP)

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

Communities gave their time, labour and donated various materials for the realization of projects related to NRM, crop and livestock development, health, education, water supply, MCH, and irrigation.

OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO GOOD PRACTICE

- » Water Centre of Excellence
- » The Tigray Productive Safety Net Program
- » Integrated Watershed Management and Dealing with Climate Change²
- » Linking the Poor to Micro Insurance and Livelihoods

REST thanks the Planet Wheeler Foundation, Australia for supporting the production of our annual report; and to Craig Poore who volunteered his professional services to design a report that celebrates the many achievements of the people of Tigray in 2012.



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Transforming Lives and Livelihoods in Tigray, Northern Ethiopia



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