

69499

ECA - CEA



Economic Commission for Africa
Commission économique pour l'Afrique

ETHIOPIA-ECA TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

A Possible Framework

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

30 October 1997

ETHIOPIA-ECA TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

A Possible Framework

A. Introduction

The Economic Commission for Africa and its host, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE), are undertaking a review of the long-standing relationship between the two, with a view to renewing and strengthening it for the years ahead to their mutual benefit and satisfaction. This process encompasses three key areas of mutual interest : review and implementation of the host country agreement; security; and technical cooperation on development issues. Decisions in the three areas will set the relationship between the Commission and the host country on a new course.

The subject of this paper is the third area : **technical cooperation on development issues**. Its objective is to identify the mutual interests of ECA and the FDRE in this area by enhancing Ethiopia's access to the Commission's resources -- particularly, its pool of multi-disciplinary expertise and directing these resources to well targeted areas in support of the country's development efforts.

B. Ethiopia-ECA Technical Cooperation : Past and Present

The Government of Ethiopia was instrumental in the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa in 1958. In the forty years of the Commission's existence, the Government of Ethiopia has played a leading role in shaping the mandate of this regional organisation. On its part, ECA has rendered a number of technical services to Ethiopia in diverse areas, including :

- *Regional economic integration*: Ethiopia is an active member of IGAD and COMESA, and ECA has rendered services to these organizations towards their strengthening and rationalization.

- *Transport and communications*: ECA has provided assistance in the restructuring of the Ethio-Djibouti railway system.

- *Industrial development*: Assistance has been provided in the form of technical advisory services, preparation of studies, supply of requested technical materials, publications, technology and know-how, training opportunities for technical staff, and workshops and seminars on issues in industrial development.

- *Public sector management*: Advisory services have been provided towards the improvement of public service delivery and quality management; participation in a Task-Force on the restructuring of the Ethiopian Management Institute; organisation of a training programme for

executive committee members of Woreda Councils; proposal of a comprehensive policy framework for human resources development, planning and utilization in Ethiopia; and organisation of national workshops on strengthening financial management and accountability for regional development, and on human resources development challenges in Ethiopia. ECA also has rendered assistance towards strengthening accountability and ethics in the context of civil service reforms. Assistance has also been rendered to Region 14 (Addis Ababa) administration in the design of studies aimed at revitalizing the delivery of services in the metropolitan area.

■ *Statistical development:* Assistance has been provided in the field of censuses and demographic surveys; and ECA has participated in seminars, workshops and meetings organized by the Ethiopian Central Statistical Authority (CSA) on national accounts and their uses in planning, and for dissemination of the results of the agricultural sample survey. Ethiopia also has participated in a number of workshops and meetings organized by the Commission to discuss methodology for improvement of the quality of African statistical data. Statistical services have also been sought from the Ethiopian Electric Light and Power Authority (ELPA); and, recently, CSA has requested ECA to provide materials on the statistical organizations of regional states.

■ *Information Technology:* ECA has been instrumental (and actively participated) in the formation of BITE (Bringing Internet to Ethiopia), a national Internet group in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian Science and Technology Commission, a focal point to information technology activities has actively participated in Africa-wide information technology (IT) initiatives sponsored by ECA, including the Standing Committee on Harmonization and Standardization of Information Systems in Africa whose objective is the standardization of electronic information in the region. Ethiopian users have participated in training courses organized by ECA on computerized documentation software. ECA has also provided consultancy services to the University of Addis Ababa.

The Commission has been involved in developing information and communication technologies applications in Ethiopia. For example, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Society and Addis Ababa University, ECA launched an annual conference on IT research application to Ethiopic languages software and standards, the Internet, distance education, etc. This conference is intended to become an annual IT show-case as well as a venue for sharing knowledge, experiences, and resources. In collaboration with the Ethiopian Science and Technology Commission, ECA has established electronic communication links to 36 colleges and research institutions in Ethiopia -- a majority of which are outside Addis Ababa -- on a satellite node to PADISnet.

Currently, ECA is participating in the Greater Horn of Africa Information Networking Project in collaboration with USAID and IGAD, a component of which is the establishment of full Internet links and organisation of user training in the last quarter of 1997. Technical assistance has also been sought by the Ethiopian Telecommunications Authority (ETA) on subscriber networks, switching technology, multi-media support, and rural community access. ECA plans to hold a national information infrastructure, policy and awareness workshop in Ethiopia, in collaboration with the World Bank Infodev project. Ethiopia is one of the African countries on which case study reports on the impact of electronic networking are being prepared. The Commission is also assisting

the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce in database development, publishing on the Internet, and content development.

- *Geo-information*: ECA, in recent years, has assisted Ethiopia in organizing seminars, workshops and meetings on the role of geo-information in the socio-economic development of Ethiopia, and Ethiopia has participated in workshops and ad-hoc group meetings organized by ECA on geo-information issues, such as policies and strategies for the development of natural resources in Africa.

- *Governance*: In 1993, ECA participated in a conference on constitutionalism in Ethiopia. In 1996, ECA organized a workshop in Ethiopia on NGO Capacity Building. Also in that year, a grant of \$10,000 was provided towards the Human Rights Commission mandated in the 1995 FDRE Constitution. This year, a grant of \$20,000 is being provided towards the establishment of the Ethiopian Economic Commission.

- *Gender equity*: ECA participated in a national workshop in 1995 on women and constitutionalism. The African Centre for Women has also organized numerous seminars, workshops and meetings on gender issues -- including the economic and social empowerment of women, the legal rights of women, cultural practices harmful to women, etc. -- in which representatives of Ethiopian women have participated.

- *Food security and sustainable rural development*: The single most comprehensive and most important cooperation undertaken between Ethiopia and ECA in recent years is, without doubt, the Sustainable Agriculture and Environmental Rehabilitation Programme and the Woreda Agriculture and Rural Development Integrated Services (SAERP/WARDIS) Programme. It was initiated in 1995 as an extension, to other regions, of the Sustainable Agriculture and Environmental Rehabilitation in Tigray (SAERT) project following its successful implementation in 1993.

The SAERP programme is intended to be implemented in moisture-deficit areas and directly addresses the inseparable issues of food security, people's livelihoods and living conditions, and the environment. It uses technical methods of water harvesting either through the construction of micro-dams or diversion schemes to open up areas hitherto under-utilized for intensive agricultural production. The WARDIS programme was initiated for wet-land ecologies; but, because of the enormity of the problem of dry-land ecologies, the programme has been extended also to address the problems of dry lands. Both SAERP and WARDIS have established an extensive data base for all dry-land areas in Ethiopia. The SAERP/WARDIS Programme in general has four inter-related objectives : to increase production, enhance capacity building, rehabilitate the environment, and ensure community participation in development activities. Major achievements of the SAERP/WARDIS Programme include :

- (i) the provision of transfer of knowledge and technology through skill upgrading intensive training programme -- since 1993, 40 such training programmes have been organised -- in Addis Ababa as well as in various regional capitals;

- (ii) the mobilization of 12 million person-days in the northern regional states of Tigray and Amhara towards the voluntary construction of micro-dams and irrigation schemes;
- (iii) the adoption by the Government of Ethiopia of SAERP policies, strategies and recommended programmes in small-scale irrigation, and the establishment of SEARP Commissions in a majority of Ethiopia's regional states;
- (iv) the increase in the number of irrigation engineers and technicians in the regions implementing the programme;
- (v) establishment of technical cooperation between developing countries (TCDC) linkages between Ethiopia and China and Ethiopia and India, which have facilitated a transfer of expertise to Ethiopia on irrigation;
- (vi) the completion of a large number of studies tailored to region-specific food security, environment, and rural development problems;
- (vii) socio-economic surveys of rural households in all regions (except Oromiya) implementing the SAERP/WARDIS Programme; and
- (viii) the production of documentary films in several Ethiopian languages, and a film in English entitled, *"Development of Hope : People's Struggle to Reshape their Agriculture and Environment"*.

■ *Population and development*: From the inception of the Demographic Training and Research Centre (DTRC) at Addis Ababa University, ECA has rendered support by teaching some courses at the graduate level and supervising some Masters degree theses. Another area where ECA has rendered assistance was in the formulation and implementation of the National Population Policy which was adopted in 1993.

C. Ethiopia-ECA Technical Cooperation in Development : A Possible Framework

At the threshold of the Twenty-first century, the Government and people of Ethiopia are grappling with some key challenges, namely : sustaining a high rate of economic growth; reducing poverty and raising the standard of living; attaining food security and environmental sustainability; establishing good governance, including decentralization of responsibilities; attaining gender equity and improving the situation of women; and modernizing Ethiopia while preserving its unique and ancient cultural heritage and values.

In tackling the challenges identified above, the Government of Ethiopia is developing or implementing far-reaching strategies in the following areas :

- Social development, with the goal of poverty eradication and the creation of a vibrant, educated, well-informed, and healthy society;
- Domestic macro- and micro-economic policy, geared to maintaining a high rate of labour-intensive growth, geared to the reduction of poverty and inter-regional imbalances;
- Civil service reforms and Decentralization of responsibilities, including building analytical, decision-making, and administrative capacity for the new regional states;
- Regional cooperation and integration, aimed at restoring stability and good neighborly relations in the immediate subregion of the Horn of Africa and the wider region of Eastern Africa and removing barriers to cross-border trade and investment flows;
- Food security and conservation of ecological and water resources; and
- The economic and social situation of women, aiming to establish a more equitable society in which both men and women enjoy equal opportunities and privileges.

The Government has made it clear that it considers the eradication of poverty as its main developmental objective. Thus, it has embarked upon a process of comprehensive social sector reforms, and a number of policies and strategies in this area have been, or are being, drafted. These include, *inter alia*:

- National Policy for Disaster Prevention and Management;
- National Population Policy,
- National Policy on Women,
- National Food and Nutrition Strategy,
- National Conservation Strategy,
- Education Policy, and
- National Health Policy

In each of these areas, ECA could extend technical assistance to, or enter into cooperation with, the Federal Government, regional state administrations, civil society, and the private sector. ECA could bring to bear, the multi-disciplinary expertise of its professional staff, including its regional advisors.

(I) Areas of Possible Assistance

A future programme of cooperation between ECA and Ethiopia is likely to encompass the following areas:

- *Food security, environmental sustainability, and the development of rural livelihoods.*

ECA's cooperation with Ethiopia in this area will continue to be within the framework of the SAERP/WARDIS Programme.

- Within this framework, efforts will be made to strengthen Ethiopia's food security system by assisting the regional Governments in expanding production through small-scale irrigation.
- Attention will be given to measures of poverty alleviation by identifying the magnitude of post-harvest losses and developing appropriate policies and programmes.
- The WARDIS Programme recommendations on rural women will receive special attention.
- Within the framework of SAERP/WARDIS, and in cooperation with institutions of higher learning in Ethiopia, the critical problem of human resources for rural development will be addressed.
- The recently developed policy of paying special attention to dry-land ecologies of Ethiopia will receive special programme attention as part of the poverty reduction package.

Modalities:

- Creating a workable system of computerised food security information network containing an essential data base for poverty assessment and monitoring, building upon the SAERP/WARDIS Programme.
- Maintaining a permanent Centre at the ECA secretariat where the reports on the SAERP/WARDIS will be on permanent display. This Centre will organise briefings and consultations for donors to Ethiopia's food security programme.
- Assisting the FDRE Government and regional administrations in implementing the recommendations of the SEARP/WARDIS Programme as well as other food security and sustainable development best practices from other countries and regions.

Within the SAERP/WARDIS Programme, ECA will provide technical assistance in the area of geo-information towards developing and strengthening the information systems by incorporating geographical information systems applications, an essential input into the early warning and environmental information capabilities.

- ***Population and development.***

Subject to discussions with the UNFPA Country Director, ECA expects to support the implementation of Ethiopia's National Population Policy, within UNFPA's next Country Programme commencing in January 1998. ECA expects to provide assistance (on request) in the analysis of the 1984 and 1994 census data, as well as planning and analysis of sample surveys (e.g., the demographic and household survey, and the national migration survey). If requested, ECA will assist Ethiopian federal and regional administrations in the process of integrating population factors in development planning. In addition, ECA remains ready to support the training and research programme of the Demographic Training and Research Centre through the provision of course lectures.

- ***Poverty monitoring, assessment, and policy analysis.***

ECA's technical cooperation with Ethiopia in this area is expected to be in the areas of training and networking:

Training:

ECA, in collaboration with relevant Government departments, can design and conduct training workshops on issues in poverty analysis which is central to poverty assessment and monitoring. The workshops can be held first at the national level but be extended later to regional and municipal levels.

Networking arrangements:

ECA intends to strengthen networking arrangements with the Ministry responsible for social development and welfare and civic organisations engaged in poverty alleviation activities.

Household surveys, Poverty assessment and monitoring:

ECA is ready to provide technical assistance and capacity building (if requested) in support of households surveys, poverty assessment and monitoring, and policy formulation.

- ***Economic policy analysis and advocacy:***

ECA intends to strengthen cooperation with economic policy research and analysis with Ethiopian governmental, non-governmental, and University institutions active in this area, through the joint organisation of conferences, workshops and seminars:

Conference on the Development of Ethiopia:

ECA could organise, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Economic Association, the Department of Economics, and the FDRE Government, a periodic (say, annual) Conference on the Development of Ethiopia, where papers by experts on issues in the

development of Ethiopia would be discussed, and which could serve as a vehicle for policy advocacy.

Ad-Hoc Workshops/Seminars:

ECA, is interested in organising, in collaboration with UNDP, the Ethiopian Economics Association, MEDAC and the Ministry for Social Development, occasional workshops/seminars on emerging policy topics/issues of importance for Ethiopia.

• ***Public Sector Management:***

ECA envisages providing technical assistance and advisory services (if requested) towards strengthening public sector management in Ethiopia, at the national, regional state, and woreda levels, in the areas of institutional and human capacity building, including information and statistical systems development, strengthening regional public services delivery, ethics and accountability, and supporting the civil service training programme. Continued collaboration with, and support to, the Ethiopian Management Institute is envisaged in the delivery of ECA assistance. Assistance may be provided in the following areas:

Strengthening public sector management:

Studies, advisory services, training and transfer of experiences and best practices in selected areas of public sector management;

Training programmes in public sector management issues, such as

- improvement of public service productivity,
- improvement of service delivery through identification and attention to customer concerns,
- strategic management in the public service, and
- time management.

Support to civil service reforms:

“Training of trainers” programmes for those assigned to implement the reforms. Focus is expected to be on

- management capacity building : beginning with an evaluation of the impact of a training programme conducted (in Amharic) in 1995 for Woreda Executive Committee members with a view to upgrading and extending such a programme;
- the Civil Service College at Kotebe : assistance in curriculum development for the training programme in public administration, provision of lectures in courses where there is shortage of staff, and donation of technical documents from ECA’s archives.

Support to civil service reforms:

Studies on issues in Ethiopian civil service reforms, and
Advisory services and group training.

Support to administrative decentralization:

Devising a framework for the assessment of the capacity-building needs of regional and municipality administrations in order to fully exercise their responsibilities for socio-economic development of their jurisdictions; and

Conducting workshops/seminars for regional, municipal and local administrators on accountability, transparency, fiscal management, economic planning, and promotion of social development (possibly in collaboration with the Ethiopian Management Institute).

- ***Urban development management:***

Strengthening municipal administrative capacities and mobilizing skills; review of municipal laws; providing support towards upgrading information and statistical data gathering; providing assistance in strengthening policy analysis and formulation, and in carrying out medium- to long-term development perspective studies, urban planning.

Urban public administration:

Designing and conducting municipal staff training programmes on specific issues of management -- e.g., public revenue mobilisation and control, and client-oriented service delivery.

- ***Governance issues :***

Assistance is expected to be provided towards capacity building for civic organisations; improvement of relations between civic organizations and the private sector; and assistance to civil society and promoting popular participation in development at the grass-roots.

- ***Private sector development:***

ECA cooperation with, and assistance to, Ethiopia in this area is expected to be focused on the development of micro and small-scale enterprises and the informal sector, as well as providing services (if requested) to leading public and private industrial establishments, and support towards capital market development.

Informal sector development:

Policy formulation,

Institutional set up,

Technical assistance, and

Development of micro-finance institutions targeted at meeting informal sector needs. (ECA expects to work in collaboration with bilateral or multilateral partners.)

Small and medium enterprises development:

Policy formulation,
Strengthening institutional infrastructure,
Entrepreneurship development training (in collaboration with partners),

Development of financial institutional arrangements in support of micro, small, and medium enterprises/industries (SMEs/SMIs),

Facilitating/coordinating transfer of experiences and best practices from the newly industrialising countries (NICs), and

Assessment of the legal and regulatory frameworks from the perspective of whether they facilitate or restrict the formation and registration of enterprises and their conduct of business; and conduct of technical studies.

Existing industrial establishments (public and private):

Technical advisory services,
Information on sources of technology and know-how, and
Information on training opportunities.

Capital market development:

Carrying out a feasibility study on the establishment of an Ethiopian stock exchange;
Providing technical support to the National Bank of Ethiopia, the Ministry of Finance, and MEDAC on the establishment of a regulatory framework for capital markets development (in collaboration with partners); and
Familiarising investors and enterprises on how capital markets function.

• *Regional cooperation and economic integration in the Horn of Africa.*

In support of the programmes of IGAD and COMESA in the following areas:

Intra-regional trade development:

Surveying trade barriers and mapping out programmes for their removal, and
Carrying out a feasibility study for the establishment of a self-financing mechanism for IGAD and assisting in the establishment of a related equalizing-cum-development fund.

Infrastructural development:

Assisting in the effective implementation of national/subregional UNTACDA II related programmes, and

Designing programmes for the interconnection of power grids and renewable energy resources.

Policy convergence:

Carrying out studies for the definition of essential parameters for policy harmonization among IGAD countries.

Institutional development:

Developing an IGAD system of institutions so as to ensure a lean and effective secretariat with a network of national/regional technical arms.

- *Development Information Systems and Information Technology.*

ECA assistance to Ethiopia in the area of development information systems and information technology, in addition to supporting the SAERP/WARDIS Programme, will cover a number of areas, as indicated below.

Agricultural Information System:

Links have already been established between ECA and the Ministry of Agriculture of the FDRE regarding the establishment of an agricultural information system. Technical support will be given towards the finalisation of the project proposal and in the project implementation process.

Statistical Systems:

ECA will provide technical assistance to Ethiopia in the development of a country live database, as part of the World Bank Africa Live Data Base (LDB) programme. Ethiopia will benefit from training on tools support of the LDB (e.g., computer software programmes) and will participate in the joint definition of the data base prototype.

National Information Infrastructure:

ECA will provide technical assistance, in the form of the services of a regional advisor on information infrastructure policy, to work with Ethiopia on the elaboration of a national information infrastructure.

Internet Content Creation:

ECA is ready to provide technical assistance to FDRE Ministries and offices, as well as Ethiopian Telecommunications Authority (ETA) on home page design and content development for the World-Wide Web.

Trade Information System:

ECA, in collaboration with UNCTAD and the Ministry of Cooperation of the Netherlands, expects to provide technical assistance/advisory services to the FDRE Government on trade information systems development, within the context of UNCTAD's Trade Point System. FDRE support, through its diplomatic channels with Netherlands, of ECA's request for a trade information expert from Netherlands to provide

this assistance to Ethiopia should accelerate the Netherlands' approval and recruitment of the expert.

Host Country Agreement facilitation:

ECA and the FDRE Government will cooperate in establishing networking arrangements between their relevant offices with a view to facilitating direct communication and sharing of information on key issues in the smooth implementation of the Host Country Agreement (HCA), e.g., status information sharing on the processing of visa applications for ECA international staff and their dependants, guests of the Commission, and participants at international conferences and other forums organised in Ethiopia by ECA.

- ***Economic and social empowerment of women, mainstreaming, and the promotion of gender equity.***

ECA's thrust in this area emphasises the mainstreaming of gender issues in general (and concerns about the condition of women in Africa in particular) within all development promoting activities across the board, with stress on

- Access to, and increased control of, productive resources -- land, credit, income, and information;
- Access to services -- education, training, extension, health, energy and legal services;
- Access to decision-making structures -- at the level of the household, community, or the state.

Within this light, gender concerns, particularly the economic and social empowerment of women, will be mainstreamed particularly in the food security and sustainable development area in the implementation of the SAERP/WARDIS Programme, poverty assessment and monitoring, economic policy analysis and advocacy, public sector development, governance issues, private sector development.

In addition, ECA is ready to work with Ethiopia in the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action in particular, in the implementation of Ethiopia's National Policy on Women.

- ***United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa.***

ECA will provide technical assistance/advisory services (if requested) towards developing programmes within the UN-SSIA.

(II) Arrangements for Implementation and Review

These outline proposals will be the subject of discussions of the Joint Ethiopia-ECA Technical Cooperation Committee on the basis of which a framework for technical cooperation will be drawn up. It is expected that a compact and cost-effective programme will be established which

will integrate diverse development concerns, such as poverty, food security, private sector development, the empowerment of women, governance and public sector management, and harnessing appropriate information technologies.

In the final cooperation programme framework, the expected outputs as well as achievable development goals of the cooperation programme would be spelled out, as should the range of implementation modalities. Consideration would also be given to establishing machinery for monitoring and reviewing progress in the programme's implementation and for recommending follow-up actions as required.