

FP046: Responding to the increasing risk of drought: building gender responsive resilience of the most vulnerable communities (UNDP), Ethiopia

CSO comments on the project given as intervention during the 16th GCF Board Meeting, April 2017

- We consider that it is an important aspect that Ethiopia's proposal will aim to build the resilience of the most vulnerable populations in drought-stricken areas. And we note with appreciation that the proposal is especially focusing on gender responsive resilience of most vulnerable communities, although we would like to see much more detail on how those community benefits are secured and decision-making on the community-level empowered.
- This project does have some weaknesses. Some of the proposed components and sub-components lack clarity. In order to understand and assess what is being proposed, more information would be needed on several aspects of the proposal. The project could and should be improved, for example with regard to knowledge sharing and learning.
- However, the criticism that the project is a collection of disparate activities without any coherence is misguided. Large mitigation proposals with several components are usually welcomed as "transformative, programmatic approaches" - the same standard should apply to adaptation. This project attempts to treat adaptation in a holistic manner, addressing multiple drivers of vulnerability rather than just one or two in isolation. The ITAP in this and future assessment should consider the crucial point that good adaptation measures must address multiple facets of vulnerability – even when some of these facets may be less directly climate-related than others. This must not disqualify an adaptation proposal from GCF funding.
- We would also like to have clarification about the consultation process, because in the documentation provided to us through the Secretariat it was not clear that there was a comprehensive engagement of local stakeholders. We have made the point repeatedly that we would like to see all relevant proposal annexes, including the one detailing stakeholder engagement and whether it was comprehensive and conducted in line with GCF standards, such as Free, Prior and Informed Consent, in the design and the strategy of the project.

Note: *There was no consensus in the GCF Board in accepting proposal, hence it was not approved.*