



Photo: Mikkel Østergaard

## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT:



Ethiopia faces many **humanitarian** difficulties. Amongst others, intercommunal violence-induced displacement and related protection needs, widespread **food insecurity** and **malnutrition** due to the recurrent droughts affecting up to **7 million people**, and disease outbreaks due to **poor WASH facilities** in IDP sites and in communities impacted by **droughts and floods**.



Ethiopia is the **second largest refugee-hosting country in Africa** with close to 1 million refugees from South Sudan, Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia. Furthermore, more than 3 million individuals, IDP and returnees are in need of assistance out of which 30 percent are in acute need.



Due to **climate change**, Ethiopia has been experiencing recurrent droughts and famines, flooding, expansion of desertification, loss of wetlands, loss of biodiversity, decline in agricultural production and productivity, shortage of water, and increased incidence of pests and diseases. Furthermore, Ethiopia has many areas in **high risk of natural disasters**. DCA focus areas including Waghimra, low land Bale and Afar have high risks of disasters such as drought, and flash flooding.

## WHAT WE DO:

**Saving Lives (Humanitarian Emergency and Refugee Response):** by responding to the emergent humanitarian needs of disaster affected households with a timely and appropriate response. Responding to the humanitarian needs of refugees and their hosting communities is the other main component of this thematic area.

**Building Resilient Communities (Livelihood Food Security):** by improving the natural, financial, social and human capital of target households. The main interventions include productivity focused land treatment and natural resource management; enhancing market linkage and value-chain development; promoting livelihood diversification; enhancing resilience through mainstreaming community-based Disaster Risk Reduction; and, strengthening youth employment.

**Fighting Extreme Inequalities:** by emphasising women's socio-economic empowerment and transformation of community norms in favour of vulnerable groups. This includes enhancing the capacity of local actors for increased responsiveness to the needs of vulnerable groups; improving the capacity of community- and faith-based organisations and their leaders to serve as change agents and to fight HTPs; supporting establishment of self-help groups of women as economic and social agents; and promoting accountability throughout our work.

In overall terms, DCA Ethiopia's programme interventions target **rural** and **peri-urban poor** and the **refugees** and their **hosting communities** as direct beneficiaries.

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## FACTS:

- **DCA has supported relief projects** in Ethiopia **since the 1970s**. It operated through local partners since 1982 and in 2004 the **country office in Addis Ababa** was established.
- DCA has **field offices** in Sekota-Waghimra (Amhara Region), Semera (Afar Region), Robe Town (Bale, Oromia Region) and Gambella city (Gambella Region).
- **Employees:** DCA Ethiopia currently employs **88 staff**.
- **Beneficiaries:** **217,065 people** directly benefited from DCA interventions in 2020.
- **Turnover in 2020:** More than EUR 6,983,000
- **Projects:** During 2020 DCA implemented 33 projects across Ethiopia.

## HOW AND WHERE WE WORK:

Ethiopia and its partners are operational in four regions:

- **Oromia region (Bale zone and Finfine Zuria Zone):** livelihood food security, private sector and value chain development, disaster risk reduction, emergency and IDP response, quinoa crop promotion, women socio-economic empowerment.
- **Amhara region (Waghimra zone and North Wollo Zone):** Livelihood food security, disaster risk reduction, emergency response, quinoa crop promotion, women Socio-economic empowerment and fighting harmful traditional practices (HTPs) and gender inequality.
- **Gambella region:** Support for South Sudanese refugees (in Jewi, Terkiedi, Kule and Nguenyiel refugee camps) and their hosting communities in Itang and Gambella Zuria districts, fresh food and cash transfer using e-voucher, livelihood, and emergency supports including NFIs.
- **Afar region:** Support for Eritrean refugees and their host communities (in Aysiata and Berhale refugee camps and surrounding areas), livelihood, energy, social cohesion, fresh food and multi-purpose cash transfer using e-voucher, emergency supports including NFIs, and protection.

DCA works across the **humanitarian-development-peace nexus** to bring about sustainability and cohesion. Additionally, DCA introduces innovative and appropriate technologies to address vulnerability, fill in knowledge and skills gaps, build local capacity, and when applicable, works closely with the private sector.

Moreover, to combat **climate change**, DCA has been implementing mechanisms that integrate **the mitigation and adaptation** of climate change. These include, the promotion of climate smart agricultural activities such as cultivation of quinoa - a drought resistant crop, use of solar power for irrigation, and introduction of fuel-efficient stoves. Further, in lieu of the **COVID19 disruption**, DCA has swiftly responded by raising awareness, installing handwashing facilities, and distributing prevention items such as facemasks, sanitizers and multipurpose hygiene-keeping products to beneficiaries in its project areas.



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