



LAND FOR LIFE-ETHIOPIA

A credible voice and center of excellence on land governance in Ethiopia

Name of the Initiative:	Land for Life (LfL) – making policies work for food security
Duration:	7 years (2017-2023)
Co-financing institution:	German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
International support Unit:	Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Civil Society Academy (CSA)
Regional Focus:	Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Sierra Leone

This gave birth to a group of committed actors who continually assess the land governance context and reach out to more actors and initiatives and expand the space for dialogue and collaboration. The Bishoftu Larger MAP Conference held in November 2019 mapped key challenges on land governance in Ethiopia and set directions for the Steering Committee on priority policy interventions and the need to secure legal recognition for the initiative. Thus, by expanding the size and mix, and enhancing their capacities, the steering committee evolved, and the initiative got its license as Land for Life-Ethiopia, complete with a General Assembly, Board and Secretariat.

Main Objective

Contribute to the formulation and implementation of policies on land tenure and responsible agricultural investments that are consistent with international standards and in particular the human right to adequate food.

Background

The Land for Life Initiative launched in 2018 with an overall aim of being a credible voice and center of excellence on land governance in Ethiopia. It is a process owned by all actors involved and hosted by the Forum for Social Studies. It is part of a multi-country initiative supported by the German NGO Welthungerhilfe and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

As a multi-actor dialogue forum, policy makers, implementing government offices, civil society organizations, the academia, and the private sector come together to foster collaboration on land governance. A series of meetings was undertaken among the stakeholders which have discussed on key challenges and injustices resulting from weak land governance.



Approach

Given the complexity and high relevance of land tenure and agricultural investments in the fight against hunger and poverty, it is vital to establish processes and platforms that bring together all relevant stakeholders. Problem-focused, collaborative efforts can allow actors from different sectors to use the complementary expertise, strengths and abilities to address complex social challenges. Therefore, the initiative promotes the establishment or contributes to strengthening existing multi-actor partnership working on land governance. However, such multi-actor processes often do not constitute even playing field where all actors can participate meaningfully. Thus, particular attention is given to strengthening the capacities of civil society actors to engage effectively and meaningfully in MAP-dialogue processes.



MAP Conference, Bishoftu-Ethiopia

Key Challenges

- There was no stringent follow up and corrective measure to ensure land allocated for investment is put to its original purpose. The widely publicized gains of land-based investments as generators of massive employment, creators of alternative livelihood opportunities for smallholders and pastoralists, and technology transfer largely failed to be realized.
- An increase in human and cattle populations, encroachment into the pastoralist range, and climate change has placed a huge burden on the water and grass available thus leaving little spare time and land to allow for regeneration in pastoral areas.
- Policies and laws are mainly crafted through a technocratic process lacking the necessary dialogue and perspectives of diverse interest groups. Some of the

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scanty engagements are restricted to elites in high places thus ignoring the views and concerns of people who will be directly impacted by the policies and laws.

Priority Interventions

- More inclusive, open and thus relevant policy making process that contributes to transforming the lives of smallholders and pastoralists.
- Responsible and inclusive land-based investment policies and practices that are crafted in line with international standards and guidelines and benefit smallholder farmers, pastoralists and peri-urban poor
- Existing policies, laws, customary practices and related instruments and procedures induce positive impact on the land rights and livelihoods of pastoralists and related communal land users

Partners

- **FSS, Ethiopia:** Established in 1998 by a group of academics and activists, the Forum for Social Studies is a non-governmental, non-profit institution engaged in conducting policy-oriented research and promoting informed public debate on a wide range of development issues, including the political economy of land and agrarian studies.
- **WHH, Germany:** Welthungerhilfe is one of the largest private development cooperation organizations in Germany. It supports interventions in approximately 35 countries focusing on food and nutrition security and agriculture. At the German level, WHH is an active member of a multi-actor working group on land bringing together relevant ministries, research and non-governmental organizations.
- **The Civil Society Academy:** An entity that evolved out of WHH, specializes in supporting the establishment and strengthening of innovative platforms and processes through custom-made products and facilitation.

Our Core Values:

Commitment Dialogical Respect
Transparency and Accountability Mutual Trust

Contact

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