



MARKET APPROACHES TO RESILIENCE BRACED PROJECT | 2015-2019

FARM AFRICA



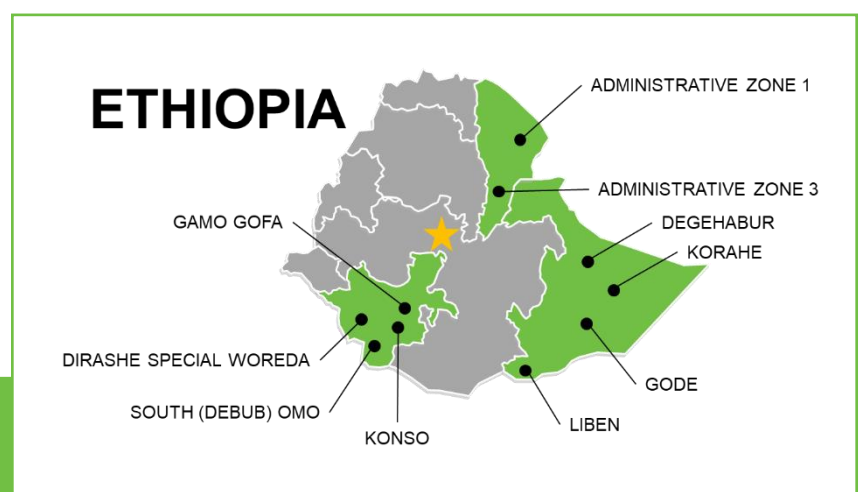
THE MARKET APPROACHES TO RESILIENCE (MAR) WORKS IN 20 WOREDAS (DISTRICTS) IN ETHIOPIA'S LOWLAND AREAS AND HAS USED MARKET-BASED APPROACHES TO SUPPORT PASTORALISTS, AGRO-PASTORALISTS AND UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN URBAN AREAS.

MAR began implementation in 2015 as part of the BRACED programme in Ethiopian lowland regions of Afar, Somali and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR). The project has tested market-based approaches to improving resilience of vulnerable populations in those regions and since its inception has helped 188,902 individuals become ecologically and/or economically resilient.

This has been done primarily using market approaches as well as ecological and governance systems that underpin the livelihoods of vulnerable communities. To achieve this, the project has implemented four interlinked intervention packages:

- (1) **Financial services** (e.g. Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs), Mobile Banking and Insurance)
- (2) **Natural resource management** (e.g. Community-based management of rangelands and forests, Climate information production and dissemination through early warning risk profile assessments)
- (3) **Urban resilience building** (e.g. designing of municipal green plans, supporting one-stop job centres and establishing challenge funds for SMEs to implement green plans)
- (4) **National-level partnership building and knowledge generation** (e.g. partnering with government and private investors to reduce negative environmental and social impacts of agricultural investments in lowland areas).

In pastoralist lowlands, most people have no or limited access to financial services, which could help to mitigate cash flow difficulties. This was made worse by the extreme drought in 2015 in the region that also slowed implementation of the project. Overall, however, significant progress has been made in the above intervention areas.



MAR works in **three** regions in Ethiopia and **20** woredas (districts) in those regions

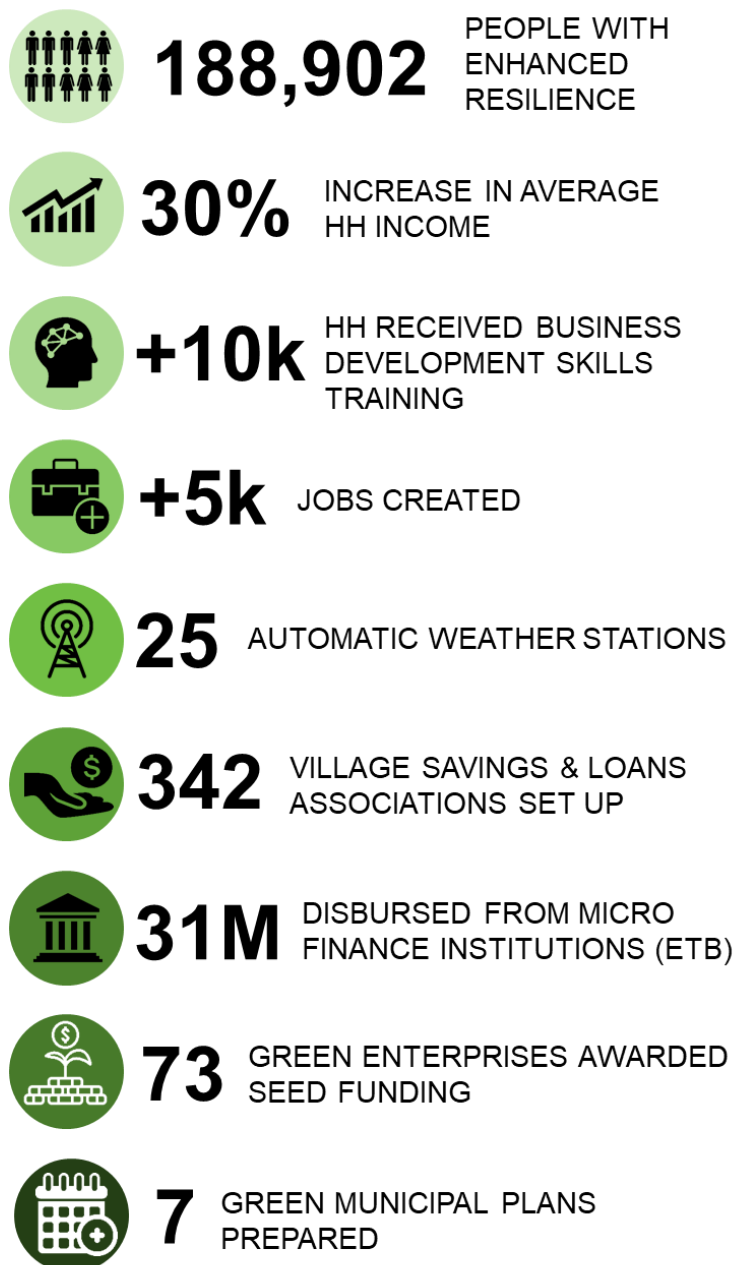
The most notable **financial services** intervention is the establishment of more than 340 VSLAs and MFIs where MAR has been able to help households save over 3M ETB and provide loans of over 31M ETB to people living in remote areas. The project also helped create over 5,000 jobs through urban greening work.

Vulnerable households have also benefitted from alternative/diversified incomes where members have been trained in the adoption of new farming practices including vegetable farming and beekeeping as well as new income generating activities such as livestock fattening. These activities fall under MAR's **natural resource management** package.

In the majority of woredas where MAR operates, the project has created one-stop service centres that have provided support to over 10,000 households. This has been complemented by their work at the municipal level where MAR has contributed to the creation of seven Green Municipal Plans benefitting **urban resilience building**.

Additionally, MAR has built **national-level partnerships** with local and regional government offices and several organisations including the Ethiopian Civil Service University (ECSU), National Meteorology Agency, several municipalities, and an insurance company. These relationships have helped provide better climate services and financial services, facilitated job creation and enabled individuals to cope and adapt better with climate shocks.

MAR'S ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2015:



MAR has established over **342** village savings and loans associations benefitting **6,642** households. These associations have provided over **1.9M** ETB in loans and have helped families save over **3M** ETB.

ABOUT BRACED

BRACED aims to improve the wellbeing of vulnerable people in developing countries by building their resilience to climate extremes and disasters. Funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), BRACED began in 2014 and funded 15 projects working in 13 countries.

In 2018, nine of the original 15 projects were granted further funding for a 15-month extension period. This extension is otherwise referred to as BRACED-X. Additionally, the extension covers a policy window for regional, national and local policy processes led and/or supported by project teams and provides support for a series of national-level policy dialogues, which aim to amplify and share lessons learned from BRACED projects with a wider audience.

