



**CfD**

**Connections for Development**

**A COLLECTIVE RESPONSE ON DFID'S DRAFT  
ETHIOPIA CAP, 2006 - 2010**

**Views of some of CfD's Membership and other interested parties in  
Norwich, Liverpool and London**

**Commissioned, Supported and Reports Edited by Connections for  
Development (CfD)**

**27<sup>th</sup> April 2007**

## **Foreword**

This paper presents the key issues that were expressed at three Focus Groups in Norwich, Liverpool and London, in relation to the Ethiopian Country Assistance Plan (CAP).

In light of the Ethiopia CAP 2006-10, CfD acknowledges that this consultation is part of DfID's preparation to show how UK resources will assist in reducing poverty in Ethiopia. The CAP also elaborates the Ethiopian Government's input in the process, through its Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (PASDEP).

### **The Consultation Process**

For the purpose of collecting a wider stakeholder response to the Draft CAP, CfD will facilitate three Focus Groups in total from within the CfD Network and beyond. CfD alerted all members through a mass emailing and also contacted some strategic member organisations to arrange Focus Group consultations in their regions, and we offered logistical support and coordinated the planning. Members were asked to identify facilitators and refer to the literature provided by us to guide their discussions. These brought together the Ethiopian Diaspora, other African Diasporas, Students and interested members of the public.

The literature CfD provided encourage participants to express their opinions on the major objectives identified by DfID Ethiopia CAP as helpful in putting their plan into effect:

- Support for the development of a capable, accountable and responsive state
- Promotion of a better service delivery and human development
- Promotion of pro-poor growth
- Reducing the vulnerability of the poorest
- Working with others for more effective development in Ethiopia.

These discussions followed the different aspects and content of the Draft CAP.

### **Rationale for CfD Participation**

Our mission is to promote and develop interest, raise awareness, co-operation and action on International Development (ID) issues, and areas of activity such as poverty reduction amongst BME voluntary and community sector organisations in the UK, with interests in overseas development.

We have a commitment to build a stronger, better-informed and more effective UK BME community for ID, by providing a framework for the open sharing of views and constructive dialogue. By facilitating members to participate in an open, non-prescriptive and participatory manner, we endeavour to encourage a sense of ownership and participation in public policy debates.

CfD regularly mobilizes BME communities and their organisations to take part in policy consultations with relevant UK Government Departments. This is our way of voicing our members' opinions and enabling their engagement in the UK domestic and international policy debates.

**Connections for Development, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2007.**

# THE NORWICH FOCUS GROUP CONSULTATION ON DFID'S DRAFT COUNTRY ASSISTANCE PLAN FOR ETHIOPIA, 2006-10.

Final report

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## **Executive Summary**

### **Introduction & Background**

This report summarises the outcomes of discussions and views of the Norwich and Norfolk BME community members and interested members of the public on DFID's draft Country Assistance Plan (CAP) for Ethiopia. The CAP was made available for consultation through Connections for Development (CfD) to the Norwich Focus Group (NFG), which included the Norfolk African Community Association (NACA) members; amongst which are Ethiopian Diasporas in Norwich, the wider Diasporas in Norfolk County, invited professionals, staff members of the Overseas Development Group, and students in the School of Development Studies at the University of East Anglia.

The exercise involved:

- Sending out an electronic copy of the draft with questionnaires to 52 respondents to read and prepare informed response on the draft objectives;
- A one day meeting, which was held to discuss and record the views of 27 participants.

The exercise was focused on the major objectives identified by DFID Ethiopia CAP which are:

- Support for the development of a capable, accountable and responsive state;
- Promotion of a better service delivery and human development;
- Promotion of pro-poor growth;
- Reducing the vulnerability of the poorest; and
- Working with others for more effective development in Ethiopia.

In addition to the DFID's objectives listed above, respondents were asked to also consider the eight strategic elements determined by the Ethiopian Government Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (PASDEP) which are:

- Commercialisation of agriculture and promoting more rapid non-farm private sector growth;
- Geographical differentiation with a greater emphasis on urban development;
- Population policy;
- Addressing gender inequalities;
- Infrastructure development;
- Risk management and vulnerability;
- Scaling up service delivery to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and
- Generating employment.

The participants were also made aware of the Ethiopian government's first Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Programme (PRSP) of 2002, that

set poverty reduction as the core objective with economic growth as the principal means to achieve it, but that the economic growth was hit by the drought of 2002/3 and progress in various areas was constrained due to the need for policy development. Participants were asked to bear in mind that unforeseen circumstances brought about by the forces of nature and internal conflicts created due to incompetent leadership can hinder the progress of development. They were also informed of the various areas that needed policy development, which were not achieved during PRSP, and that are now being addressed in PASDEP. These are:

- Overcoming the policy and institutional constraints to the development of private sector;
- Rethinking rural development strategies to foster employment generation, crop diversification and private sector involvement in rural areas,
- Strengthening rural urban linkages and focusing on growing urban development issues,
- Operationalising the national population policy;
- Strengthening decentralised institutions to create the conditions for accountable and responsible local government and enhanced democratic participation;
- Strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems, and taking forward partnership commitments.

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

Most respondents felt it unthinkable to meet any of the aims of these identified objectives without full participation of the communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) both local and international, community based organisations (peasant associations, development associations, higher learning institutions and government institutions). NGOs play a significant role in raising awareness and in natural resources management activities. Professional societies, such as the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association, the Ethiopian Economists Association, the Biological Society of Ethiopia, the Chemical Society of Ethiopia and many others can do their level best in organising forums on topics relevant to environment and development, policy analysis and issues relevant to sustainable development. It is important to remember that the government institutions obviously serve and implement government policy, whereas NGOs are involved mainly in development activities within the existing national policies, such as in education, agriculture, health, other economic activities and need continued support.

The NFG suggests that CfD approach DFID about how it might explore ways to support and strengthen local NGOs as well as Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in order to make them capable of having full participation in all aspects of the development process, focusing on policy formulation, analyses and monitoring and evaluation of impacts. As it is often difficult to ensure accountability, DFID must ask what systems are in place from all stakeholders and how these will be developed further.

Local NGOs must make sure that the local people are empowered to understand and work for the improvement of their own lives. DFID must make sure that the

Ethiopian government departments spend the aid money they receive from the government for the intended development programmes. The federal government must allocate the development aid money to regions according to fairly and properly planned and agreed priorities of needs.

It is also recommended that CFD seek to establish a pool of experts from its member organisations, who can be mobilised to inspect measurable results on DFID funded projects in Ethiopia. Such conditions and arrangements can be made by DFID at the time of agreeing to allocate the development aid to the Ethiopian government. An innovative way of capacity building of local development project leaders might be tested by sponsoring short visits to model DFID supported projects in another African country. The individuals will pick and learn in a very short time by seeing what is being done in practice and the achievements gained by fellow Africans who are in a similar development stage.

## **1. Introduction and Methodology**

### **1.1 Introduction**

The Norwich Focus Group (NFG) was created on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2006 when an open forum for discussion was held at St. John's Cathedral Parish Hall in connection to a national research project, commissioned by CfD, to establish how involved BME organisations are in International Development (ID). One of the main issues raised at that meeting regarding BME groups' development initiatives was that DFID does not consult BME groups before planning development aid to their homelands. CfD has succeeded in conveying this view to DFID and the present exercise on DFID's CAP paper for Ethiopia is the first opportunity that the Norwich Forum has had to potentially impact on development policy. We are grateful to CfD for facilitating this consultation exercise and our input to the CAP for Ethiopia.

The contributors to this consultation have come from the membership of the Norfolk African Community Association (NACA), amongst who are Ethiopian Diasporas in Norwich, the wider Diasporas from other developing countries who live and work in Norfolk County, staff members of the Overseas Development Group, and students at the School of Development Studies in the University of East Anglia.

### **1.2 Methodology**

An electronic copy of the draft CAP was sent out to participants so that they read, assimilate and give informed response at the meeting and a one day meeting was held to discuss and record their views.

## **2. Summary of Results**

### **PART I – POVERTY CONTEXT**

#### **2.1 Poverty and Vulnerability in Ethiopia**

The majority of participants agreed on all the points listed as 1 to 12 in the draft as described under poverty and vulnerability, and that unless a huge external support is given Ethiopia will fail to meet any of the MDGs by 2015.

#### **2.2 Improvements in Human Development and Progress towards MDGs**

On items 13 to 16, despite the progress made in non-income poverty, i.e. progress in human development, the respondents agree also to the view that Ethiopia will not meet any of the MDG targets by 2015 unless there is a major economic growth and massively scaled-up external assistance.

#### **2.3 The First Ethiopian Government Plan for Poverty Reduction**

It is true that poverty reduction will come only with economic growth. The plan for an agricultural development-led industrialisation along with food security is very important as it is the backbone for all other developments. However, the participants are aware of the risks, as mentioned in the consultation paper, for example, the way the drought of 2002/03 impacted negatively on economic growth. Parts of Ethiopia have experienced drought repeatedly in the past and others still severe flooding, and these natural disasters could happen again and affect negatively the progress of development.

In order to make progress in the areas of civil service and the justice system reform, the empowerment of the people and decentralisation of governance, there is a need for policy development in these areas.

The respondents have agreed on the need for policy development to achieve the government's own objectives in the coming years as follows:

- To overcome the institutional constraints to the development of private sector, for example, the permit giving office must process permit applications without delays;
- To promote rural development strategies the policy must help to generate employment by encouraging the involvement of the private sector in rural areas, and prepare the farmers to change the monoculture practice of agricultural production and pursue crop diversification that is economically beneficial to them. It is important to bear in mind that what is produced must be planned to meet the need for home consumption as well as export to earn foreign currency. The priority for the Ethiopian people is food self-sufficiency and guaranteeing food reserves for at least a 10 year period. Some neglected food crops such as tuber, root, pulses, and enset (the tree against hunger) and particularly crop varieties that have been identified to be drought resistant and quick maturing must be maintained, improved and used in preference to others, which could help guarantee food reserves in times of crisis. People of all cultures must be given nutritional and other information on the benefits of using such varieties and be encouraged to develop the habit of eating these foods;
- To strengthen the infrastructure for rural urban linkages, building roads, rail tracks, telephone and rural electrification are necessary;
- On the issue of national population policy it can only be effective through education using visual aids, the media, and mobile libraries and making birth control methods available and affordable. Giving information about birth control through the use of regional radio programmes in the different languages will be useful to reach the broader rural and urban population;
- The Ethiopian people must fully exercise their democratic right by holding those responsible in local governments accountable to their public duties. There must be a safeguard in place for the people when they raise questions of accountability. The people have to be able to elect their leaders and remove them from office if they find them unfit to do the job;
- The monitoring of outcomes of development work and evaluation of the system of work at all levels must be strengthened. The monitoring and evaluation must include partnership work between regional institutions, local NGOs and International NGOs. This may require some local capacity building, but would ultimately ensure that programmes could be tracked, modified if necessary and concluded successfully. DFID must also insist on robust monitoring and evaluation reports on all its projects and be satisfied with the outcomes.

#### **2.4 Assessment of PASDEP**

The respondents agreed on the immediate need of civil service reform and decentralisation, strengthening the capability of local government to formulate and implement development plans, manage resources and deliver services to the people. In addition the PASDEP must recognise the critical contribution that civil societies could make to reinforce accountability to citizens and in advancing empowerment and

giving a voice to the people. NGOs, as well as community based organisations, must be allowed to participate fully in all aspects of the development process focusing on policy analyses and formulation, programme implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of impacts.

The government's programme prioritises major economic infrastructure investment on hydropower, irrigation, telecommunications and all-weather roads as these are the backbone for accelerated economic growth, and increased access to the integration of markets. The majority of respondents are aware of the capital limitations for infrastructure investment particularly at regional and local level; and suggest that the government policy to be changed to allow for private sector investment from internal and international investors.

The participants expressed the view that policy constraints must be addressed to create a positive environment for private sector involvement in agriculture. Further policy changes and improvements have to be made to remove bureaucratic hurdles in business start-ups, import and export regulations, access to finance etc. Without these changes in policy it is unlikely that the PASDEP targets for economic growth will be realised.

## **2.5 Governance**

Under this topic of governance, the discussion was widened to cover the whole of Africa. However, as DFID has development programmes in other African countries also some of the points expressed might be worth noting and analysing.

- Most Africa countries have weak or totally collapsed economies because of the poor governance and leadership, the mistreatment of its own citizens, which sometimes has meant torture and massacre of individuals and whole communities.
- Most African leaders come to power by deceitful election or by creating fear and terror in the minds of their citizens.
- It is crystal clear that the roots of famine and poverty in Africa find their roots in bad governances, in ill-crafted political and economic policies.
- In countries under bad governance, the aid money once obtained will be diverted to fulfil the appetites of individuals and ethnic groups in power. These groups are rigid, fanatic, corrupt, stubborn and self-centred partisans with deep-seated hatred for their own people, most especially the educated. They have only one goal; the desire to harm and starve their own citizens and stay longer in power. The poor in Africa will always remain poor unless the issue of bad governance is addressed.
- Humanitarian aid and donations via a dictator that does not represent the people has never made the poor independent or proud, but mere beggars.
- Unmonitored aid strengthens the position of dictators in less developed countries because it makes the state machinery the beneficiary, and those in power use the money to assist those communities in government favour.
- Africans do not want aid that strengthens dictatorship and state terrorism over poor, voiceless, neglected and starved people.
- Africa does not need aid that creates dependency, destroys the moral of already weak and tortured people and their future generations.

- The fight against poverty will not be won without good governance.

## **2.6 Accountability**

In Ethiopia there are institutions in place, such as the judiciary, Parliament, the Office of the Federal Auditor General, and the Anti-corruption Commission, but their effectiveness to hold the other branches of government to account is limited (paragraph 33).

The government has made commitment to reinforce capacity and move forward on democratic decentralisation and pluralism. While progress has been made in decentralisation; further action is required to make the state apparatus more responsive and accountable

Accountability is hampered by the lack of separation between the role of the party and that of the state.

Participants hope that there will be a system for the Ethiopian people to be able to make sure their politicians and public servants answer for their actions.

## **2.7 Capability**

It is unclear why there are weakness in human resources and the systems of basic services delivery at all levels, when it is possible to prepare citizens by giving them appropriate training.

On the other hand, there is fierce and sometimes violent competition for political power that leads to conflicts that affects significantly service delivery.

Elected representatives, local communities, trade unionists, farmers, journalists, business people, and people in many other walks of life must work together and be able to give their views on decisions that affect their lives.

## **2.8 Responsiveness**

The respondents are pleased to know that DFID's search for facts has pointed out that respect for human rights in Ethiopia is a concern and more needs to be done to ensure that individual rights are protected.

It is also known that there is little tradition of partnership between the government and civil society. Civil society organisations must be allowed to flourish and have greater engagement in monitoring service delivery and play a major role itself in economic and social development.

## **2.9 The Regional Dimension**

The analyses given under regional dimension, paragraphs 44 to 48 in the draft, are accepted by the participants. The Ethiopian people must be able to live in peace with their neighbours. These wars are wars of the leaders that drag parts of the population in to them. According to some respondents, it would be beneficial to train the Ethiopian army to be a productive force which takes part in development work during peace time in order to help the nation achieve its poverty reduction targets and MDGs.

## **2.10 What DFID has Learnt**

DFID has identified a period of real optimism since the last CAP, which was accompanied by increased aid flows by donors. However, as they point out, there was also a reversal due to the political events of 2005.

Good governance and respect for human rights must be demonstrated and sustained by the Ethiopian government during 2006-10.

The civil society plays a key role in both development and humanitarian activities. But there is no culture of working together which, importantly, must be developed. Local community based organisations are active players in advocacy for change, raising awareness for policy dialogue and in natural resources management activities, and these experiences and skills should be tapped into.

## **PART II – UK PARTNERSHIP PLANS OVER THE POVERTY STRATEGY PERIOD**

### **UK AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS**

Through this consultation exercise, the participants have learnt about the various other sources of support Ethiopia gets. These sources are:

- World Bank Interim Country Strategy 2006-08 that focuses on governance and growth;
- The African Development Bank Country strategy 2006-09 that aims to promote growth to support the government's own PASDEP;
- The European Commission Country Strategy 2008-12 currently under preparation; and
- UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2007-11 that provides a common strategic framework for the operational activities of the UN system in Ethiopia.

Despite all these sources of support, achieving the MDGs by 2015 in Ethiopia is thought to be over ambitious. As for the Ethiopian government, it is hoping for an accelerated growth to achieve the MDGs as planned. Only time will tell of course, but the respondents agree that the struggle for obtaining good governance, economic growth and social development in Ethiopia will continue beyond 2015.

The Ethiopian people must be made aware of the extent and complexion of economic and development assistance and, most importantly, be empowered and encouraged to take part in the development effort.

The donors' harmonisation framework is supported by the respondents and they suggest also monitoring and evaluation information must be exchanged on how projects are progressing as well.

### **3. DFID's areas of focus in Ethiopia**

The respondents have examined the five objectives identified by DFID and are in full support of them. The respondents have also agreed to promised actions by DFID to support the development of a capable, accountable and responsive state (paragraphs 65 - 69), the action to promote better delivery and human development (paragraphs 70 - 76), the action to promote pro-poor growth (paragraphs 77 - 80), action to reduce the vulnerability of the poorest (paragraphs 81 - 86), DFID working with others for more effective development in Ethiopia (paragraphs 87 - 89).

Regarding the explanations given in the draft about how UK will deliver its assistance (paragraphs 90 -95); the respondents agreed to all the approaches but suggest a particular emphasises on government accountability to its citizens, and for the government to provide basic services effectively and impartially.

### **4. Conclusions**

In conclusion, the Norwich Focus Group would like to suggest to DFID that the Ethiopian government must strengthen local NGOs, professional societies as well as Community Based Organisations in order to make them capable of having full participation in all aspects of the development process including policy formulation, analyses, programme implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of the economic growth activities.

**Empower the people to work for their country's development!**

**THE LIVERPOOL FOCUS GROUP  
CONSULTATION ON DFID'S DRAFT COUNTRY  
ASSISTANCE PLAN FOR ETHIOPIA, 2006-10.**

Final report

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**Connections for Development**

## **THE LIVERPOOL FOCUS GROUP**

### **Ethiopia Country Assistant Plan (CAP) 2006-2010**

Participants involved in these discussions were members from diverse ethnic group, which include refugees/asylum seekers from Ethiopia, Somalia and other members from voluntary / community organisations in Liverpool.

There were 16 participants involved in the consultation exercise and the group was divided proportionally in to two. Each group comprises of 8 people were allocated with separate task to look at two different major objectives.

The country assistance plan (CAP) 2006-2010, participants were drawn mostly from Ethiopia and Somalia group given that the objectives set out for this paper, is focused on a specific country therefore the views of Ethiopians were deemed relevant in terms of looking at implementing a strategic plan.

The consultant/facilitator explained to the group about the importance of their contributions in terms of influencing successful outcomes of a country assistance plan for Ethiopia as outlined by DfID. The facilitator also provided some guide to the questions for group members to brainstorm.

Main objectives set out for the workshop are as follows:

- Support for the development of a capable, accountable and responsive state
- Promotion of a better service delivery and human development
- Promotion of pro-poor growth
- Reduce the vulnerability of the poor
- Working with others for more effective development in Ethiopia

#### **1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

The facilitator for this consultation exercise was commissioned by CfD Connections for Development, outlining the essence of engaging the BRM communities, local groups voluntary and stake holders with a view to focus draw participant's attention in their discussions to focus on the major objectives outlined by DfID.

The consultation event is committed to provide a range of strategic approaches based on the views/suggestions of participants. The facilitator discussed the importance of participant's contribution to this report and provided some guideline to assist the focus group when referring to the major objectives for the CAP.

## **2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

This report provides an overview of the BME community organisations mainly the Ethiopian group. The aim of the report is to gather the views/opinions of the focus group to feed into the draft Country Assistance Plan (CAP) consultation for Ethiopia for the period 2006-10. The draft CAP which describes in detail how DfID Ethiopia aims to achieve their Country Assistance objectives, a copy of this document was circulated to all participants to guide their discussions in respect of the same.

## **3. METHOD OF APPROACH**

Community groups/organisations were invited to attend two separate workshops on different objectives. The facilitator contacted community groups via email, post, telephone discussions and visit to refugee groups and other voluntary organisations ensuring that all relevant document for the workshops were received.

The overall aim of the workshop is to engage participants to focus on the Ethiopia CAP objectives which was identify as (workshop-1 ) and (workshop-2) Round Table: Remittances and other Diaspora resources: increase their volume and developmental value. Both groups came together during plenary sessions and gave feedbacks which feeds in the overall picture with similar findings in terms of looking at promoting better service delivery and human development across the board.

## **4. OBJECTIVE - 1**

### **SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CAPABLE, ACCOUNTABLE AND RESPONSIVE STATE.**

There were major discussions around this topic given that the group, in their discussions, attempted to define what constitutes a capable, accountable and responsive state focusing on governance in Ethiopia.

Other discussed personal experiences that are related with their tribes, social exclusion, deprivation, isolation, women's issue, poor education and training, skills development, health facilities, democracy and free speech are essential part of determining a capable, accountable and responsive state for the people with the people and by the people.

The group therefore presented the under mentioned points on A flip chaRt in response to the above mentioned objective, given answers are as follows:-

- The Ethiopian government to focus on strengthening civil society and democracy
- Provide skilled training in technical areas, increase opportunities for employment
- Restructure the civil service to be more inclusive of women, young people and disabled
- Government must be able to address community cohesion to win hearts and minds

- Decentralisation of power will strengthening government initiatives for rural social enterprise and economic development

#### **4.1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Government must review its policy on human rights, encourage civil society in the development of a more capable and accountable state with a true commitment to support and recognise the magnitude of gender inequalities, barriers for disabled people and the voiceless.

The current existing programme in Ethiopia will contribute to the rehabilitation of health, education and training development across diverse regions with top priority of attention in particular, HIV training and awareness raising among young people in communities and in schools with appropriate resources to support outreach work

Engage tribal leaders, stakeholders, religious leaders, school teachers at national and regional level to participate in planning community development and capacity building delivery services, carry out mapping exercise with an aim to review current existing structures in terms of delivering humanitarian support services to reach hard-to-reach groups which include travellers ethnic group and other isolated ethnic group.

### **5. OBJECTIVE - 2**

#### **PROMOTION OF A BETTER SERVICE DELIVERY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

The group discussed key issues around the objective as set out above and presented the following points on a flip chart:

- Government to recognise and grasp the importance of ethnic differentials, their leadership role in promoting human development;
- To strengthen existing training mechanisms ensuring the voiceless, female, disabled people, nomadic tribes are accessing training opportunities;
- Rehabilitate and review the current infrastructure for integration and development, in particular good governance;
- Implement a system for open accountability of public funds in particular Donor remittances to local NGO's and sub-contractors.

#### **5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

There should be a regional consultation with local and community leaders across different regions to reconcile differences using a platform for drama, arts, music to win hearts and minds. The government must be willing to cooperate with international project leaders as well as to encourage overseas BME community organisations as partnership champions. Emphasis should be placed on identifying gaps in local service provision, skills auditing, partnership service delivery in rural areas must include local people develop their skills and capacity through volunteer training ensuring appropriate resources are in place for

outreach work . A mapping exercise identifying needs and unmet needs, revisit current structure and arrangements identify what works, what need to be done to strengthening existing plans

Revisit current financial structures and arrangements in partnership service delivery ensuring conflict of interest are properly addressed, in particular allocation of Donor resources to local NGO's must be tighten by introducing better financial rules and contract agreement in the event of misappropriation of Donor funds appropriate action must be taken, and publicise story in the development magazines to deter financial malpractices.

It is anticipated that these recommendations will be given top priority of attention in developing Dfid's policy in delivering better services to reach the most vulnerable and marginalised groups

## **5. OBJECTIVE - 3**

### **PROMOTION OF PRO -POOR GROWTH**

The session was facilitated via group discussions by all participants whereby individuals were given the opportunity to discuss issues and concerns of promoting pro-poor growth.

Main points raised in the discussions were:

- Government to be highly committed to tackling corruptions and financial malpractices.
- Increase resources in health, education and training needs;
- Identify and recognise the contributions of educated villagers.

### **5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The continue strengthening of financial auditing, monitoring and evaluating government, NGO's and local contractors in their role as planner, supervisor in delivering community development services to public sector must be more open and transparent, and must include public independent members in financial management committees.

Revisit current plans for education and health ensuring that government planning and target settings collaborated with the aims and objectives set for the millennium development goal poverty reduction delivery strategy. Promote water-poverty campaign to change policy to reflect better practice of equality to meet the needs of other isolated and excluded groups.

Encourage civil society campaign to strengthen equal participation in key decisions making in planning health and social infrastructure at regional level, in particular to empower tribal leaders to play active role in service delivery to reduce poverty and promote better sanitation.

It is hoped that the above recommendations will assist DfID's country assistance plan in terms of implementing strategy for human development and poverty reduction.

## **6. OBJECTIVE - 4**

### **REDUCING THE VULNERABILITY OF THE POOR**

Diverse group were involved in the discussions on reducing the vulnerability of the poor, and the following points were deemed the most important:

- Government should review current strategy for poverty reduction;
- Establish more effective method of mapping exercise to reach hard-to-reach groups nomadic tribes;
- Increase resources and develop feeder road construction in rural areas.

#### **6.1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Provide safe drinking water as part of improving on sanitation and better health condition. Fight the causes of malaria provide primary health care facilities, mobile health team to reach villagers in the delivery of equipments, medication and treatment to increase life chances for children and adults.

Organise and provide training to volunteers at regional level to support the already existing government effort in promoting good governance, include the voiceless and opposition political groups in planning for improving better social conditions for the benefit to society.

The strategic planning for road construction will enable access to local transport to enable villagers to market agriculture their products. Review the distribution of road constructions in rural areas where there are high level of health risk.

The above suggested recommendations hopefully will strengthen, if not complement, the already existing work carried out by government, NGO's and other voluntary organisations in their effort to reduce poverty and destitution in Ethiopia.

## **7. OBJECTIVE - 5**

### **WORKING WITH OTHERS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT IN ETHIOPIA**

The under mentioned points were drawn from group discussions reflecting on effective networking and partnership delivery are considered important in the discussions.

There were concerns raised in terms of organising BME organisations with support by DFID in assisting BME group to actively participate in the delivery of international humanitarian assistance overseas

Main points identified by the group are:

- Strengthening effective dialogue with youth and community groups;
- Develop and strengthening current plans for partnership work;
- Support plan for BME organisations to work in partnership with government.

## **7.1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Encourage active participation of youth involvement in voluntary work, strengthening civil society campaign and human rights, promote sports, drama, music and creative arts, develop overseas youth exchange programme to increase learning opportunities for future leadership through training.

Recognise the existing skills of the voiceless and excluded groups, actively involve them in the planning of social activities, training and education to address social cohesion in good governance for more effective development.

Develop a more strategic partnerships engagement with overseas BME groups with support from DfID, in particular to encourage BME interest in international development work overseas to foster good links with government and NGO's to recognise the skills and expertise of BME groups in the UK, are vital to partnership work in the delivery of humanitarian support services to reach grass-roots excluded groups

The implementation of these recommendations will hopefully make significant difference in addressing cultural concerns/issues as well as to strengthening ramifications in developing action plan for strategic partnership networking, capacity building, skills auditing, and information sharing in terms of looking at effective service development

# **Draft Ethiopia Country Assistance Plan 2006-2010**

**Consultation Held at the London School of Economics**

**15<sup>th</sup> March - 2007**

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**Connections for Development**

## **1.0 Introduction**

This event was organised with the assistance of the London School of Economics (LSE) Department of Sociology and the LSE Africa Forum on behalf of Connections for Development (CfD). CfD, a UK-based ethnic minority-led network promotes the effective engagement of its member organisations with public policy processes that affect UK Black and Minority Ethnic (BMEs) communities. The members of the CfD Network are committed to the delivery of International Development in the developing countries of: Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Transition countries of Eastern Europe.

### **1.1 Background of Ethiopian CAP Consultation**

CfD provided a brief that communicated the background to this consultation and how the LSE academic community's contributions would add value to the whole process. The event also brought together a cross-section of people in London who have interest in international development issues.

This consultation is part of DfID's preparation of Ethiopia Country Assistance Plan (CAP) for the period 2006-10. The draft CAP illustrates how UK resources will promote poverty reduction in Ethiopia and describes explicitly how DfID-Ethiopia plans to achieve their objectives. It is also clear that the Ethiopian Government contributed to the CAP through the new poverty eradication strategy, referred to as, "the Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (PASDEP)".

Participants were advised that this Focus Group is meant to solicit their views on the Draft CAP (Ethiopia) for the period 2006-2010. They participated with the understanding that their responses will affect how DfID achieves their Country Assistance objective for Ethiopia between 2006-2010.

### **1.2 Proceedings of the Consultation**

The Development Studies Institute (DESTIN) and the Department of Sociology publicised this consultation event by placing: ' *Double Aid or Not?*' posters at campus. This attracted students, who may not previously know much about Ethiopia or indeed Africa to come and give their views on general development issues. To facilitate discussions participants were provided copies of the Draft CAP and the key points of the country assistance plan were presented.

The proceedings also included a 15 minutes overview of the key points of the Draft CAP with a focus on the general framework of the Millennium Development Goals<sup>1</sup> (MDGs), stressing that it's quite unlikely that Ethiopia would meet the 2015 target. Participants were also briefed about the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Programme (SDPRP) and why they have become a more common policy vehicle across Africa in determining both domestic priorities of resource allocation, and indeed foreign aid.

Reference was made to the failed elections in 2005 as one of the main challenges of the relationship between DFID and the Government of Ethiopia. The 2005 election was followed by the call for the suspension of direct budget support by a large majority of the donor community. Hence, the following Protection of Basic Services Grant (PBSG) has now gained a wider role, which bypasses the central government to give more resources to the regions. Other issues were also quickly presented, included Ethiopia's involvement with the conflict in Somalia. Then, DFID's five key priorities were presented within the context of the SDPRP.

## 2.0 Working Group Reports

Participants were randomly divided into working groups with flexibility to allow those who might want to switch groups depending on their topic of choice to do so. All working groups had an activity sheet to facilitate discussions.

The following are the topics discussed in each group:

1. Views on the current human rights situation in Ethiopia after 2005 elections
2. Government of Ethiopia's capacity to meet development goals for all Ethiopians
3. Farming and pastoralist communities: what challenges for welfare and human rights?
4. Foreign aid to provide water and sanitation: how best to manage the efforts?
5. Strengthening civil society in Ethiopia, partnerships and humanitarian issues

The audience of about 20 persons were divided up to form 5 Working Groups. The findings from each working group are presented in the five categories of the questions listed above.

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<sup>1</sup> The MDGs are described on DFID's website and can be found at: <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/mdg/>.

## **2.1 First Working Group**

In the First Working Group there was a powerful debate about the role of Ethiopia within the wider Horn of Africa. In particular two issues were raised, the ongoing border dispute with Eritrea and the recent involvement of Ethiopian troops in Somalia. One participant pointed out that about 10% of Eritrean population is still mobilised due to a perceived danger of a renewed warfare with Ethiopia.

The lack of commitment from the Ethiopian government in signing a permanent peace treaty and agreeing on borders increases the perception of terror in Eritrea. Discussants questioned why Ethiopia is unwilling to sign to the peace treaty and expressed doubt over who makes up the current Ethiopian Government and wider ruling elite.

It was expressed that the northern tribes (not specified which), who were most concerned with keeping Eritrea as part of Ethiopia make up much of the government posts. Secondly, participants said that, a continued conflict can be used as an excuse for disallowing wider political freedoms in the country. Most observed that, there is a possibility that the government got away with failed elections in 2005 because of such conflicts.

However, one participant did not agree with this analysis and emphasised that, there was no going back to the hostilities and the key issues were allowing the displaced persons to return to the border regions and carrying begin reconstructing their lives. It was further pointed out that, the legality of the border rests on these two key issues:

- First the African Union's assertion in its founding charter that colonial borders are legitimate, as Eritrea was an Italian colony they have a legal claim to a border according to African Union conventions.
- Secondly, the international arbitration done by the Border Commission in The Hague was seen as a legitimising effort on the exact nature of the border.

The group pointed out that, Ethiopia's recent involvement in Somalia was a waste of money, which widely depicted Ethiopia as a geopolitical ally of the USA. The Somalia-Ethiopian conflict was said have served different stakeholders who saw the ousting out of the Islamic Courts in Mogadishu as a priority. For instance that to:

- The Government of Ethiopia, the US administration, and the regional allies in Kenya and Uganda who were fearful of the establishment of an Islamic leadership in Mogadishu, the conflict had to be a priority.

These regional interests were in participants' views demonstrated by Kenya's quick move to return the exiled Somali parliament back to Mogadishu, and Uganda's shift response to lead the peacekeeping efforts in Somalia. However, there was a disagreement as to whether the presence and the subsequent overthrow of the Islamic Courts was a positive move.

During further discussions, one participant noted that the Islamic Courts had established the rule of law in Mogadishu and other provinces, whereas others didn't find the rule of law by the Islamic Courts as being humane or indeed lawful. The Somali conflict was seen by all in this group as the key destabilising factor in the Horn of Africa sub-region, and especially for a country that has existed without a government for 15 years and split up eventually into three countries. The situation was seen as one that requires in particular African-led mediation, and solutions at the African Union level.

## **2.2 The Second Working Group**

The Second Working Group looked at the capacity of the Ethiopian Government in meeting the SDPRP objectives. Participants discussed the regionalisation of the country, and the issue of devolving more power to the 11 regions that make up Ethiopia. Participants pointed out that this regional element might potentially create ethnic and religious tensions. In particular it was noted that in Jimma there is presently more religious tensions than ever before. Some participant argued that, indirect aid to the regions was creating new divisions.

It was suggested that, one way to move forward would be to conduct a thorough audit on the Ethiopian Overseas Development Aid from DFID. Participants observed that the Government of Denmark was already doing this, and it would be an idea to introduce such a plan in a case like Ethiopia where the results of foreign aid are mixed. Interestingly, the group expressed the fears that the regional levels of government

would create more corruption because of the emerging relationships between foreign donors and regions that previously did not have any direct contacts with the international communities.

Additionally, participants suggested that issues of accountability with the pooled aid that is disbursed through the European Commission may arise. Discussants were pessimistic about the new accounting mechanism entitled: "full cost recovery," which was known to largely hide the administrative costs linked to foreign aid. The central issues were that, the effectiveness of aid should require all funds that are mentioned as "aid" in national budgets and pledges in international forums/platforms to be fully accounted for. Otherwise the public would never know what progress is being made to increase aid, or indeed make sure that it is reaching the most deserving people.

The other issues raised were the need for transparency regarding staff hours spent on different projects to avoid staff shifting to hide the administrative costs of aid. Participants agreed that it is acceptable that there are administrative burdens in delivering aid, but the only way to manage this transparently, is by communicating openly about hidden staffing needs as well as staff locations.

It was felt that the decision to cut direct budgetary support should be seen as a temporary one, and the recommendations from an Aid Audit (conducted with an independent stakeholder participation in Ethiopia) should be the cornerstone on which to build new approaches. Between such audit cycles, recipient and stakeholder assemblies could be gathered to discuss aid delivery effectiveness.

It is important that aid should ultimately become as accountable as public finances are, since in some cases over 30% of public finances in developing countries are in fact foreign aid. The public needs to feel that this money is disbursed to them, and not to rulers at whichever level of government. Regionalisation and decentralisation are being pushed by DFID and other international donors, but they may be a temporary solution with the potential to support regional elites that are no more responsive to democratic institutions than the central government.

Finally, there was a proposal to create Joint Management Bodies, similar to the Fair Trade Movement for disbursing Fair Trade premiums to social development projects. These bodies are made up of diverse beneficiaries, which may include the management (possibly local or central government) representative as consultative members. These Joint Bodies already distribute the Fair Trade premiums with wide accountability and efficacy across Africa. Participants stressed that there are lessons to be learned from them, as such bodies already exist in Ethiopia where some Fair Trade coffee co-operatives exist.

### **2.3 The Third Working Group**

The Third Working Group looked at the issues of the pastoralists and the way in which the Productivity Safety Nets Programme (PSNP) has been introduced. Participants were generally in favour of the programme, as a means of reducing rural poverty and guaranteeing rights to basic services to all citizens of Ethiopia.

One participant however, criticised this approach, and pointed out that in the past DFID had not been consistent on rural issues and favoured either far-fetched modernisation programmes: (fashioned along the Tennessee Valley Programme in the USA by the Roosevelt Administration) and industrial development (with rural persons migrating to industrial development zones) or, as in this programme, helping rural Ethiopians to better survive where they are currently living. The group said that:

- There shouldn't be such a division between the two approaches, as urbanisation is taking place in any case, and Ethiopia is currently undergoing large investment programmes, mainly from the private sector, in horticulture.
- All approaches should support, rural basic rights alongside managed settlement and industrial development.
- The problem certainly with modernisation programmes and new settlements are linked to food security, human rights in such processes and stability of new economic initiatives; and care should be taken to manage these issues.

According to participants, there is no good reason in trying to solve rural issues through one programme. Hence, ignoring the fact that Horticulture will during the course of this

CAP most likely constitute the second largest export crop (after coffee) in Ethiopia if investments are successful would not benefit the country.

The group also pointed out that, the creation of the horticultural industry will mean:

- Mass migrations of hundreds of thousands of persons, as tens of thousands of jobs might be created (family support ratios are quite high in Ethiopia);
- Stress on water resources (as flowers, depending on technology require a lot of water), problems of clean water and sanitation for the employees and their families; and
- Human rights issues concerning working conditions, gender rights and the possibility of increased respiratory and other diseases if dangerous chemicals are used on flower farms.

Furthermore, there was concern that, the pastoralists who make up a large part of the population, may not migrate to cities in the course of the CAP. As a result, they will certainly need support at the local level in order to adapt their lifestyle. And engage in efforts to improve their living conditions through income generating schemes which also depend on the protection of basic rights.

The group suggested that Farmers' rights need to be protected. Example was given of the recent case involving Starbucks and the government of Ethiopia over the Sidama and Yirgacheffe brands. Participants pointed out that, the US Patent office rejected the Government of Ethiopia's claim to these coffee brands, with the emphasis that the Sidama coffee would be no different in its patent rights than already existing Bordeaux wine, or Basmati rice. Thus, it should be a label of regional origin (possibly within the EU patent office which is more lenient on labels of origin). The group agreed that:

- Such regional brands should not be owned by single companies;
- Ethiopians (as the people) who discovered the coffee crop and refined it through ceremonies should have the right to brand regional coffee producing labels, but not allocate them to any individual company; and
- Producer price of coffee was very poor, and development of more co-operatives and fair-trade schemes would be a step forward.

## **2.4 The Fourth Working Group**

The Fourth Working Group looked at issues of water and sanitation. First of all the group felt that the topic should have been ‘water, sanitation and hygiene’ with the view that proper hygiene practices prevent diseases.

Participants pointed out that, the provision of accessible and safe drinking water was one of the most concrete and achievable goal within the wide range of MDGs. They expressed that:

- The development of community water projects, urban waste management and piped water, water conservation in agriculture and the needs of the developing horticultural sector are key issues in the water debate;
- Though Ethiopia has suffered droughts in the past, it has ample water resources and capacity to provide water for all with right methods of management;
- The Blue Nile as a key water resource should be harnessed with careful management for the provision of drinking water to larger settlements; and
- However there is a completely unjust treaty in force with Egypt dating back to the colonial era of 1929 which stipulates that Egypt has the unique right to water resources on the whole Nile, restricting the other Nile Basin countries.

Further discussions pointed out that, though countries upstream are allowed to build dams (which contribute very little to the provision of drinking water), using the water for their benefit on a larger scale was excluded by that treaty<sup>2</sup>. The intergovernmental Nile Basin Initiative was seen as an empty initiative where nothing gets decided for the benefit of ordinary people who would wish to use the water upstream for their basic needs. Though populations increase both in Egypt and the countries downstream, the Egyptian water monopoly is not justified.

Initiatives such as WaterAid and other NGOs were recognized as helping to alleviate the water shortages especially in the rural areas. The following issues were also highlighted:

- Boreholes should be measured not only in water provision, but also how much they reduce water fetching distances for the women who saddled with the burden of collecting water over long distances;

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<sup>2</sup> This was a treaty between the UK and Egypt, which gave the later almost exclusive rights to the Nile waters regardless of the needs and rights of all the other Nile Basin countries.

- Education and awareness of local issues are important, to prevent especially disease (such as larvae) in rivers and people should be taught that clear water is not always safe;
- There are good local water projects run in conjunction with Population Services International (PSI), based in Washington DC- who work on local and comprehensive safe water programmes, especially for children's needs; and
- To prevent the social (not only medicinal) causes of malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, communities should work together with the Global Fund on water (as many diseases are either water- borne or exacerbated by poor water qualities).

## **2.5 The Fifth Working Group**

The fifth working group discussed the efforts at coordinating foreign development aid to Ethiopia, and ways in which new partnerships can be founded in this area. The idea of an Active Donor Group (DAG) was welcomed, as a means to reduce the wastage of foreign aid on overlapping accounting, reporting, planning and decision-making procedures by different donors. The Paris Aid Harmonisation initiatives were viewed potentially valuable in focusing aid further on the completion of the MDGs and not bilateral diplomatic, commercial or other foreign policy preferences.

In terms of civil society engagement, the donors felt it would mean both the Ethiopian communities abroad (in the Diaspora) as well as locally based NGOs in the country itself should be considered in this process.

Overall, participants felt that local development would be important in redressing the democratic accountability of the government. It was expressed that if watch dogs and multi-stakeholder groups for the horticultural sector was created (as is done in Kenya with the Horticultural Ethical Business Initiative) , it would bring marginalised voices to national economic development policy debates.

The civil society is a key aspect of reducing ethnic and religious tensions. It was said that, this would support mostly the internally marginalised groups of the Mursi in the Omo Valley, or other tribes. Participants also said that Gender rights would be best protected by income generating schemes, such as micro credit and women's micro enterprise groups.

### **3.0 Conclusions and Recommendations**

Overall, the group was excited to know how Foreign Aid works in practice and the topics interested students and persons with personal contact with either Africa in general or Ethiopia in particular. The place and the time of the consultation were appropriate and accessible for the target participants.

Concerning the issues, there was general sense unfamiliarity about what DFID was doing with foreign aid. On topics that seemed straight forward, such as water and sanitation, participants did not understand why there were problems of delivery while some international NGOs are said to be making good success in these areas.

There was the impression that DFID as a branch of the government needs to be quite responsive to the diverse constituencies so that increased aid would not be perceived as going waste.

Some participants thought Ethiopia was too 'belligerent' a country, to receive increased aid. However, most participants did not subscribe to this view. It was explained that, the methods of delivery of aid should support participation from the ordinary Ethiopian citizens, through human rights, basic rights and worker rights initiatives. Direct budgetary support was not seen as essential by most participants, though others found that by-passing the Central Government could become very problematic since it constitutes a very large part of public finances. It was emphasised that by-passing the Central Government would take away the authority of the sovereign government in making decisions on their territory. Thus, contributing negatively to democracy in cases where the central government has a legitimate position.

#### Additional Comments: Working Group 1

- Some participants described Ethiopia as a destabilising force in the wider region, (a view not shared by others); and emphasised that Aid should be therefore cut, unless the border dispute in particular between Eritrea is solved. And Ethiopia's involvement in Somalia was seen as unlawful.
- Other participants felt that Ethiopia is not the main destabilising factor in the region, but it is rather a general sense of insecurity that leads to rivalries.

Additional Comments: Working Group 2

- One participant proposed an audit on the foreign aid to Ethiopia to solve the current aid crisis.
- Regionalisation of aid disbursement was felt to be a destabilising factor, likely to lead to ethnic tensions. Other forms of stakeholder observation were proposed as a solution; however, decentralisation itself was not seen as a solution.

Additional Comments: Working Group 3

- There was a strong opinion that current DFID policies towards the pastoralists are too one-sided and expects pastoralists to either try to change lifestyles all together, or reinforce them, but not both concurrently.
- The Production Safety Net Programme is trying to keep the pastoralists where they are now, while some of them in any case will migrate.
- In response to the question whether the push to create a horticultural sector would change the situation (since it's a major industrial project), it was agreed that it was a major change in Ethiopia that will drive people towards cities.
- Ethiopia was a destabilising force in the region and might raise more money for aggressive foreign policies and exercise control over Ethiopians.

Additional Comments: Working Group 4

- Participants thought that existing NGOs working in the field of water and sanitation especially have been successful and supportive. Thus, learning from their work would be essential for the success in delivering water to all.

Additional Points: Working Group 5

- The issue of Diaspora communities was an important element and some this event's participants were from such communities themselves;
- Consultations should observe the ethnic diversity of the Diaspora; and
- Working with NGOs was important for aid delivery, but not a unique solution on its own.
- There was a proposal to learn from the Kenyan horticultural body based on the general sentiments felt by the participants.