OXFAM
Italia

RESILIENT PROJECT: INCREASING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION OF RURAL COMMUNITIES IN TIGRAY REGION, ETHIOPIA

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THE PROJECT

The 36-month **RESILIENT** project, co-funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and started in 2026, was elaborated to **respond to the food security and nutrition needs of the Ethiopian Tigray**, recently affected by a conflict that ended in November 2022, leading to a general deterioration of the already precarious living conditions. The indicators provided by FAO, in particular the prevalence of moderate to severe malnutrition, show the conflict-related deterioration: the indicator dropped to 56.2% in 2019-21, but the latest documented value brings us to 58.1%. In fact, food insecurity in Tigray is closely linked to the conflict, as the forces destroyed the productive factors on which the economy of the majority farming families was based, looting cereals, livestock, the population's assets, burning crops, slaughtering livestock, preventing access to humanitarian assistance, total and partial blockage of electricity, banking services. Therefore, the project was designed by a multi-stakeholder partnership composed of civil society (Oxfam, REST), the private sector (DECSI), governments (TBoARD, BOSAR), universities and research institutes (MU, UNIFI, IZSVe), enhancing the mutual skills and know-how of the Italian and Ethiopian systems.

The project aims to contribute to ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture in Ethiopia.

It is expected to achieve this impact by **working with conflict-affected rural communities in Tigray by improving socio-economic conditions, women's inclusion and access to inputs and services for diversified and sustainable food production**, with a focus on youth, women and victims of the conflict, through three interlinked results:

Result 1: It will focus on supporting the **resumption of production**, through the provision of inputs, assets, micro-credit schemes, trainings, within the following supply chains: cereals, fruit and vegetables, small livestock.

These are important in the local economy, offering significant growth margins, and providing employment for men but also for many women. Through a climate-friendly and inclusive approach, 2150 small-scale producers will start (or resume) diversified and conscious food production;

Result 2: Aware of the specific barriers that limit the socio-economic role of women, key aspects of the project will be the **protection, empowerment and resilience of women**, in a region where, according to the Survey of Ethiopian Women 2023 that Oxfam conducted on behalf of the EU, there is the highest percentage of women who report having suffered economic abuse in the last year, due to being denied access to property or durable goods. Therefore, 1200 families and members of institutions will be accompanied in understanding and experimenting with gender transformative mechanisms.

Starting with a greater recognition of the role of women in nutrition, awareness will be raised among women, men and institutions on the importance of equal relationships in promoting inclusive development;

Result 3: As a complement to the strategy outlined above, and in support of the sustainability of production activities, market actors (rural and credit and savings cooperatives) and financial institutions will be able to offer efficient and quality services to **ensure access to credit and storage facilities** that **enable small-scale producers to market their products more effectively**.

HYPERCUBE CONTRIBUTION TO SUPPORT THE "RESILIENT" PROJECT IN TIGRAY

Agriculture is the dominant sector of the Ethiopian economy. Crops account for the largest share of total production and land use. Given that approximately 85% of the country's population lives in rural areas and depends on agriculture for their livelihoods, agriculture's role in economic growth and food and nutrition security is essential. **The conflict in Tigray has severely damaged crop and livestock production**, impacting the livelihoods of the local population. Fighters have destroyed crops, hampering agricultural activities. Damage to infrastructure has included irrigation systems, agricultural equipment, and storage facilities. Oxfam's needs assessment identified the supply chains damaged by the conflict and most relevant for strengthening, as they meet the nutritional and income-generating needs of the specific context and have economic potential and the socioeconomic inclusion of vulnerable groups: cereals, fruits and vegetable production, poultry, sheep and goat farming. **Among the supply chains, vegetable production has been identified as crucial to improving household nutrition and income**. Specifically, Oxfam and its partners will **support 1,000 farmers in Hawzen and Tsireawenberta districts**, providing them with agricultural inputs (seeds), access to credit and support in developing a business plan, training on climate-smart agriculture.

With its contribution, **Hypercube will support the purchase** - as well as training to use them responsibly - **of 150 solar-powered pumps to sustainably irrigate the fields of 1,000 small producers** and achieve consistent production, unaffected by climate changes. These activities will be implemented during the year 2026.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!