



Capacity Statement

Heifer International

Since 1944, Heifer International has focused on empowering smallholder farmers to sustainably address hunger and poverty in their communities while caring for the Earth. Heifer operates in 19 countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas, investing in agricultural value chains to provide farmers the opportunity to earn sustainable living incomes. We help integrate rural women, youth and Indigenous populations into more inclusive markets. In doing so, vulnerable rural households are more resilient to shocks, allowing them to thrive, not just survive.

Over the last two decades we have fostered sustainable agriculture economic growth youth empowerment and enhancing women's agencies, biodiversity and contributed positively to environment.

Our Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) system encompasses: 1. Defining the Living Income Benchmark (LIB) of our target groups, 2. Identifying their Actual Income, and 3. Identifying the Living Income Gap (LIG). All our work is geared towards closing this gap, and we evaluate ourselves by how much we contribute to closing the LIG.

Heifer's Household Transformation Model (HTM) and Business Transformation Model (BTM) enable us to gauge and measure the performance of our projects towards closing the LIG.

Heifer's Expertise

- Market system development
- Private sector engagement and partnership
- Empowerment of smallholder farmers, women and youth



Heifer Ethiopia

Heifer International Ethiopia started its first operation in 2004 with a study of poultry and small ruminant value chains. In collaboration with Send a Cow and local stakeholders, Heifer started to engage closely with local communities and the Ministry of Agriculture through the *Integrated Dairy and Horticulture* project, a resounding response to food insecurity in the Rift Valley of Southeastern Ethiopia. Heifer Ethiopia currently has 30 team members who help drive impactful changes at the country and regional levels.

Strategy

Heifer Ethiopia is committed to locally led development, working alongside communities to implement sustainable solutions to local challenges. It focuses on supporting women and youth, developing market systems, promoting innovative technologies and increasing smallholder farmers' access to finance.

Value Chains



Poultry



Dairy



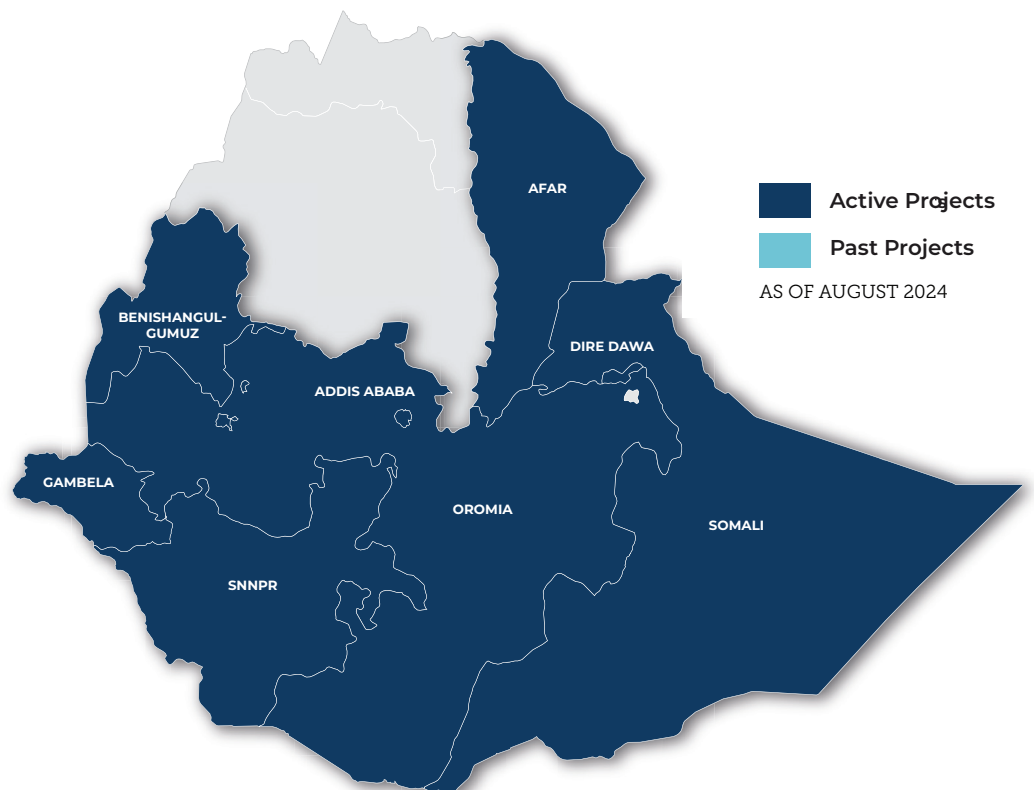
Horticulture
(Potato and Tomato)



Honey and Beekeeping



Small Ruminants





Ethiopia RESTORE + Signature Program (2021-2030)

Aiming to increase the incomes of 1.2 million smallholder farmers by 2030, this program engages farmers in value chains such as dairy, honey, horticulture, small ruminants and poultry. The program applies a market systems development approach, that supports smallholder farmers as well as public and private sector actors who play a key role in food systems, ensuring local ownership and sustainability, demonstrating benefits to public and private actors that play a role in the systems to ensure local ownership and sustainability.

Partnerships

Heifer Ethiopia is proactively fostering robust collaboration and partnerships with the private and public sectors. We have active agreements with the three federal ministries (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands, and Ministry of Labour and Skills) and have started the process of developing partnerships with Alema Farms PLC and Oromia Cooperatives Bank (both private) for the *Enhancing Livelihoods of Smallholder Farmers through Improved Poultry Business project* (ELSIPB).

With the support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Heifer Ethiopia and the Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands are working together to implement the *Lowlands Livelihoods Resilience Project* (LLRP). Based on the success of the *Lowlands Livelihood Resilience Project*, Phase One (LLRP I), Heifer Ethiopia is co-designing the second phase of the project, LLRP II, with the Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands and other implementing partners. Building on this relationship, we are co-designing another project concept focused on solar-based small-scale irrigation, which will be piloted in the Oromia and Sidama regional states of Ethiopia.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Skills, Heifer Ethiopia has started co-designing a youth livelihood project that we will pitch to potential funding organizations.

Since 2022, Heifer Ethiopia has managed the Agriculture, Youth and Technology (AYuTe) Africa Challenge Ethiopia, which has created opportunities for young agritech entrepreneurs to pitch ideas that will address challenges farmers face and win funding that will enable them to scale their ideas. Past winning ideas include an odorless poultry house, graphical and interactive agricultural information and a digital platform for pre- and post-harvest scientific consultation.

As Heifer Ethiopia co-creates and co-designs initiatives and leverages innovative methodologies and cutting-edge digital technologies, we strive to create opportunities for women and youth to empower themselves. This work will support the creation of meaningful employment opportunities for them.

[Heifer.org](https://www.heifer.org)

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