



RURAL RESILIENCE SERIES

Horn of Africa Risk Transfer for Adaptation

HARITA progress report: January 2010—June 2010





Contents

Project description summary	2
Project status summary and metrics	3
Recent accomplishments	5
Core Team	5
Financial Education and Supply Team.....	6
Risk Monitoring and Evaluation Team	7
External Relations Team.....	7
Appendix: HARITA publications, internet coverage, and media	8
HARITA reports available for public use	8
HARITA information on Oxfam America website	9
HARITA reports available for stakeholders	9
HARITA in the news.....	10



Adi Ha, Ethiopia, elders
(L to R) Atakilti Tesfay, Gebre
Michael Teklehaimanot,
Amarech Nega, Semaet Hailu,
and Kidane Mariam Abay.

*Eva-Lotta Jansson /
Oxfam America*

Cover: Tekleweini, 7,
the daughter of Medhin
Reda, a farmer in Adi Ha,
in the Tigray region of
Ethiopia. A participant in the
teff crop microinsurance pilot in
her community, Reda pays for
the premium with her labor.

*Eva-Lotta Jansson /
Oxfam America*



Project description summary

The climate change rural-resiliency project launched in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia by Oxfam America and its local and international partners has entered year two of its pilot. Known as HARITA—Horn of Africa Risk Transfer for Adaptation—the project aims to address the needs of smallholder farmers facing climate change shocks by offering a robust risk management package that integrates disaster risk reduction, affordable risk transfer, and prudent risk-taking. In its second year, HARITA is being offered in five villages spread across the region, as part of an effort to gather a significant pool of data on climatic variation in Tigray in preparation for a region-wide scale-up. The project—which offers insurance-for-work for activities intended to reduce farmers' vulnerability to droughts—operates in conjunction with the Ethiopian government's existing social safety net program to make insurance more affordable for the rural smallholders it serves.



Teff harvesting near Negele.
*Eva-Lotta Jansson /
Oxfam America*



Project status summary and metrics

In June 2010, the project entered its enrollment phase, during which farmers sign up for drought insurance as part of the HARITA holistic risk-management package. A series of festive events, at which farmers register their interest in the program, follows intense months of financial literacy training—including educational workshops, simulated games, and theater. After planting, farmers who plan to pay for insurance premiums with their labor will perform risk reduction work in their communities. These public works projects might include improving irrigation capabilities or soil management practices. Throughout the process, farmers have the option to apply for credit to support prudent risk-taking. The harvest—which is effectively insured against potential drought—occurs in the fall.

▲
Mulu-Birkan Mehari, 25,
checks a rain gauge.
*Eva-Lotta Jansson /
Oxfam America*

Metrics from the field included:

- Five villages covered—Adi Ha, Awet Bikalsi, Genete, Hade Alga, and Hadush-Adi.
- Five design teams established.
- Five Participatory Capacity and Vulnerability Assessments (PCVAs) conducted.
- Fourteen hundred people—in 15 group sessions—educated on climate change, insurance, and risk reduction.
- Sixty farmers and development agents—from five villages—trained on System of Crop Intensification (SCI).
- Four hundred farmers—from four villages—participated in risk-simulation games.
- One hundred and thirty-two manual rain gauges installed.
- One hundred and twenty farmers and development agents—from two villages—trained in a “train the trainer” workshop on basic insurance concepts, regulations, and best practices for consumer protection.
- Two new automatic weather stations installed.



With the help of oxen,
farmers thresh teff in the field.

*Eva-Lotta Jansson /
Oxfam America*



Recent accomplishments

Core Team

As of June 2010, the Core Team initiatives included the following:

- Goals, indicators, and reporting were established and approved by the project Steering Committee to grow into 2011.
- Dedit Credit and Savings Institution (DECSI) and the Relief Society of Tigray (REST) attended the Fourth International Conference on Community Based Adaptation, held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, February 21-27, 2010, thanks to Rockefeller Foundation sponsorship.
- Oxfam America joined the I4 Index Insurance Innovation Initiative in launching a request for proposals (www.basis.wisc.edu/documents/I4%20rfp%20final.pdf) for seed grants that will help establish the feasibility of long-term index insurance programs targeted at improving the lives and livelihoods of small-scale agricultural or pastoral households in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Hosted at the University of California, Davis, the I4 is a joint venture of the BASIS Assets and Market Access Collaborative Research Support Program, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Labour Organization (ILO), Oxfam America, and the US Agency for International Development.
- Oxfam America concluded a feasibility study of the HARITA model for irrigated farmers in Ethiopia.

▲
A farmer carrying his teff from the field. *Eva-Lotta Jansson / Oxfam America*

Financial Education and Supply Team

As of June 2010, the Financial Education and Supply Team initiatives included the following:

- Oxfam America established grants to the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) and REST to manage field operations and assist with technical development, respectively, for the HARITA expansion in Tigray.
- The Financial Education and Supply Team established local design teams with community representatives from each village.
- IRI submitted an interim technical report on the performance of the weather index contract.
- A drought insurance weather index product was developed and approved by project partners DECSI, IRI, Nyala, Oxfam America, REST, and Swiss Re.
- The team conducted a “train the trainer” workshop on basic insurance concepts, regulations and best practices for consumer protection for approximately 120 people from Genete and Hada Alga, including development agents, design team members, rain gauge pilot participants, local community leaders, and local religious leaders.
- The team distributed and installed 132 plastic rain gauges for pilot participants in the four new project villages in Tigray. The farmers will be trained in weather data collection to help the team better understand the rainfall patterns in the area and manage basis risk.
- The team conducted experimental risk simulation games in Adi Ha, Awet Bikalsi, Genete, and Hada Alga to test maize and sorghum products before marketing them in the next cropping season.



Villagers dig out the pond in Gotu Dobi to make room for more rainwater.
Eva-Lotta Jansson / Oxfam America

Risk Monitoring and Evaluation Team

Impact Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

Risk Monitoring and Evaluation Team activities in Impact Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (IMEL) included:

- Oxfam America established a grant to IRI for an IMEL study.
- The IMEL team identified and contracted a qualitative study consultant and two research associates for the IMEL study.
- The IMEL team conducted training of research associates.
- The IMEL team conducted focus group discussions in each of the expansion villages, integrating a Participatory Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment (PCVA) methodology.
- The second phase of the 2010 baseline study was prepared and approved by project partners. The survey will be administered in July.

Risk Reduction

Risk Monitoring and Evaluation Team activities in risk reduction included:

- Building on PCVAs conducted in each expansion village, the project partners cooperated to draft a climate change risk reduction program that is both robust across a variety of climate scenarios and adapted to the specific needs of the five villages where the project will be implemented. The risk reduction activities are currently undergoing review by the team.
- Oxfam America established a grant to the Institute for Sustainable Development to conduct research, workshops and training on System of Crop Intensification (SCI), a planting method with promise to increase yields and help farmers adapt to climate change.

External Relations Team

External Relations Team undertakings included:

- HARITA project featured in the Lloyd's 360 Risk Insight report "Microinsurance to Mitigate Climate Change Impact."
- HARITA project featured as a case study in the authoritative "Potential for Scale and Sustainability in Weather Index Insurance for Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods," published by the World Food Program and International Fund for Agricultural Development.
- HARITA project featured as a case study in "Solutions for Vulnerable People," published by the Munich Climate Insurance Initiative and the United Nations.
- HARITA project featured as an exhaustive case study by Research and Technological Exchange Group (GRET) in research on disaster risk reduction commissioned by the French Development Agency.
- Oxfam America invited to be the keynote speaker on the topic of agricultural microinsurance at the 4th International Microinsurance Summit in London, September 29-30, 2010.
- Oxfam America submitted final reports on the 2009 pilot to Swiss Re and the Rockefeller Foundation.
- Oxfam America submitted an interim report on the 2010 expansion to the Clinton Global Initiative, project partners, and internal stakeholders.
- The HARITA team applied to the ILO for an Innovations Grant for HARITA scale-up for the year 2011 and beyond.
- Oxfam America began developing a series of HARITA publications for a larger audience to disseminate lessons learned.



Appendix: HARITA Publications, Coverage, and Media

HARITA reports available for public use (approved)

Short-length reports (fewer than 2 pages)

“HARITA Executive Summary 2010,” February 2010 (3 pages)

Medium-length Reports (fewer than 10 pages)

“HARITA Progress Report, January 2010 to June 2010,” June 2010 (final approval pending)

Long-length reports (10 or more pages)

- “Estimating the Demand for Micro-Insurance in Ethiopia,” February 2009
- “Micro-Insurance Demand Study--Summary,” March 2010 (final approval pending)
- “Micro-Insurance Demand Assessment in Adi Ha,” February 2008
- “Index Insurance Games in Adi Ha, Tigray, Ethiopia,” July 2009

Photo: *Eva-Lotta Jansson / Oxfam America*

- “Livelihoods, Coping, and Micro-Insurance in Adi Ha, Tigray, Ethiopia,” August 2009
- “Designing Index-Based Weather Insurance for Farmers in Adi Ha, Ethiopia,” July 2009
- “HARITA Scale-Up Plans 2010 and Beyond,” March 2010 (final approval pending)
- “HARITA Project Report, November 2007 to December 2009,” June 2010 (final approval pending)
- “Pro-Poor Insurance: Principles and Paths Ahead,” June 2010 (final approval pending)

HARITA information on Oxfam America website

Stories about the microinsurance pilot are posted on the Oxfam America website:

“Weather Insurance Offers Ethiopian Farmers Hope — Despite Drought”

oxfamamerica.org/articles/weather-insurance-offers-ethiopian-farmers-hope-despite-drought
oxfamamerica.org/multimedia/slideshows/a-tiny-seed-and-a-big-idea

“Medhin Reda’s Best Asset Is Her Own Hard Work”

oxfamamerica.org/articles/medhin-reda-looks-to-weather-insurance-to-solve-problems

“Gebru Kahsay Relies on Rain But Has the Security of Insurance”

oxfamamerica.org/articles/gebru-kahsay-relies-on-rain-but-has-the-security-of-insurance

“Selas Samson Biru Faces Uncertainty With the Seasons”

oxfamamerica.org/articles/with-insurance-selas-samson-biru-finds-help-in-the-bad-season

HARITA reports available for stakeholders (not general public)

Short-length reports (fewer than 2 pages)

- “HARITA Monthly Report Narrative Summary,” May 2010
- “HARITA Lessons Learned” brief developed with Swiss Re, February 2010

Medium-length reports (fewer than 10 pages)

- Presentation on HARITA from I4 Conference, Rome, January 2010
- Presentation on HARITA for Swiss Re, March 2010
- “2010 Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) Commitment Progress Report,” March 2010

Long-length reports (10 or more pages)

- “HARITA Swiss Re Report,” January 2010
- “HARITA Rockefeller Foundation Report,” February 2010
- “Economic Innovation & Incentives Fund Report,” March 2010

HARITA in the news

Media

- Anne Chetaille and Damien Lagrandré, “L’assurance indicielle, une réponse face aux risques climatiques?” Inter-réseaux Développement Rural (Mar. 31, 2010).
- Pablo Suarez and Joanne Linnerooth-Bayer, “Micro-Insurance for Local Adaptation,” Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change (Mar. 12, 2010).
- “Microinsurance to Mitigate Climate Change Impact,” Lloyd’s of London News Centre (June 4, 2010).
- “Oxfam Provides Farm Insurance in Africa,” New England Cable News, (Nov. 6, 2009).
- James F. Smith, “World’s Poorest Farmers Now Offered Insurance,” The Boston Globe (Oct. 13, 2009).
- Evan Lehmann, “Africa Experiments With Climate Insurance—for \$5 a Year,” New York Times (Sep. 30, 2009).
- “Swiss Re, Oxfam America, Rockefeller Foundation, and Columbia’s IRI Expand Joint Risk Initiative in Tigray, Ethiopia,” Swiss Re press release (Sep. 25, 2009).
- “Climate Insurance: What Kind of Deal Can Be Made in Copenhagen?” The Guardian (July 24, 2009).
- Jeff Tollefson, “Insuring Against Climate,” Nature (July 22, 2009).
- Catherine Brahic, “An Insurance Plan for Climate Change Victims,” New Scientist (July 1, 2009).
- Omer Redi, “Insurance Firm Sows Seeds,” Addis Fortune (June 14, 2009).
- “Coping With Climate,” Newsweek (Dec. 30, 2008).

Citations

- “The Potential for Scale and Sustainability in Weather Index Insurance,” International Fund for Agricultural Development and World Food Programme (Mar. 2010).
- “Index Insurance and Climate Risk: Prospects for Development and Disaster Management,” International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), Columbia University.
- “Index Insurance for Development and Disaster Management,” IRI, Columbia University.
- Joanne Linnerooth-Bayer, et al., “Drought Insurance for Subsistence Farmers in Malawi,” Natural Hazards Observer, Vol. XXXIII, No. 5, Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado (Boulder Colorado: May 2009).
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Nairobi Workshop, where HARITA was introduced to country delegates.
- Global Risk Forum Davos and International Development Research Centre, Microfinance and Disaster and Risk Reduction (forthcoming).

Forty percent of the people on our planet—more than 2.5 billion—now live in poverty, struggling to survive on less than \$2 a day. Oxfam America is an international relief and development organization working to change that. Together with individuals and local groups in more than 90 countries, Oxfam America saves lives, helps people overcome poverty, and fights for social justice. To join our efforts or learn more, go to oxfamamerica.org.

For more information about the Rural Resilience Series, please contact Oxfam America Senior Global Micro-Insurance Officer David Satterthwaite at (617) 728-2590 or dsatterthwaite@oxfamamerica.org.

Oxfam America Headquarters

226 Causeway Street, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02114-2206
(800) 77-OXFAM
info@oxfamamerica.org

oxfamamerica.org

© 2010 Oxfam America Inc. All Rights Reserved. Oxfam America is a registered trademark of Oxfam America Inc., and the Oxfam logo is a registered trademark of Stichting Oxfam International.

