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**THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**ANNEX 1**

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the third set of individual measures in favour of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for 2023

**Action Document for Agricultural recovery and improved domestic food production and food security in Ethiopia**

**MEASURE**

This document constitutes the annual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

**1 SYNOPSIS**

**1.1 Action Summary Table**

<b>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</b>	Agricultural recovery and improved domestic food production and food security in Ethiopia  OPSYS number: ACT-61756  Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	No
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	The action shall be carried out in Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
<b>4. Programming document</b>	Not applicable. Individual Measures outside the scope of programming documents (NDICI-Global Europe Regulation, Article 23.3) <sup>1</sup>
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</b>	Not applicable. Individual Measures outside the scope of programming documents (NDICI-Global Europe Regulation, Article 23.3)
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	Not applicable. Individual Measures outside the scope of programming documents (NDICI-Global Europe Regulation, Article 23.3)
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	Main SDG: 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Target 2.1: Universal Access to Safe and Nutritious Food; Target 2.2: End All Forms of Malnutrition; Target 2.4: Sustainable Food Production and Resilient Agricultural Practices Target 2.C: Ensure Stable Food Commodity Markets and Timely Access to Information.  Other significant SDG:

<sup>1</sup> 14.6.2021- Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021- Article 23.3.: ‘Where necessary, an action may be adopted as an individual measure before or after the adoption of action plans. Individual measures shall be based on programming documents, except for cases referred to in paragraph 5 and in other duly justified cases.’

	<p>1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere.  Target 1.2: By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.  5 – Gender Equality.  13 – Climate Action.  16 - Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.</p>			
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	Agriculture Development – 31120 (90%) Environmental Policy and administrative management – 41010 (10%)			
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Third Country Government (Delegated co-operation) – 13000</li> <li>- Local government - 12002</li> <li>- International NGOs – 21000</li> </ul>			
<b>9. Targets</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
<b>10. Markers (from DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective @</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>11. Internal markers and Tags:</b>	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### BUDGET INFORMATION

<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	Budget line(s) (article, item): BGUE-B2023-14 02 01 21-C1-INTPA Total estimated cost: EUR 56 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 40 000 000 This action is co-financed in joint co-financing by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for an amount of EUR 16 000 000</li> </ul>
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#### MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

<b>13. Type of financing</b>	- <b>Indirect management</b> with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands - <b>Direct management</b> through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grants</li> <li>- Procurement</li> </ul>
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### 1.2 Summary of the Action

<p>The action aims to support agricultural recovery in the regions of Ethiopia hit by natural and man-made hazards-induced disasters (drought, conflict), and to contribute towards improving sustainable domestic food production and food security in the entire country.</p> <p>It builds on, and extends the existing programmes with high food security impact for smallholder farmers and pastoralists with an emphasis of female-headed households. Given the multidimensional nature of the problem, the action targets in particular securing the continuity of food supply chains, notably highly nutritional commodities, and the transition to environmentally and socially sustainable food systems.</p> <p>The objective will be achieved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the delivery of seeds of improved varieties for nutritional content and resilience to climate change;</li> </ul>
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- the domestic production of organic fertilisers;
- the restoration of lost livestock assets and livestock service delivery systems destroyed in conflict and drought-affected parts of the country;
- the establishment of complementary activities, such as monitoring market prices, mainstreaming rural employment for women and youth, promoting equal access and control over resources for men and women, defining methodologies on conflict resolution, and tailoring behavioural changes on nutritious food, to improve the effectiveness of the main activities.

The first component (delivery of seeds) builds upon a similar component of Second Individual Measures (IM2), through a gradual approach: IM 2 responds to an emergency situation, relying on public sector intervention and aimed at providing mainly cereals. The Third Individual Measures (IM3) puts the emphasis on private sector development for horticulture seeds, thereby aiming at enriching the basic diet, and developing in the medium term the market offer. Furthermore, IM3 components put more emphasis on agroecology for soil fertility interventions.

The components will be implemented for a duration of 60 months from the adoption by the Commission of the Financing Decision; the first component will be implemented by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which will also co-finance it in a Team Europe spirit. The action will contribute to the Great Green Wall initiative that Ethiopia is a part of.

## 2 RATIONALE

### 2.1 Context

Ethiopia currently faces one of the most severe multidimensional crises in decades: internal conflicts, natural calamities (drought, food insecurity) exacerbated by climate change and environmental degradation, and economic challenges deriving also from the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine, compose a gloomy scenario which cannot be tackled but with an integrated set of activities.

After a resumption of hostilities in Northern Ethiopia on 24<sup>th</sup> of August, a “Permanent Cessation of Hostilities Agreement” was signed in Pretoria on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 between the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Tigray People Liberation Front (TPLF). The Agreement offers hope for an end of the conflict, which has severely impacted the regions of Tigray, Amhara and Afar.

Conflict and drought have had a devastating impact on the productivity of both agricultural and livestock activities, with significant loss of assets through destruction and looting, or because of drought. Furthermore, food affordability due to high food inflation presents a huge challenge throughout the country (including in areas not affected by drought or conflict), with a high proportion (30.8 % in 2019<sup>2</sup>) of the population under the global poverty line. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by these shocks, due to increased number of female-headed households, frequent loss of additional income and being traditionally responsible for managing the households.

The 2021 Ethiopian Agricultural Sector Reform aimed at improving the role and participation of the private sector, at expanding small- to large-scale irrigation schemes, at improving supply of inputs and finance, at enhancing the productivity of livestock, protecting the environment and natural resources, at improving agricultural production methods and reducing post-harvest loss, at promoting research-based food security systems, and promoting import substitution by major agricultural crop production. Due to

<sup>2</sup> <https://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/Country-Profiles/MPI/ETH.pdf>. This numbers refer only to “monetary poverty” (percentage of the population living below 2011 PPP US\$1.90 per day). If we measure the Multidimensional poverty index, the figure is 30% higher).

the conflict none of those measures has been implemented, with budget diversion by the Government, withdrawal or freezing of Development Partners financing, and private sector aversion to take risks in such circumstances.

Against this stalling of activities, and worsening of the economic and social situation, according to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), people in need of food assistance almost doubled, from 11.8 million in 2020 (COVID-19 year) to 22.6 million in 2022. The information captured by the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMIMI) confirmed an increase of prices by 49.9 % of food commodities year to year, from November 2021 to November 2022, and over 100 % increase if compared to March 2020 (start of COVID-19 pandemic). Just to mention a few products of the food basket of an average family, in Addis Ababa markets, the price increases were 152 % for maize, 135 % for wheat, 120 % for beef, 133 % for edible oil, 194 % for coffee, 170 % for tomato, and 242 % for sugar. Unfortunately also the annual inflation rate increased steadily, reaching 35.1 % in November of 2022. The main reasons reported for such increases are the rising cost for oil and imported commodities, influencing transport and production costs, lower production compared to request, difficulties to acquire food items within the same woreda (district) or even region.

This action is aligned with the National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP) 2021-2030 strategy, with the Ethiopian Food Systems Transformation Agenda (2021), the Livestock Health Strategy (2018), the Gender Equality Strategy for the Agriculture Sector (2017),<sup>3</sup> and the National Feed Resources Development Strategy (2020). The action is also aligned with the ten-year Development Plan (2021-2030) designed to sustain economic growth and prosperity, ensure food and nutrition security, increase access to water and sustainable peace and stability for its citizens. The Action is also aligned to the Government of Ethiopia 5 year Strategy to Transform soil Fertility, included in the document “A Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda: A Pathway to Prosperity (Ten Years Development Plan, 2021-2030)”. The action will therefore contribute to strengthening evidence-based dialogue with the Government of Ethiopia that will help fine-tuning further approaches to food security.

The Action is directly contributing to the “*EU Food Security in Horn of Africa Initiative*” of April 2022,<sup>4</sup> which aims to provide a substantial response to the devastating climate-induced drought affecting the Horn of Africa. It is also in line with the (Ethiopian) National Food and Nutrition Strategy. The action will complement the planned EU Regional Programme in Livestock and Pastoralism for Climate Change Adaptation in Eastern/Horn of Africa that aims at increasing the contribution of livestock and pastoralism to green growth and sustainable livelihoods and to the transformation of safe food systems. Moreover, it is in line with the ambitions of the country’s commitment to tackle climate change through transformative economic development, focusing on low-carbon growth, poverty reduction, climate resilience and green economy development. The agricultural sector is one of the key focus areas of Ethiopia’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)<sup>5</sup> detailing major commitments to enhance resilience to climate change.

Finally, the Action is aligned with the European Green Deal and its farm to fork strategy, the European Consensus for Development, the Gender Action Plan III 2021-2025 (GAP III), in particular to its thematic areas of engagement “Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women”, the EU vision of the future Africa-EU partnership as per its Communication “Towards a Comprehensive Strategy with Africa”, and contributes to the Great Green Wall initiative. It also contributes to SDGs 1 (No poverty) and 2 (Zero hunger), to SDGs 5 (Gender equality) and 13 (Climate action).

<sup>3</sup> [EU Country Gender Profile – CGP Ethiopia \(Europe.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_2508)  
[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_22\\_2508](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_2508)

<sup>4</sup> [Food security in Horn of Africa EU steps up support to drought-affected countries \(1\).pdf](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Ethiopia's updated NDC JULY 2021 Submission .pdf \(unfccc.int\)](#)

The enhancement of nutrition security and monitoring food prices seen as good nexus opportunity with ECHO interventions focusing on the urgent humanitarian responses including addressing acute malnutrition and post disaster recovery – rehabilitation actions.

## 2.2 Problem Analysis

Improved horticulture seeds are a crucial part of the food security and nutrition response for the rural population in Ethiopia, but they are in short supply due to structural issues related to market bottlenecks. In the last years the situation has been furthermore aggravated by conflict in several regions of the country and, more recently, by the farmers inability to meet the high cost of inputs due to the inflation and fertiliser shortage. Unlike cereal and pulse seeds, horticulture seeds in Ethiopia are produced mainly by the private sector but, similarly, not at a quantity that would ensure adequate levels of food security and nutrition of the most vulnerable food insecure population. Therefore, there is a need to complement current support provided to cereals and pulse seeds, produced mainly by the public sector, with support aimed at encouraging increased production by the private sector, particularly for horticultural seeds. There is also a need to reconstruct crucial infrastructure for seed production, certification and distribution in conflict affected areas as well as to establish a localized system of seeds supply to drought prone areas; in the future this will allow for more actors and larger buffers in seed stocks, in periods of instability and erratic climatic patterns, ensuring more resilience to future shocks.

This support needs to be complemented by a demand-driven soil fertility management system that caters to the needs of smallholder farmers both in terms of production but also in reducing unsustainable use of chemical fertilizer. Indeed, soil degradation, due to multiple factors including climate change and inappropriate farming practices exacerbating wind and water erosion and acidification, is a major issue in Ethiopia and encompasses significant economic costs. The Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI) estimates that Ethiopia lost \$7 billion over the last decade from soil degradation. The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) invested heavily in increasing fertilizer uptake and promoting soil and water conservation activities, but the widespread use of chemical fertilizers is now recognised as having been an inappropriate development pathway and is in any case challenged by the doubling of prices. As a result, the GoE is therefore looking at more integrated ways of managing soil fertility, combining organic and inorganic fertilizers, and is exploring alternative sources of nutrients and amendments, and developing new practices to improve soil health and fertility, such as local waste streams and regenerative agriculture. The Action will support the GoE in the transformation towards an Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) approach through a combination of research, extension services, knowledge sharing and regulatory support.

The livestock sector has been contributing substantially to the Ethiopia's economy: the country has the highest livestock population in Africa, contributes up to 20 % of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and between 35 to 49 % of the total agriculture GDP. Livestock is the core assets for rural communities in Ethiopia: it is a source of food (milk, meat, and eggs), hides and skins, draught power, fertilizer and fuel, cash and wealth accumulation (living bank). Livestock provides farmyard manure commonly applied to improve soil fertility, and a source of energy in the form of dung cake for tradition stove or as an input for biogas facilities.

However, livestock-based livelihoods in Ethiopia are economically fragile due to climate vulnerability, particularly drought, degraded grazing areas, limited watering points and poor access to veterinary services, poor market information and market infrastructure, competitiveness of livestock products, and poor compliance with sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards. These factors combine to cause high rates of young stock mortality and morbidity, sub-optimal livestock productivity and offtake, which are exacerbated by an uncertain policy environment for livestock traders, producers, and private veterinary service providers to develop their businesses.

The scale and impact of back-to-back poor or non-existent rainfall during 2020/2021 seasons have been immense with around 7.2 million pastoral and agro-pastoralists facing acute food and water shortages as well as livestock feeds, and over 1.5 million livestock deaths reported. A large number of animals have perished as result of the conflict in the northern parts, and significant damages from war affected veterinary clinics, laboratories, breed improvement facilities, abattoirs, and other livestock support infrastructures and their service equipment.

Given the intersection of so many simultaneous crises, which can potentially affect markets nationwide, there is a need for a more regular and frequent markets assessment data, with dedicated analytical capacity to monitor market developments and distortions. These assessments should harmonize existing data collection efforts and combine also the resources of humanitarian actors throughout the country, so to lead to greater coverage, and timeliness of operational data. While some ad-hoc price monitoring of selected market items have been conducted, systematic monitoring of prices, indicators and items remains a systemic gap.

Implementing gender responsive measures in the Ethiopian agricultural sector has a high potential to trickle down into important benefits for women. FAO states that supporting women by providing equal resources could improve their production 20 to 30 %. A UN Women study furthermore estimates that closing the gender gap in agricultural productivity has the potential to take as many as 1,050,000 people out of poverty in Ethiopia.<sup>6</sup> However, women continue experiencing significant disadvantages including limited access to and control over productive resources such as land, finance, extension services, education, and training opportunities. Norms governing sexual and reproductive health and rights also affect women's economic capabilities and their participation in the economy. Furthermore, peacebuilding and conflict sensitivity have become prominent concerns in both development and humanitarian assistance in recent years as a result of the increase in large-scale and localised violent conflicts.

### 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

#### 3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective** (Impact) of this action is to enhance food security, nutrition and livelihood resilience for rural communities across the country, with a special emphasis on areas affected by disasters caused by natural and man-made hazards. Food insecurity levels can be used as entry criteria, (IPC3 and above) as well as chronic malnutrition/ stunting levels

The **Specific Objectives** (Outcomes) of this action are:

- 1 Increased agricultural productivity in an environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient manner;
- 2 Sustainable management of the livestock system;
- 3 Improved effectiveness of food security and resilience programmes, with a special emphasis on female farmers.

The **Outputs** to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives are

**1.1 contributing to Outcome 1** (or Specific Objective 1):

Increased private sector delivery of improved varieties of mainly horticulture seeds across the country, reduction of dependence on inorganic fertilisers, and increased soil fertility.

**2.1 contributing to Outcome 2** (or Specific Objective 2):

<sup>6</sup> [EU Country Gender Profile – CGP Ethiopia \(Europe.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/en/regions/country-profiles/cgp-ethiopia)

Livestock assets and systems supported in drought and conflict affected areas and sector productivity stabilised at sustainable levels.

**3.1 contributing to Outcome 3** (or Specific Objective 3):

Improved accessibility and quality of market data to better inform policies, increased job opportunities for rural women, youths and persons with disabilities, decreased intensity/incidence of conflicts through induction of social behavioural change.

### 3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities related to **Output 1.1 may include:**

- Enhance intermediary horticulture seed supply systems by strengthening the capacity of farmers and seed business actors, and reconstructing infrastructures for seed production and distribution. The main interventions will: a) Support seed companies and cooperatives (providing also access to finance) to increase volumes of improved seeds, as well as to extend the varietal portfolio including climate resilient and higher yielding varieties; b) Align relief agencies with international best practices in procurement, reserve, and distribution of emergency seed. The intervention will be strictly based on a no-harm approach, and should not distort markets, or undermine long-term efforts to promote a vibrant and commercial seed sector in Ethiopia; c) Build capacities of smallholder farmers, with emphasis on female farmers, for the promotion, production, supply and sale of quality seeds, and rehabilitate marketing infrastructures in conflict affected areas; d) Strengthen the seed regulatory functions in a way the informal seed system is supported, decentralised mechanisms for seed inspection and testing, and rehabilitate key equipment.
- Support the GoE to to implement its National Determined Contributions (NDC) and develop more integrated ways of managing soil fertility, combining organic and inorganic fertilizers, and exploring alternative sources of nutrients and amendments, supporting circular practices to improve soil health and fertility, such as local waste streams and regenerative agriculture, with the active involvement of farmers and the private sector. The main interventions will: a) Conduct applied research and extension activities in the area of organic fertilizers and Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) in partnership with the GoE; b) Work on participatory, demand-driven approaches with farmers, so that they are better able to articulate their needs, make informed choices, and access a wider variety of input products and services, focusing on inclusion of female farmers and their specific challenges; c) Create a knowledge-sharing platform as a policy space, and collaborate more closely with the private sector for last-mile distribution of diversified fertilizer products, with more emphasis to organic ones.

Activities related to **Output 2.1 may include:**

- Stabilise livestock assets at a sustainable level and provide support to the destroyed livestock service delivery systems necessary to ensure sustainability (veterinary clinics, laboratories, breed improvement facilities, abattoirs, etc.) in the northern part of the country. The main interventions will be: a) Conduct a rapid assessment to determine sustainable livestock levels, as well as preparation of a “livestock emergency response plan”, in close cooperation with the main institutions and cooperation partners supporting the livestock sector; b) Stabilise livestock assets at defined sustainable levels, including selected restocking; c) Support innovative risk-based vaccinations and integrated disease information systems; d) Support improved livestock feed production, sustainable rangeland management and strategic feed reserves, by supporting irrigated livestock feed, improved forage production, management and utilization, particularly during long drought period, and make the feed sub-sector a marketable commodity.

Activities related to **Output 3.1 may include:**

- Respond holistically to the multiple crisis currently faced by Ethiopia. To that end, the main interventions will: a) Support harmonised multi-staeholders market monitoring and analysis, to

inform timely and appropriate policy actions fighting food insecurity; b) Support vulnerable youth and women by enhancing their access to rural employment opportunities as alternative to farming; c) Integrate conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding initiatives, including social behavioral changes for individuals, families as well as communities and duty bearers.

The main stakeholders to be covered by the action are:

- The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, the Ethiopian Agricultural Authority at Federal and Administrative Level; Regional state regulatory bodies;
- Ministry of Labour and Skills (MoLS), Ministry of Peace, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Technical and Vocational Education and Trainings (TVETs);
- Regional Agriculture/Livestock Bureaus; International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and its local partners, the Ethiopian Veterinary Association (EVA);
- Research institutions and Agricultural extension services;
- Veterinary service providers (public and private), para-veterinary associations, livestock traders, and central and regional vet laboratories and universities;
- Within the private business community, international breeding companies, their local distributors/partners, and selected domestic seed businesses (production and marketing);
- National and International NGOs, including women's Human Rights organisations and organisations of persons with disabilities;
- Relevant coordination structures, such as the Food Security Working Group and the Cash Working Group;

The primary beneficiaries will be smallholder farmers, pastoralist and agro-pastoralists, in particular but not only, those affected by drought and conflict.

### 3.3 Mainstreaming

#### **Environmental Protection & Climate Change**

**Outcomes of the SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) screening** (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions)

The SEA screening concluded that no further action was required.

**Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening** (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The EIA screening classified the action as Category B (not requiring an EIA, but for which environment aspects will be addressed during design).

**Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening** (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The CRA screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment).

The intervention contains a component aimed at adopting agricultural practices that will increase resilience against Climate Change and promote soil agro-biodiversity. Furthermore, where relevant, enhancement of traditional knowledge and other positive experiences for reducing impacts of herds on natural resources will be adopted. The action will actively contribute to the Great Green Wall initiative in Ethiopia.

#### **Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls**

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that the proposed action will apply a “do no harm” approach. Gender will be mainstreamed through the

Gender Action Plan with supportive provisions (e.g. behavioural change communication modules, etc.). A Gender perspective will be integrated throughout the Action (planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) and labelled as G1 as per OECD Gender DAC codes section 1.1.

Gender inequalities are among the main barriers for inclusive job creation in rural areas, stemming from gender-based stereotypes and prejudices impacting girls and women's paid work. For that reason, the Action will enforce that the planned interventions/projects employ a comprehensive mainstreaming plan including transformative actions across all components of the intervention based on empowerment principles. The mainstreaming plan will include, for example, working with TVET and OSJCs on facilitating the enhancement of inclusiveness of their services. Innovative and gender sensitive herd health approaches will be promoted that will address, amongst others, the significant economic losses caused by young stock mortality, with special attention to female-headed households.

The project particularly encourages women to become an active part of the action, not only by following a gender sensitive approach, but also by addressing women's rights in male dominated sectors to foster equal opportunities. Further, interventions will be geared to supporting affirmative actions, which include coaching young women to enhance their capabilities in generating opportunities for building women's decision-making competencies. The promotion of women in leadership roles will be pursued.

### **Human Rights**

Access to food is a basic human right. While the final rights-holders of this Action do have special needs arising from the conflict and drought, their rights to enjoy such services will also be underscored, moving from a needs approach to a rights-based approach. Such a human rights based approach will ensure as well the sustainability of the gains achieved, including through awareness raising activities aiming at ensuring the population is aware of their rights so to be able to fully exercise them. Support to duty bearers will be directed towards fulfilling their human rights commitments and building their capacity to achieve these objectives in a transparent, non-discriminatory, and accountable manner. The intervention will put in practice the principle of "leave no one behind" and "do no harm".

### **Disability**

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that a disability perspective is integrated throughout the Action and a systematic assessment of the particular needs of people with disabilities will be taken into consideration in the planned activities. Also as a consequence of the conflict, the number of people with disabilities (PWD) in Ethiopia is estimated to have largely increased (recent data not yet available). Support of PWD is mainstreamed across the various components of this Action.

### **Reduction of inequalities**

The Action adopts a beneficiary approach by targeting mainly smallholder farmers, pastoralists, agropastoralists affected by drought and conflict, who are amongst the most disadvantaged groups (part of the bottom 40% of Ethiopian population). By restoring their capacities, improving their productivity, and hence their livelihood opportunities, the Action will contribute to decreasing inequalities. Women headed households will be given particular attention, as well as youths. The Action will moreover apply a no harm approach promoting participation, particularly of disadvantaged groups, and will aim at integrating conflict management systems into the local communities.

### **Democracy**

A human rights based approach was followed in the design of the present action, and the five principles will further be applied in the formulation and implementation of the project: participation, accountability, non-discrimination, transparency and legality.

### **Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience**

The proposed action will apply a do no harm and conflict sensitivity approach to ensure that all processes and actions minimise negative and maximise positive effects within a given context, ensuring that no particular region or ethnicity is receiving more support than others – to the extent possible - (in line with the Do No Harm principle), while maintaining due consideration for the needs of the population.

Given that the locations of implementation of the Action are primarily in conflict prone areas, every effort will be made to follow a conflict-sensitive approach throughout all stages of project implementation. In fact, one of the planned outputs of the Action is conflict management, and hence, it will promote conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding approaches to improve food security. It will pursue a strategy of multi-stakeholder participation, seeking to strengthen existing systems, structures and capacities at local and national level. This will include ensuring that efforts are articulated in coherence with existing national policy frameworks, such as the National Policy and Strategy on Disaster Risk Management, as well as local customary conflict resolution practices.

### **Disaster Risk Reduction**

The National Policy and Strategy on Disaster Risk Management (NPDRM) provides direction for dealing with response, preparedness and prevention of multi-hazards and disaster risks in the country. The strategy envisions reducing the impact of disasters through the establishment of a comprehensive and integrated DRM system within the context of sustainable development and the decentralization agenda. The interventions under this action strongly consider the mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Management in terms of promoting climate resistance agriculture with availability of drought resistant/adaptable varieties in drought prone areas, and more irrigable lands for food and forage production.

### **Other considerations if relevant**

#### **Nutrition**

Enhanced nutrition of children under 5 years of age and women of reproductive age is an additional important outcome of this Action, aimed at increasing food security in general. Nutrition is furthermore mainstreamed in all the activities, such as in the selection of the crops for which improved seeds will be made available, and on targeting primarily female-headed households with many children for livestock re-stocking.

#### **ICT**

Digital technologies will be applied in several components of the action, such as seeds, where they will serve for collection and dissemination on data, as well as in the irrigation component, since digital systems are used to forecast droughts.

## 3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

<b>Category</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)</b>	<b>Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)</b>	<b>Mitigating measures</b>
External environment	<b>Economic instability:</b> internal (conflict and climate-related shocks) and external factors could lead to	<b>H</b>	<b>M</b>	Flexibility in terms of implementation (choice, sequencing and modalities of activities) will be built into the programme in order to adjust to the

	<p>economic instability. This, compounded by trade disruptions, is increasing inflationary pressure, which would translate in higher costs for the project.</p>			<p>evolution of the situation in a conflict-sensitive manner.</p>
	<p><b>Political instability:</b> some conflict areas may remain closed to access by implementing partners, and areas that have recently stabilised may become unstable again, which risks delaying the implementation of some activities and/or losing gains made during the implementation.</p>	<b>M</b>	<b>H</b>	<p>The programme will develop clear criteria for access to Zones, Woredas and Kebeles, which will include a consideration of safety issues and safeguards to these risks. Alternative locations should be pre-identified to quickly adapt implementation if needed. In addition, implementing partners will maintain close relations and communications with government institutions to receive updated information on access.</p>
	<p><b>Weak institutional capacity:</b> a complex, fragmented and competing institutional environment (e.g. regulatory frameworks, quality standards, certification system) may cause delays in the implementation of projects, which would then put at risk their timely completion.</p>	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	<p>Through provision of specialized technical assistance and institutional capacity development at all levels, based on capacity needs assessment, implementing partners will closely monitor this risk and minimise its likelihood. In addition, continued policy dialogue carried out will facilitate the early identification of potential regulatory or institutional bottlenecks.</p>
<p>Planning processes and systems</p>	<p><b>Coordination issues:</b> a lack of appropriate coordination with other development partners could lead to duplication of activities, which</p>	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	<p>Strong governance coordination mechanisms will be established with other partners and with the Government of Ethiopia, including use of the REDFS Platform.</p>

	would render this Action not relevant.			
Climate-related	Impact of climate change and other hazards on production levels or occurrence and spread of livestock diseases	M	H	Actions to mitigate the impact of climate change will be carried out by coordinated public-private interventions, making use of surveillance, alert systems and analysis.
Business environment related	Lack of trust by private seed producers and private veterinarians in engaging in business or in engaging with government in the targeted sectors	L	H	For the private veterinaries, clear and unambiguous directive from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)- Livestock State Ministry defining roles and responsibilities of the public and private veterinary service delivery. Continuous dialogue with the MoA in order to improve the policy framework for private sector seed producers.
Gender Equality	Insufficient or inadequate gender mainstreaming could reinforce gender inequalities and the non-realisation of human rights in the sector, and hinder the efficiency and sustainability of the action.	M	H	Support and strengthen the guidelines of the Women's Affairs Department of the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure gender mainstreaming in the sector and to respond to women's needs and interests. <sup>7</sup>

### Lessons Learnt:

The Action is designed building up on success achieved with systemic as well as hands-on field level approaches to foster rural employability and to graduate the poor out of poverty and contribute to improved food security. The Action is specifically conceptualized based on the EU-funded and non-EU funded programmes implemented in partnership with NGOs and international organizations. The learnings gained and foundations created with the EUMS programmes are also the basis of the Action for consolidating and success-replication.

In 2009, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Regulation No. 1447/2008 for Food Facility financing. Its implementation demonstrated that timely availability of improved seeds is essential for the avoidance of famines. In addition, recent implementation of programmes and projects by the EU Delegation to Ethiopia, some of which will continue in the future, has demonstrated strength in some approaches to support to the agriculture sector. In particular:

- Experience has shown that cluster organisation of farmers is essential for their successful integration into the value chains;
- Climate Smart and Agro-ecological Mainstreaming allows for the avoidance of future shocks;

<sup>7</sup> [EU Country Gender Profile – CGP Ethiopia \(Europe.eu\)](http://EU-Country-Gender-Profile-CGP-Ethiopia-Europe.eu)

- Leveraging with contributions from other partners as well as with the government of Ethiopia avoids duplication and ensures synergies, as well as bigger impacts;
- The integration of sustainable rangeland management and strategic feed reserves including commercialization of livestock feed using irrigated forage production are crucial for sustainable livestock production and productivity.

A gender analysis of some projects conducted by the EU Delegation showed a social determinant for health and development challenges due to links between gender and nutrition. Women and girls are more prone for being malnourished as well as in the cases of pregnant and breastfeeding women the repercussions for them and babies can be even more severe. From experience in the past projects, female farmers face specific challenges due to the harmful stereotypes, thus while addressing capacity building activities the differentiation between male and female farmers have to be taken into account.

### 3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this Action is increasing food security for the rural populations, in particular those affected by drought and conflict. It does so by targeting two specific crucial sectors for the Ethiopian economy: Agriculture (targeting improved seeds production, availability, and soil fertility) and Livestock. The Action furthermore targets soil erosion, which will have an impact on both key sectors. The Action acts at 3 different levels:

- By restoring production and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure (directly related to the specific sectors) in **conflict and drought-affected regions**;
- By promoting sustainable agricultural practices
- By supporting overall sustainable productivity of the two sectors **across the country**. In the horticulture seed sector by facilitating private business operations and engaging smallholder farmers and building the capacity of the informal seed system. In the livestock sector by ensuring appropriate health service delivery and improving feed security for the livestock;
- At a cross-cutting level, by improving information systems in order to improve future policy and development support, by trying to adopt behaviour change practices that reduce the likelihood of gender discrimination or future conflicts, and by increasing employability of rural women and youths.

In order to allow for a successful implementation, the Action assumes political stability and absence of conflict in areas where it is to be implemented, as well as government commitment to enhance food security and address the needs of the most vulnerable populations.

### 3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention. On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action. The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
<b>Impact</b>	To enhance food security, nutrition and livelihood resilience for rural communities across the country, with a special emphasis on areas affected by drought and conflict	1. Prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity in the population  2. Prevalence of anaemia in women of reproductive age (15-49 years old) within target HHs).  3. Prevalence of stunting in children under 5 within target HHs	1. Year 2021 (average 56.2 %, male 54.5 %, female: 57.3)  2. Year 2019: 23.9 %  3. Year 2020 35.3 %	1. TBD  2. Year 2028: 17 %  3. Year 2028: 21 %	1-3 FAO <a href="https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#country/238">https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#country/238</a>	<i>Not applicable</i>
<b>Outcome 1</b>	Increased agricultural productivity in an environmentally sustainable manner	1.1 Increase in yield of crops using improved seeds  1.2 Number of smallholders practising sustainable agriculture (e.g. conservation agriculture, Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), Agro-ecological approaches, etc.) disaggregated by sex.	1.1 To be determined by crop  1.2 Zero	1.1 overall 20 % yield improvement in targeted crops  1.2 To be determined	Project reports	Political stability remains allowing access in conflict affected areas.

		1.3 Number of women with increased training, financial resources, technology or other resources for sustainable and safe food production, sustainable energy, sustainable transport, and clean water sources, for family consumption or for productive uses. (GAP III)				Government remains committed to introducing environmentally friendly and climate smart agricultural practices.
<b>Outcome 2</b>	Sustainable recovery of the livestock system in response to the conflict and drought induced crises and sector productivity increased.	2.1 Sustainable number of livestock heads  2.2 Farmers income derived from livestock	2.1 TBD  2.2 TBD	2.1 TBD ( <i>based on the outcome of the planned rapid assessment at inception phase</i> ). 2.2 TBD ( <i>target to be set under the grants to be contracted</i> )	Ministry of Agriculture	Government remains committed to increasing the role of private sector in agriculture and to improve the business environment
<b>Outcome 3</b>	Improved effectiveness of food security and resilience programmes with timely information on food prices, methodological approach to integrate conflict resolution and better integration of youth to off-farm-economy.	3.1 number of institutions receiving the data and % of positive feedback (data set to inform decision of humanitarian/development response)  3.2 Number/proportion of targeted youth (exiting agriculture) transitioned to wage-based and/or non-wage-based work, and/or small businesses (disaggregated by sex)  3.3 Pre-and post-test of trends/number/intensity of incidence of conflicts managed by local system capacitated by the intervention	3.1 TBD  3.2 TBD  3.3 TBD	3.1 TBD  3.2 TBD  3.3 TBD	Projects progress report	Communities accept Social Behavioural Change (SBC) practices and endorse Conflict Management methodologies
<b>Output 1</b>	Increased private sector delivery of improved varieties of seeds across the country, reduction of dependence on inorganic	1.1.1 Extent to which EU-funded intervention contributed to new legal and regulatory framework for improved seeds production	1.1.1 current legal framework not conducive to	1.1.1 Legal framework conducive	TBD	

	fertilisers and increased soil fertility.	and distribution protecting rights of the informal seed sector and also including participation of private sector.  1.1.2 Number of small holder farmers that can access improved seeds with support of the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by sex and type of location.	private sector participation  1.1.2. Zero	to private participation  1.1.2 TBD		
<b>Output 2</b>	Livestock assets and systems restored in those drought and conflict affected areas.	2.1.1 Nr of households with stabilised sustainable livestock asset base.  2.1.2 Nr of livestock heads receiving basic animal health	2.1.1 TBD  2.1.2 TBD	2.1.1 TBD ( <i>based on the out come of the planned rapid assessment at inception phase</i> ) 2.1.2 TBD ( <i>target to be set under the grants to be contracted</i> )	TBD	
<b>Output 3</b>	Improved accessibility and quality of market data to better inform development/humanitarian response, decreased intensity/incidence of conflict through induction of social behavioural change and increased opportunities for rural women, youths and people with disabilities.	3.1.1 Timeliness of monthly market reports  3.1.2 Nr of stakeholders affirming using the market monitoring information to inform operational decisions  3.1.3 Nr of young employed  3.1.4 Nr of employed women  3.1.5 Nr of employed people with disabilities  3.1.6 Nr of reports (before and after) security incidences	3.1.1 TBD  3.1.2 TBD  3.1.3 TBD  3.1.4 TBD  3.1.5 TBD  3.1.6. TBD	3.1.1 TBD  3.1.2 TBD  3.1.3 TBD  3.1.4 TBD  3.1.5 TBD  3.1.6. TBD	TBD	

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

### 4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

### 4.3 Implementation of the Budget Support Component

N/A

### 4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures.

#### 4.4.1 Direct Management (Grants)

##### **Grants: (direct management)**

##### **(a) Purpose of the grant**

We envisage the signature of a grant that will contribute to achieving part of **Output 2**: Livestock assets and systems supported in drought and conflict affected areas and sector productivity stabilised at sustainable levels.

##### **(b) Type of applicants targeted**

Duly mandated public organisations and international organisations in the livestock sector with representation and expertise in specific geographical areas.

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The part of the action under the budgetary envelope reserved for grants may, partially or totally and be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- Their mandate for the planning and executions of the overall development programmes in their respective constituencies including the implementation of the national policy and strategies, and have administrative power de facto monopoly of their statutory role of creating an enabling environment in the Livestock sector including ensuring access to quality veterinary services.
- Technical competencies and experiences in the livestock sector, having well established office set up in Ethiopia, and key partner's in the implementation of EU programmes in the livestock sector, playing a key role in bringing the veterinary community together in the promotion of rationalisation of public – private veterinary service, quality of veterinary education and career development.

This implementation entails Output 2 “Livestock assets and systems supported in drought and conflict affected areas and sector productivity stabilised at sustainable levels”.

#### 4.4.2 Direct Management (Grants)

##### **Grants: (direct management)**

##### **(a) Purpose of the grant(s)**

We envisage the signature of several grants that will contribute to achieving **Output 3: Improved accessibility and quality of market data to better inform development/humanitarian response, decreased intensity/incidence of conflict through induction of social behavioural change and increased opportunities for rural women and youths.**

##### **(b) Type of applicants targeted:**

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

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The part of the action under the budgetary envelope reserved for grants may, partially or totally be implemented in indirect management with a pillar assessed entity, which will be selected by the Commission’s services using the following criteria:

- Operational presence in Ethiopia and having demonstrated experience in implementation of similar actions, including (i) collection and analysis of market/price information for wider use for humanitarian/food security planning; (ii) mainstreaming priorities of vulnerable women and youth in rural areas, especially in accessing available job opportunities for those exiting agriculture; (iii) promoting equal access and control over resources for men and women, and conflict management/resolution.

This implementation entails Output 3 “Improved accessibility and quality of market data to better inform development/humanitarian response, decreased intensity/incidence of conflict through induction of social behavioural change and increased opportunities for rural women and youths.”

#### 4.4.3 Direct management (Procurement)

Part of Output 2 “*Livestock assets and systems supported in drought and conflict affected areas and sector productivity stabilised at sustainable levels*” will be implemented through a Contract to provide Technical Assistance. The technical Assistance team will be based at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture – Livestock Sector State Ministry to provide Technical Assistance on planning, monitoring and reporting, coordination, management and administration including EU financial and operational rules and procedures, as well as on other specific technical issues to the implementing partners.

#### 4.4.4 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This implementation entails Output 1 “*Increased delivery of improved varieties of seeds across the country, reduction of dependence on inorganic fertilisers and increased soil fertility*”.

The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria:

- Previous demonstrable experience and technical competence on improved seeds varieties and soil fertility management
- High involvement in the horticulture sector in Ethiopia.

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select a replacement entity. If the entity is replaced, the decision to replace it needs to be justified.

#### 4.5. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures, and in terms of origin of supplies purchased shall apply as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases, where application of the eligibility rules would make the realization of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

#### 4.6. Indicative Budget

<b>Indicative Budget components</b>	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR)</b>	<b>Third-party contribution (amount in EUR)</b>
<b>Implementation modalities</b> – cf. section 4.4		
<b>Objective/Output 1</b> <i>Increased private sector delivery of improved varieties of mainly horticulture seeds across the country, reduction of dependence on inorganic fertilisers, and increased soil fertility.</i> <b>composed of</b>	<b>16 000 000</b>	
Indirect management with Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands – cf. section 4.4.4	16 000 000	16 000 000
<b>Objective/Outputs 2</b> <i>Livestock assets and systems supported in drought and conflict affected areas and sector productivity stabilised at sustainable levels.</i> <b>composed of</b>	<b>16 000 000</b>	
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	14 000 000	
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.3	2 000 000	
<b>Objective/Outputs 3</b> <i>Improved accessibility and quality of market data to better inform policies, increased job opportunities for rural women, youths and persons with disabilities, decreased intensity/incidence of conflicts through induction of social behavioural change.</i> <b>composed of</b>	<b>8 000 000</b>	
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.2	8 000 000	
<b>Grants</b> – total envelope under section 4.4.1 and 4.4.2	22 000 000	N.A.
<b>Procurement</b> – total envelope under section 4.4.3	2 000 000	N.A.
<b>Evaluation</b> – cf. section 5.2	may be covered by another Decision	

<b>Audit</b> – cf. section 5.3		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>40 000 000</b>	16 000 000

#### 4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

Each project component will have its own Steering Committee. In addition, overall Policy Guidance will be provided by the current structures existing within the *Rural Development & Food Security (REDFS)* coordination group. REDFS is part of the Ethiopian Government–Donors coordination architecture, chaired by the Federal MoA, covering agriculture and food security sector, as one of the major sectors supported by development partners including the EU and major EU development cooperation such as Denmark, Spain, France, Italy, Netherlands, etc.

The REDFS coordination group has the mandate to review and update policies for the sector as well as to coordinative development partners’ contribution in the implementation of the sector policies either as part of a single project approach or as within existing flagship programmes.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

#### 4.8 Pre-conditions

N/A

## 5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

### 5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner’s responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner’s strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is considering the principle of gender equality, human rights-based approach, and rights of persons with disabilities including inclusion and diversity Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex.

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

Some of the data will be drawn from regular surveys made by UN Agencies such as FAO, while other data will have to be provided by the Ministry of Agriculture or implementing partners. Details are referred to in the logframe. The Ministry of Agriculture is making an effort to ensure gender

mainstreaming in the sector, for which the respective Women's Affairs Department has elaborated guidelines. Policies and programs prepared by the Ministry have sex-disaggregated targets and include activities responsive to women's needs and interests.

## 5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a mid-term or final evaluation(s) may be carried out for this action or its components through a joint mission with one or several implementing partners. A mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to the effectiveness and complementarity of the action with other initiatives. A final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that progress on issues tackled under this Action are part of an ongoing process.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least one month in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

All evaluations shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment and disability inclusion. Expertise on human rights, disability and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

## 5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

# 6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 "[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)", it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, duty bearers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned.

These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

## Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

A Primary Intervention (project/programme) is a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

Articulating Actions or Contracts according to an expected chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure efficient monitoring and reporting of performance;

Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);

Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

The level of the Primary Intervention chosen can be modified (directly in OPSYS) and the modification does not constitute an amendment of the action document.

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as (tick one of the 4 following options);

<b>Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action