



Ensuring sustainability through capacity-building

REILA (Responsible and Innovative Land Administration) is a joint project by Finnish and Ethiopian governments

Established in Assosa ATVET in 2014, the TVET programme on Rural Cadastre and Land Registration has to date graduated 205 technicians - 28% female - who are currently working at grassroots level.

Before the launch of cadastral surveys and during public displays, public awareness sessions are held to provide rural land-holders information on their legal rights. By the end of 2019, 80 910 individuals attended the sessions.

Close to 600 permanent government staff have received training on the National Rural Land Administration Information System (NRLAIS).

The sustainability of REILA's achievements are dependent on human capacity to carry on the project's work after it comes to a close. From the outset of REILA, capacity development has been taken into consideration. A multi-dimensional approach has been used, including methods, systems, and human capacity development.

Methods development

Before REILA came into existence, there was no a harmonised cadastral methodology in the country, a fact that the World Bank confirmed in its 2010 harmonisation study. During the start-up period of the project, the Ministry of Agriculture requested the REILA team to develop a tested, low-tech and low-cost cadastral methodology. An imagery trial was launched in 2012, and the team devised a "fit-for-purpose" cadastral methodology, which was successfully tested in seven locations that have different topographic nature in five regional national states of Ethiopia.

Systems development

When the REILA project began operations in 2011, Ethiopia had a coordinate system originating from an almost 60-year-old survey of the Nile basin, which resulted in the "Adindan datum" (ground reference for the coordinate system).



Zero order reference stations

The then Ethiopian Mapping Agency [EMA, today the Ethiopian Geospatial Information Institute (EGII)] requested the datum and geodetic reference network be renewed. Thirty zero-order reference stations were established and are expected to serve for more than 70 years.



In addition, on-the-job training provided to EMA technical staff and a comprehensive *Transformation Manual* was produced to enable the use of the new coordinate system parameters in various surveying and mapping software. Four work stations with large data storage capacity server were provided to the EMA. The work stations improved the capacity of the Cartography Directorate to produce quality cartographic products.

Additionally, as part of system development, the REILA project developed the National Rural Land Information System (NRLAIS). It is operational in many woredas and employed by other projects such as the DFID-funded Land Investment for Transformation (LIFT) project.

Human capacity development

Farmers participation during the cadastral work is critical. They have to be informed about the importance of land registration. Public information workshops on rights, responsibilities, and restrictions



The technical and vocational education training (TVET) programme on Rural Cadastre and Land Registration					
Graduation year	Male		Female		Total
	N	%	N	%	N
2015	6	54.5	5	45.5	11
2016	0	0	0	0	0
2017	45	71.4	18	28.6	63
2018	59	73.7	21	26.3	80
2019	36	70.6	15	29.4	51
Total	146	71.2	59	28.7	205



have been held for the farmers. In the last eight years, a total of 80,910 farmers - of which 31% have been women - in 14 project woredas have participated in these communications events. Over the same period, indoor and outdoor technical trainings on rural cadastre and land registration were given to 1510 permanent staffs of the project beneficiary institutions and contractual technicians recruited to the cadastral and land registration activities. Out of these trainees, 26% were women. REILA also provided modern surveying equipment and computers for a GIS Lab, which supported practical trainings on rural cadastre and land administration.

In addition, higher level technical training on database management and remote sensing technical training was provided to 37 senior experts in cooperation with international training institutions. To capacitate leadership and coordination levels of partner institutions, 76 experts received their MScs in cooperation with Bahir Dar University's Institute of Land Administration, and 9% of

the programme participants were women. Capacity-building was also provided through international study exchange tours in The Netherlands, Finland, Germany, South-Korea, and Rwanda for 71 decision-makers and senior experts.

Several higher level officials have called the REILA project "an eye-opener for decision-makers in the land administration sector" and have emphasised how it has changed local mindset regarding land administration and registration. A fully-fledged technical, vocational, education and training (TVET) programme on Rural Cadastre and Land Registration was developed and offered at As-sosa TVET College for the first time in the country. The programme covers from level II up to level IV. As presented in the table above, 205 students graduated and are currently at work in Benishangul Gumuz regional state at kebele level with initial financial and technical support provided by REILA. Currently the programme is fully run by the regional government.



GPS training



Students at Bahir Dar University's Institute of Land Administration