

# Social Protection for Inclusive Development in Afar Region, Ethiopia (SPIDA): Interim Findings and Policy Implications

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## **Consortium Members**

*Adigrat University (ADU), Ethiopia*

*Development Planning Unit (DPU), University College London (UCL), UK*

*Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA), UK*

## **Zeremariam Fre (PhD)**

SPIDA Consortium Leader from DPU of University College London (UCL)

Leiden, The Netherlands

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# Outline of the presentation

## **Part one:**

Introduction to the Afar pastoral people, their environment and livelihoods in Ethiopia

## **Part two:**

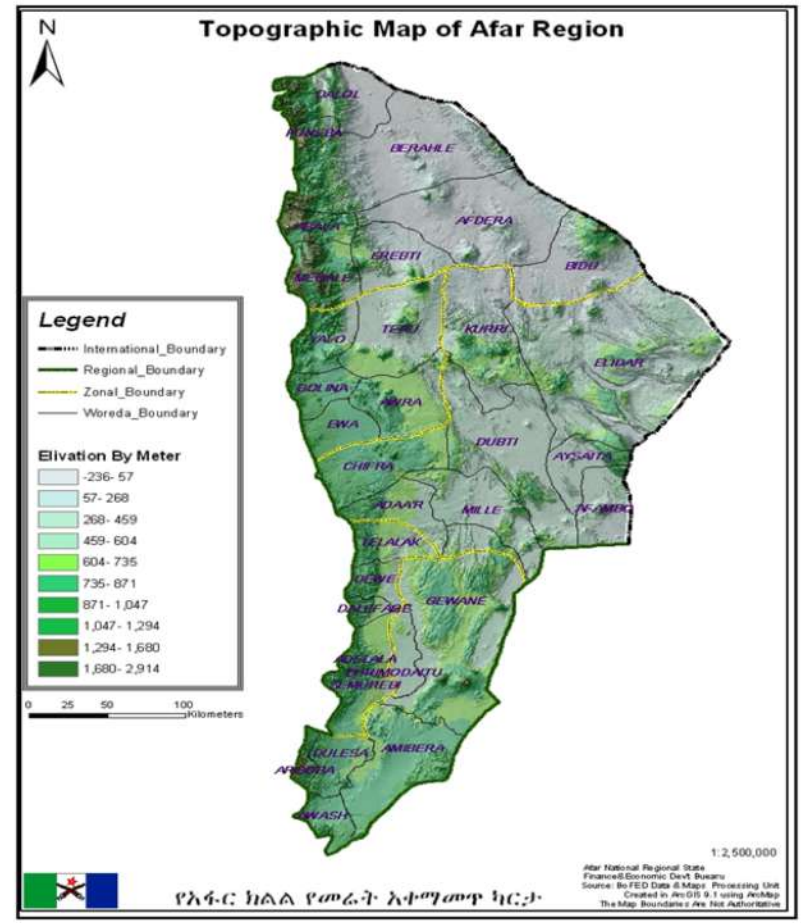
Our research aims, overview of the Productive Safety Net Programme (inclusive/exclusive PSNP) PRA-based findings and their significance to the PSNP and knowledge outputs

## **Part three:**

Interim findings and their potential policy implications, and our strategy of engagement at local, state and federal levels

# The Afar context : environmental, livelihood, inclusion or exclusion of the pastoral Afar in the Ethiopian context

- The Afar Regional State, one of the nine federal states in Ethiopia
- Land size of 270,000 sq. km
- Population size 1,602,995 (in 2012)
- Nearly 87% of the population are rural and mainly dependent on pastoral & agro-pastoral livelihood systems



# Seasonal mobility and the impact of drought



# Impact of drought and sedenterisation



# Our research objectives

- .To evaluate the effectiveness of the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) on poverty, food security, and livelihoods in Afar region;
- .To investigate whether the delayed implementation of the PSNP in the Afar region has had an impact on the efforts of ensuring food security and poverty reduction;
- .To understand and evaluate whether the predominantly pastoralist nature (with its own pastoralist institutions and livelihood patterns) of the Afar region has posed difficulties in designing and implementing appropriate social protection strategies and implementation modalities; and
- .To assess whether the extreme weather conditions in the study area have had an effect on the development efforts taking place in the Afar region.

# PSNP: An overview and the research

.One of the biggest social protection programmes in the SSA region.

.It reaches a population of about 10 million across the states of the country (including sedentarised farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists).

.Relevance of the study consortium and the significance of engaging with the Afar (fighting against our perceptions).

.The inclusion /exclusion debate around PNSP is perceptual and a political public policy issue.

.Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA): villages are selected in such a way that the different livelihood systems of the region are represented and also different implementation achievements of PSNP among the villages are considered.

.A total of 108 Afar pastoralists and agro-pastoralists (50 women and 58 men) from Daar, Urkudi, Bekeli Daarna Abeli Dera, Anderkelo Kelaelo and Eruhna Adegahna participated in the PRA.

# PSNP key limitations

- .The PSNP activities season-wise (January -June ) are fine for highland conditions, but do not suit the pastoralist mobility calendar (June-December is the Afar preference).
- .The PSNP is not tailored to the pastoralists' production and livelihood systems, particularly in the timing of the public work and activities.
- .The supply of conservation tools and equipment does not match the needs of those participating in the public works.
- .The PSNP only provides food to sustain the daily life of the beneficiaries. It lacks complementarity that can build assets.



# **Commentary on other development interventions which impact on the PSNP**

*(focus on education, health, and women )*

## ***Education***

.The sedentary orientation of the school curriculum is not geared towards pastoral mobility, so children from mobile communities may not benefit. A significant number of Afar pastoralists migrate seasonally in search of grass and water.

.There is a high drop-out from primary schools; much higher among boys than girls (boys migrate in search of pasture and water, and to towns in search of jobs).

.Early marriage is forcing girls not to attend secondary school, but they may have a better chance to attend to secondary level depending on their family situation.

.A general lack of school facilities, a library, a shortage of textbooks and the vicinity of high schools to settlements affect the drop-out rate.

## ***Health services***

.In all surveyed *kebeles*, there is a health post with a few health workers.

.There are traditional healers who give medicines to treat ailments, but there are very few health extension workers at the village.

.There is a serious lack of maternal services during childbirth.

# Multiple roles for women and the youth

.Household division of labour is based on gender and age. Accordingly, male adults manage the herd and the household. The husband undertakes the herding, milking and selling of animals.

.Afar women are responsible for managing all matters pertinent to the household and the community at large.

.Women also fetch water, grind grains, prepare food in the house and take care of the family.

.Youth outmigration (young men) to urban areas or seeking alternative activities other than pastoralism is a major problem.



## Summing up the interim findings

The PRA findings indicate that there are multiple factors which curtail the full realisation of the PSNP programme in the Afar region:

.Economic diversification among the Afar is growing significantly; they do not just survive on livestock production alone (due to lengthy droughts, climate change etc.).

.The tradition of reciprocity and solidarity is deeply rooted and is still working (e.g. the religious Zakat).

.The PSNP public work has too much focus on soil and water conservation (not in tune with Afar livestock orientation).

.The Household Asset Building Programme (HABP: part of the national food security policy) is not yet implemented for fear of default (government claims but the Afars asked for interest-free credit because of religious reasons).

.We have a much better understanding of the major factors which underlie the exclusion of the Afar; these are not just economic, and this needs to be highlighted.

.There is a major opportunity for the members of the SPIDA research team (who are mostly non-Afar) to engage with the Afar communities directly in the spirit of mutual learning and respect.

# PRA in action: Working with both the youth and adults



# PRA in action: Wealth ranking by the participants



# Afar children are at the centre of the social protection agenda



# Quantitative survey questionnaire pre-test in action



# Plans for policy engagement

## **Next steps on policy areas**

- .Building on the policy messages we have already identified, aiming at policy makers (i.e. emphasis on alternative income generation strategies, strongly recommending the PSNP package to include the needs of youth and women etc.).
- .The policy dialogue conference planned for the autumn of 2016 at Samara town (the administrative capital of Afar State) will have four major phases and we have developed a concept note clearly stating which activities the team will carry out over the next 12 months (including pre- and post-conference tasks).

## **The core objectives of the policy conference will be:**

- .To engage policy makers, stakeholders and the wider community in the Afar region in a knowledge and practice sharing dialogue process;
- .To communicate the interim research findings with the relevant policy makers and stakeholders in the Afar region, and to explore social security policy implications;
- .To advance the means of how the project can contribute to the social protection development agenda in the Afar region and Ethiopia in general, with a focus on pastoralism;
- .To strengthen partnerships with the stakeholders through participatory approaches and engagement in the policy dialogue processes; and
- .To draw out some major lessons and map out the next stage of the research project, by laying down a foundation and a necessary web of networks, in preparation for the upcoming international conference to be held in the summer /autumn of 2017.



**Thank you!**

Contact email: [z.fre@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:z.fre@ucl.ac.uk) or [endafre@hotmail.com](mailto:endafre@hotmail.com)