

REGRADE RESILIENCE + GRADUATION + EVIDENCE

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LEARNING BRIEF: TARGETING FOR GRADUATION

EXPERIENCES FROM CONCERN'S REGRADE PROGRAMME IN ETHIOPIA

Concern Worldwide is a non-governmental international and humanitarian organization dedicated to the reduction of suffering and working towards the ultimate elimination of extreme poverty in the World's poorest countries. Concern has been implementing long-term development projects and programs, and humanitarian response projects in targeted Woredas of different regional States and Zones in Ethiopia to contribute to the poverty reduction efforts made by the Government of Ethiopia and its development partners.

From 2017-2021 Concern Worldwide implemented a Graduation Programme entitled REGRADE: **RE**silience / **GRAD**uation / **E**vidence with the goal to 'build livelihood security and improve nutritional outcomes among the extremely poor households living in South Wollo and Wolaita Zones. Graduation Programmes provide an integrated and sequenced package of support (social protection, livelihood promotion, financial inclusion and social empowerment) to create pathways out of extreme poverty. It helps programme participants meet their basic survival needs whilst allowing them

the opportunity to invest in building their human capital and expand new or existing livelihood activities.



Comprehensive targeting ensures that households living in extreme poverty are identified as programme participants.



Regular, predictable and time-bound **Income Support** helps programme participants meet their basic needs (smooth consumption) and offset income losses whilst they invest in livelihood development activities.



Market driven **Technical and Business Skills Training** enhances human capital and facilitates income generation through either self- or waged- employment.



Coaching and mentoring supports participants to meet their goals and encourages positive behavior change. Coaches provide life skills training, offer guidance on specific problems and facilitate access to basic services such as healthcare, education and psychosocial.



Facilitating access to financial services, improving financial literacy and promoting savings helps participants to manage risk and reduces the likelihood of having to resort to negative coping strategies in the event of shocks and stresses.



Capital/asset transfer helps participants establish a new, or expand an existing small business or supports with the costs associated with accessing waged-employment.

In addition to building household assets, the REGRADE Programme aims to address the root cause of poverty in a given context therefore, it follows a Participatory Community-Based Watershed Management Approach in order to build the resilience of participating households and the wider community.

Overall, the programme directly targeted 11,660 households/59,185 people. Of these 11,660 households, 5,634 were targeted with a comprehensive Graduation package and 6,026 households were reached through wider community activities including Natural Resource Management, promotion of Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture, Maternal, Infant and Young Child Feeding, Family Planning, and Community-Based Saving.

The REGRADE programme was designed to be complementary to the government's safety net programme known as the Productive Safety Net

Figure 1: Core Components of the Graduation Approach

Programme Phase 4 (PSNP-IV) with the goal: ‘Resilience to shocks and livelihoods enhanced, and food security and nutrition improved, for rural households vulnerable to food insecurity,’ where its achievement required support from other interventions as well as a more general enabling environment.

GEOGRAPHIC TARGETING

Concern understands extreme poverty as a lack of, or low return on assets, caused by exposure to risk and vulnerability and experience of inequality. Environmental factors can exacerbate an individuals’ or communities’ vulnerability to different shocks and stresses. One area can be more vulnerable than another as a result of climatic factors, accessibility for services and technologies, endowment of natural resources etc. The Watershed Approach is a priority of the Ethiopian government and policy is guided by the Participatory Watershed Development Guidelines. Watershed Management is the process of managing human activities and natural resources within that Watershed, taking into account social, economic, environment and community interests. Concern used the Watershed Approach to inform its geographical targeting, identifying critical Community Micro-Watersheds (CMW). The rationale for targeting watersheds is that:

- It provides a focused geographic area that allows for clear integration of activities,
- Restoring the natural resource base will improve the micro-climate and land productivity, reduce flooding and landslides, and restore dried up water sources – all essential for sustainable livelihoods,

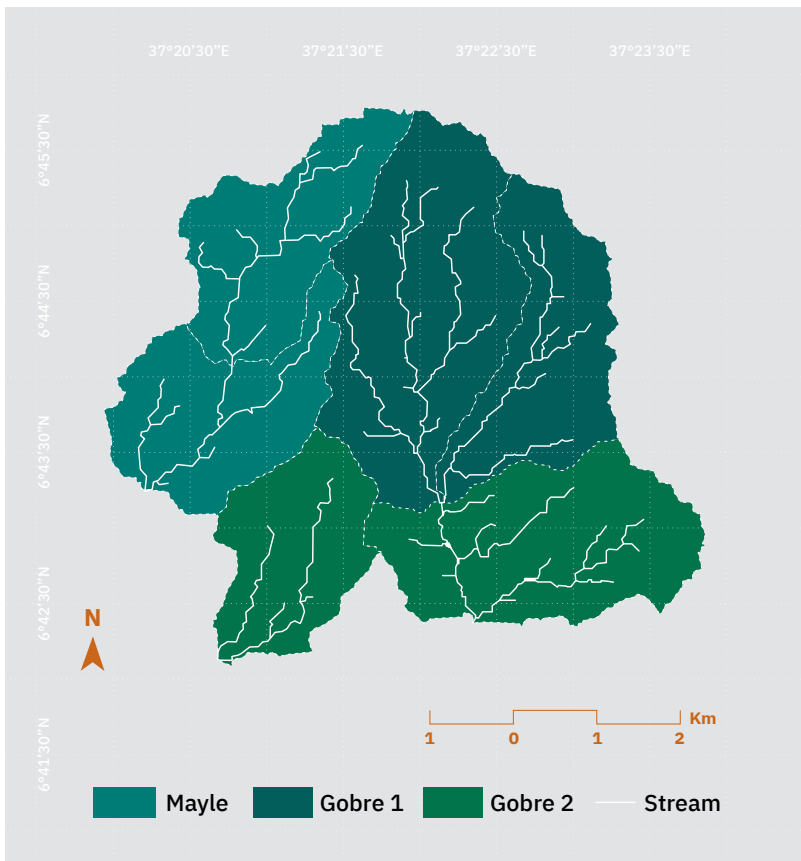


Figure 2: Area Delineation of Mayle, Gobre 1 and Gobre 2 Micro-Watersheds in Humbo Woreda of Wolaita

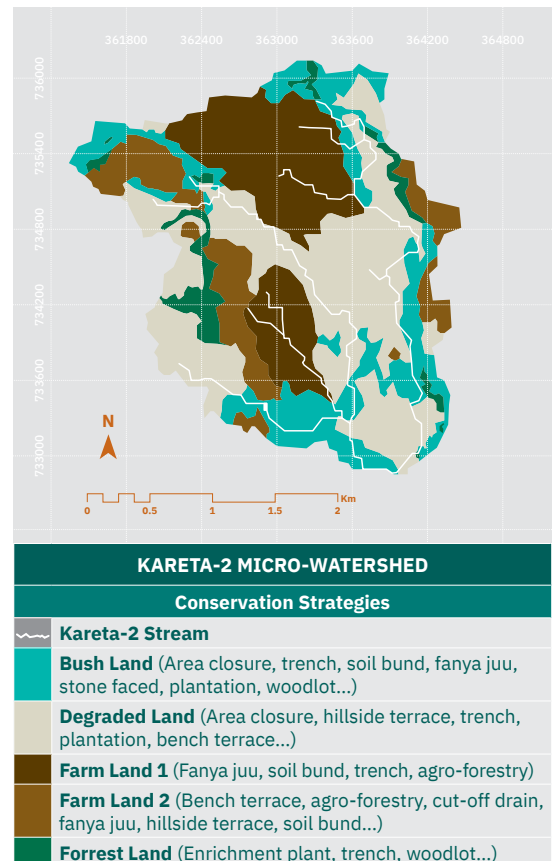


Figure 3: Kareta-2 Micro-Watershed in Humbo Woreda of Wolaita

- It promotes joint analysis and planning between highland and lowland households due to strong mutual interests in sustainable watershed management, with potential for payments for watershed services.

The REGRADE programme targeted 20 CMW in its operational areas; 10 CMW in four Woredas of Wolaita Zone in SNNP Region and 10 CMW in three Woredas of South Wollo Zone in Amhara Region.

The CMW were identified by respective Woreda Watershed Committees based on the degradation level of the natural resources in the watersheds. The demarcation of the watersheds was done after doing the base map of the targeted areas.

In all cases, the targeted watersheds were located across multiple Kebeles as the Kebeles are subdivided for administrative purposes while the watersheds follow the natural drains of water from higher to lower elevation. The 10 CMW of Wolaita Zone have portions in 20 Kebeles and the 10 CMWs in South Wollo zone are found in 10 Kebeles. All the leaders of the Kebele were involved in the demarcation processes of the CMW.

Households who reside and/or whose farming plots were found within the targeted CMW were all considered recipients of the REGRADE Programme as they benefitted from the works undertaken on the CMW. However, not all households were targeted with the comprehensive Graduation package. Concern, in partnership with the respective Woreda Watershed Management Committees of both Wolaita and South Wollo Zones established Watershed Management Committees for all targeted CMWs. All the Kebeles who have portions in the targeted watersheds were also represented in the established CMW management committees.

HOUSEHOLD TARGETING

The REGRADE Programme was implemented across two cohorts. The first commencing in 2017 and the second commencing in 2019. The REGRADE Programme was initially intended to build on top of/ complement the Government of Ethiopia's PSNP therefore under Cohort One, eligible households had to be existing recipients of the PSNP. However, PSNP receipt was not included as an eligibility criteria for Cohort 2 due to larger numbers of extremely poor households being identified who were not in receipt of the PSNP Temporary Direct Support. For Cohort two targeting in some of the CMWs, there were no more PSNP targeted households left after Cohort 1 targeting, and the targeted households were not PSNP targets.

The Program Implementation Manual (PIM) for the PSNP IV on targeting highlights the following 'Key Principles on Program Entry and Exit':

- **Fair and transparent client selection** where communities and households are aware of the *selection criteria* and those *who have been identified* in the programme. The client list is verified through *public meetings* during which it is read aloud and discussed. The final client list is also *posted in public locations*.
- **Participatory** that allow communities in the selection of programme clients and have an opportunity to verify and validate the final selection list. Households have access to an **effective appeal mechanism** to address inclusion or exclusion errors.

- **Fairness:** where communities are selected based on entry criteria and not included or excluded because of personal relationships or discrimination. An appeal process has been established for all aspects of PSNP implementation as part of the **Grievance Redress Mechanisms** and includes a Kebele Appeals Committee and access to the Woreda Cabinet for unresolved complaints.

REGRADE

Households receiving the comprehensive Graduation package were targeted through Community-Based Wealth Ranking undertaken alongside Kebele Administration. The targeted Households were registered with the details:

- Name, gender and age of the head of the household;
- Name of the Kebele and the village;
- Household social category classified as Female headed household, Landless Married Youth, household with large family size, household with disability, or elderly;
- Family size disaggregated by sex,
- The location of the household with respect to the boundary of the targeted watershed boundary (housing and farmland, farmland, housing),
- The size of land holding of the household,
- The number of livestock owned by type, and
- The wealth status classified as extremely poor, poor, medium, or better-off were recorded.

BOX 1: *Specific criteria as example used to target Households in Chile CMW and Wogane Chare, Wolaita*

- Landless or own farmland less than quarter of a hectare that is infertile and degraded
- No ox for plowing, no milking cow, no small ruminant even chicken
- Often keep livestock for others with benefit sharing
- Hunger period for up to 8 months
- Lack household assets
- PSNP targeted and work as casual daily labourers migrating to other areas,
- Often have health problem, disabled or old age
- Poor women headed households with many children,
- Cannot send their children to school or students drop out of school

Grievance Redress processes after the targeting were beyond the control of the REGRADE programme where targeted Households were participants of the PSNP as Concern could not change what the PSNP have done for years and months.

A verification process was also undertaken on the results of the wealth ranking with all communities in the respective Kebeles. For the most part, targeted Households were found to have fallen within the extreme

poor wealth category. Under the first Cohort, REGRADE was specifically looking to target existing PSNP-IV recipients to support programme integration therefore, one of the eligibility criteria was being in receipt of the PSNP. Following the wealth ranking exercise not all households within the extreme poor category were found to be receiving the PSNP and therefore had been excluded from REGRADE. Under Cohort Two the targeting process was adapted and, being in receipt of the PSNP was removed as eligibility criteria, allowing extremely poor households who had missed being targeted by PSNP to be targeted by REGRADE.

- In Wolaita Zone, during the targeting for the Cohort One, 1,420 households out of 6,211 households were classified as Extreme Poor Households in the wealth ranking processes and were recipients of the PSNP. Similarly, during the targeting for Cohort Two, 1,711 households out of 2,912 households were categorized as Extreme Poor Households after the wealth ranking were in receipt of the PSNP. The table below shows the proportion of extreme poor households targeted in the CMWs of Wolaita. Concern also tried to target a proportional number of households from the different Kebeles adjoining the respective CMWs.

NAME OF CMWS	NO. OF EXTREME POOR	COHORT 2 TARGETED EXTREME POOR HOUSEHOLDS	% TARGETED
Gobire 1	345	175	50.7%
Gobire 2	350	177	50.6%
Mayle	210	118	56.2%
Bonie Shacha	261	176	67.4%
Bara	226	168	74.3%
Kareta 1	490	288	58.8%
Kareta 2	121	118	97.5%
Wogane Chare	40	59	147.5%
Ocholo	99	118	119.2%
Chile	770	314	40.8%
Total	2912	1711	58.76%

Table 1: *Proportion of targeted Households classified as Extreme Poor in the CMWs of Wolaita*

Concerning the targeting of households for the second cohort in the South Wollo, the Graduation rate based on the Graduation modality of the Amhara region C1 was lower. Only 31% of the households were able to meet the minimum threshold for Graduation; 9000 Birr in Amhara Region as compared to the 3000 Birr threshold for the Wolaita in SNNP region. Hence, the households that were not able to graduate in South Wollo continued their participation in the PSNP and the Concern's REGRADE Cohort Two wealth ranking was done almost to replace the number of households graduated from the Cohort one.

WIDER BENEFICIARIES OF THE REGRADE PROGRAMME

Resilience targeted households

The REGRADE model combined Resilience Programming with the Graduation model and Evidence building. The programme targeted communities living in the natural watersheds with a package of complimentary interventions that included;

1. The integration of multiple sectoral approaches to build resilience and sustainable livelihoods: water, health, livelihoods, environment, equality, participation.
2. Capacity building and support to Government partners and civil society actors as well as local development actors such as Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs) and Village Economic and Social Associations (VESAs) operating in the designated areas.
3. Result based management to improve programme quality.
4. Strengthening the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Early Warning System (EWS) and preparedness and incorporating a crisis modifier to allow for rapid emergency response and prevent the erosion of gains made.

In addition to those households targeted specifically with support under REGRADE, the guiding Watershed Development Approach and geographical targeting of CMWs meant that all those residing in, or whose farmlands reside in the CMWs directly benefited from the programme. Benefits accrued as a result of Natural Resource Management works such as the soil and water conserved, the rehabilitated water sources and vegetation cover and the improvement of soil fertility. In addition, there have been spill over effects seen in communities surrounding the CMW who have adopted various positive land management practices.

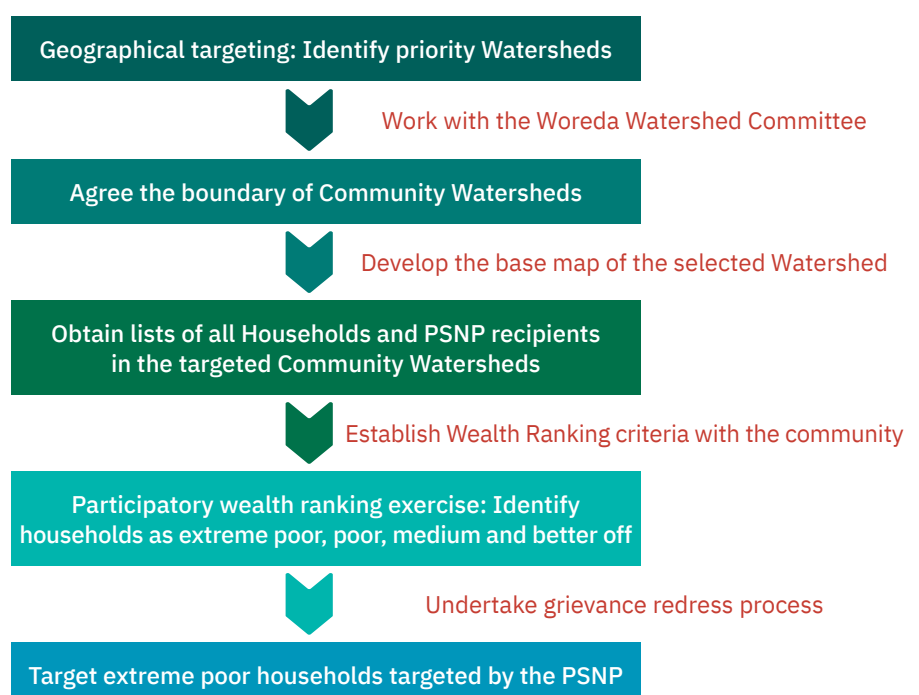


Figure 4: REGRADE Targeting Process

Table 2: *REGRADE targeting breakdown*

WOREDA	GRADUATION HOUSEHOLD						TOTAL			RESILIENCE TARGETED HOUSEHOLD			GRAND TOTAL		
	1st cohort			2nd Cohort											
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	Tl
Dessie Zuria	272	132	404	273	132	405	545	264	809	1474	303	1777	2019	567	2586
Delanta	283	71	354	283	71	354	566	142	708	1260	296	1556	1826	438	2264
Legambo	412	81	493	412	81	493	824	162	986	1752	412	2164	2576	574	3150
Total	967	284	1251	968	284	1252	1935	568	2503	4486	1011	5497	6421	1579	8000
Kindo koysa	115	19	234	273	71	344	388	90	578	235	119	354	623	209	832
Kindo Didaye	281	127	408	392	78	470	673	205	878	836	195	1031	1509	400	1909
Duguna Fango	214	46	260	383	49	431	597	95	691	408	181	589	1005	276	1281
Humbo	486	109	595	394	71	465	880	180	1060	230	30	260	1110	210	1320
Total	1096	301	1397	1442	269	1719	2538	570	3116	1709	525	2234	4247	1095	5342