

TOWARDS HOLISTIC RESILIENCE IN VULNERABLE ENVIRONMENTS (THRIVE)



Contour marking for water harvesting, Abala (Zone 2), Afar Region, December 2023

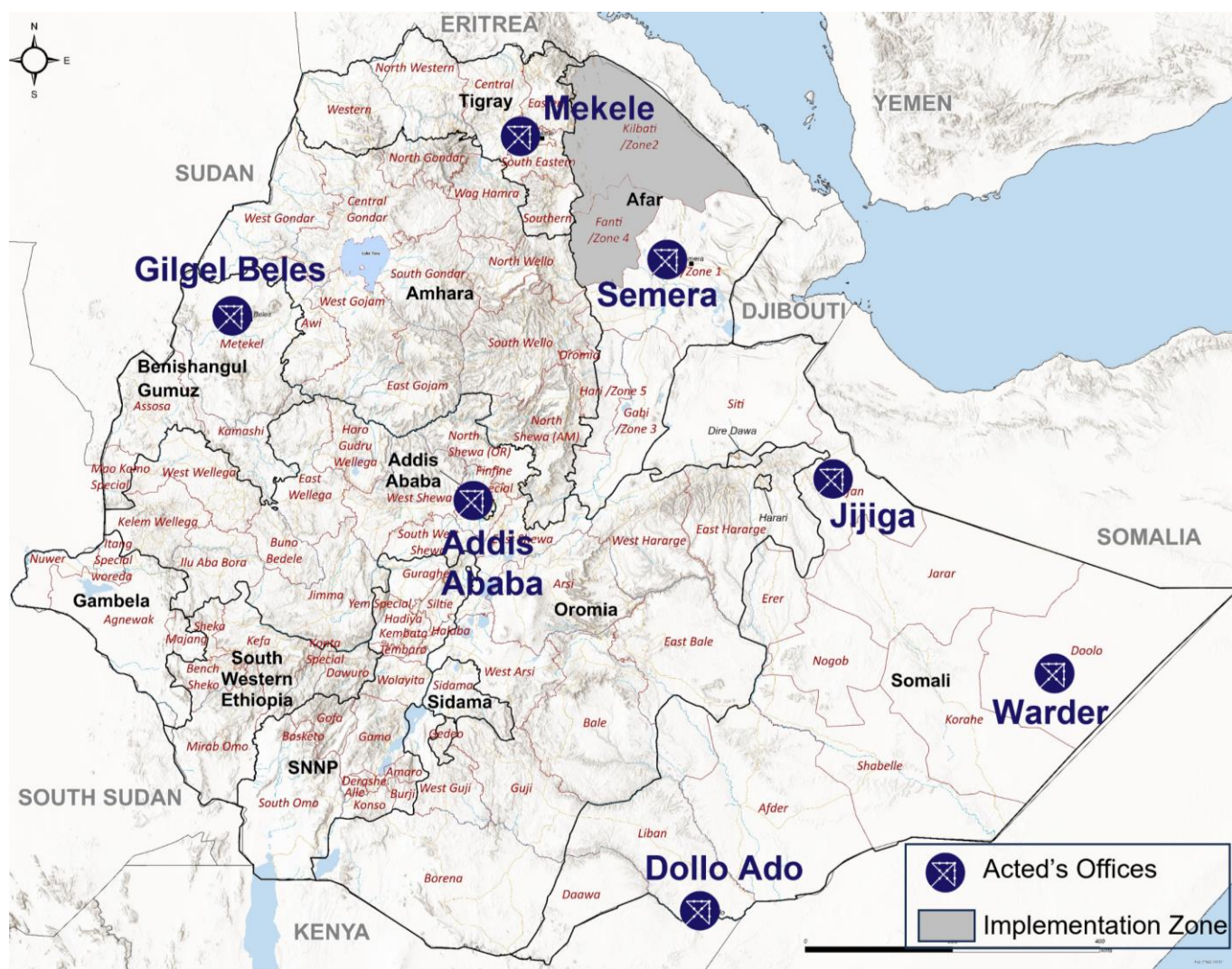
Acted's THRIVE Initiative

Acted's global **THRIVE** initiative aims to build **holistic long-term resilience of agropastoral communities**. THRIVE, "Towards Holistic Resilience in Vulnerable Environments", is implemented globally to address and contribute towards **sustainable food production** and **value chains** in vulnerable environments and contexts.

Through THRIVE, Acted has developed context-specific, community-based and sustainable approaches to support and improve **local productive value chains, market linkages** and **social cohesion**. Acted is a global leader in the area and has considerable experience and expertise to draw upon for strengthening agricultural value chains.

THRIVE in Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, Acted has implemented a THRIVE pilot project in two zones of the **Afar Region** under AAP funding of the **French Embassy** to support conflict-affected vulnerable IDPs, returnees, and host communities in 2023/2024.



THRIVE Project – Zones of Intervention in Ethiopia in 2023/2024

Multipurpose Cash Assistance

The **distribution of cash** is aimed at supporting communities in meeting their most urgent needs, whether they be food, shelter, healthcare or other necessities.

This assistance provides recipients with high flexibility to **prioritize their needs as they wish**, ensuring **immediate** relief while allowing them to allocate their other available funds to essential needs that would otherwise remain unmet, and that are crucial to build **communities' long-term resilience**.

Improving Livelihoods – Focus on Perma-garden Establishment

Most communities in Afar only have access to small plots of land whose **fertility** has been severely impacted by years of drought. Establishing **perma-gardens** at household-level aims to provide or restore **pastoral communities' livelihoods** by combining the benefits of permaculture for biodiversity promotion with its potential for high yield on reduced plots of land. To do so, Acted's comprehensive strategy comprises an introductory **training course** mixing theoretical and practical components for installing and maintaining permagardens; then, Acted **distributes seeds and tools** necessary and accompanies communities into establishing their own perma-garden.

Acted's approach primarily focuses on women. Given the unbalanced power dynamics between women and men in pastoral settings, Acted contributes to **empowering women** by targeting them for the trainings on perennial vegetation systems, thus building their gardening capacities, allowing them to have access to a source of income and ultimately leading to more equitable sharing of responsibilities between women and men.



Man gardening in his permagarden, Afar Region, April 2024

Ecosystem & Land Regeneration – Earthworks & Vegetation

People and animals are reliant on plants to survive. Plants are reliant on healthy soil to thrive. Soil nutrients are cycling from plants and animals. All of these are reliant on **water**. When any element of this system is out of balance, the natural system unravels, and socio-ecological cycles suffer.

Acted Ethiopia contributes to break this cycle with its project in **Afar Region** by:

- **Conducting Earthworks** (water harvesting swales) to:
 - Control soil erosion.
 - Rehydrate landscapes.
 - Recharge groundwater.
- **Regenerating Vegetation:**
 - To foster biodiversity.
 - Through vegetation planting.
 - Through perma-garden development.



Cash-for-work beneficiaries marking contours for water harvesting, Afar Region, 2023

Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture Within Communities – The Farmer Field Schools & Seeds Distributions

Field Schools serve as an entry point for Acted's community engagement, acting as catalysts for internal change within communities. They are custodians of their ecosystems, depending on these environments for their production. As hubs for agricultural, ecological, and economic education and development, Field Schools play a pivotal role in fostering **growth** and **sustainability** within a community.

Acted Ethiopia contributes to promote climate-smart agriculture by establishing **agro-pastoral or farmer field schools**, providing knowledge and skills for sustainable and community-driver agricultural production improvement by hands-on experience through demonstration plots.

The field school approach takes into consideration the **12-month seasonal cycle approach**, allowing farmers to learn at different stages of crop production. Communities are then further supported with drought-resistant and climate-adapted seeds, along with tools to facilitate the practical application of acquired knowledge of their lands.