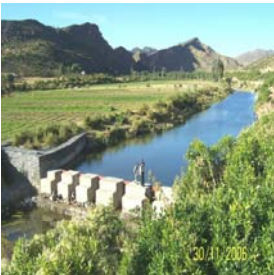




# ***REST***

***Relief Society of Tigray***

***30 Years in the Struggle for Development***



**Annual Report for FY2007**



**Planning and Coordination Department**  
***February 2008, Mekelle***

## **REST PROFILE 2006-2010**

The Relief Society of Tigray (REST) is an Ethiopia Non-Government Organization, implementing a wide range of relief, rehabilitation and development activities in the National Regional State of Tigray since 1978. Originally established to serve the needs of the people in the liberated areas of Tigray during the then civil war, REST has always been a grass-roots organization, committed to working with the poorest and most marginalized communities to bring about positive, sustainable change.

### ***REST VISION***

A future where poverty has been eradicated and all people enjoy equitable access to development opportunities and benefits.

### ***REST MISSION STATEMENT***

REST's mission is to contribute to the eradication of poverty in Ethiopia by promoting livelihoods on a sustainable basis within the context of stimulating wider economic dynamism and growth within the Regional State of Tigray.

### ***STRATEGIC GOAL***

To bring about a sustainable improvement in food insecure livelihoods within REST operational areas.

### ***ORGANIZATIONAL OBJECTIVES***

- To strengthen household livelihoods within REST operational areas
- To improve the health and educational status of people in Tigray
- To promote empowerment of women in Tigray
- To improve water security within Tigray
- To promote sustainable natural resource management

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**A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR**

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## CONTEXT FOR THE YEAR

### External

The year FY 2007 has exhibited high momentum on the motivation of the Ethiopian people towards sustainable socio-economic development with the beginning of the new Ethiopian Millennium. The eventful national occasion on the Ethiopian New Year (September 12, 2007) paved the way for numerous millennium celebrations all over the country that believed to have brought Ethiopians more closely, regardless of their differences with regard to political and other opinions.

In many occasions, Ethiopians in all walks of life and geographic locations expressed their commitment to unite their efforts for the progress of the country and well being of its people. The government of Ethiopia has also demonstrated high interactions and close discussion on various policy and implementation issues with the public. Such closeness between the people and the government convinces many to be optimistic towards a better development of the country in the years to come.

Indicators for much better agricultural productivity in Ethiopia are witnessed vividly in FY 2007. Farmers who took the initiative to practice modern farming methods mainly in terms of using various irrigation techniques have already gone out of food insecurity. These farmers become pioneers in proving the fact that the country's food insecurity can be shortly overcome if farmers could broaden their perception and use all potentials rather than sticking to the traditional approach of depending on rain fed agriculture.

This is manifested in many ways as; farmers have now realized the value of market

oriented agricultural practices, focusing on high value crops and diversifying their livelihoods. Government reports indicate that the country's export share from agricultural production has shown tremendous growth both in volume and type of the items. Besides, the government took the glimpse of success in the productivity of agriculture being an engine for the economic growth towards the overall development of Ethiopia- as agriculture accounts for over 47.5% of its GDP (Ethiopian Economic Association Volume IV 2004/05). Consequently the government has given high emphases to efforts that can best motivate successful farmers to work for more success in the future and initiate other farmers to follow their footsteps in ensuring household food security as well as to lay a basis for a reliable socio-economic progress in the country.

Towards this end, pioneer farmers were given different incentives and awards as development heroin's and heroes. The role of media in disseminating information with regard to successful approaches and experiences in achieving agricultural productivity, which is worth sharing to other farmers all over the country, has been best utilized.

Even though, high progress has been registered in the agricultural production, some 8.3 million people (of which 1.45 million are from Tigray region) are still the beneficiaries of the governments Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) which are chronically food insecure households since 2005. The government PSNP programme is aimed at filling the food gaps of beneficiary households and progressively improves their asset base using other food security programmes.

Tigray is located in the northern Ethiopia where the land is highly degraded owing to over cultivation. Productivity of agriculture,

which is the main stay for about 90 percent of the region's population, is low due to poor soil fertility, backward farming practices and lack of modern inputs. As a result, over half of the regions' population lives under chronic poverty. Recurrent food insecurity, malnutrition and consequent poor health status are predominant.

In the past couple of years several conducive economic policies were adopted and continuous efforts were made to address the root causes of poverty. Among these, rural focused development policies aiming at improving the life standard of poor farmers and ensuring sustainable development were prioritized. Towards such end massive natural resources conservation activities, introduction of improved farming techniques, use of agricultural inputs, expansion and familiarization of irrigation schemes have been dealt with.

Such initiated endeavors have helped much in boosting agricultural production and alleviating people's life. Further efforts meant to improve social facilities in the region were also conducted side by side. Thus, coverage of education and health facilities as well as access to clean potable water has been increased considerably. However, food insecurity and inadequacy of social facilities still remain as the main constraints of development in the region. Hence, more intensified activities at increasing food production and better service provisions are still maintain as top of the region's priorities.

Endeavors launched in the preceding years towards ensuring household livelihood insurance have been resumed in the year 2007 with much emphasis and appropriate approaches adopted based on past experience. Inclusive approaches geared towards developing household livelihoods to

enable them resist shocks and reducing the level of their vulnerability has been implemented in many areas. In selected areas: catchment based integrated development projects were launched with special consideration to water sources development and utilization.

Enhancing water harvesting activities and expanding irrigation schemes were among the major themes of development endeavors in 2007. Various water harvesting projects were implemented including gully catchments which proved to have rendered multi faceted benefits to farmers (water for irrigation, for cattle drinking, enhancing ground water recharge and halting erosion).

With the above mentioned contexts, the Relief Society of Tigray (REST) is operating in this region since its establishment. It has been fully involved in organizing and supporting events meant to motivate farmers for further dedication and hard work to boost productivity of agriculture in Tigray. REST's development inputs are mainly focused on the rural community (farmers) as a result, its dedication to initiate, implement, encourage and assist improved farming techniques that can ensure agricultural productivity remains high.

In line to these endeavors, REST is participating actively in the events aimed at motivating successful farmers throughout the region. Besides, REST is considered as one of the key actors behind the success of the farmers, as it is contributing significant assistance to the regional development. Many of the honored/ awarded farmers nominated from REST project areas were the beneficiaries of its various rural development projects. Hence, REST takes the pride, when looking its efforts have brought meaningful outcomes in the lives of many poor farmers.

Similarly, the relative better rainfall situation in Tigray region reduced REST's emergency assistance in the year. Such a decrease in the demand of emergency operation, gave REST opportunity to emphasize on its development programs.

In a nutshell, the political, social and economic conditions prevailed at national and regional level during FY 2007, had predominantly favored the smooth undergoing of REST programs and positively contributed towards the successful achievements of its long term objective.

### **Internal**

REST, through the merit of its over 30 years engagement in implementing various programs aimed at reducing the number of food insecure households in its operational areas of Tigray through implementing different programs, adopted a strategy that ensures the successful accomplishment of its intended activities. REST's implementation strategies, give top priority for the full and equal participation of men and women in the program areas, which eventually develops sense of belongingness among communities and thereby grants sustainability of those programs. Communities participate at all stages of program activities; in setting priorities, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation as well as impact assessment directly or through their representatives at different level.

Such organizational value and tradition of REST was realized in all its activities undertook in FY 2007. Communities at all program areas have fully participated throughout the implementation process; which contributed their decision role in making the programs most successful. This was manifested in their involvement in deciding specific program and in their

material and labor contribution during actual implementation of those objectives. Moreover, REST's implementation of its programs highly depends on the condition of funding and funds; hence, the situation of funding in FY 2007 was relatively same as compared to the preceding years.

Meanwhile, its implementation capacity in terms of acquired experience and technical proficiency is on usual progress. REST staff is highly committed and professionally capable to execute its programs efficiently. The organization on its part strives to further motivate its staff to perform these responsibilities with due dedication. As part of its motivation efforts REST believes expanding its capacity by focusing Human Resources Development on staff trainings development; that well-trained and motivated staff are fundamental prerequisites for attaining stated organizational objectives and for forging links with all stakeholders in the pursuit of poverty reduction. Therefore, in order to increase the level of individual and organizational competence and capacity, in FY 2007 REST continued:

- Providing long-term training within the country, Ethiopia, to 14 staff members. Fields of study included Agriculture, Financial Management, Public Health and Hydrology.
- Providing short-term courses to 166 staff members working at different levels. Fields of training include Management, Agriculture, Financial Management, Logistics and Maintenance Services and Health.
- It also facilitates participation of 42 staffs in experience sharing and exposure visits with in the region/nation and abroad.

REST also revised the salary scale of all staff to adjust with the existing cost of living. Today REST employed 747 staffs of which

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135 (18 %) females, ranging from management, planning administration logistics, IT/GIS, finance and operational departments; technical experts, such as hydro-geologists, foresters, agronomists, health officers and agriculturalists. The head office is based in Mekelle, the regional capital, and having 11 coordination offices at wereda/district level, where it operates, and liaison office at Addis Ababa (the country capital). The liaison office is comprising the fund raising and public relations, purchase and logistics aimed to liaison with donor agencies and federal government, facilitation of the purchase of inputs which are not available at regional level and linking communication of issues related to federal government..

In general, REST exhibited an enhanced readiness and capability in the year FY 2007 to realize its objective assisting the people of Tigray to attain a food secure future. It keeps on expanding and enhancing the magnitude of its programs periodically.



### ***Challenges and lessons learnt***

- *The communities will only make genuine and sustainable commitment to improved watershed management as long as they secure immediate and long term benefits. Thus it is important that soil and water conservation interventions also promote increased agricultural production, which has proven to be one of the most appreciated benefits.*
- *Many of the soil and water conservation structures were, by necessity, constructed using local materials. These have outlived their capacities and in spite of ongoing community maintenance there is need to more durable solutions using externally supplied material and products, such as through strengthening using gabion and cement..*
- *The construction of soil and water conservation structures is an important first step in rehabilitating degraded watersheds; it is just as important that the participating communities demonstrate a genuine commitment to maintain these structures. REST has learned that early involvement of affected households is critical to securing widespread community acceptance for the enclosure of communal land. By facilitating the establishment of management committees, which are comprised of community members who already have experience in managing enclosed areas, community ownership is promoted management of the use-rights of the*

*expected assets (fodder grass, firewood, etc) should also be guaranteed in a tripartite agreement with local authorities. This linkage of the REST interventions with Wareda/Tabia administrations and the communities is clearly a major reason for past successes.*

- *Planting of economically valuable tree species at privately owned lands is more important in improving the food security situation of the farming community through diversifying the livelihood options of the farming community in addition to environmental maintenance rather than planting trees that only targets environmental rehabilitation.*
- *Market led agricultural development intervention such as rural dairy development integrating with milk processing and marketing infrastructure development is of great significance to encourage farmers enter into market oriented agricultural production.*
- *Following Result Based Approach in the implementation of the different interventions and expanding demonstration plots have better effect on fast adoption of respective technologies by targeting communities.*
- *REST's lesson from its past experience of education intervention is that to reach the rural children that has not been so far reached (especially girls) by the formal school system, non-formal education program and in particular ACCESS program need to be strengthened and expanded.*

- *While the increase in crop production has been realized, insufficient attention has been paid to developing rural and urban markets, marketing and product promotion, as the result some farmers are reluctant to try new crops until these markets are developed.*
- *With the diversification in products and increase yields increased capacities for entrepreneur and leaders is required as is further development of institutional capacity.*
- *In connection to water supply program, strengthening of the existence of sanitation facilities and hygienic access to water source should be given due consideration in preventing transmission of diseases*
- *Focus on slowing down and reversing the rising prevalence of HIV/AIDS through integrating its prevention into all operational programs as a cross-cutting development issue need to be carried out through the Health Extension Service Program (HESP) at household level.*
- *Maternal health problems and childhood illnesses should be addressed through improved personal hygiene and environmental sanitation practices, rendering expanded quality RH/FP services, vaccination, and protecting vulnerability from malaria, tuberculosis, and other infectious diseases of public health importance.*
- *The relief and rehabilitation programs are always challenged by*

*the delay of emergency mitigating resources when disasters occur. Drought affected communities need immediate assistance for survival, prevention of malnutrition and often migrates to urban centers in search of food.*

- *Considering the current situation of children under difficult circumstances, the epidemic of HIV/AIDS, street children, family disintegration, wide manifestation of child abuse and exploitation, juvenile delinquency, under age commercial sex work and capacity building of the implementing body should be the main issues need great focus.*
- *To maximize the utilization of the natural resources of the watershed areas and to sustained benefit establishing inter-disciplinary team up operational study crews is crucial. In addition to this the IT/GIS unit could contribute the expected roles of GIS/RS for rural development.*
- *The need for a more comprehensive and well-targeted approach to capacity building, within REST and our partner Communities.*
- *There is always a need for more appropriate analysis of costs relative to the benefits of REST intervention, to ensure the most effective use of scarce resources.*
- *Food security impact assessment was limited and fragmented which should receive significant attention to assess the organization's overall, long-term impact.*

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## REST GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following articulates the base values and principles underlying REST's existence as an organization, and all its operations and activities.

### *Serving the People*

REST as an organization emerged from a process of people's struggle within Tigray, formed specifically to serve the people and act as their advocate with the external world at a time of extreme need and isolation. REST's rationale for existence continues to be, first and foremost, serving the people and assisting them in their struggle for development.

### *People's Participation*

The development process can never be successful or sustainable in the long term, unless it reflects people's reality and needs, and there is a genuine sense of ownership and control. This presupposes a real process of participation in development planning, policy formulation and decision-making, and at all stages of the project cycle.

### *Empowerment*

Different groups within society have different levels of access to development opportunities and benefits, associated with different levels of political, social and economic power. Women particularly, continue to constitute the majority of the poorest, and are under-represented in administrative and community power and decision-making institutions. Promoting the empowerment of women, and of other marginalized people, is an intrinsic part of REST's people centered development process.

### *Transparency and Accountability*

Transparency of organizational systems and operations is essential in any democratic organization, as is accountability, both for cost-effective use of resources and for the consequences and impact of its operations. REST believes these aspects are particularly critical in an organization which is entrusted with resources to utilize and distribute on behalf of the poor, and sees itself as being accountable primarily to the communities it serves.

## **INTRODUCTION – OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR 2007**

REST has set a five year plan (2006-2010) with clearly set achievable in relation to overall objectives of improving the livelihoods of households. Currently REST is on the second year of its five-year plan, the accomplishments of the two years demonstrated traceable indicators depicting the success of targets vision at the end of the five years. The accomplishments in 2007 also confirm that REST is within the pace required to bring about the results intended in the five years strategic plan.

All REST's implementing departments take shares of responsibilities out of the overall targets of the organization and each department divides its share for the five years in to carefully planned proportions on yearly basis. In this regard, REST's targets for 2007 are met almost in all programs and projects bringing desirable impacts on many people. While taking different approaches and responsibilities all REST's departments and programs maintain very close coordination and link among them- so as to integrate their efforts together in realizing REST's major objectives. Besides, water resources development tasks in harvesting water lies a basis for activities of boosting crop and livestock production by environmental rehabilitation and agricultural development. Mean while the intervention of the health department supplement the ultimate target of ensuring food security and fostering the availability of physically fit persons ready to perform planned community development activities.

REST's key areas of intervention include Integrated watershed management based agricultural development, productive safety net program, rural water supply

development, construction of irrigation structures, prevention led health services with due emphasis to the expansion and prevalence of HIV/AIDS, these are supplemented with sustaining emergency and recovery assistance as well as other felt needs of communities.

All program interventions are implemented in the best way that ensures high impacts on the targeted communities, and is line with REST's underlying principles of serving the people it stands for ensuring peoples participation in all programs at all stages is a way of building their capacity, with learnt decision to promote equitable benefit of all women and men, and demonstrating maximum transparency and accountability among all program partners. These highly valued organizational principles have been among the primary checklist in undertakings all of REST's planned activities and devotion to fundamental principles along will carefully identified strategies and approaches which best much each program activity has carried the success of REST's programs in 2007 further ahead. With this, REST's contribution is in reducing the level of poverty and bringing equitable development among the people in Tigray Region.

## 1. Environmental Rehabilitation and Agricultural Development

The rural communities of Tigray depend almost entirely on the use of the region's natural resource. Centuries of extensive farming on originally fertile lands, conflicts and unsustainable land practices have left the resources severely depleted and degraded as a result cycles of poverty, over exploitation, degradation and natural disasters have characterized life in the region.

High dependency on degraded resources has focused post emergency relief efforts to improving rural livelihoods by developing the natural resources base of agricultural rehabilitation.

To this effect, REST's efforts on conservation of the scarce resources along with efficient and effective utilization of valuable resource towards attaining sustainable improvement on the livelihood of people in its area of operation and regionally is among its key interventions.

Under the Environmental Rehabilitation and Agricultural Development: various integrated activities of Natural Resources Development and Agricultural Production programs, through different activities of Soil and Water Conservation, Forestry, Crop and Livestock production and diversification were implemented with full participation of communities at all stages.

Activities highly linked to each other in a way all support each other to bring about enhanced outcome were also conducted under this programs component. For example;

In Raya valley, southern Tigray, rainfall is not usually adequate for the crops. But farmers have developed their own coping mechanisms- an activity of **flood diversion**. By constructing

canals, they divert the run off water flowing from the hills to their fields. This is their custom from old times. In this area no run off water means, no harvest.

However, constructing canals is not an easy task. In the first place, they have to construct and



*Partial view of the flood diversion schemes*

maintain every time because it is taken by the flood. Secondly, the run of water had made big gorges that lifting up the water to the canals is not easy. It needs much labor and capital. For this reason most farmers were not able to divert the water to their fields. Consequently, they were getting lower yields every year.

Thanks to the **safety net program**, their problem is now minimized. When safety net program started, the communities' first priority was flood diversion scheme. Hence, flood diversion schemes were constructed using cement and gabion according to their demand. So far about nine flood diversion schemes were constructed below the steep mountains. These in turn have helped to irrigate more than 750 hectare of land covered with sorghums. According to the residents, these diversion schemes have brought multiple benefits.

programs on conservation of natural resources contribute to water harvesting activities as well as to soil fertility, which in turn boosts agricultural productivity.

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Under the Soil and Water Conservation program in FY 2007, over 11,383 hectares of land on communal catchments area were conserved; 58 severely damaged gullies were treated and reclaimed 60.9 hectares and benefited 3,300 households; constructed 35 Water harvesting check dam ponds with a capacity of irrigating 5 hectares of land which benefited about 700 households; 39 flood diversions and 7 stream water diverting structures as well as 14,950 percolation ponds have been constructed. The 39 flood diversion structures could support for supplementary irrigation of about 3,876ha and benefit about 4,447 household farmers. In line with, a total of 204 km new rural access roads (RR10 standard<sup>1</sup>), 4 culverts and 40 fords were constructed. As to capacity building; a total of 828 farmers, 75 extension agents, 27 experts from line bureaus and REST have participated in different type of trainings. In connection to this, a total of 111 technical leaders, 41 watershed committee members nominated from the community living with in the watershed, 56 experts from sector offices and REST and 160 extension agents from Woreda Office of Rural Development, have taken participated in the experience sharing visit conducted within the region.



Water harvesting check-dam-Gunfel Wukro kilte awlae'lo

<sup>1</sup> RR10 is the standard that can provide a service for 10 vehicles/cars per day.

Kahsay Gebre-kidan, 60 years old is a resident of the village and safety net beneficiary. He says, **"The flood diversion has brought many advantages. It is a stable structure thus the time and labor used to spent on reconstructing the canals have been saved. Secondly, we were able to divert a small amount of water in the past that there was always conflict and fight to get water. Now the amount of water has been increased and covers large areas of land. So every farmer is irrigating his field by shift system."**

In fact the fields covered with different crops such as sorghums and teff seem to witness this fact. But beyond that the schemes are bringing a transformation in agricultural practice. Farmers



Farmers now grow fruits

are practicing to grow vegetables and fruits by constructing ponds in their backyards.

Hiwot Alemayo, 33 years old farmer is one of these farmers. He has planted different fruits such as papaya, mango, avocado, coffee and vegetables. Few years ago he was simply a daily laborer. Now he is a well to do farmer and hires laborers in his field. He said, **"I am happy now. The previous years have passed in vain. Now I have great hope and plan to buy a motor pump."**

Last year he has earned some 6,000 Birr from the sell of vegetables and fruits. Now he has his own house and cattle. **"Thanks to the safety net program our future is bright. I have already planted crops that give me a permanent income. I have big plans for the future. My immediate plan is to buy a motor pump. After that I will start my own business in the town,"** says Hiwot with a smile in his face.

The reforestation activities meant to enhance the conservation efforts were also undertaken through different strategies. Plantation of seedlings in selected areas and enclosing the most degraded areas for regeneration are the two main activities performed in the FY2007. REST has planted a total of 9.45 million different indigenous and exotic species of seedlings raised in central (managed by REST) and community nurseries of which 5.5 million are planted in communal lands in an area of 2,217 hectare of land, and the remaining 3.9 million in privately owned lands. In addition to this a total of 150 hectare of land were closed for natural regeneration raising the amount of enclosed area to 145,000 hectare of land since 1993 in which REST started implementation of this programme. For sustainable management of enclosed areas REST is organizing area enclosure committee to be managed by them and also encourages to share some of the benefits of area enclosure such as grass, firewood etc. to develop sense of ownership among the community. The other important task in this intervention is to hand over the enclosure areas which are technically believed to be regenerated for further management and utilization by the community. In FY2007 REST has handed over a total of 4,430 hectare of land since it starts transferring these areas to community in five years time a total of 20,699 hectare of area enclosure were handed over to communities.

In relation to the agricultural development; REST has implemented key activities that support the effort to increase the quality and quantity of food production. These include installations of water pumps and drip irrigation, fruit development, introduction of high value crops, construction of post harvesting storage and marketing promotion activities.

To expand irrigation and ensure efficient utilization of water aimed at minimizing the problem of moisture stress in the production of crops; in FY 2007, REST supported local farmers technically and materially enabling to practice small-scale irrigation. To this effect REST provided different water lifting technologies such as 24 water pumps, and 498 family drips out of which 108 family drips have been installed at elementary schools aimed at transferring the technology to the farmers and 301 pressurized Treadle pumps. A total of 361 farmers became beneficiaries by irrigating 86 hectare of land with family drips and water pumps.

Likewise, promoting and distributing seeds of high value crops (vegetables and spices) fruit seedlings among farmers with the aim of supporting the farming households increase their income were among REST's focus for year FY 2007. As a result REST has distributed 71,182 seedlings of Oranges, Mango, Apple, Avocado, Papaya and Guava and Vine (both grafted and none grafted) fruits to 3,188 (2,846 male head households and 342 women head households) farmers and about 129.4 hectare of land is covered with such seedlings. Similarly REST has distributed a total of 172.5 kg of vegetable seeds to 1,894 households of which 17% (320) are women headed households. Tomatoes, Onion, Swiss chard, Lettuce and Pepper are among the type of vegetable seeds distributed covering a total of 137.5 ha. In this year 2.792 Mt. of Spices (Cumin 1.882, Black cumin 0.593, Coriander 0.149, White cumin 0.168) distributed to 1,660 beneficiary households of which 398 are women headed households, covering 173.5 ha of land, and 50.5 Mt of oil seed and tuber (Ground nut 7.6, Potato 36.5, Shallot 4.9, and Garlic 1.4) were also distributed to 1,076 beneficiaries covering an area of 165.5 ha.

Besides 20-post harvest storage facilities for perishable vegetables were constructed individually while three market centers in three selected Woredas/districts were constructed to retail fruits, vegetables and peanuts to enhance its linkage with market.

To ensure efficient implementation of the programs, REST conducted capacity building trainings of farmers, extension agents and representatives of cooperatives who are at the forefront in the implementation process. Accordingly, a total of 2385 persons were trained on key skills like the drip irrigation and marketing efficiency of cooperatives.

The other aspect of increasing agricultural productivity is improving the livestock production through activities such as forage development, rural dairy development, Beekeeping, poultry and small ruminant production, and Grazing land enrichment and familiarizing farmers with such approaches towards improving the quality and quantity of livestock production.

REST has been undertaking different activities in the past years geared towards increasing the benefit of farmers from livestock production. This has been continued in FY 2007 through the implementation of different activities. Forage enrichment has been conducted on 791.7 hectares of communal and 451 hectares of grazing land through planting 188 quintals of local and improved seeds, along with appropriate training provided to 1,294 farmers on back yard, under sowing of forage, fodder and cactus utilization 99 farmers were also trained and practiced to grow alfalfa for their livestock feed. To improve water supply for livestock 37 ponds were constructed in FY 2007.

Alongside with the efforts of increasing animal feed, REST has also implemented activities on the provision of cows with high milk yield. Besides the provision of 30 begait<sup>2</sup> breed, REST has distributed 170 Holstein-Friesian<sup>3</sup> breed in FY 2007. Meanwhile assessing and promoting market

<sup>2</sup> A local breed known for its milk potential found in the western part of the region.

<sup>3</sup> Cross-breed known for its higher milk potential.

### *Crop with high economic value ready for harvest*

Apple trees planted in the northern highlands of Ethiopia, by **Relief Society of Tigray, (REST)** showed success now for the first time in the history of agriculture in the region.

These fruit trees which are believed to have high economic value and among the few fruit trees that can grow in cold climates were planted in 2001 in different parts of Tigray with a view to improving production and the income of poor farmers.

A team of agricultural experts who visited fields located in the central and southern parts of Tigray covered with apple trees confirmed that most of the fruits are matured enough for harvest and are expected to give good yields. The experts further noted that some 500 farmers have planted in their plots of land and expected to earn good harvest this year.

REST Director, Mr. Teklwoini Assefa said, **"it is great success for our organization, the beneficiaries and our development partners to see the apples successfully grow in this dry region of Ethiopia."**

He in addition noted that this success was gained after many years of study and joint effort made by REST, the rural community and funding partners.

Some farmers on their behalf stated that their income would increase by triple times when they start selling the apple fruits for the price of these fruits is high compared to other fruits. Market information indicates that the price for apple is 25 birr per k.g while that of oranges and mangoes is from 4 to 5 birr.

The reality of many farmers who reside in the highland areas of Tigray remained very poor due to poor soil fertility, poor farming methods and difficult topography of the hills to use for agriculture.



for the milk product of farmers was a key success in FY 2007. Four cooperative associations consisting 60 households were established in the year.

Beekeeping and poultry production were also among major activities as part of developing the livestock sub-sector. In FY 2007, REST provided training to over 393 farmers on beekeeping development and supplied them with necessary materials to start up beekeeping activities. The queen rearing centers are also establishment at six different project areas and by 149 individuals. All of the six Queen rearing centers and 149 individuals are being running and are expected to mitigate the challenge of bee colony shortage and transfer modern techniques of rearing strong colony at farmers' best level. To enhance the honey collection and marketing cooperatives 10 honey processing & marketing groups were formed. The cooperatives are honey producers as well as collects honey from the surrounding farmers. The collected honey is sold when there is an attractive price both locally and the regional town/Mekelle/.

Meanwhile poultry production has been undertaken during the year by group formation of 90 women head households with a special focus towards assisting women generate their own income and raise their role in the overall economic growth of the region.

REST also promotes Sheep and Goat fattening as well as production to increase the income sources of rural households. In FY 2007, about 1,277 households benefited from the 6,702 sheep and goats distributed. Besides, trainings were given to the respective beneficiaries.

Overall, many capacity buildings have been rendered to beneficiary farmers in a bid the trained farmers implement the activity in a smooth and successful manner with the technical recommendation. Every activity implemented by REST is supported with trainings and exposure visits so that farmers will gain knowledge through theoretical and practical knowledge transformation and through idea and experience sharing between and among them.

Low efficiency in using harvested water; lack of spare parts for water pumps; the labor consuming nature of treadle pumps which has somehow reduced the acceptance for drip irrigation; low demand for spices in Mekelle market; and supply of hybrid cow's vis-à-vis the demand were among challenges faced. On the other hand valuable lessons including the high potentials of using water harvesting check dams for irrigation; the need to shift from treadle pumps to small water pumps; the role of local suppliers in responding to the increasing demand for small water pumps; the progress in the understanding of local farmers on milk production; and increase in understanding the economic role of bee production among farmers were learnt.

Overcoming the challenges and using the lessons learnt for further success will be given due consideration.

To measure the impact of the various interventions undertake different assessments were made by the well experienced personnel of the organization during monitoring and using our research and policy unit in more scientific way across the programme areas. Through these assessments REST also confirm whether the different interventions are meeting the intended objective or not. In line with this, assessing the impact of the two types of dairy cows provided to beneficiaries; the result has shown promising results. The Begaite cow beneficiaries received an income of USD 542.00 from one lactation period, which lasts for about 7 months, and USD 1,032.00 from the Holstein-Friesian breeds per lactation (10 months). This income is 300% to 500% higher than they previously earn from the local breeds. This income does not include the milk amount consumed with in the household, and hence, the benefit is not only the cash income from sales but also the nutrition improvement with in the household. The increasing demand by the farmers for these breeds in the programme area can also be taken an indication for the higher economic benefit provided by these breeds.

The assessment also witnessed on the impact of the modern box hive. The beneficiaries of these inputs have harvested honey four times higher than what they could receive from the local one. The average honey production from the traditional beehive is not more than 8 kg while, it is 35 kg from the modern box hive. This difference clearly showed that the beneficiaries of these box hives can earn an additional income of USD 87.00, (Taking the current average price of honey), which is 337.5% higher than the income that can be earned from the traditional beehive box.

Small ruminant provision for production as well as for fattening is also another promising intervention. A beneficiary household of small ruminant provided with 6 heads (5 female and 1 ram) of sheep/goat for production or fattening purposes; with proper management and considering the average regional off-take and culling (7%) at the end of the second year (each female shoat could give birth twice in two years time) the household could have 16 heads of sheep/goat with significant number difference with in two year. In monetary terms; considering the current average price for a medium weight head of shoat (USD 37.6.00 per head multiplied by the additional heads gained with that year, i.e. 8), a household can earn an additional income of USD 258.00, which would have significant contribution in improving its food security situation.

With regard to crop production: the monitoring team has assessed the impact of the various high value crops (vegetable and spices) introduced across the project areas. The sample taken from different households indicated that households that grow different high value crops earn an average income of USD 672.00 (A sample taken from tomato growers), which does not also include vegetables consumed by the beneficiary household. This additional income is a significant increment in the income of the chronically food insecure farming communities, and its contribution in improving their food security situation is paramount.

## 2. Water Resource Development

Water is among the leading priorities for the overall betterment of people's life. People need water both for their immediate drinking needs as well as for their different development undertakings. Despite such a key importance, water resources are scarce all over the globe. Access to safe drinking water is especially low for people living in developing countries especially in Sub-Saharan Africa like Ethiopia.

REST works towards responding to the water needs of people both for drinking as well as for growing their food through irrigation. Providing safe drinking water ensures improved health and sanitation; while irrigation water grants increased food production. Both interventions contribute much for the realization of household food security. REST contributes its share in meeting the millennium development goals of reducing level of poverty by half and raising the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water to 50% globally.

REST's Water Resources Development component has two main areas of focus; development of rural potable supply providing accessible and safe water for rural communities and irrigation development focusing on a variety of irrigation structure development.

In FY 2007, REST has undertaken a range of activities geared towards providing needy people with access to safe drinking water. Consequently, REST has accomplished the construction of 225 hand dug wells and fitted with hand pumps and are benefiting 58,643 persons while 48 bore holes are also constructed and fitted with hand pumps and are providing safe water to 27,148 persons. Development of 18 springs were completed serving a total of 9,535 persons and 9,235 livestock.

### **Safe water- opens wider opportunities**

Kebedech Hagos, 30, is a resident of Guetelo village, located in the eastern zone of Tigray, takes her only 5 minutes from her home to the water point which was constructed through the support of Water Partners International (WPI). The availability of safe water at near by means a lot for the rural women like Kebedech. In the first place, it gives them great relief from back breaking task which normally used to take them 2 to 3 hours to fetch a pot of water. It also gives them the opportunity to participate in education and income generating activities.



the water supply she has got time to grow vegetables in her backyard

than two hours to fetch water. But after that I have time to work farm activities to get income. This was thanks, to REST and its partners now we have got safe water supply." She is the mother of two children, two children to school; the older is in grade 8 and the younger in grade 5. She grows vegetables in her backyard earning an annual income of about

instance, had a problem to go to school on time. School drop out particularly by female students was very common.

The availability of this safe water has changed the reality now. Roman and Haregewoini attending school in grade 10 are good examples. They say, ***“Fetching water is not a problems now. It takes us not more than 10 minutes. For this reason we are able to attend school with out any problem and do our assignments on time. We are happy to have this safe water in our village.”***

*The availability of safe water has lightened the burden of girl students  
(Roman, left and Haregewoini, both grade 10 students are doing well in school)*

The availability of safe water has not only helped school girls to do well. But the number of girls in school is also increasing from time to time. This is mainly due the availability of safe water supply though there are other factors as well.

In general the availability of safe water means opening a wider opportunity of hope and dignity and girl children.



*Fetching water has become an easy task*

Harvesting roof water is in areas having scarcity of drinking water makes part of REST`s water resources development intervention. This mainly focuses in schools and health institutions in remote areas. Accordingly, 18 roof water-harvesting structures are completed. The structure are giving service to 12 elementary schools 6 health posts, 2 ACCESS schools and 2 farmers training centers. Installation of one solar pump has also been completed and is now benefiting 890 persons and 1,231 livestock.

Water and sanitation committee (WATSAN) having 6 members were also established at all productive water supply schemes. Besides refreshment training is given to the WATSAN committee to run overall management of the water points

Likewise, construction of different irrigation structures aimed at assisting small scale irrigation schemes definitely improve the food security situation of the farming community supporting them produce more through cultivating a minimum of two times a year as well as increase income by cultivating high value crops such as vegetables that have higher market demand. Accordingly, REST has constructed various types of irrigation structures in FY2007 benefiting a number of households. That includes: 11 spring developments with a capacity of irrigating 68 hectares; 3 water harvesting check dams with the capacity of irrigating 19.5 hectares; 4 small water pumps that can irrigate 26 hectares; 354 underground water tankers having the capacity to irrigate 7.08 hectare; 1 micro dam; 14 small community ponds; 1 spate irrigation; 3 mini dams capable of irrigating 30 hectares; and 7 river diversions with a potential of irrigating 120 hectares.

More over, Open hand-dug wells were also constructed for micro irrigation targeting both women headed households and for the community. The open hand dug wells with small diameter are for women headed households and these hand dug wells with wider diameter are for the community as well for common use commonly called community hand dug well. A total of 140 women headed households are running small-scale irrigation utilizing the constructed open hand dug wells in FY 2007 each having a capacity to irrigate up to 0.15 hectare. These open hand dug wells for women headed households are not only increase food security of the households, but also contribute in empowering women. Similarly, the 166 communal hand dug wells constructed in the year enabled 3-5 households to benefit each having a capacity to irrigate 0.5 hectare.

All of the irrigation projects are constructed with full participation of communities and their sustainable management aspects are responsibilities of the communities themselves.

The respective beneficiaries in the constructed irrigation sites were trained to develop their skills in water utilization and crop management in irrigated areas which improves the efficiency of the water as well as maximize production. This is confirmed with the assessment made by the monitoring team, and the level of increment in the household income is already stated in the previous agricultural development and environmental rehabilitation section of this report. REST also establishes water users association in the big structures to ensure the efficient utilization of the water and sustain the service of the structures for a longer period of time. In addition to this REST exerted its effort through establishment of different user groups and cooperatives to link the product of the various interventions with the market to create a ground for the producers/beneficiaries receive reasonable price for their products. For some products such as milk and honey producers were organized as cooperatives and provided buildings (called them milk and honey shops) and different equipment which could help them to collect, process, store/preserve and sell the products to consumers. These materials are provided to beneficiaries as promotion.

The various types of structures were constructed to utilize the existing water potential through harvesting from rain water (micro-dam, mini-dam, check dam pond, underground water tankers, community ponds and spate irrigation), rivers (river diversion and water pumps) and springs and ground water (open hand dug well). Different structures constructed in different places are decided based on the potential existing in the ground, such as is there a river that can be diverted or pumped or ground water or etc. aiming at solving the critical problem of the project area, which is the region as well, called moisture stress.

All the structures constructed in FY2007, including the structures mentioned in the Agricultural Production and Environmental Development component section of the report, collectively have a capacity to irrigate 596.58 hectare of land benefiting 3,893 households (which equivalent to 19,460 people). From the above facts it is possible to conclude that REST contribution in the current year in improving the food security situation of the beneficiaries is very high. At least the food security situation of the 3,893 households (irrigation users) is believed to be significantly improved.

### 3. Health

The Relief Society of Tigray (REST) intervenes in improving the health status of the people and facilities in almost all over Tigray region through assisting the regional bureau of health in terms of material provision and capacity building. REST doesn't desire to extend new health facility structures which may cause duplication but rather work in strengthening the existing health structures in close collaboration with health bureau.

The focus of REST's health intervention goes in line with the key regional and national priorities. The over all approach is community based prevention, focusing on important health components which are highly relevant to the prevailing health problems in the Tigray region. The key health problems that are being tackled include HIV/AIDS, malaria caused for maternal and child morbidity and mortality; diseases caused due to lack of personal hygiene and environmental sanitation.

#### Supporting people who live with the virus

Of the many vulnerable members of society, people living with HIV/AIDS are among the most exposed of all. And this is particularly true to Tigray, the northern most part of Ethiopia. The age old kinship system that used to serve as important tool of social safety net seemed no more to work for people living with the virus due to the shame of stigma and irrational fear of the virus. The condition of people living with the virus is made worse by extreme poverty and the erosion of family supports.

Relief society of Tigray in partnership with humanitarian agencies was undertaking health activities particularly HIV/AIDS Prevention and control. Some of these activities include training, , capacity building in terms of training and material provision, social service and counseling, Orphans and Vulnerable Children/OVC/ support, promoting VCT and supporting people living with the virus.

**Deleted:** trainings provision

The PLWHAs who came to Mekelle, to the region's capital, REST in collaboration with its partners supported with them food, counseling, and finance. Though the emotional trauma had caused them much harm finally they expressed their happiness for the support given to them. They felt confident to express themselves in public and feel optimistic to educate others on the issue of HIV/AIDS. For instance, they permitted the publication of posters with their pictures on it which serves as important teaching material.

Fitsum says, **"We were rejected by families and friends. We experienced isolation and loneliness and psychological distress due to stigma. Yet, we are still committed to help people and break the silence and fear. We want to be examples. Thanks to REST and its partners we are now able to manage ourselves and live with hope."**

Apart from the stigma and fear however, what damages people living with the virus is lack of social services and economic resources. Particularly lack of access to Antiretroviral ( ART) and other medical treatments is a major problem in the region still.

People living with the virus need support at different levels from families, community, local institutions and humanitarian bodies to stop the growing pandemic.

#### **OVC –helping to help themselves**

Children who lost one or two of their parents due to HIV/ AIDS face grave challenge in their life. They usually tolerate social problems including stigmatization and psychological problems. Adding pain to injury, most of these children have serious economic problems. They often live from hand to mouth. In general, children with out parents are the most vulnerable members of society in Tigray as also in other parts of the world.

For this reason **USAID** in partnership with Relief Society of Tigray (**REST**) had initiated a program to support **Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC)** in a sustainable way. These include the provision of training, material and financial support. Due to these support a number of orphan and vulnerable children have brought fruitful change in their lives. One particular example is the case in Edaga Arbi, a small town in the central zone of Tigray, located about 175 km North West of Mekele, the capital of Tigray region.

Six children who lost both of their parents were organized into a group and were engaged in to business after they got the necessary training and material support from REST, financed by USAID. They opened a small restaurant and serve food, tea and other soft drinks. Tesfay Birhanu is a student in grade five and serves as **chairperson of the Restaurant. as he compares his life of the past from now, he said “Before the start of this business, we had a lot of problems. Getting food to eat, clothes to wear and other basic necessities were very difficult to us. It was difficult to go to school as well. Overall we were leading life with out hope.”** “Now thanks to REST and USAID,” explains Tesfay, “we are earning a monthly income of approximately 900.00 birr( nine hundred birr) covering expenses of rent, salary and others.”

**According to Tesfaye each member gets benefit of food and 30 birr per month as a salary. In addition the group has deposited some 2,000 birr in microfinance institution as saving. As whole this can be considered as great success considering their situation in the past.**

Fitsum Hailemariam, female student is another member of the group. Side by side to working in the restaurant with her colleagues, she is attending school. She said, **“It is worthy to have something of your own. At least we are now able to feed ourselves and continue in our education. On top of that we help each other as brothers and sisters that we are socially and psychologically well.”**

In fact, running business was not easy for them at the beginning, no matter how small it is. Besides to the lack of experience, attracting customers was a challenge by itself. Now they have a number of people on their side, including the local administration and the number of customers is increasing from time to time.

In conclusion, these children are supporting themselves. They are able to feed, dress and educate themselves. They have got a job of their own. And this is, “worthy.”

Hence, REST’s health programs include HIV/AIDS prevention, family planning, mother and child health care, care and support to persons living with HIV as well orphaned children etc. promotion of intensive health education is given to individuals, families and communities on health problems of public health importance. The information education and communication (IEC) activity is undertaken routinely to raise community’s awareness, assist in the development of better sanitation practices and facilitate capacity building of stakeholders at all level. Health personnel at facilities and office level are capacitated through provision of health program management.

With regards to family planning REST raises the awareness of the communities on the benefits of child-spacing essential for sound health and development. Side by side with the awareness raising REST also support the health institutions to acquire capacity to render family planning services to the community.

In FY 2007, health education was given to over 2.8 million people. Family planning services were given to 247,347 new clients and 629,356 mothers and 262,951 children. As part of strengthening health institutions, REST provided internal facilities to 91 health

posts, provided 1050 uniforms to community based volunteers health personnel, supplied 4,500 health recording forms and conducted supervision on quarterly basis to ensure smooth undergoing of the planned activities. Assistance was also given to 50 Fistula affected women.



Adolescence Reproductive Health (ARH) and Family planning services to the youth were carried out successfully. Education was given to 387,280 youth, and family planning given to 18,544 persons and 89,915 condoms distributed. Some 146,549 persons received medical treatments related to reproductive health problems.

### **Making life easy –expanding appropriate technology**

It is not only the lack of social facilities such as safe water, schools and health institutions that affect the living standard of the rural community in Tigray but lack of awareness to utilize them is also a big problem. For instance, the use of appropriate technology such as sleeping beds, chimney and shelves made from locally available materials may seem simple but are not properly used. It was found possible to bring positive and significant change on the livelihood of the rural poor by fulfilling these readily available materials. Eventhough, the raw materials are used to build these important items which are cheap and could be easily available; due to lack of awareness their use had remained low.

It was for this reason that Relief Society of Tigray in partnership with Intermon-Oxfam gave emphasis and carried out activity as main comment of the sanitation and hygiene program.

Wro. Akeza Hishe a resident of ---village in southern Tigray says, “*when I first heard about the importance of making chimney or shelves by using mud and stones, I considered the idea like a crazy idea. It was after I received training that I realized about its importance.*”

Continuing her explanation she said, “*After I had received training from REST, I constructed my own sleeping beds, shelf and chimney using mud and stones. It doesn’t cost me much except my labor. Now I have seen the difference and learnt its importance. Take the chimney, it has given me relief from painful eye-burning and the shelf helped to put my house utensils safe and in an orderly manner. It has a lot of benefits.*”

Haimanot Berhe a resident of the same village said, “*Most women in our village used to suffer from eye sickness due to the smoke. And the house equipments were unclean and not properly placed. They were placed here and there which adds burden to women. Now everything is comfortable.*”

In order to bring a sustainable change in this regard, REST is not limited to the provision of training. This activity is carried out in close collaboration and relationship with the bureau of health. The bureau of health assigns trained females called home agents in the villages to facilitate the program. These home agents, who live with communities not only conduct visits and follow ups but also show them practically.

For this reason, a number of families now witness the practical change seen in their life. Today, it is rare to find a woman who can not witness about the importance of appropriate technology. As to the difference achieved in this regard it may suffice to mention what one woman said. She said, “*in terms of the facility, there is no difference between rural and urban life as such except the*

The health department of REST gives high emphasis to the prevention of HIV/AIDS. It gives trainings on prevention of HIV/AIDS to Anti-HIV/AIDS clubs, community health workers, religious leaders, school teachers and community elders. print and distribution of promotional materials is also given priority. About 184 persons affected by HIV/AIDS were trained in various agricultural business and technical skill in FY 2007 to enable them become self-reliant. Meanwhile financial assistance for living expense and school fee and other social support purposes has been given to 706 orphaned children and 30 persons living with HIV/AIDS. Material assistance has also been given to organized groups.

since lack of environmental sanitation and personal hygiene are among the main reasons for the prevalence of communicable diseases in communities for 1,134 model farmers were given trainings on how to keep and maintain sanitation and personal hygiene and each of them were given slab in the year. Other materials like mosquito nets, delivery beds and kits as well motorcycles, etc, were also provided to many health institutions to strengthen their capacity.

Care and follow up to mothers and

Comment [d1]:



children including pregnancy test, and regular prenatal, delivery and post natal care; treatment of children under 5 years; and provision of supplementary food and vitamin A were carried out.

Generally, the health department of REST strives to contribute important share in raising the health status of the people essential for increasing ensuring food security at household and community levels through capacitating public health facilities. The planned activities for FY 2007 towards this end are accomplished successfully. REST health coordinators work very closely with personnel in the bureau of health, such kind of relationship should be further strengthened in the future for better success and sizable impacts.

#### **4. Planning and Coordination**

Planning and Coordination is responsible for, in association with the relevant partners, the overall identification, development, operation and coordination of all projects and programs within the organization. REST's planning process begins with the 5 Year Strategic Plan which incorporates community input at grassroots level up to the REST Board with final endorsement by the General Assembly. The task of the department is carried out by the two divisions and the gender unit.

##### **Identification and Project Preparation Division**

This division identifies and prepares a range of development projects to be submitted to different national and international funding agencies. The steps and procedures pursue during project preparation includes:

- Responding to the needs of rural communities who identify projects for potential submission to development agencies
- Following up on open calls for proposals and written invitations to REST from different funding agencies.
- Consultation with the respective government bureaus, the local communities and administration to assess the feasible and identification of priority areas using various participatory planning methodologies
- Assessment against REST's strategic objectives.

In the FY 2007 a total of 21 different types of projects worthing USD 30.9 million of cash and 241,585 MT of food expected to benefit 1.2 million people in 19 weredas including the six Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP). These projects have an implementation period ranging from one up to three years. The projects are integrated and water projects. The status of these projects are, 5 of them are approved and start implementation, 9 of them are approved and ready for implementation and the remaining 12 project proposals are still on process awaiting their approval from donors, of which the major project proposal submitted to USAID is an integrated three year proposal designed for PSNP with a budget of 20.3 million of cash and 177,000Mt of food is still not yet approved.

## Programming Monitoring and Evaluation

This division is responsible for the overall preparation of operational plans, various reports, and undertakes monitoring and evaluation and impact assessment of programmes which are under implementation in the stated year by the organization. This division also facilitates the evaluation of different programmes by external consultants that could be on-going or final evaluation.

In FY 2007 REST produce a total of 14 annual reports and various quarter reports according to the donors requirement. In addition to this one result report were also prepared for the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) supported by USAID, This type of report is prepared by assessing the result of the programme through developed agrees indicators. An assessment and survey is made by our research and policy unit in collaboration with the planning and coordination to compare the results against the targets set for that specific year as well as the baseline. In this year three programmes were also evaluated and the necessary facilitation was also made.

## Gender

REST adequately recognizes the multi-dimensional problems of women and the need for their equal participation in all development efforts undergoing in their localities. Based on this premise, REST's gender policy was reviewed following the last five-year plan, and a gender focal person was appointed within the Planning and Coordination Department. Gender training was conducted within REST for staff at all levels, and in REST operational areas, for field staff, community members and local administration. Besides, the gender issues have been firmly put on the agenda through the development of the Gender Committee within REST with representatives from most departments and the main task is to promote increased access to resources, support and options to participate across all program and projects.

Having the policy framework, it has been attempted to incorporate program components assumed to address women needs in its development efforts, such components include capacity building, access to potable water, health service and engaging them in different income generating activities, these activities are designed to reduce women's work load, improve mother child health care, promote nutritional status, increase school enrolment and increase household income. Such, development activities in the project areas are providing a powerful entry point for women to participate in decision-making activities.



*Off farm income generation:* trainees of beauty

### Accomplished of gender unit in 2007

#### *Off-farm income generating activities*

- Beauty salon 20
- Petty trade 118
- Different skills 30
- 

#### *Capacity building trainings*

- Gender sensitization 339
- Harmful tradition 129
- Leadership training 234
- Right based approach 15

## **Relief and Rehabilitation**

Along with the multi-faced development projects, REST also undertakes rehabilitation and relief activities as a means to respond to the immediate needs of communities. Such activities encompass various tasks. However, REST's focus in FY 2007 was mainly on emergency relief program, Child support and education activities.

Accordingly, REST's is currently implementing in the best interest of the child project funded by save the children Sweden and in collaboration with Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs. The overall objective of the project is to increase the accountability of the concerned duty bearers in the region for the implementation of the rights of children in general and that of children under difficult circumstances and vulnerable children in particular by promoting the rights of children in the media, parliament, schools, Tabia, regional UNCRC (United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child) committees and executive bodies there by bring good governance in the best interest of the child.

The unit in its second year implementation period (FY 2007) has exerted its efforts in increasing the communities' awareness on the CRC through the Tabia child right committees, child right clubs, educational radio program, celebration of Day of African Child and training targeted at executive officials at regional and local level, law enforcement officials, journalists, primary and secondary level students, teachers and community members. By accomplishment of the following activities; Training of 37 participants on CRC for school civics education clubs, youth council members and teachers; Dissemination workshop on the Situational Analysis on Child rights in Tigray; Training for 48 law enforcement officials on the needs and problems of children in conflict with the law; facilitate discussion Forum for two days to 42 participants on NPA implementation for the executive bodies of the regional government, CSOs and children and youth led organizations; Tabia CR best practice assessment study and workshop; Regional CRC establishment training workshop; Establish mini media in school child right clubs; Broadcast educational radio program on child rights in Tigrigna language(using writing, interview and dramas); and reprinting and distribution of Tigrigna and Afarigna CRC in booklet form.



ACCESS Center: Taking the school to the child

REST' provides support in education in three major components. It gives basic education to those who lack access for basic education owing to certain socio-economic problems. Hence, it supports the ACCESS and Adult Functional Literacy (AFL) programs. It also provides support to certain formal schools such as provision of desks, tables and construction of additional classrooms and toilets.

In FY 2007, REST was able to open 8 new ACCESS centers, along with running existing 60 centers amounting to a total of 68 ACCESS centers being run by the unit of which, 10 ACCESS centers have been handed over to the district, 10012 students and 7005 adult participants have been registered and attended classes. Different instructional materials such as blackboards, charts is distributed to Woredas, 40 signboards is distributed to 40 ACCESS centers. In addition, the unit by recruiting 165 facilitators properly ran 149 Adult Functional Literacy (AFL) centers, 1800 AFL texts have been printed and distributed to the centers,

Some 241 facilitators got short-term training, and 182 facilitators attended summer TTI program at Adua TTI. Also, training to 56-center management committee (CMC) had been given. Mid-year term evaluation has also taken place in different Woredas in the presence of 310 participant stakeholders.

With regard to formal school support, 34 additional classrooms, and 8 toilets in the formal schools have been constructed, 666 desks and 92 library shelf is distributed. In collaboration with Regional Education bureau (REB), a new curriculum designed for alternative basic education is to be printed, and also non-formal education forum was established in cooperation with REB.

Under the agricultural rehabilitation program, REST has enabled many poor farmers to gain access to the necessary means of production through a total 1,500,800.00 ETB cash provision for the purchase of heifers and sheep and goats among 1,584 women headed households on credit basis. REST distributed 10,902.61MT free foods aid distribution through direct support for 64,133 peoples; those who cannot participate in development programs in FY 2007. Besides, annually REST,



Food Transfer to chronically food insecure households

through emergency relief program made an evaluation on collected data's on early warning and annual crop assessment with different governmental bureaus and non-governmental organizations.

REST has also distributed 30,240 blankets to the same number of the neediest people in 6 Woredas of Tigray.

In short, range of activities was carried over to address the immediate socio-economic problems of people through the relief and rehabilitation department of REST in FY 2007. As a result hundreds of thousands of people were reached out and benefited from the different activities. During the implementation of those activities some challenges such as, influence of backward traditional in promoting child right, lack of adequate staff to monitor education programs at REST head quarter and other similar problems were faced. On the other hand lessons in relation, the approach, coordination and building capacity of staff and community for better implementation of the programs were learnt during the period.

### **GIS and Information Technology**

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are becoming standard tools for supporting decision making in a wide range of activities. GIS are computer-based programs for capturing, storing, interpreting, analyzing, modeling and displaying spatial data. They are used across most sectors including health, economics and business, social and natural resource management. Their application to disaster preparedness and early warning systems is well established in east Africa.

REST's GIS capacity enables it to utilize the latest remote sensing (RS) technologies and data mostly related to its Integrated Watershed Management Program. Current GIS activities focus on resource and land capability and suitability mapping, contributions to the early warning systems, monitoring watershed activities and developing trends from socio-economic profiles of selected watersheds. The Unit also provides basic training in GIS, RS and GPS for REST staff and other implementing partners.

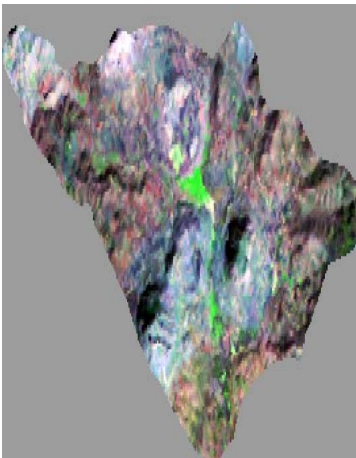
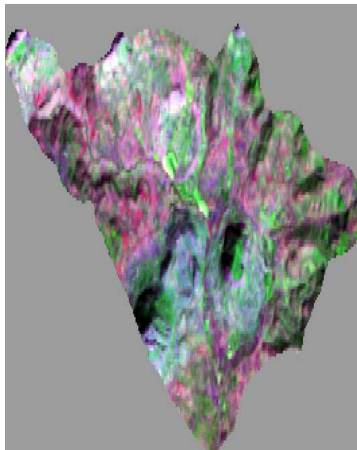
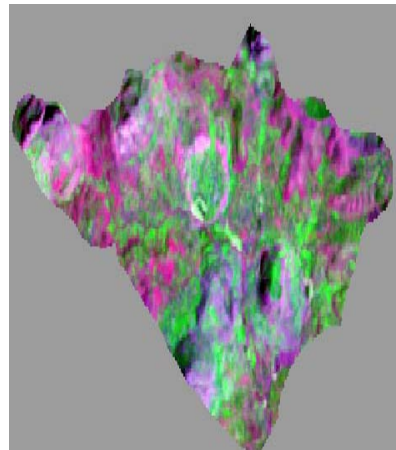


Image taken in 1984



in 1999



in 2002

Since it involvement in NRM activity, REST together with the community and local GO more than **120,000** Ha of communal lands has been rehabilitated

In addition the Units supports various DBMS (Database Management Systems) supports a number of departments including Human Resources, Supply and Maintenance and the Library. And the unit has been accomplished the following the GIS supported activities:

The progressively more complex world in which we live now contains an abundance of information choices in print, electronic, image, spatial, sound, visual, and numeric. Therefore, to use of the available information in the world net and local net, it needs a system to retrieve, to store, to process analytical issues for final output. And so, the best tools useful to access, to organize, to share information at different level and applications are the availability of Internet and network system which are handled by the information technology section of the unit.

### **Future directions**

- *Development and strengthening of an Integrated Watershed Management approach in twelve of the most drought prone Waredas*
- *Increase focus/priority given to irrigation, including a shift from larger scale (earth dams) to smaller scale (ponds) irrigation, and the introduction of a wider range of water harvesting techniques*
- *Increased emphasis on value added income diversification, including cultivation of higher value crops like spices, and processing of dairy, honey and other agricultural produce*
- *Increased emphasis on building up a range of community based institutions and structures, including establishment of:*
  - \* Water users associations*
  - \* Watershed management committees*
  - \* Milk processing and marketing cooperatives*
  - \* User groups for post harvest storages and water pumps*
  - \* Beekeeping/honey production groups*
- *Increased emphasis on introduction, demonstration and promotion of new technologies in crop development and other ERAD areas of intervention*
- *Increased focus on female-headed households as a distinct target group also reflected in regional policy target of 30 percent beneficiaries in all programs– development of appropriate packages of support, establishment of pilot project...*
- *Establishment of REST Health Department, and major expansion of health interventions, including introduction of integrated household health packages, incorporating Tabia and Kebelle based health education and services, encompassing family planning, disease prevention, nutrition, and HIV/AIDS...*
- *REST implements components of the national Productive Safety Net Program which has been introduced, as a multi year program with committed resources to address the basic food needs of chronically food insecure households. The development component of the program focuses on graduating food insecure households from poverty into self-reliance. While many people are usually able to produce enough to feed themselves unpredictable disasters pull them back into the chronically food insecure group if they do not receive timely and appropriate assistance. These are the people who will need close follow-up in the future.*
- *Establishment of the Child Support Unit, pursuing a rights based approach to children and their needs, operating within Mekelle and zonal towns*
- *Beginning of REST intervention in urban areas, specifically the child support activities, health interventions and water supply development*

## REST Board Members

The REST Head Office is in Mekelle Tigray, and is headed by an Executive Director. The Executive Director is also a member of the REST Board, which is elected by the General Assembly. The following REST board members are nominated in the REST fifth general assembly meeting based on their capacity to contribute to the REST programs with regards technical programmatic areas, resource mobilization and lobbying and representation effectiveness:

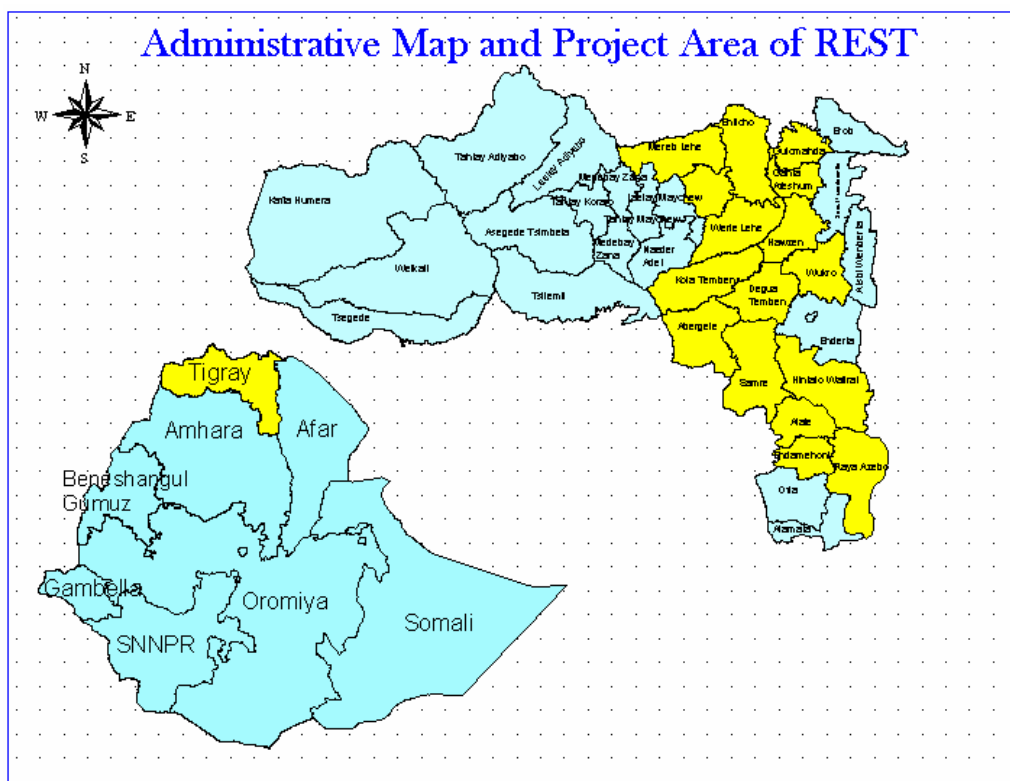
### Name of Board Members

1. Ato Abay Woldu
2. Mitiku Haile (PhD)
3. W/ro Kidusan Nega
4. Ato Muluwork K/mariam
5. Ato Teklewoini Assefa
- 6.
- 7.

### Position/Occupation

- Head, Tigray Bureau of Rural Development  
 President, Mekelle University  
 Head, Urban Development and Construction Bureau  
 Dean, Sheba College  
**Executive Director, REST**

## REST Operational Areas





## REST partners in FY 2007

### Partner

Bread for the World  
CRDA  
CISP  
Chemonics  
Development Fund  
European Union  
Glimmer of Hope  
Kinder Unserer Welt (KUW)  
Mr. Allan  
Norwegian Church Aid  
Novib/Oxfam Netherlands  
Packard International  
PACT  
Pathfinder International  
Rissho Kosei Kai (RKK)  
Trocaire, CAFOD, Christian Aid-EU  
USAID  
Water Partner International

### Country

Germany  
Ethiopia  
Italy  
USA  
Norway  
Europe  
USA  
Germany  
Australia  
Norway  
The Netherlands  
USA  
USA  
USA  
Japan  
Ireland, UK, Europe  
USA  
USA

## RELIEF SOCIETY OF TIGRAY

### FY 2006 Cash Expenditure and Food Distribution

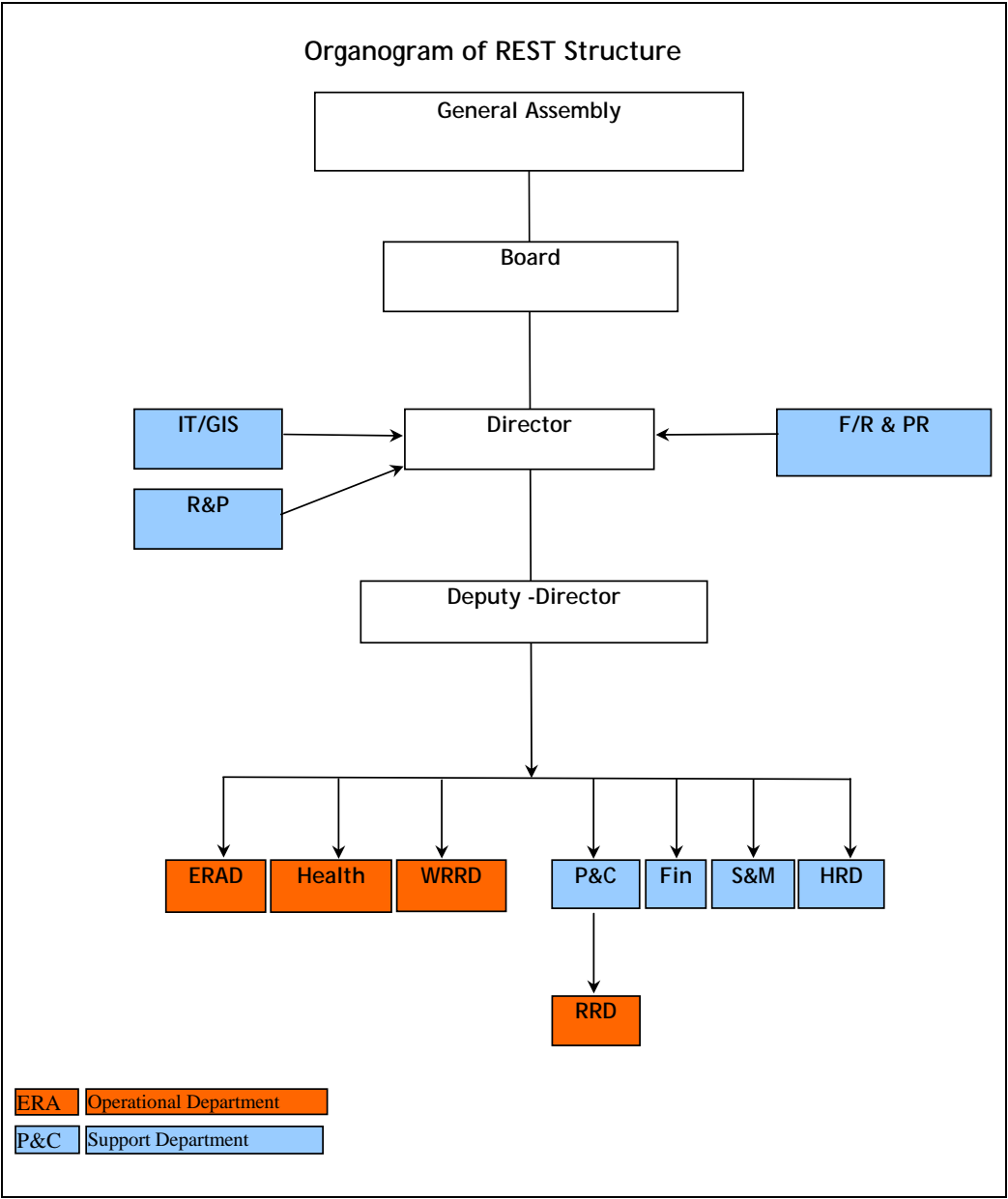
#### Cash Expenditure:

S.No	Program	Expenditure (Eth.Birr)
1	Integrated Agricultural Development Program (IADP)	974,516.94
2	Emergency	3,738,516.93
3	Hand Dug wells Construction (HDWs)	10,665,034.99
4	Health	11,779,643.87
5	Seed bank	107,954.00
6	Maternal and Child Health (MCH)	1,181,706.06
7	Micro dam Construction	8,060,954.81
8	Baseline Survey	624,012.79
9	Institutional Capacity Building	1,359,790.00
10	Reforestation	2,907,252.72
11	Education	2,388,220.77
12	Child Support	286,657.86
13	Soil & Water Conservation	19,303,931.30
14	Agricultural Extension	3,525,972.93
15	Gender	1,243,881.49
16	Roof Rain Water Harvesting (RRWH)	868,498.70
17	Pump installation	2,982,683.85
18	Road Construction	771,791.52
19	Internal purchase Program (IPP)	7,773,526.16
20	Internal Transport Storage and Handling (ITSH)	14,429,347.04
21	Spring Development	1,638,262.46
22	Non Program Support	10,563,813.71
23	Non Sector	10,349.32
24	Livestock	6,787,135.09
25	Borehole	4,156,769.27
26	Pond	3,550,279.51
27	Asset based community Development (ABCD)	2,398.25
28	Market led Livelihood for vulnerable Populations (MLVP)	210,435.61
29	Volunteers	129,180.24
	<b>Total</b>	<b>122,022,518.19</b>

#### Food Distribution

Food Type	Quantity (Metric Tones)
Wheat	57,309.10
Vegetable Oil	1,710.30
Pulses	5,780.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,799.80</b>

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**



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# *Introduction, Demonstration and Extension of New Technologies*

## *A case of Water Harvesting Check-dam Ponds in Tigray*



- Storage volume= 14,620 m<sup>3</sup>
- Irrigation potential = 5ha

