



# Borana Resilient Water Development for Resilient Livelihoods Program (Phase I+II)

The Borana Resilient Water Development for Improved Livelihoods Program is a flagship AfDB initiative designed to expand access to climate-resilient, gender-sensitive water and sanitation services for pastoralist communities in Ethiopia's Borana zone. The program will contribute to the Water Resources Development plan of the Government of Ethiopia to increase the share of rural residents with access to 25 liters of water per person per day, within one kilometer from 55 to 100%, and provide potable water and sanitation services to all education and health facilities by 2030.

## Adaptation Need

Ethiopia is Africa's second most populous country and the third-largest economy in Eastern and Southern Africa. Climate change in the Borana region is driving higher temperatures, extreme water scarcity and devastating floods, resulting in poor pasture productivity and growing food insecurity. Women and girls in the region are disproportionately affected. These effects include an increase in poverty, loss of livestock (a key source of livelihood for women in the region), reduced productivity, difficulty in maintaining proper hygiene, and are linked to increased gender-based violence. Interventions to date have been piecemeal, unsustainable and reactive, leaving communities without viable water management infrastructure even as water scarcity worsens.

## GCA's Added Value

Central to GCA's role was a climate risk assessment of the Borana watershed—an analysis that pinpointed six climate hotspots across the Borana region. The findings directly informed the design of climate-smart infrastructure and natural resource management interventions. One of the most critical components analyzed was the Gelchet-Sarite water transmission route, a vital pipeline serving over 100,000 people and livestock. GCA's modeling identified enhancements necessary to make this vital infrastructure more climate resilient: small-scale flood defenses, groundwater recharge structures, water storage systems and erosion controls. Separately, GCA's Gender Vulnerability Assessment identified how climate change disproportionately impacts women. A Gender Action Plan identified ways to facilitate gender responsive activities within the AfDB project. Among the clearest outcomes of GCA's engagement was the successful mobilization of an additional USD 9.4 million in climate adaptation finance through AfDB's Climate Action Window—an 18% increase in total project financing.

Total Investment Value Influenced

**\$88.30M**

Beneficiaries

**38,995**

IFI Implementation period

**2023 - 2028**

Program

**Water and Urban**

Partners

African Development Bank

Status

Completed

Countries



SDG contribution



## PROJECT GOALS

### Mainstreaming Adaptation and Resilience

The Borana Resilient Water Program offers a replicable model for integrating climate adaptation into large-scale development efforts. With support from AAAP, GCA delivered a major shift in the program’s design, from reacting to climate risks to anticipating and managing them systematically from the outset. This shift was achieved by incorporating high-resolution climate modeling, risk mapping, and in-depth community consultations to identify targeted resilience measures. These measures were co-developed with zonal authorities, local leaders, and women’s groups, ensuring they are locally relevant, socially inclusive, and sustainable. This strong foundation helped unlock critical adaptation finance to turn recommendations into action.

### Expected Outcomes

The program enhanced socio-economic development by embedding climate

adaptation and resilience solutions into infrastructure planning across the Borana Zone.

It identified priority actions targeting improved water management, health, gender equity, and access for marginalized groups.

A gender-responsive action plan helped reduce disparities in water access and increased women's participation in water governance and climate adaptation efforts.

The program informed a successful proposal that mobilized US\$9.4 million in additional climate finance through the AfDB's Climate Action Window.

## TIMELINE

# GCA Support Status

Technical Assistance Preparation

GCA Support Implementation

GCA Support Completion

February, 2024

Monitoring

# Total Investment Value \$88.30M

IFI INVESTMENT VALUE

\$13.95M

OTHER INVESTMENT  
VALUE

\$21.72M

## IFI partners



African  
Development Bank

GENERAL MEDIA INQUIRIES

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

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