# USAID ETHIOPIA RESILIENCE LEARNING ACTIVITY (RLA)

## OVERVIEW

USAID Ethiopia's resilience-building portfolio is among the largest and most complex in the world. USAID support in Ethiopia is strengthening households, communities, and systems through a systems-based, integrated approach to address the root causes of chronic vulnerability.

The **USAID Ethiopia Resilience Learning Activity (RLA)** is a "learning sidecar" for USAID's resilience investments, working across USAID staff, offices, and implementing agencies (projects) to strengthen a culture of learning, sharing, evidence generation, substantiation, and triangulation. Ultimately, our aim is to build a common understanding and direct investments in resilience-building strategies and interventions that demonstratively result in more resilient households, communities, and systems.



**THE FOUR COMPONENTS**
Resilience Learning Activity (RLA)

Objective **01** COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR RESILIENCE

Objective **02** COLLABORATE, LEARN, ADAPT (CLA)

Objective **03** RESILIENCE RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE

Objective **04** SCALING RESILIENCE INNOVATIONS

## MAJOR ACTIVITIES

### Building a learning community through collective action

To generate learning, RLA is facilitating the collaboration, communication, and knowledge management for USAID and more than twenty five USAID implementing partners working to increase resilience across the highlands and lowlands of Ethiopia. RLA facilitates the development of a portfolio-wide Resilience Learning Agenda, joint learning initiatives, communities of practice on deep-dive issues, and sharing to inform the adoption of new, innovative practices.

### Strengthening the evidence base through triangulation and substantiation

USAID/Ethiopia and its resilience partners are operating in a data-rich environment. However, findings from the traditional midline and endline evaluations and studies are often too late or not fully internalized. Resilience partners require the tools, processes, and expertise to understand what's working now, identify tipping points, and layering opportunities so that they can adapt more quickly. We help partners examine their impact through mixed methods, applied research approaches that are quick turnaround and low resource, offering further opportunity for triangulation and substantiation of the evidence base.

# PROGRESS TO DATE

## Foundational research and analysis

- ☑ Resilience Evidence Gap Analysis (REGA)
- ☑ Gender and Conflict Analysis in Amhara Region
- ☑ Social Network Analysis
- ☑ Market System Learning Synthesis

## Collaboration platform established

- ☑ Developed a USAID Ethiopia Resilience Learning Agenda for collective action.
- ☑ Built and launched the RLA Portal for knowledge management and collaboration.
- ☑ Conducted community-wide workshops, round table meetings and collective action platform learning events.
- ☑ Launched four communities of practice (CoPrs): digital finance, home garden sustainability, market systems resilience, and early warning system.

## Demand-driven backbone support services

- ☑ mWater training for water asset inventory and management, including mWater dashboard established.
- ☑ GIS maps for the Productive Safety Net Program, Feed the Future, RFSA, and Resilience in Pastoral Areas (RiPA).
- ☑ Resilience Partner Activity dashboard with interactive visualization of activities by Region, Zone, Woreda and Sector.
- ☑ CLA training for CoPr members.
- ☑ Rapid Feedback Resource Guide to assist resilience partners in utilizing rapid feedback tools in their programs.

## Foster innovation in resilience

- ☑ Developed a roadmap for scaling innovation in resilience.
- ☑ Developed a guidance document on scaling innovative community seed bank programs in Ethiopia.