

Achievements to date (2022 – 2024)

Figures as of December 2024

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Project Goal:

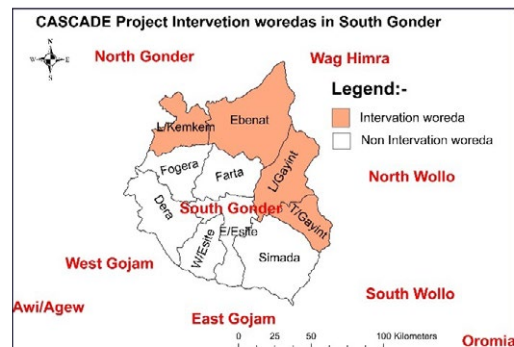
To Improve food security and contribute to the reduction of malnutrition among women of reproductive age and children in Amhara regional state, Ethiopia.

Objectives:

1. Increased access to and consumption of healthy diets.
2. Increase resilience of household members, particularly women of reproductive age and children, to price and climate change-related shocks and stresses.

Project Reach and Target Groups:

- Total reach – **1,688,777**
- Women of reproductive age (WRA, 15-49 years) – **106,658**



Donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands

Funding (EUR): 6.9 million

Term: 2022-2026

Where we work: South Gondar Zone – Tach Gayint, Lay Gayint, Ebenat, and Libo Kemkem

Project Description

The **CAtalyzing Strengthened policy aCTION for heALTHY Diets and resilience (CASCADe)** focuses on improving nutrition and food security by promoting healthier diets through multisectoral collaboration and evidence-based food and nutrition-related policies. It aligns with the Seqota Declaration, a 2015 government initiative aimed at ending stunting in children under two by 2030, with a vision for Ethiopian children being free from malnutrition. The project emphasizes aligning policies across sectors like health, agriculture, and social protection. **CASCADe** targets community empowerment, improved food supply chains, gender equity, and strengthening institutional capacities to support food and nutrition strategy goals.

Given the security risks in the area, the program has adapted to ensure implementation stays on course. It leverages engagement with government officials, community leaders, volunteers, influential stakeholders, and community-based organizations. This is done through virtual platforms, using CARE's existing relationships with community representatives and volunteers, and fostering consistent communication and close collaboration with communities and government partners. **CASCADe** collaborates with Right to Grow that builds coalitions of civil society organizations, shares security updates, and collaborates on data management systems for evidenced-based decision making. **CASCADe** collaborates with other organizations including the MAX Foundation, UNICEF, and the Organization for Relief and Development of Amhara.

How We Work

At the community level, **CASCADE** raises awareness, promotes nutrition education, and fosters local participation in nutrition interventions to make informed dietary choices, drive behavior change, and ensure sustainable, culturally relevant solutions. At the regional level, **CASCADE** works closely with key government officials to enhance the implementation of the food and nutrition strategy through joint planning, monitoring and exchanging expertise. At the federal level, **CASCADE** advocates for food and nutrition related policy changes. With a focus on both capacity-strengthening and fostering multisectoral coordination, **CASCADE** ensures sustainable, locally relevant solutions to address malnutrition and promote healthier diets. The program takes a leadership role in the Ethiopian Civil Society Coalition for Scaling Up Nutrition, contributing to strategic planning, gender-centered nutrition strategies, and the development of training manuals.

Key Milestones and Achievements

- Supported the adaptation of Ethiopian Food Based Dietary Guidelines in Amhara Region.
- Supported decision-makers to allocate budgets for nutrition activities, securing 172 million ETB (Euro 1,290,858) for regional and woreda nutrition programs for the 2024/25 fiscal year.
- Established a vegetable marketing system in project woredas through engagement of cooperatives
- Strengthened regional agriculture systems to improve the supply of agricultural inputs and adoption of new technologies to promote production of nutrient-rich foods, especially vitamin A-rich vegetables and fruits and dark green leafy vegetables
- Collaborated with regional partners and universities to develop a food safety manual that was approved by, and will be used by, the government.

STORY OF CHANGE

Before **CASCADE's** involvement, food and nutrition security platforms in the woredas were barely functioning, with irregular meetings, limited joint planning, and no reporting mechanisms. Lobbying Amhara Region decision-makers for nutrition-related activities was rare and follow-up on initiatives was minimal.

CASCADE enhanced these platforms' efforts by strengthening the technical nutrition and gender knowledge of members and building leadership skills. These efforts empowered stakeholders to effectively lead and advocate for nutrition-

focused policies, fostering a more resilient and responsive policy environment. As a result, they lobbied for timely release of nutrition funds, securing 172,000,000 ETB (1,290,858 Euros) for food and nutrition security efforts at the Amhara regional level. Platforms are now active and functional, with meetings held regularly at woreda, zonal, and regional levels in the **CASCADE** target area. They have been able to influence healthcare institutions to provide essential nutrition services and commodities at the community level, including support for community acute malnutrition screening programs.



Further Information



<https://www.care.org/our-work/food-and-nutrition/nutrition/cascade/>

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs

