

Information Sheet

Regions and Woreda Selection

Research-inspired Policy and Practice Learning in Ethiopia and the Nile Region (RiPPLE) is a DFID-funded Research Programme Consortium hosted by WaterAid Ethiopia

RiPPLE Information sheets introduce an aspect of RiPPLE, related issues and references to further resources.

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RiPPLE is working in **3 regions of Ethiopia**, and currently in **2 woredas per region**. The three regions reflect a range of geographical, social and economic conditions. In each of the three, RiPPLE has strong partnerships with implementers, and there is demand and support from the regional government for RiPPLE's work. These are essential factors.

In Nov-Dec 2006, RiPPLE carried out scoping studies in the three regions, to identify potential research topics and locations. These findings resulted in the different research themes and components of RiPPLE beginning their work in different regions. Initially, the *Growth* theme is working in Oromia (East Harerge), the *Finance* and *Mapping* themes in Benishangul-Gumuz, and the *Governance and Planning* and *Sanitation* themes in SNNPR. In the longer term, all the themes will work across all three regions in an integrated way.

Because Oromia is such a large and diverse region, and there was interest in looking at multiple use water systems and food security issues, it was decided to focus on East Harerge Zone rather than the entire region.

Woreda selection

Four criteria were used to short list a selection of woredas from each region, in a process led by the national and regional facilitators together with the key regional stakeholders:

- **Logistics:** The woreda must be reasonably accessible and within 4 hours drive of the regional capital in the dry season (or the zone capital for East Harerge).
- **Presence of implementing partners:** In order for RiPPLE's research to link with implementation, there must be implementers (e.g. NGOs, World Bank) active in the woreda who are willing to work with RiPPLE.
- **Diversity:** Woredas chosen should aim to cover different altitudes, climates, socio-economic conditions, population densities and types/numbers of existing infrastructure for water supply and sanitation.
- **Zero conflict zone:** The woredas must be free of any conflict to avoid security difficulties and interruptions to the research.

Following further suggestions from the RiPPLE partners and thematic teams, the facilitators finally selected 2 woredas in each region which have been approved by the regional governments.

Region	Benishangul-Gumuz	Oromia (East Harerge zone)	Southern Nations, Nationalities & Peoples Region (SNNPR)
Woredas	<p><i>Kurmuk:</i></p> <p>The World Bank and International Rescue Committee are actively implementing in the woreda. Traditional gold-mining activities, using water, also make this an interesting woreda.</p>	<p><i>Babile:</i></p> <p>Menschen für Menschen is actively implementing in Babile, and it is very accessible. Food security and drought are serious here. The population density is very low in contrast with Goro-guto.</p>	<p><i>Alaba:</i></p> <p>WaterAction is active in Alaba. It is a lowland woreda and contrasts with Mirab Abaya in both agroecology and socio-cultural context.</p>
	<p><i>Menge:</i></p> <p>WaterAid-Ethiopia and Oxfam are active implementers in the woreda. Menge contrasts with Kurmuk in altitude and population profile, making this a complementary selection.</p>	<p><i>Goro-guto:</i></p> <p>HCS and CISP are active in the woreda. A particular point of interest for the Growth theme is that multiple use water schemes have been implemented in parts of the woreda. Goro-guto also contains diverse agro-climatic zones, giving wide scope for research activities.</p>	<p><i>Mirab Abaya:</i></p> <p>The World Bank and World Vision Ethiopia are implementing in Mirab Abaya. A variety of irrigation schemes (traditional and modern) are found in the woreda making it potentially interesting for looking at multiple uses of water.</p>

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