

Information Sheet

Equity in growth



RiPPLE

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 Office
c/o WaterAid Ethiopia,
Kirkos Sub-city,
Kebele 04, House no 620,
Debrezeit Road,
PO Box 4812,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Contact

Simret Yasabu,
RiPPLE Media and
Communication Officer
t: +251 11 416 0075
f: +251 (0) 11 416 0081
e: info@rippleethiopia.org
w: www.rippleethiopia.org

Overview

As well-documented and confirmed by findings from case studies done under the RiPPLE project, access to water can contribute to economic growth. This is especially the case when people use water for multiple uses, including productive uses, like watering livestock, irrigation and small scale industry. Whether or not this economic growth is only limited to certain groups of people or is equitably distributed, will depend on a large number of factors. Under the RiPPLE's **Growth** Long-term Action research Studies (LARS), the **Equity** sub-LARS will focus on how equitable water services and water for multiple uses contribute to equitable benefits.

Study approach

The central problem that this sub-LARS will try to address, will be *“how can equitable access to multiple water use be stimulated and facilitated?”*. The objective of the equity sub-LARS is to inform service providers and implementers to plan and provide equitable water services within the wereda. This is expected to contribute to integrated water management that addresses multiple water needs in an equitable and sustainable manner, in order to contribute to sustainable growth. Objectives include:

- Better matching of water services to multiple demands in an equitable way, through the development of an info-base at woreda level, on water resources, infrastructure and water demands for multiple uses by different users.
- Developing better understanding of barriers to equity and how to overcome these through the identification of barriers to equity in 3 communities, identification and documentation of experiences with overcoming these barriers and testing and refining mechanisms that enhance equitable water services for multiple uses.

To ensure equitable allocation of water infrastructure, service providers and implementers need up-to-date information on available water resources, current status of water infrastructure and people's multiple demands for water. This includes having a good understanding of livelihood assets available to people and their multiple water demands (quality, quantity, reliability, accessibility). This study will contribute to this by designing, testing and refining methodologies for an assessment of available water resources, infrastructure and water demand at wereda level. The development of an info-base that will support the planning and delivery of multiple water services in an equitable way, will be piloted in one wereda, Mirab Abaya in SNNPR.

The first step will be an information and data needs assessment in the wereda. This will be followed by an inventory of available data and information at woreda level, focusing on water resources and infrastructure. An assessment of water demand and access in the wereda will pull together core findings. In order to get a better understanding on multiple water demands that different people have, case studies will take place in 3 communities. The three case study communities will each represent one of the agro-ecological zones of the wereda. The three communities will have to represent communities which benefit from different types of water technologies, from traditional (flood, ponds, streams) to modern (drip, dams, weirs, handpumps, water harvesting, motorized). To ensure the development of a comprehensive and useful info-base, and to facilitate the systematic analysis of the information and data, the Resources, Infrastructure, Demand and Access (RIDA) Framework will be used. In the second phase of the action research, mechanisms to overcome equity barriers will be identified and cases will be documented. Based on this, most promising mechanisms will be identified for further testing.

Study outputs and links to action

The establishment of the info-base intends to stimulate better and more equitable planning of water services for multiple uses at woreda level. A study on 'barriers to equity and mechanisms to overcome the barriers' intends to inform implementers and service deliverers when providing equitable multiple use services.