

Information on the country strategy Ethiopia

For each partner country of VLIR-UOS, a country strategy has been developed. The country strategy represents the strategic niche for VLIR-UOS cooperation in a country, with specific **thematic areas** and an institutional and/or regional focus, based on the needs and national priorities of the country with regard to higher education and development. The [VLIR-UOS Country Strategy for Ethiopia](#) fits in with the Ethiopian national strategy to give priority to strengthening of **higher education** and improving **food security** with attention for **sustainability** and **health**. Another important subject is **economic** and **social development** and the link with **governance**. For the **institutional** and **geographical** focus, there are no strategic limitations. The focus is however on cooperation with public institutions with a minimal level of development, meaning that mainly the 1st and 2nd generation institutions are potential partners for collaboration whereas cooperation with the recently created universities with more limited research and staff capacity, fits less into the partnership philosophy of VLIR-UOS.

Information for potential synergy and complementarity

Synergy and complementarity (S&C) can improve the impact of development cooperation interventions and is a top priority of the Belgian minister of Development Cooperation and encouraged by the reform of non-governmental cooperation in 2016. In order to promote S&C, all Belgian non-governmental development actors were invited to elaborate a Joint Strategic Framework (JSFs) per country in 2016. These JSFs provide information about the goals to which the actors want to contribute, and also indicate potential for synergy and complementarity. In the table below, a general overview of relevant information from the **Joint Strategic Framework** Ethiopia is provided for each **thematic area** of the VLIR-UOS **country strategy**. The Joint Strategic **Goal** relevant for each theme is listed, together with the **Belgian non-governmental actors** which are active in **Ethiopia** with funding of the Belgian development cooperation. By providing this list, VLIR-UOS wants to facilitate **synergy** and/or complementarity with programmes of other Belgian actors. Synergy and complementarity will also be integrated as an element in the **selection** of interventions, more in particular when discussing the (developmental) relevance of project proposals. The last updated version of the JSF Ethiopia can be found [here](#).

Thematic area of the VLIR-UOS country strategy	Potential match with Joint Strategic Goal of the Joint Strategic Framework	Belgian Non-Governmental Actors active in this area
FOOD SECURITY and AGRICULTURE	(1) Increase food and nutritional security by promoting equitable and sustainable climate-smart agriculture and rural development	Caritas International, SOS Faim, BOS+
ENVIRONMENT and WATER		
ECONOMIC and SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT		
HEALTH	(2) Improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of tropical and poverty related diseases	ITM
Crosscutting themes: ICT and information management; governance, institutional strengthening and management; gender and diversity	(3) Ensure and improve the access to knowledge , improve research and stimulate innovation by reinforcing local capacities, in order to contribute to development	ITM, BOS+

More information about the other Belgian actors active in **Ethiopia** with funding of the Belgian development cooperation can be found in the table below. Their own suggestions for possible cooperation with academics are also provided, but this should not be seen as an exhaustive list. Academics and ICOS (institutional coordinators for development coordination at level of the Flemish HEIs) elaborating a project proposal are invited to contact relevant organisations for more information and/or to enquire them on potential collaborations.

NGA	Short description of the activities in Ethiopia	Name of the local partner(s)	Region(s)	Suggested research topics	Contact person
BOS+	BOS+ aims to improve household livelihood for rural communities by supporting community-based woodland restoration and woodland ecosystem services development. The major objectives are to boost woodland ecosystem restoration on large and highly degraded areas by management of exclosures and forest relicts; to improve resilience to land degradation and store carbon in the restored woodlands; to support ecosystem services development	EthioTrees, WeForest Ethiopia, College of Dryland Agriculture and Natural Resources of Mekelle University (Trees For Farmers project)	Tigray		Hilke Evenepoel
Caritas International	Caritas seeks to strengthen food and nutrition security of households and communities in 2 districts which are vulnerable to climate change hazards, marginalization and distress migration.	Ethiopian Catholic Church - Social and Development Coordinating Office of Adigrat	Tigray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sustainability in food production; water consumption; soil conservation • climate adaptation, climate-smart agricultural practices 	Guillaume Schneider
SOS Faim	SOS FAIM supports sustainable family farming and rural economy by strengthening the performances of family farmers at the economic, social and environmental levels through strengthening farmers' cooperatives and individuals through rural loans from MFIs.	2 NGOs (Ersha and Osra) and 4 Microfinance Institutions (Buusaa Gonofaa, Eshet, SFPI and Wasasa)	Oromo and Amhara		Laurent Biot
Institute for Tropical Medicine	ITG aims to strengthen Ethiopian researchers and trainers, contributing to enhancing the evidence base of health related interventions and serving as an inspiration for their students and colleagues. This will be done by research on neglected tropical and poverty related diseases (leishmaniasis, tuberculosis), training and establishment of lab platforms.	Gondar College of Medical and Health Sciences of Gondar University	Amhara		Johan Van Griensven

More information can be found on our [Ethiopia page](#) of the website or by contacting the programme manager of VLIR-UOS [Wannes Verbeeck](#)