

a Livestock Information Vision Ethiopia (aLIVE) Program

Empowering Ethiopia's stakeholders in the livestock sector to make data-informed decisions by providing relevant, accurate, and timely livestock data and analytics.

Background

Ethiopia's agriculture sector accounts for 40% of the country's gross domestic product and employs 75% of the country's workforce.¹ Livestock is a key component in this sector—in fact, Ethiopia has the largest livestock population in Africa, with 70 million cattle, 42 million sheep, 52 million goats, 8 million camels, and 56 million chickens.²

Ethiopia's livestock is vital to the country's economic well-being and is a critical component in the government's aim to create food security and decrease reliance on agricultural imports, as outlined in Ethiopia's Ten-Year Strategic Development Plan of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).³ In response, the MoA partnered with The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) to transform the country's livestock data ecosystem in 2017. The MoA recognizes the challenge of delivering agricultural prosperity without having access to regular, reliable, timely, and useful information; to meet this need, the MoA engaged in a process of stocktaking—the process undertaken in aLIVE Phase 1—in order to understand the gaps and opportunities.

aLIVE Phase I assessed the state of livestock data systems, user needs, and data availability. The stocktaking led to a [Livestock Information System Roadmap](#), which defines:

- The system requirements and potential architecture for a centralized livestock information system (LIS) and

- Priority databases to start the process of integration and interoperability between the country's many livestock databases.

The Program

Development Gateway: An IREX Venture (DG) received a four-year grant in November 2022 from BMGF. The purpose of the grant is to increase the MoA's ability to analyze and use livestock data in its planning, policymaking, programming, and resource allocation. DG, in partnership with the Livestock Investment Corporation and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, will serve as the technical assistance partner and coordinate the second phase of the program—or aLIVE Phase II, as it's sometimes called—in line with oversight from the program's Governing Committee.

Overall, the current iteration of the aLIVE Program will focus on the implementation of the system architecture described in the [Roadmap](#), while establishing a culture of data use by establishing policies, governance, and incentive structures for long-term ownership and sustainability of the work. aLIVE Phase II will first focus on integrating five priority databases⁴ into the LIS to create a one-stop shop that will serve the majority of the use cases prioritized by the MoA and, when combined, will begin to create a comprehensive and detailed picture of Ethiopia's livestock sector.

The MoA's **ultimate goal** is to create a user-centered LIS that aggregates standardized livestock data that comes from multiple sources, drawing from the prioritized databases. The LIS will feature easy-to-use data visualizations for stakeholders looking to better understand and engage with critical data indicators on

1 "Agriculture and Food Security." USAID. Last modified January 8, 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/ethiopia/agriculture-and-food-security>.

2 Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia. May 7, 2021. Original data from <https://www.statsethiopia.gov.et/our-survey-reports/>. Accessed via <https://public.knoema.com/pbwfnlf/livestock-statistics-of-ethiopia>.

3 Ethiopia's Ten-Year Strategic Development Plan of the Ministry of Agriculture has not been digitally published yet.

4 The five priority databases are: ADNIS, LITS, DOVAR2, NLMIS, and ADGG.

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livestock. With long-term sustainability as a key goal, the system will be designed with backend architecture that meets MoA's functional and technical needs for data management and quality to ensure the ease of keeping data up to date.

Next Steps

By strengthening Ethiopia's livestock data ecosystem and improving the systems used therein, the aLIVE program ultimately will support Ethiopia in meeting national food demands as well as achieving food security. Overall, the program will be successful when:

- The LIS is used by MoA and other stakeholders to carry out institutional mandates and decision-making;
- Partner-led data guidelines and standards are both developed and adopted for the priority databases;
- Prioritized databases receive technical support to address quality and other technical issues; and
- The MoA's Information Communication Technology team has sustainable ownership of the LIS and is able to make updates.

Read the program announcement [here](#).

Interested in learning more about our agriculture work? Reach out to Efrem Tesfaye at etesfaye@developmentgateway.org and Beverley Hatcher-Mbu at bmbu@developmentgateway.org.