



## FUTURES: My Forest My Livelihood My Family

### BACKGROUND

Yayu Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve, an area located in Ilu Aba Bora and Buno-Bedelle zones, Southwestern Ethiopia, is one of the few remaining wild coffee habitats in the world that has immense local, regional and global importance. Households in and around Yayu Biosphere Reserve are resource-rich but they are also livelihood-poor.

Households depend on a combination of small-scale agricultural and forest management systems that are dominated by traditional agronomic practices with low inputs and thus low productivity and production. There is also an alarming deforestation, forest degradation and loss of biodiversity in the area due to intensive forest coffee production and poor management practices.

Poor quality and lack of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services exacerbate the challenges, hindering the ability of women and adolescent girls from leading healthy lives and exercising their reproductive autonomy and rights. There is also high prevalence of early and forced marriage in the target area. Though public and private clinics exist, only few of them provide FP services. Lack of quality youth-friendly services that are free from stigma and ensure maximum privacy and confidentiality further exacerbates the poor agency of young girls and women residing in the area.

Amidst such dire multiple challenges, CARE Ethiopia and partners launched **FUTURES: My Forest My Livelihood My Family**, a project designed to address issues affecting families, forests, and livelihoods. FUTURES is a \$3 million project funded by David and Lucile Packard Foundation and implemented in collaboration with several local partners over a three-year period from January 2021 to December 2023.

#### Project Name

FUTURES: My Forest My Livelihood My Family

#### Program Unit

Water, Hygiene, and Sanitation(WASH)

#### Program Country

Ethiopia

#### Project Duration

January 2021 – December 2023

#### Project Budget

USD 3 million

#### Project Donor

David and Lucile Packard Foundation

#### Project Implementing Partners

Environment and Coffee Forest Forum (ECFF)  
Oromia Development Association (ODA)  
Kulich Youth and Reproductive Health  
Development Organization (KYRDO)

#### Collaborating Partners

##### Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning:

Data for Impact (D4I), USA  
Jimma University, Ethiopia

##### Research and Community Development:

Mettu University, Ethiopia

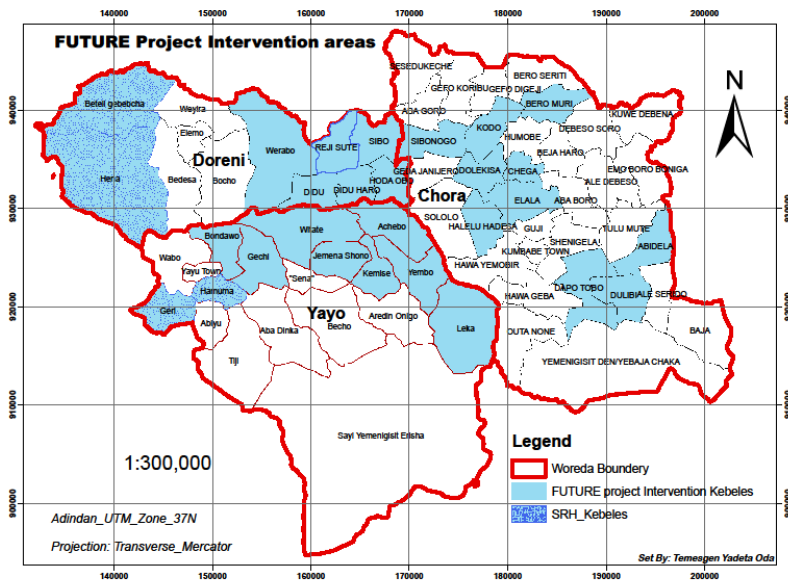
#### Key Project Contacts

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## WHERE WE WORK

The FUTURES project operates in a total of **28** kebeles across 3 woredas in 2 zones of Oromia Region in southwestern Ethiopia:

- ❖ **8** kebeles in Doreni Woreda, Illubabor Zone
- ❖ **10** kebeles in Chora Woreda, Illubabor Zone
- ❖ **10** kebeles in Yayo Woreda, Buno Bedelle Zone

## PROJECT GOAL

The overall goal of FUTURES project is to:



**strengthen families, forests, and livelihoods in southwest Ethiopia for sustainable futures through the provision of tools and platforms for long-term development.**

## PROJECT OUTCOMES

FUTURES' intervention design relies on an integrated program to achieve its goal. To that end, the intervention program incorporates three mutually reinforcing short-term outcomes:

- ❖ **Outcome 1:** Youth and women in targeted kebeles have increased access to quality and equitable SRH and FP services and information by 2023
- ❖ **Outcome 2:** Women and youth benefit from strengthened small-scale agriculture and forest management systems throughout the project period
- ❖ **Outcome 3:** Multi-stakeholder partnerships are strengthened for integrated programming and

collective action during the 3-year project period and beyond

## OUR APPROACH

The FUTURES project intervenes at the nexus of environment, livelihood and health. The project employs different proven tools that were already tested and piloted by CARE and its partners.

### Participatory Forest Management System

FUTURES project implements a participatory forest management (PFM) approach to empower communities to sustainably manage forest resources. The project is establishing 23 PFM cooperatives in 23 kebeles.

People living around forests are organized into Forest Management Cooperatives and are thus empowered to conserve and sustainably use the forest resource.



## PFM in Action

PFM approach is creating a stage for wider community where they can discuss and make an informed decision towards sustaining the forest resource for the present and future generation.

## Social Analysis and Action

FUTURES uses Social Analysis and Action (SAA), CARE's flagship gender transformative approach that is employed as a tool to facilitate critical reflection and dialogue on how social and gender norms, as well as power relations shape perceptions and expectations of community members, and influence their decisions and behaviors.

FUTURES project has identified eleven gender and SRH related social norms and problems that will be tackled through SAA facilitated processes. In line with this, the project has established 90 SAA groups to impact the eleven priority social behaviors identified and analyzed.

## Community Score Card

To improve SRH/FP service quality, the project deemed to establish upward accountability by empowering the communities in the target areas to appraise the performance of health facilities and provide feedback in

a more organized manner. FUTURES accomplishes this by applying the Community Score Card (CSC) approach as a tool to gather participant feedback and ensure upward accountability of health service providers. The project facilitates interface meetings to bring health service providers and service user together.

## Village Saving and Laon Association

FUTURES uses the Village Saving and Laon Association (VSLA), CARE's flagship innovative approach to meet multiple purposes including financial inclusion, gender equality and women's economic empowerment. The has established more than 180 VSLA groups and supported them to operate by providing the necessary equipment and skills trainings.

## CSA in Action

CSA technologies introduced by FUFURES are diversifying production and income while contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation in the intervention areas.



Backyard vegetable development



Vermicomposting



Modern beeping site development

The VSLA groups hold regular meetings attended by all to save from their small earnings together or to take small loans from those savings. The meetings also have discussion sessions that are used as platforms for group members to discuss important issues related to topics of common interest and concern. Some of the major discussion topics of the VSLA groups supported by FUTURES include family planning, gender empowerment, improved agricultural productivity and conservation.

### Climate Smart Agriculture

The FUTURES project promotes the climate smart agriculture (CSA) approach by piloting different intervention that increases productivity, enhances resilience of livelihoods and ecosystems, reduces greenhouse gases, and thereby contributing towards the achievement of the national food security and other development goals of Ethiopia. FUTURES undertakes a range of CSA interventions:

- ❖ Agroforestry
- ❖ Vermicomposting
- ❖ Intercropping
- ❖ Modern beekeeping

### Multi-sectoral Integration

FUTURES project promotes a multisectoral integration approach to its programming. The approach takes in to account the fact that population, environment and agricultural production and livelihood affect each other and thus, steering integration across the sectors in the project intervention areas.

FUTURES project is also strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships for integrated programming and collective action by promoting 3C's (communication, coordination, and collaboration). To make its multisectoral integration effective, the project uses an integration model to bring a transformative changed at institution, community, and household level.

#### CARE Ethiopia

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