

DISASTER EDUCATION IN ETHIOPIA: OVERVIEW

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Definition of a Disaster

"an overwhelming ecological disruption occurring on a scale sufficient to require outside assistance" ... PAHO 1980

"disasters are exceptional events which suddenly kill or injure large numbers of people"
... Red Cross/Red Crescent

Global Impact of Disasters 1973-96

	Annual deaths	Annual injuries
Africa	77,852	2,093
Americas	9,354	10,555
Asia	46,353	53,964
Europe	3,124	3,960
Oceania	108	634
TOTAL	136,790	71,206

Legend: Annual Deaths (orange line), Annual Injuries (blue line)

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ETHIOPIA: BACKGROUND

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DISASTERS IN ETHIOPIA

- Drought
- Flood
- Epidemics
- Pest infestation
- earthquake
- volcano
- wild fire
- HIV
- Civil war

Source: PreventionWeb

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REDUCING VULNERABILITY, BUILDING RESILIENCE

- a growing awareness over the past couple of decades that policies and strategies should focus on reducing the country's vulnerability to drought and other natural calamities.
- the notion of building the capacity of communities in order to help them become more resilient to disasters has been at the centre of government policy in disaster prevention and management since early 90s

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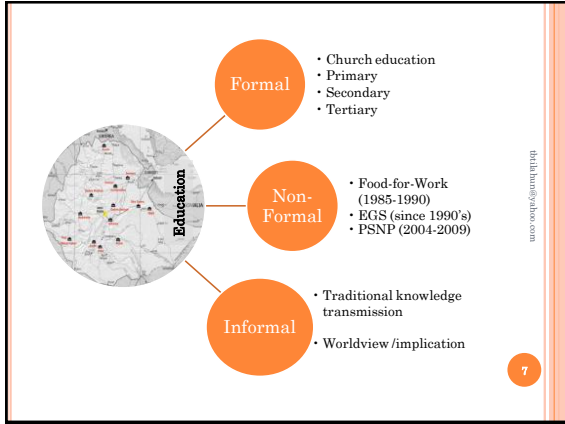
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THE QUESTION...?

How much of this growing awareness
and
political commitment
is reflected in the country's overall
education system?

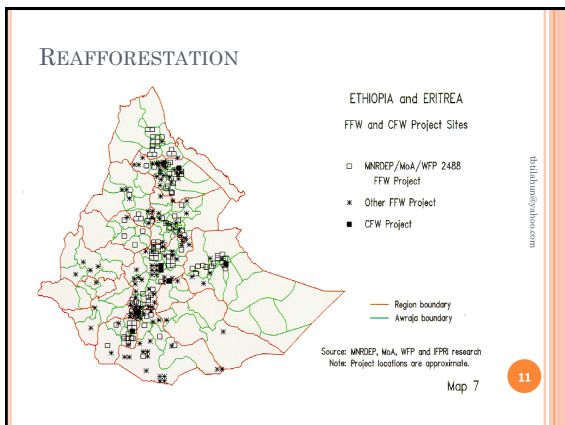
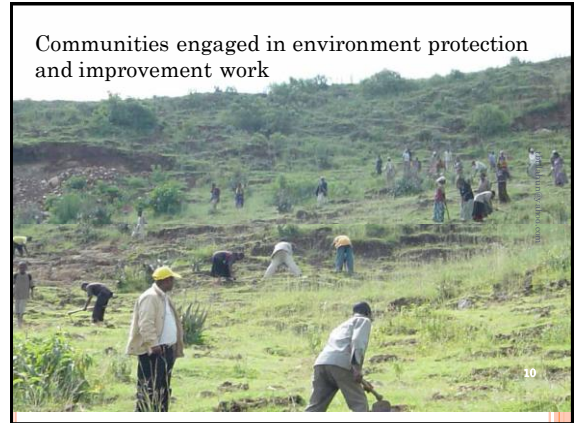
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- ### NON-FORMAL EDUCATION
- environmental protection and improvement;
 - prevention of land degradation;
 - improvement in land capabilities;
 - improvement of moisture retention;
 - small-scale irrigation;
 - surface water harvesting through pond construction; and
 - Reafforestation
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- soil and stone band and check dam construction,
 - hillside terracing,
 - watershed management,
 - road construction
 - compost making
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- ### INFORMAL EDUCATION – TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE TRANSMISSION
- Some pastoralists using drought coping mechanisms such as preserving the most essential animals by eliminating non-essential stocks and thereby reducing the pressure on scarce water and pasture resources
 - Farmers keeping surplus production for bad years
 - Developing traditional means of storage pest control
 - Practicing integrated pest management that focuses on non-chemical fertilizers and pesticides
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INFORMAL EDUCATION – TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE TRANSMISSION

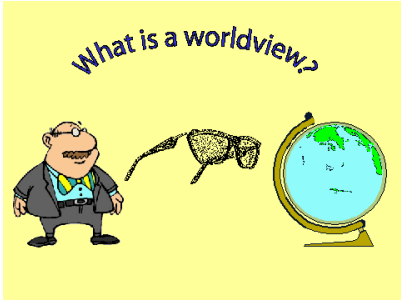
- **Idir:** an association established among neighbors to raise funds that will be used during emergencies, such as death within these groups and their families.
- **Iqub:** an association established by a small group of people in order to provide substantial rotating funding for members in order to improve their lives and living conditions



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Source: Bekerie, 2004

What is a worldview?



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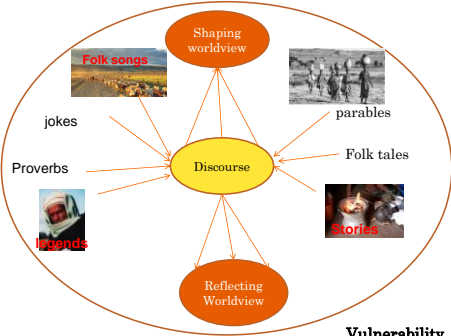
WORLDVIEW – VULNERABILITY/RESILIENCE

- Resilience or disaster preparedness is not only a physical endeavour. It is also a psychological mind set up which is largely influenced by our respective worldview
- This is often reflected and at the same time shaped by the oral literature: parables, the sayings, stories and other types of oral literature that sums up the shared ideology/world view of the community and plays a significant role in the transmission of knowledge (especially in traditional communities as in Ethiopia)

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RESILIENCE



Vulnerability 16

Source: Author

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R.No.	Proverbs	Translation	Meaning
1	ኑሮ ካሉት ሙታብር ይሞቃል	If you accept your situation, even a hell/tomb can be home enough	Acceptance
2	አሉ ያለው ላይቀር	Whatever God has predetermined shall come to pass	Having less or no control over situations
3	እግዚአብሔር አይጠየቅ፣ ንጉሰ አይከሰስ	Neither can you question the decision of God, nor can you take a king to a court	..
4	ላይቻል አይሰጥ	He [God] never tests those who are not strong enough	Acceptance
5	ሁሉ ያልፋል	Everything is transient	There is no point worrying about anything
6	ለሞ አለኝ በሰማይ፣ ወተደገሞ አላይ	I have got a cow in heaven whose milk I never see	Hope in the afterlife

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BASIC CONCEPTS

- Having less or no control over situations
- Acceptance of incidents (including disasters) as they happen
- Undermining earthly life

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CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 'lack of work on education' identified as one of the major constraining factors for disaster risk reduction interventions.
- need for a more integrated, intentional, and organized disaster education in the country.
- incorporating disaster education in primary and secondary education curriculum.

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- 'taking into account the existing cultural influences which may have detrimental effect on promoting disaster preparedness in the country
- Tapping in to aspects existing traditional worldview that have potential implication towards reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience
- Involving religious institutions and other influential opinion makers in the process of designing a sound disaster education in the country

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THANK YOU!

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