CALM
Climate Action through Landscape Management Program

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

WORLD BANK GROUP

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DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

A sustainable Rural Land Administration System (RLAS) through providing accessible and affordable land administration services

Background

The World Bank funded CALM-LA program is working with the Government of Ethiopia to issue Second Level Landholding Certificates (SLLC) to smallholder farmers, digitalization of land records in the National Rural Land Administration System (NRLAIS), and improve the functioning of its rural land registry, the rural land administration system (RLAS). So far, the program has implemented the RLAS system in 341 woredas. For RLAS to stay up to date and ensure sustainability, landholders are required to formally register subsequent land transactions at land administration offices. Less awareness of landholders on the value of formal land transactions, and the remoteness of the woreda land offices from most Kebles have become obstacles to facilitate more formal land transactions. To better understand how landholders have been affected by the distance to get the service in woreda centers, a thorough and large-scale study has been conducted. The study recommended a new groundbreaking idea i.e **"Mobile Back Office Centre (MBOC)"** which is set up in remote kebeles to process and complete transaction applications.





Why MBOC?

Landholders residing in the remotest part of the woreda spent considerable cost, travel time and inconveniences to get services from the woreda office, which serves as the "Back Office". The depth and breadth of the problem being greater in woredas with larger geographic area and large number of kebeles. As part of addressing these challenges a MBOC approach has been piloted in selected woredas. The approach in the one hand improves accessibility of services i.e making closer the "Back Office" to the community, and on the other hand it enhances landholders' awareness on the importance of formal land transactions.

How MBOC functions

The "Back Office "services are provided in a mobile fashion stationed in selected satellite kebele within a woreda for certain period. Kebeles serving as "MBOC" to provide a "Back Office" service to all the neighboring kebeles are selected based on their geographic proximity to adjacent kebles, and availability of office facilities.

During service delivery day, the MBOC processes transaction applications accepted from all the neighboring kebeles. The MBOC provides services for 2 consecutive days following a three day awareness raising campaigns before the commencement of the "Back Office" service for the landholders.

Implementation procedures

Prior to the start of MBOC approach the following conditions must be followed:

Awareness Raising

The land administration team should raise awareness of communities in the Kebele where MBOC will be established as well as landholders from adjacent kebeles.

Collection of adequate transaction

The woreda mobile team should make sure that adequate transaction applications are collected before establishing the centers.

Equipment and materials

The woreda mobile team should carry the following equipment and materials to the selected center: 2 laptop computers, 1 printer/scanner; portable charger and instant Ink, certificate templates and folders. All the materials must be safely packed and transported in backpacks.

Current Implementation progress

The case of Meskan Woreda:

The MBOC approach has been successfully piloted in Meskan Woreda of Central Ethiopia, making a significant contribution to the rural land administration system. A total of 157 landholders have been served at the center established close to their neighborhood which has significantly reduced the traveling distance from 45 to 2 KM.



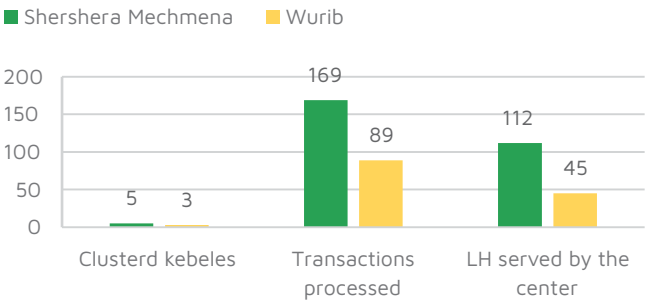

Chart 1: Transactions processed, and Landholders served by the center

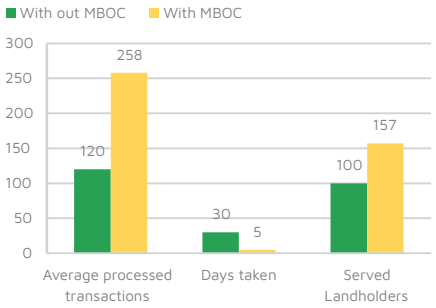

Chart 2: Progress comparison with and without MBOC

Scale up and Rollout strategies

The successful pilot is expected to boost the confidence and commitment of key stakeholders to facilitate fertile ground to replicate the approach in other woredas. The following three interlinked activities shall be implemented and monitored to roll out the best practice to other woredas.

1 **Strengthening the organizational capacity of the WLAOs to implement the MBOC:** Organization of On-the-Job training for the WLAO staff and management on the implementation of the MBOC approach.

2 **Diffusion and replication of the implementation of the MBOC to other RLAS woredas:** The supply of all the required materials and equipment such as high performing laptops, portable generators, printers, scanners, and others to the woreda offices.

3 **Regular monitoring of the implementation process:**

- Acquisition of monitoring expert fo rigor monitoring of the implementation process.
- Put in place adaptable and systemic monitoring procedures to beef up the implementation performance.

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