

Vacancy Announcement #109/2026

Position: Productive Use and Livelihood Advisor
Climate Change Cluster - Capacity Development for Strengthened Drought Resilience in the Lowlands of Ethiopia (CDSDR IV)

Contract duration: 31.03.2027

Application deadline: 20.11.2026

Duty station: Addis Ababa

Project Background

Capacity Development for Strengthened Drought Resilience in the Lowlands of Ethiopia (CDSDR) IV builds on the predecessor phases CDSDR I–III (2014–2026) to consolidate and scale the Dry Valleys Rehabilitation and Productive Use (DVRPU) approach in four regional states; Afar, Oromia, South Ethiopia and Somali. The project aims to embed the approach organizationally, regulatorily and financially within responsible national and regional structures. This will enable climate-resilient land rehabilitation and productive use to expand in Ethiopia's semi-arid lowlands, supporting a transition from project-driven implementation to institution-led replication.
The project works with government institutions, development programmes, financing partners, educational institutions and communities to ensure the DVRPU approach is owned, financed and implemented on scale, without long-term dependence on project support. Gender equality and the inclusion of IDPs and people with disabilities are critical considerations throughout the project.

Purpose of the position

The Productive Use and Livelihood Advisor will lead the design, technical guidance, and strategic implementation of livelihood resilience, income diversification, and productive natural resource/asset use activities in the arid and semi-arid lowlands of Ethiopia. The role bridges federal-level coordination with field-based execution, ensuring market-driven, climate-resilient, and community-owned economic opportunities for pastoral and agro-pastoral households. The position backstops project activities implemented by consulting firms and NGOs and supports government and financing partners in applying and scaling the DVRPU approach with the major focus on Process 5 of the DVRPU Planning and Implementation Process Guidelines.

Responsibilities and Tasks

Key responsibilities

1. **Livelihood Strategy & Value Chain Development**

- Analyzes agro-ecological and socio-economic potential of rehabilitated dry valleys.
- Designs and updates viable livelihood pathways (e.g., short-cycle flood-based cropping, fodder production, agroforestry, bee-keeping, and small ruminant integration).



- Supports in connecting producers, youth groups, and women-led enterprises with local and regional agricultural input and output markets.
- Steers the process of designing and endorsing standards for sound Productive Use and Livelihood Practices as required for a successful implementation of the DVRPU approach on rehabilitated dry valley sites.

2. Integration with Water & Soil Conservation (DVRPU Approach)

- Works closely with Natural Resource Management (NRM) and engineering advisors to align cropping calendars with moisture gradients in rehabilitated dry valleys and adjacent lands.
- Promotes water-efficient cultivation practices (e.g., residual moisture utilization, supplementary micro-irrigation from floods, mulching).
- Supports the productive use of water harvested via structures like water-spreading weirs, dry-stone checks, and earth bunds and community development intervention areas.

3. Gender and inclusiveness

- Assess how gender roles, access to and control over resources, decision-making, mobility, and workloads affect participation in DVRPU activities.
- Work with project teams, government partners and communities to incorporate gender-related objectives, activities, responsibilities, resources and milestones into productive use and livelihood activities
- Identify barriers that may prevent women or other disadvantaged groups from participating or benefiting and risks that project activities could reinforce existing inequalities.
- Help ensure that operational plans allocate realistic staff time and financial resources for gender-related actions

4. Community Institutions & Governance

- Facilitates community-led by-laws and resource-sharing agreements that balance the rights of primary users (residents inside the dry valley) and secondary users (migratory pastoralists).

5. Capacity Building & Extension Support

- Develops tailored training modules and business/financial literacy manuals for farmers, extension agents (Development Agents - DAs), and other local government partners.
- Organizes field-based demonstrations, farmer-to-farmer learning exchanges, and coaching on post-harvest handling and value addition.
- Contributes in the scaling up of DVRPU approach by partner institutions

6. Monitoring, Learning & Reporting

- Tracks key performance indicators (e.g., household income growth, crop yield changes, fodder availability, and women's economic participation).



- Documents best practices, case studies, and lessons learned to feed into program reports and stakeholder learning forums.

Required qualifications, competencies, and experience

Qualifications

- **Education:** Bachelor's or Master's degree in Agricultural Economics, Rural Development, Livelihoods, Agronomy, Natural Resource Management, or a related field.
- Proficiency in written and spoken Amharic and English.

Professional experience

- **Experience:** Minimum of 5 to 8 years of professional experience in rural development, dryland agriculture, or community-based livelihood programs.
- Demonstrated familiarity with dryland/lowland farming systems, flood-based farming, or integrated watershed management approaches (such as DVRPU).
- Experience working alongside local government bureaus, TVETs, and community cooperatives.
- Knowledge of Oromifa, Afari or Somali language is an asset.

Other knowledge, additional competencies

Technical & Soft Skills:

- Strong expertise in value-chain analysis, market systems development, and micro-enterprise/savings group promotion.
- Familiarity with climate-smart agriculture, livestock support, and natural resource management in drylands.
- Sound understanding of gender-responsive and inclusive programming (GESI).
- Willingness to travel extensively to remote field sites.



Application procedure:

Interested and qualified candidates are encouraged to apply by submitting their motivation letter and recent CV.

Please follow the Link below to submit your application.

Applicants are required to provide accurate, complete, and truthful information in the application form and all supporting documents submitted. Any provision of false, misleading, or inaccurate information, whether in the application form or in any supporting document, will result in automatic disqualification from the recruitment process.

Internal candidates are required to submit their applications for all advertised positions using their official GIZ email addresses. This is necessary to enable the recruitment system to automatically identify and correctly categorize internal applicants during the recruitment process.

GIZ is an equal opportunity employer committed to diversity and inclusion. All qualified candidates, regardless of disability, age, sex, ethnicity, race, or religion, are encouraged to apply.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

GIZ Country Office Ethiopia and Djibouti

Kazanchis, Kirkos Sub City, Woreda 08

P.O. Box 100009, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

I www.giz.de | www.giz.de/de/weltweit/336.html