

## Ethiopia's Landmark Flood Management Project Achieves Historic Success on the Awash River



In a significant milestone for Ethiopia's flood mitigation efforts, the Ministry of Water and Energy, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) and the Ethiopia Meteorology Institute (EMI), has successfully implemented a large-scale flood management project on the Awash River. The initiative, executed during the Ethiopian fiscal year 2016 (2023/24), has yielded remarkable results, protecting thousands of people and vast agricultural lands from the devastating impacts of seasonal flooding.

Through a fast-track implementation strategy, the project carried out extensive dredging and river widening operations across 11 woredas along the Awash River. A total of 151.1 kilometers of dredging and riverbank enhancement was completed, significantly improving the river's capacity to manage high water volumes during the rainy season.

As a direct result of these efforts, approximately 48,200 people and 28,158 hectares of farmland were safeguarded from flood risks. This is a historic achievement, as for the first time in over 40 years, the Awash River did not cause flood damage during the 2024 rainy season.

The success of this initiative underscores the effectiveness of proactive flood risk management through targeted infrastructure improvements. By mitigating flood threats, the project has not only protected lives but also preserved livelihoods, ensuring agricultural productivity and economic stability in the region.

The Ministry of Water and Energy of Ethiopia remains committed to expanding such flood protection measures across other vulnerable areas, leveraging innovative strategies and inter-agency collaboration to build long-term climate resilience.