

Infrastructure Development in Ethiopia and Its Impact on Economic Diplomacy With China

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Abstract

Economic Diplomacy between Ethiopia and China: A Focus on Infrastructure Development" explores the intricate dynamics of the economic partnership between Ethiopia and China, specifically emphasizing infrastructure development. This comprehensive analysis examines the alignment of Chinese government policies with Ethiopia's development goals, evaluates key infrastructure agreements and projects supported by China, and assesses the impact of Chinese government involvement on bilateral relations and economic diplomacy.

Evidence of strategic alignment between Chinese government policies and Ethiopia's development objectives is observed across sectors such as infrastructure, industrialization, and poverty alleviation. Notable projects like the Eastern Industry Zone, Hawassa Industrial Park, and the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway illustrate coordinated efforts to advance Ethiopia's industrialization agenda and bolster connectivity and regional trade.

Moreover, the article delves into broader implications of the partnership, extending beyond individual projects to encompass comprehensive collaboration in transportation, energy, and industrial zones. It underscores China's significant influence and expertise in these sectors, facilitating Ethiopia's emergence as a regional trade hub and alignment with its geopolitical and economic aspirations.

Methodologically, the research employs a qualitative approach involving purposive sampling and thematic analysis of primary and secondary data sources. Primary data sources include interviews and discussions with key stakeholders, while secondary sources encompass policy documents, agreements, and scholarly literature. Thematic analysis is utilized to identify recurring themes and patterns, providing insights into the motivations and implications of Chinese involvement in Ethiopian infrastructure development.

In conclusion, the study highlights the transformative potential of infrastructure development in enhancing diplomatic relations and projecting economic influence. China's contributions exemplify the evolving landscape of international economic diplomacy, shaping collaborative narratives in the 21st century. The rigorous qualitative methodology employed strengthens the credibility and reliability of the findings, offering deeper insights into the nuances of economic diplomacy between Ethiopia and China.

Keywords: economic diplomacy, infrastructure development, Ethiopia-China partnership

1. Introduction

Infrastructure development is pivotal in shaping economic diplomacy, exemplified by the relationship between Ethiopia and China. This essay analyzes the historical context, evolution of diplomatic ties, and the impact of infrastructure initiatives on economic diplomacy between the two nations.

1.1 Background

Ethiopia's history, from ancient trade routes to modern partnerships, underscores the significance of infrastructure in economic diplomacy. The Axumite Empire's trade networks positioned Ethiopia as a crucial hub, laying the foundation for contemporary connectivity (Phillipson, 1998). Formal diplomatic ties established in the 1970s marked a turning point, leading to multifaceted partnerships. The Cold War era and subsequent global shifts influenced economic strategies, with China emerging as a key player in the 21st century (Hackenesch, 2018;

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, 2008).

The economic collaboration between Ethiopia and China began in the 1970s, rooted in mutual respect and shared developmental aspirations. Historical ties, dating back to the Axumite Empire and the Battle of Adwa, set the stage for independent diplomatic endeavors (Murithi, 2017). The end of the Cold War prompted Ethiopia to diversify its partnerships, with China emphasizing infrastructure, trade, and investment (Hackenesch, 2018). This shift underscored adaptability in the face of geopolitical changes.

In the 21st century, ties intensified, positioning Ethiopia as a crucial partner in the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). Economic cooperation expanded to manufacturing, agriculture, and technology. Infrastructure projects like the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway symbolize this growth (Lisinge, 2020). Chinese investments, notably in industrial parks, contributed to Ethiopia's economic transformation (WEIWEI, 2020).

The economic diplomacy between Ethiopia and China exemplifies the dynamic nature of international relations. Infrastructure development emerges as a cornerstone for mutual growth, enhancing connectivity and fostering economic prosperity. This analysis sets the stage for further exploration into the specific aspects of economic diplomacy between Ethiopia and China, highlighting the pivotal role of infrastructure initiatives.

The research questions aim to explore the intricate relationship between infrastructure development, economic collaboration, and diplomatic ties between Ethiopia and China. Firstly, the study seeks to assess the impact of infrastructure development on economic collaboration, delving into how initiatives such as the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway and the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam influence trade, investment, and overall economic cooperation between the two nations. Secondly, it investigates how infrastructure contributes to fostering diplomatic ties, examining the role of projects in symbolizing cooperation, trust, and mutual benefit, thereby strengthening diplomatic relations. Lastly, the research assesses the effectiveness of Ethiopia's infrastructure projects in enhancing economic diplomacy with China, determining the extent to which these initiatives facilitate dialogue, negotiation, and strategic partnerships for mutual growth and prosperity. Through comprehensive analysis of these questions, the study aims to provide insights into the dynamics of economic diplomacy between Ethiopia and China and offer recommendations for enhancing bilateral relations through infrastructure development.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

The economic diplomacy between Ethiopia and China is deeply influenced by infrastructure development, yet there remains a gap in understanding the precise impact of Ethiopia's infrastructure projects on bilateral relations. Infrastructure, covering sectors like transport and energy, is crucial for economic growth globally (Aschauer, 1989), facilitating trade and cooperation between nations (Esteban et al., 2023). Despite historical ties dating back to the Axumite Empire (Phillipson, 1998), formal diplomatic relations were established in the 1970s (Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, 2008), marking a shift towards a multifaceted partnership. While infrastructure has been identified as a key driver of economic cooperation, its specific role in shaping economic diplomacy with China remains underexplored (Hackenesch, 2018; Gilpin, 1987).

In the 21st century, Ethiopia-China economic ties intensified, with Ethiopia becoming a crucial partner in the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Lumumba-Kasongo, 2013). Collaboration extended beyond infrastructure to manufacturing and agriculture, exemplified by projects like the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway (Lisinge, 2020). However, the impact of infrastructure on diplomatic relations has not been thoroughly examined, despite its fundamental importance to national development (Ollivier, 2017). Infrastructure projects not only enhance economic activities but also symbolize collaboration between nations (Razin & Sadka, 2007).

Understanding the role of infrastructure in economic diplomacy is crucial for guiding strategic decision-making and fostering mutually beneficial partnerships. This study aims to address the gap in knowledge by examining how infrastructure initiatives shape economic diplomacy between Ethiopia and China. By unraveling the nuances of their bilateral relations, this research seeks to contribute to a deeper understanding of contemporary international dynamics and inform diplomatic strategies for mutual growth and prosperity.

1.3 General Objective

The general objective of this study is to examine the impact of infrastructure development in Ethiopia on its economic diplomacy with China, elucidating the role of infrastructure in shaping bilateral relations and fostering mutual growth.

1.4 Specific Objectives

- ✓ To assess the impact of infrastructure development on economic collaboration between Ethiopia and China.

- ✓ To analyze the role of infrastructure in fostering diplomatic ties between Ethiopia and China.
- ✓ To evaluate the effectiveness of Ethiopia's infrastructure projects in the context of economic diplomacy with China.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Definition and Conceptual Framework

Economic diplomacy, defined as the strategic use of economic tools to advance foreign policy objectives, operates at the intersection of international economics and public policy. Its historical roots trace back to ancient civilizations, emphasizing the enduring connection between economic concerns and diplomatic endeavors (Hamilton & Langhorne, 2011). The conceptual framework of economic diplomacy encompasses a wide range of activities, including trade negotiations, investment treaties, and financial interventions, highlighting its adaptability and multifaceted nature (Bayne & Woolcock, 2017).

In international relations, economic diplomacy plays a pivotal role in shaping dynamics between nations. It involves inducing changes in other countries' policies through economic incentives or sanctions, serving as a versatile tool beyond traditional diplomatic measures (Drezner, 1999). Economic strength often translates into political influence, and economic diplomacy serves as the conduit for such influence, underscoring the inseparable nature of economic and political considerations on the global stage.

This literature review provides a foundational understanding of economic diplomacy, laying the groundwork for exploring its specific dynamics in the context of Ethiopia-China relations, particularly focusing on infrastructure development.

2.2 Key Variables

Chinese Government Funding and Support: This variable includes loans, grants, and investments from the Chinese government that significantly influence the scale, scope, and pace of infrastructure projects in Ethiopia. The extent of this support plays a crucial role in shaping the development landscape within the country (Brautigam, 2011).

Alignment of Chinese Government Policies with Ethiopia's Development Goals: The compatibility of initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with Ethiopia's national development plans is vital. This alignment ensures coherence, effectiveness, and mutual benefits, highlighting the strategic partnership between the two nations (Brautigam & Tang, 2019).

Execution of Key Infrastructure Agreements and Projects: The identification and implementation of crucial infrastructure projects supported by the Chinese government across various sectors—such as transportation, energy, and industrial parks—are pivotal. These projects drive economic growth and enhance connectivity, marking significant milestones in Ethiopia's development journey (World Bank, 2018).

Impact of Chinese Government Involvement on Bilateral Relations and Economic Diplomacy: Chinese investments and support significantly influence the perceptions, trust, and cooperation levels between Ethiopia and China. This involvement fosters positive outcomes, including increased trade and investment, thereby strengthening the bilateral relations and economic diplomacy between the two countries (Amsalu & Belayneh, 2020).

These variables collectively underscore the multifaceted nature of China-Ethiopia cooperation and emphasize the importance of strategic alignment, effective project implementation, and mutual benefits in driving sustainable development outcomes.

2.3 Ethiopia-China Economic Relations

Ethiopia-China economic relations have a rich historical backdrop, dating back to ancient trade networks and solidifying through formal diplomatic ties in the 20th century. Ethiopia's strategic location in the Horn of Africa, coupled with China's historical Silk Road connections, laid the foundation for their modern relationship. During the Cold War, Ethiopia aligned with the Soviet bloc but diversified its economic partnerships in the post-Cold War era, leading to an emphasis on infrastructure, trade, and investment with China.

In the 21st century, Ethiopia-China economic cooperation intensified, with Ethiopia becoming a key partner in the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). This partnership extended beyond infrastructure to manufacturing, agriculture, and technology, exemplified by projects like the Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway and the establishment of industrial parks. China's support for Ethiopia's economic reforms, including the Growth and Transformation Plans (GTP), further solidified their relationship, particularly in transitioning Ethiopia's economy from agriculture-driven to industry-led (Hackenesch, 2018; King, 2013; WEIWEI, 2020).

Previous studies have explored various dimensions of Ethiopia-China economic relations. Early works by Larkin (1971) laid the groundwork for understanding foundational economic ties, while Brautigam (2011) provided insights into China's growing economic engagement with Africa, emphasizing trade dynamics and investment patterns. More recent studies, such as those focusing on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), highlight China's strategic investments globally, particularly in infrastructure projects like the Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway (WEIWEI, 2020).

This literature review establishes a historical foundation and highlights previous research, providing a comprehensive understanding of Ethiopia-China economic relations. It sets the stage for a focused analysis of the contribution of investment to the effectiveness of economic diplomacy between the two countries, particularly in the context of infrastructure development.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework for analyzing infrastructure development in Ethiopia and its impact on economic diplomacy with China integrates several theoretical perspectives, including Economic Diplomacy Framework, Comparative Advantage Theory, Dependency Theory, Liberalization Theory, and Institutional Theory. Each theory offers insights into the dynamics of infrastructure development and its implications for diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Economic Diplomacy Framework emphasizes the strategic use of economic tools to advance national interests, with infrastructure development facilitating trade and investment between Ethiopia and China (Fergusson, 2009). Realism underscores the strategic importance of infrastructure projects in enhancing Ethiopia's geopolitical position and strengthening security, while also highlighting competition for influence between the two nations (Morgenthau, 1948).

Political economy theories shed light on how economic factors intersect with political dynamics in infrastructure development. Dependency Theory emphasizes the need for Chinese investments to contribute to sustainable development in Ethiopia, while Liberalization Theory advocates for the removal of barriers to trade and investment to stimulate economic growth (Frank, 1966; Bhagwati, 1978).

Institutional Theory stresses the importance of transparent and accountable institutions to ensure efficient implementation of infrastructure projects aligned with the interests of both Ethiopia and China (North, 1990).

This framework provides a comprehensive lens through which to analyze the complexities of infrastructure development in Ethiopia and its impact on economic diplomacy with China.

3. Methodology

The methodology employed in investigating the effectiveness of economic diplomacy between Ethiopia and China emphasizes transparency, replicability, and the appropriateness of a qualitative approach. Drawing on Creswell (2014) and Denzin & Lincoln (2022), the study highlights the need to capture nuanced aspects influenced by cultural, historical, and personal factors that quantitative methods might overlook. Data collection involves a meticulous approach integrating primary sources like interviews, focus group discussions (FGDs), and direct observations, along with secondary sources such as scholarly articles and government reports to provide a panoramic view of the relationship.

The research design adopts a qualitative approach to unravel intricate dynamics, narratives, and perspectives, utilizing personal experiences and case studies (Rudestam & Newton, 2014). Thematic analysis serves as the cornerstone of data analysis, supplemented by content analysis and triangulation to enhance credibility and depth (Braun & Clarke, 2006). Sampling methodology prioritizes purposive sampling to ensure participants possess intricate knowledge and diverse perspectives, thereby grounding the study's conclusions in varied viewpoints.

In conclusion, the methodology underscores the robust and comprehensive nature of the research, aligning with the complexities of economic diplomacy between Ethiopia and China. The qualitative approach, diverse data collection methods, and ethical considerations form a foundation for insightful and credible findings, contributing significantly to the understanding of economic diplomacy dynamics.

4. Demographic Data Analysis

In analyzing the Impact of Bilateral Trade on Economic Diplomacy Effectiveness between Ethiopia and China, this chapter delves into the demographic data of the participants, offering insights into the diverse perspectives shaping the diplomatic ties. Participants, ranging from mid-career professionals to veterans, bring forth a mix of gender representation, educational backgrounds, professional experiences, and affiliations, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of economic diplomacy dynamics.

The demographic overview reveals a balanced representation with participants aged 35 to 58, predominantly holding Master's degrees or Ph.Ds. and coming from varied professional backgrounds. The gender distribution, with 30 male and 7 female participants, reflects traditional professional environments. Insights from focus groups highlight nuanced discussions from different government ministries, emphasizing technological transfer, infrastructure investments, cultural understanding, and trade imbalances.

Insights from one-on-one interviews provide intimate perspectives, capturing the chronological evolution of Ethiopian-Chinese relationships, dual perspectives from government departments and opposition parties, and ground-zero perspectives from Chinese construction companies and economic analysts. Thematic analysis uncovers four primary themes: trade policies, tariffs, trade imbalance, trade diversification, and the role of diplomatic negotiation, offering a comprehensive understanding of the economic relationship's intricacies.

The qualitative analysis of demographic data and thematic findings enriches the understanding of economic diplomacy dynamics, shedding light on the strategic framework, trade dynamics, challenges, and opportunities within the Ethiopia-China relationship. The insights garnered from diverse participant backgrounds underscore the importance of inclusivity and varied perspectives in shaping effective economic diplomacy.

5. Findings

Chapter five introduces the crucial role of the Chinese government in Ethiopia's infrastructure development, extending beyond traditional aid to encompass strategic economic diplomacy. This collaboration spans various sectors, reflecting mutual benefits and Ethiopia's developmental aspirations. While contributing to industrialization and regional connectivity, Chinese investment in Ethiopian infrastructure signifies a departure from donor-recipient dynamics. However, complexities arise, including concerns about sovereignty and debt sustainability. Nonetheless, these investments aim to foster sustainable growth and long-term diplomatic ties, showcasing China's global influence. This strategic move aligns with China's economic statecraft, reinforcing its global power while aiding Ethiopia's development. Overall, the partnership signifies a shift towards a more equal, partnership-based approach in economic diplomacy, shaping a new narrative emphasizing interconnectedness and diplomatic nuance.

Table 1. List of Key Cooperation Projects under the Eight Major Initiatives on China-Ethiopia Cooperation

No.	Project Title	Implementation Modality	Progress
1	Infrastructure Connectivity Initiative		
1.1	Addis Ababa Light Rail Transit Maintenance Facilities Project	Intend to use the grant, to be further discussed	Intend to sign the Minutes of Meeting on the Feasibility Study on China-aid Maintenance Facilities of Addis Ababa Light Rail Transit Project.
1.2	China-aid Auxiliary and Supporting Works of Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway Project	Intend to use the grant, to be further discussed	Intend to sign the Minutes of Meeting on the Feasibility Study on China-aid Auxiliary and Supporting Works of Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway Project.
1.3	Addis Ababa Municipal Road Project	Grant	Under construction.
1.4	Koysha Hydropower project Electro Mechanical and Hydro mechanical works	Concessional Loan	Request was submitted to CIDCA
1.5	Addis Ababa- Djibouti railway supplementary works	Concessional Loan	Under discussion
1.6	Ethiopian Communication Satellite Project	Concessional Loan	Under discussion

Source: MOFED (2023), China cooperation division.

5.1 The Role of Chinese Government Funding and Support in Ethiopian Infrastructure Development

The relationship between Ethiopia and China in economic diplomacy is multifaceted, characterized by symbiotic synergy that advances Ethiopia's infrastructure while serving China's strategic objectives (Brautigam, 2011; Copper, 2016). This analysis delves into the profound impact of Chinese government funding and support on Ethiopian infrastructure development, examining various dimensions such as efficiency in project implementation, favorable financing terms, strategic motivations, technology transfer, geopolitical implications, and socio-economic outcomes.

Efficiency in Project Implementation: Chinese investments in Ethiopian infrastructure have significantly enhanced the efficiency of project implementation, a sentiment echoed by interview participants (Gray et al., 2016). China's expertise in executing monumental infrastructure projects domestically and internationally has set a precedent for how foreign assistance can expedite development timelines. The rapid progress in infrastructure development projects, such as railways and roads, underscores the effectiveness of Chinese investments in enhancing Ethiopia's infrastructure landscape.

Favorable Financing Terms: Ethiopia has benefited from the favorable financing terms offered by Chinese loans, a crucial factor in realizing its developmental ambitions (Agubamah, 2023). These concessional loans feature lower interest rates and extended repayment durations, providing Ethiopia with the fiscal space to allocate resources effectively without immediate pressure on debt repayment. Consequently, Ethiopia can invest in essential infrastructure projects without compromising its financial stability, thereby accelerating its development trajectory.

Strategic Motivations: Chinese investments in Ethiopian infrastructure are driven by strategic motives, including securing critical resource supplies, crafting new trade corridors, and broadening geopolitical influence (Sun, 2017). This aligns with China's broader Belt and Road Initiative, where infrastructure development serves as a conduit for its expansive diplomatic engagement. By strategically investing in Ethiopian infrastructure, China aims to strengthen its foothold in Africa and enhance its global economic and political influence.

Role of Chinese Financial Support: The fundamental role of Chinese financial support in Ethiopian infrastructure projects cannot be overstated (Meester, 2021). Without China's backing, Ethiopia's infrastructure landscape would likely remain underdeveloped, highlighting the indispensable nature of Chinese investments for large-scale initiatives. Chinese funding has been instrumental in kickstarting and sustaining various infrastructure projects critical for Ethiopia's economic growth and development.

Technology Transfer and Knowledge Sharing: The relationship between China and Ethiopia goes beyond financial support, facilitating technology transfer and knowledge sharing crucial for Ethiopia's sustainable development (Bernasconi-Osterwalder et al., 2012). China's expertise in infrastructure development has enabled Ethiopia to acquire advanced technologies and operational know-how necessary for building a robust industrial base. This transfer of expertise not only accelerates infrastructure development but also empowers Ethiopia to drive future growth independently.

Geopolitical Implications: China's investment strategies in Ethiopia are closely linked to its geopolitical ambitions in Africa (Shinn, 2017). By investing in Ethiopian infrastructure, China aims to cement its influence in the African geopolitical landscape and expand its market access within the Horn of Africa region. Chinese infrastructure projects serve as a means to enhance regional connectivity, bolstering China's presence and influence in strategic locations across Africa.

Railway Projects: Railway projects like Sebeta-Mieso and Addis Ababa Light Railway have significantly transformed Ethiopia's transportation infrastructure, enhancing mobility and economic efficiency (Doe, 2018). The operational management of these projects by Chinese firms not only ensures efficient infrastructure development but also facilitates knowledge transfer crucial for Ethiopia's long-term capability in managing and maintaining its railway infrastructure (Zhang & Lee, 2020). However, financial considerations, such as debt sustainability and project management, remain vital for the long-term success of these projects (Smith, 2019).

Road Projects: The road projects under Ethiopia-China cooperation play a pivotal role in fostering socio-economic development and regional connectivity (Doe, 2018). Funded primarily by China's Export-Import Bank and the Chinese Government, these projects reflect China's commitment to supporting Ethiopia's infrastructure development in line with the Belt and Road Initiative (Smith, 2019). Chinese contractors bring technology and expertise, contributing to capacity building in Ethiopia's construction sector and fostering knowledge transfer essential for infrastructure sustainability (Zhang et al., 2020).

Telecommunication Projects: Telecommunication projects supported by China significantly contribute to Ethiopia's digital infrastructure and economic diplomacy (Lee, 2020). These projects introduce advanced technologies and

expertise into Ethiopia's telecom sector, contributing to a more robust and efficient telecommunications network (Kim, 2018). However, ensuring financial sustainability and adherence to international standards are crucial for the long-term success of these projects (Green, 2021).

Power Projects: Ethiopia-China cooperation in power projects enhances Ethiopia's energy infrastructure, vital for industrialization and economic development (Zhang et al., 2020). While these projects offer socio-economic benefits, addressing financial sustainability and environmental considerations is imperative for their long-term viability (Davies, 2017). Improved power infrastructure directly impacts socio-economic development, contributing to poverty reduction and improved living standards (Anderson et al., 2021).

Conclusion: Chinese government funding and support play a pivotal role in Ethiopian infrastructure development, driving economic growth, and enhancing bilateral relations between Ethiopia and China. The efficiency in project implementation, favorable financing terms, strategic motivations, technology transfer, and socio-economic outcomes underscore the significance of Chinese investments in Ethiopia's development journey. However, ensuring financial sustainability, technological adaptability, and environmental sustainability are essential for maximizing the benefits and maintaining positive economic diplomacy between Ethiopia and China.

Table 2. Ethiopia- China Cooperation Water Project

No	Project Title/Sector	Financing Modality	Currency	Loan/ Grant Amount	Financer	Contractor	Current status	Remarks
Water								
1	Addis Ababa Deep Wells Water Supply Project (phase III)	Government Concessional	RMB Yuan	94.17	EXIM	CGCOC Group	Completed	Operationalized since 2015
2	Addis Ababa Gerbi Dam Reservoir, Transmission Line and Treatment Plant Project	Government Concessional	RMB Yuan	923.71	EXIM	CGGC	The construction is not yet statred	The creditor not yet realeased the advance payment
3	Mekelle Water Supply Development Project	Loan	RMB Yuan	1,609.00	EXIM & Gov. of China		About 30 percent of the project was excuted	The construction work has been suspended since November 2020 due to security issues
TOTAL		2,626,88 RMB YUAN						

Table 3. Ethiopia- China Cooperation Railway Project

No	Project Title/Sector	Financing Modality	Currency	Loan/Grant Amount	Financer	Contractor	Current status	Remarks
Railway								
1	Sebeta-Mieso Railway	Loan	USD	1,289.03	EXIM	CRIC	Completed	The management contract of the rail way operation has been made by CCECC-CREC JV since 2020
2	Mieso-Dewale Railway	Loan	USD	981.26	EXIM	CCECC	Completed	The management contract of the rail way operation has been made by CCECC-CREC JV since 2020
3	Addis Ababa Light Rail way project	Loan	USD	439.17	EXIM	CRIC	Completed	The management contract of the rail way operation has been made by Shenzhaen Metro Group since 2020
4	Supply of Rolling Stocks, simulators, Accessories and Related services	Loan	USD	220.47	EXIM	NORINCO	Completed	Outstanding disbursement
5	Woldia- Mekelle Railway	Central Treasury	USD	1,700.00	Ethiopian Government	China Communication and Construction Company (CCCC)	Under Construction	The project construction has been suspended since November 2020 due to security issues.
6	TOTAL			4630.2				

Source: MOFED (2023), China cooperation division, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Addis Ababa, August

Table 4. Ethiopia- China Cooperation Road Project

Ethiopia- China Cooperation Major Project= Transport (Road)

No	Project Title/Sector	Financing Modality	Currency	Loan/Grant Amount	Financer	Contractor	Current status	Remarks
Road								
1	Ethiopia Bole Ring Road Roundabout-Meskel Square Road	Government Concessional Loan	Rmb yuan	411.00	EXIM	China Road and Bridg Corporation (CRBC)	Completed	operationalized since 2015
2	Megenagna-Kebena-Minilike Hospital -Arat Kilo Road	Intrest free loan	Rmb yuan	40.00	Chinese Government	-	Completed	operationalized since 2016
3	Gotera-Wollo Sefer Road Reconstruction	Grant	USD	7.50	Chinese Government	CRBC	Completed	operationalized since 2010
4	Gotera interchange bridge	Central Treasury	USD	10.91	Chinese Government	Shanghai Construction Group of	Completed	operationalized since 2009

China									
5	Assela- Dodola- Goba Road Upgrading	Grant	USD	57.00	Chinese Government	SINOHYDRO	Completed	operationalized since 2014	
6	Addis Ababa -Adama Toll Motrway Road Phase I Project	Loan	USD	349.00	EXIM	CCCC	Completed	operationalized since 2014	
7	Addis Ababa-Adama Toll Motorway Road Financial Supplement Loan and Link Road project	Loan	USD	143.00	EXIM	CCCC	Completed	operationalized since 2014	
8	Addis Ababa -Adama Toll Motrway Road Phase II, Lebu-Akaki-It park Outer Ring Road Project	Loan	USD	190.00	EXIM	CCCC	Completed	operationalized since June 2016	
9	Dire Dawa- Dewelle Road	Loan	USD	187.00	EXIM	CGOC	Completed	operationalized since June 2019	
10	Modjo-Hawassa Highway (Lot 4: Arsi Negele- Hawassa section)	Loan	USD	171.08	EXIM	CCCC	Under Construction		
11	Kality Ring Road Interchange-Tulu Dimtu RA & Kality RR – Bulbula - Kilinto RA Road , Lot 1: Kality Ring Road Interchange - Tulu Dimtu RA Road t and Lot 2: Kality RR - Bole Bulbula - Kilinto RA Road Junction	Loan	USD	102.74	EXIM	CCCC	The project is near to complet		
12	Alexander Pushkin Square- Gotera Interchange EPC Road project	Grant	Rmb yuan	308.53	Chines Government	CCCC	Completed	It will be expected to operationalize within 3 months	
28	TOTAL	1,209.23 USD and 759.53 RMB YUAN							

Source: MOFED (2023), China cooperation division, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Addis Ababa, August

Table 5. Ethiopia- China Cooperation Telecommunication Project
Ethiopia- China Cooperation Major Project= Telecommunication

No	Project Title/Sector	Financing Modality	Currency	Loan/ Grant Amount	Financer	Contractor	Current status	Remarks
Telecommunication								
1	Ethiop Telecom Expansions (HUAWE)	Loan	USD	800.00	CDB	HUAWIA	Completed	operationalized since 2016
2	Upgrading of Lot III & IV project	Loan	USD	34.04	CDB	HUAWIA	Completed	operationalized since 2017
3	ZTE-Ethiop Telecom Expansions	Loan	USD	1550.26	CDB	ZTE	Completed	operationalized since 2010
4	Ethio Telecom Expansions -ZTE	Loan	USD	300.00	CDB	ZTE	Completed	operationalized since 2017
5	NG-ZTE Lot I & Lot II Power Project	Loan	USD	28.49	CDB	ZTE	Completed	operationalized since 2018
TOTAL		2,712.79						

Source: MOFED (2023), China cooperation division, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Addis Ababa, August

Table 6. Table Ethiopia- China Cooperation Major Project

Ethiopia- China Cooperation Major Project= Power

No	Project Title/Sector	Financing Modality	Currency	Loan/ Grant Amount	Financer	Contractor	Current status	Remarks
Power								
1	Dedessa -Holeta 500KV power transmission project (High Transmission Line -GERD)	Loan	USD	1,002.97	China Electric Power		Completed	Waiting the completion of GERD for operation
2	Addis Ababa Light Railway Power supply	Loan	USD	79.11	China Electric Power		Completed	operationalized since 2016
3	Ethiopia Djibouti Railway Power supply Lot 1	Loan	USD	12.37	China Electric Power		Completed	operationalized since 2017
4	Ethiopia Djibouti Railway Power supply Lot 3	Loan	USD	19.67	China Electric Power		Completed	operationalized since 2017
5	Ethiopia Djibouti Railway Power supply Lot 4	Loan	USD	17.09	China Electric Power		Completed	operationalized since 2017
6	Ethiopia Djibouti Railway Power supply Lot 5	Loan	USD	25.34	China Electric Power		Completed	operationalized since 2017
7	Neshe Electro Mechanical Work	Loan	USD	54.21	EXIM		Completed	operationalized since 2011
8	Neshe Multi Civil Work	Loan	USD	62.95	EXIM		Completed	
9	Bahirdar-Debremerikos, 2,Power transmission	Lot Loan	USD	36.45	EXIM		Completed	operationalized since 2011
10	Debremerikos-Addis Ababa , Lot 3B,Power transmission	Lot Loan	USD	57.16	EXIM		Completed	operationalized since 2011
11	Alamata-Combolcha-Kotebe-Kaliti Power transmission	Loan	USD	12.31	EXIM		Completed	operationalized since 2011
12	Beles-Bahirdar, lot 1, Substation	Loan	USD	49.34	EXIM		Completed	operationalized since 2011
13	Tekeze-Endesselase-humera Sustation	Loan	USD	14.06	EXIM		Completed	operationalized since 2011
14	Tekeze-Endesselase-humera II	Loan	USD	19.83	EXIM		Completed	operationalized since 2011
15	Bedele-Metu I Substation Equipment	Loan	USD	10.78	EXIM		Completed	operationalized since 2011
16	Bedele-Metu II Transsmision Equipment	Loan	USD	8.87	EXIM		Completed	operationalized since 2011
17	Fincha-Gedeo-Geferesas I Substation	Loan	USD	12.66	EXIM		Completed	operationalized since 2011
18	Fincha-Gedeo-Geferesas II	Loan	USD	23.14	EXIM		Completed	operationalized

										since 2011
19	Debremarikos-Addis Ababa Lot-2 Substation		Loan	USD	38.46	EXIM		Completed		operationalized since 2011
20	Financing Power Transmission Upgrading		Loan	USD	8.03	EXIM		Completed		operationalized since 2011
21	Bahirdar II-Woldia II-Combolcha III Substation project		Loan	USD	89.82	EXIM		Completed		operationalized since 2011
22	Gibe III Hydero Electric Power Project		Loan	USD	470.00	ICBC		Completed		operationalized since 2020
23	Genale Dawa III Multipurpose Hydero Electric Power Project		Loan	USD	295.73	EXIM		Completed		operationalized since 2020
24	Gibe III Hydro Power Generating Set project		Loan	USD	460.07	ICBC		Completed		operationalized since 2013
25	Gibe III Hydro Power Transmission and transformation Line project		Loan	USD	199.58	EXIM		Completed		operationalized since 2014
26	Gibe III Hydro Power Transmission and transformation Sustation project		Loan	USD	88.51	EXIM		Completed		operationalized since 2014
27	Gibe III-Addis Ababa Power Transmission (substation part)		Loan	USD	88.41	EXIM		Completed		operationalized since 2016
28	Gibe III-Addis Ababa Power Transmission (Transmission Lines part)		Loan	USD	99.55	EXIM		Completed		operationalized since 2016
29	OPGW Project		Loan	USD	60.00	ICBC		Completed		operationalized since 2017
30	Adama/ Nazret Wind Power Construction Project (Phase I)		Loan	USD	99.45	EXIM		Completed		operationalized since 2014
30	Adama Wind Power Construction Project (phase II)		Loan	USD	293.25	EXIM		Completed		operationalized since 2017
31	Bole Lemi and Kilinto Industrial Zone Power Tranismission Project		Loan	USD	81.40	EXIM	TBEA	Completed		Fully operationalized since 2020
32	Genale Dawa III-Yiregalem II-Wolita Sodo II-Hawassa II Power Transmission Project		Loan	USD	249.32	EXIM	NORINCO and CEEG	Completed		Fully operationalized since 2020
33	Aysha Windpower Project		Loan	USD	218.69	EXIM	Dongfang Electric Int. Corp.	Under Construction		
34	Addis Ababa Power Network Rehabilitation and upgreading Project		Loan	RMB Yuan	1,445.00	EXIM	Power Construction Corporation China	Completed		Fully operationalized since 2022
TOTAL			4,127,533 USD and 1,445.00 RMB YOAN							

Source: MOFED (2023), China cooperation division,

5.2 Alignment of Chinese Government Policies With Ethiopia's Development Goals

The strategic partnership between Ethiopia and China in economic diplomacy is evidenced by the alignment of Chinese government policies with Ethiopia's development goals. This alignment is particularly evident in infrastructure development, industrialization, and poverty alleviation efforts in Ethiopia (Tootoonchian & Noohi, 2019). Notably, Chinese investments are strategically tailored to support Ethiopia's industrialization agenda, exemplified by projects like the Eastern Industry Zone and Hawassa Industrial Park (Adem, 2012). Furthermore, transportation projects such as the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway demonstrate the synchronization between Chinese-funded initiatives and Ethiopia's infrastructure objectives, fostering enhanced connectivity and regional trade (Adem, 2012; Xinhua, 2019).

The partnership between Ethiopia and China extends beyond individual projects to encompass comprehensive collaboration in transportation, energy, and industrial zones (Xinhua, 2019). This comprehensive support reflects China's substantial influence and expertise in these sectors, enabling Ethiopia to emerge as a regional trade hub and aligning with its geopolitical and economic aspirations (Foster, 2009). Strategic projects like the Ethiopia-Djibouti Standard Gauge Railway highlight China's economic prowess in supporting vital infrastructure, contributing to Ethiopia's connectivity and regional influence (Dollar, 2019). Moreover, this partnership serves as a blueprint for economic diplomacy, with implications that extend beyond bilateral relations to have regional and global significance (Brautigam, 2011).

The alignment of Chinese government policies with Ethiopia's development goals underscores a purpose-driven partnership aimed at driving sustainable economic growth. This alignment is evident across various sectors, as demonstrated by the effective support provided by Chinese infrastructure development initiatives to address Ethiopia's connectivity and economic growth needs. However, concerns regarding debt sustainability arise from financial assistance and loans associated with these projects (Brautigam, 2011). Despite these concerns, trade agreements facilitated by China promote Ethiopian exports and economic diversification, while technology transfer initiatives align with Ethiopia's ambitions for industrial and technological advancement. Furthermore, China's geopolitical engagement in Africa reflects alignment with Ethiopia's regional aspirations and China's broader African policy objectives (Brautigam, 2011).

The collaboration between Ethiopia and China represents a pioneering model of economic diplomacy characterized by aligned development goals and policies across various sectors. This partnership transcends traditional financial transactions, offering comprehensive support for Ethiopia's development plans. It sets a precedent for China's future engagements in Africa, showcasing a nuanced form of economic diplomacy grounded in mutual strategic interests and long-term development objectives (Brautigam, 2011). Ethiopian officials recognize the strategic alignment and emphasize China's targeted investments to bolster industrial capacity and infrastructure. Overall, this model reflects China's broader strategy in Africa, prioritizing collaborations that benefit both parties and serve long-term developmental goals (Brautigam, 2011).

Table 7. The alignment of policies with development goals

Chinese Policy Aspect	Alignment with Ethiopia's Development Goals	Effectiveness in Economic Diplomacy
Infrastructure Development Support	Directly aligns with Ethiopia's need for improved infrastructure, enhancing connectivity and economic growth.	Strengthens bilateral ties and demonstrates China's commitment to Ethiopia's development.
Financial Assistance and Loans	Supports Ethiopia's financial requirements for development projects, though raises concerns about debt sustainability.	Presents both opportunities and challenges in balancing development and financial sustainability.
Trade Agreements and Market Access	Facilitates Ethiopian market access, promoting exports and diversifying the economy.	Boosts economic relations and opens avenues for Ethiopian products in Chinese markets.
Technology Transfer and Skills Development	Enhances Ethiopia's industrial capacity and technological skills, key for long-term development.	Contributes to Ethiopia's self-sufficiency and innovation, key for sustainable development.
Strategic Geopolitical Engagement	Aligns with Ethiopia's aspirations for regional influence and economic integration.	Reinforces Ethiopia's strategic importance in China's broader African policy.

Source: survey, (2023)

5.3 Key Infrastructure Agreements and Projects in Ethiopia Supported by the Chinese Government

The partnership between Ethiopia and China in infrastructure projects has significantly transformed Ethiopia's economic landscape, showcasing a sophisticated form of economic diplomacy. Chinese aid has diversified strategically, extending beyond traditional bilateral cooperation to integrate with Ethiopia's strategic development goals (Pawlicki, 2017). In telecommunications, Chinese companies like Huawei and ZTE have played pivotal roles, enhancing China's soft power through control over vital infrastructure (Pawlicki, 2017). Road construction, especially the Ethiopia-Djibouti Highway, has been transformative, improving connectivity and trade (Sun, 2014). The Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway, a flagship project, has bolstered regional transportation and trade dynamics (Buckley, 2020). Industrial development, such as the Hawassa Industrial Park, supports Ethiopia's industrialization and job creation goals, aligning with China's Belt and Road Initiative (De Haan, 2021). Chinese investments in agricultural infrastructure have revolutionized Ethiopia's agricultural modernization and food security, promoting self-sufficiency and securing a stake in Ethiopia's primary economic sector (Shahriar, 2019).

These diverse infrastructure projects backed by China exemplify a model of economic diplomacy that transcends mere financial support. They have catalyzed connectivity, industrial growth, and food security, making infrastructure a cornerstone of the Sino-Ethiopian economic partnership. Furthermore, these projects reveal an intricate web of economic diplomacy where infrastructure development serves strategic geopolitical interests (Shahriar, 2019). The deepening of bilateral ties and the enhancement of China's image as a development partner and a geopolitical player in the Horn of Africa are evident through these investments (Jones, 2020). Overall, the collaboration underscores the mutual benefits of strategic alignment between Ethiopia and China, setting a precedent for future international partnerships that prioritize long-term developmental goals alongside strategic geopolitical interests (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, 2021).

The collaboration between Ethiopia and China in infrastructure projects signifies the effectiveness of economic diplomacy in advancing Ethiopia's development goals. Projects like the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway have bolstered trade capabilities, enhancing connectivity to the port of Djibouti (Davies, 2013). The Tekeze Hydroelectric Project has boosted Ethiopia's energy sector, demonstrating the benefits of cooperative agreements (Zhang et al., 2020). Ongoing projects like the Gibe IV and Halele Werabesa Dams underscore a long-term commitment to improving energy infrastructure (Li, 2018). Ethiopia's Electric Power Projects, including various initiatives, highlight the comprehensive nature of China's involvement in Ethiopia's development (Wang, 2019). The Addis Ababa Ring Road has improved urban transportation, impacting economic activity (Doe, 2018). Developments in the Ethio-Djibouti Railway Agreement emphasize the evolving partnership between the two nations (Thompson, 2017). Overall, these projects showcase the successful application of economic diplomacy, contributing to Ethiopia's economic development and regional connectivity while aligning with China's broader geopolitical interests.

The collaboration between Ethiopia and China in office building infrastructure, totalling 453 million USD, signifies a significant advancement in urban development and economic diplomacy (Jones, 2020). Projects like the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia Headquarters and Meskel Square exemplify this partnership, enhancing Ethiopia's urban landscape with modern architectural designs (Cheney, 2019). These developments contribute to economic diversification, attracting foreign investment and bolstering sectors like real estate and tourism (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, 2021). However, the predominance of financing through loans highlights the need for sustainable financial strategies (Br äutigam, 2012). Additionally, these projects underscore the complexity of Ethiopia-China diplomatic relations and the importance of environmental sustainability in urban development (Jones, 2020).

Chinese investments in various sectors, including telecommunications, road and railway construction, and agriculture, demonstrate a strategic approach to economic diplomacy aligned with China's broader geopolitical objectives (Cheney, 2019). These projects symbolize a new era in international relations where diplomacy intersects with national development and strategic positioning (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, 2021). Overall, these infrastructure projects showcase China's comprehensive approach to economic diplomacy in Ethiopia, aiming for long-term influence and mutual benefit (Br äutigam, 2012).

Table 8. Key infrastructure agreements

Type of Agreement	Description	Year	Implementation Stage
Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway	Funded by the Export-Import Bank of China, this railway connects Addis Ababa to Djibouti, Ethiopia's main port.	2016	Completed
Tekeze Hydroelectric Project	Undertaken by the Sino Hydro Corporation, this project features a 607-foot dam on the Tekezé River.	2002	Completed (2009)
Gibe IV and Halele Werabesa Dams	Agreements for hydro-electric capacity construction, with significant Chinese financing.	2009	Ongoing
Ethiopian Electric Power Projects	Involving the construction of transmission lines and substations, with funding from Chinese loans.	Various	Various
Addis Ababa Ring Road	A road project undertaken with Chinese assistance, aimed at improving transportation in Ethiopia's capital.	2003	Completed
Ethio-Djibouti Railway Agreement	Recent agreement related to the operation and further development of the Ethio-Djibouti railway.	Recent	Ongoing

Table 9. Ethiopia- China Cooperation Office buildings Projects

No	Project Title/Sector	Financing Modality	Currency	Loan/ Grant Amount	Financer	Contractor	Current status	Remarks
Office buildings								
1	Commercial Bank of Ethiopia Head Quater building	Loan	USD	300.00	Ethiopian Government	China State Construction	Completed	The Highest building in Ethiopia which have 48 floors
2	Meskel construction	Squar Loan	USD	50.00	Ethiopian Government	CCCC	Completed	
3	Adwa Museum	Zero Zero Loan	USD	51.00	Ethiopian Government		The project is near to complete	
3	Frendship park parking	Car Loan	USD	52.00	Ethiopian Government		Completed	
TOTAL		453 USD						

Source: MOFED (2023), China cooperation division.

5.4 Impact of Chinese Government Involvement in Ethiopian Infrastructure on Bilateral Relations and Economic Diplomacy

The engagement of the Chinese government in Ethiopian infrastructure development has significantly influenced bilateral relations and economic diplomacy between the two nations, reshaping their diplomatic and economic

landscape. Interviews and discussions with participants underscored that Chinese investment strategies in Ethiopia have fostered stronger bilateral ties, laying the groundwork for robust, sustained cooperation (Morduch, 2020). Ethiopian infrastructural projects underpinned by Chinese investments have not only enhanced economic development but also strengthened political alliances, symbolizing a strategic merger of economic aspirations with diplomatic initiatives.

The intertwining of infrastructure and diplomatic influence has been highlighted by participants, indicating that these projects serve as tangible manifestations of mutual interests and benefits (Oh, 2018). Such initiatives are vital for fostering a favorable diplomatic atmosphere, facilitating enhanced interactions between China and Ethiopia (Pandey, 2018). Moreover, Chinese involvement in Ethiopian infrastructure has been pivotal in bolstering bilateral relations, potentially serving as a model for China's engagements with other African nations (Jones & Hameiri, 2020).

Participants also discussed the dual-edged nature of infrastructure projects, impacting public perception in Ethiopia. While these projects inspire admiration for catalyzing development, they can also attract criticism, affecting the public's perception of Chinese involvement (Rebol, 2010). Navigating economic diplomacy challenges involves managing these complexities while balancing national interests and maintaining positive international relations (Haroz, 2011).

In summary, Chinese government involvement in Ethiopian infrastructure development represents a complex fusion of development and diplomatic strategy. It has strengthened bilateral ties, facilitated economic growth, and influenced public perception. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for navigating the intricacies of economic diplomacy and fostering mutually beneficial partnerships between China and Ethiopia (Ayodele & Sotola, 2014).

5.5 Theoretical Perspectives

Chinese involvement in Ethiopian infrastructure development reflects various theoretical perspectives, each offering insights into the motivations and implications of such engagement. From a liberal viewpoint, this involvement represents a mutually beneficial investment fostering economic interdependence (Keohane et al., 1984). Realism, on the other hand, sees it as a strategic maneuver to increase China's influence in Africa (Mearsheimer, 2001). Institutionalism views it within a framework of international cooperation, guided by formal agreements and policies (Keohane et al., 1995). Interdependence Theory suggests it deepens mutual dependencies between the two nations (Keohane et al., 1984), while Constructivism emphasizes the constructed identity and perceptions driving this cooperation (Wendt, 1992). In the context of International Political Economy (IPE), Chinese involvement serves China's strategic interests within a broader economic and geopolitical framework (Gilpin, 2001).

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

6.1 Conclusions

The economic diplomacy between Ethiopia and China exemplifies a sophisticated model of strategic investment and diplomatic maneuvering. Chinese-led infrastructure projects in Ethiopia serve as channels for soft power, advancing both Ethiopian industrial ambitions and China's image as a development partner. These projects signify a shift towards strategic interdependence, although navigating growth while safeguarding national sovereignty poses challenges. Despite complexities, China's investments not only enhance Ethiopia's economic landscape but also bolster China's global economic stature. Chinese infrastructure projects in Ethiopia represent a strategic fusion of development aid and diplomatic partnership, showcasing China's adept use of economic diplomacy to reinforce its geopolitical influence in Africa. This approach goes beyond conventional aid, leveraging physical infrastructure to foster dependencies and connections, thereby reshaping global diplomacy. However, questions regarding long-term sustainability and equity persist, highlighting the need for careful consideration of the implications of China's infrastructure investments in Ethiopia and beyond.

6.2 Major Findings

The extensive involvement of the Chinese government in Ethiopian infrastructure development, particularly through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), stands out as a crucial aspect of the partnership between the two nations. Chinese financing and expertise have been pivotal in addressing Ethiopia's infrastructure needs, enhancing regional connectivity, and fostering economic growth. However, challenges related to debt sustainability and environmental impacts highlight the importance of responsible management to ensure the long-term success of these projects. While Chinese involvement has undoubtedly strengthened economic diplomacy, concerns regarding debt sustainability and environmental impact necessitate careful management to mitigate negative consequences.

6.3 Relevance and Interpretation of the Findings in the Context of the Theoretical Framework

The extensive involvement of the Chinese government in Ethiopian infrastructure development can be analyzed within the context of established theoretical frameworks in international relations and economic diplomacy. Neoclassical realism highlights China's great power status and its significant influence in shaping international outcomes, emphasizing how Chinese infrastructure initiatives strengthen diplomatic relations with Ethiopia. Economic statecraft theory underscores the strategic use of infrastructure projects to enhance diplomatic relations, aligning with recent research on China's infrastructure investments. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) reflects the principles of international regimes and institutions, providing a structured framework for economic cooperation and diplomatic engagement. The theory of foreign direct investment (FDI) and multinational corporations is relevant, considering the direct participation of Chinese state-owned enterprises in Ethiopian projects. Additionally, the theory of public goods highlights Chinese financing and expertise in infrastructure as public goods benefiting Ethiopia, although concerns about debt sustainability and environmental impacts must be addressed responsibly. Overall, these findings contribute empirically by shedding light on the dynamics of economic diplomacy and theoretically by aligning with established frameworks in international relations and economic diplomacy.

6.4 Recommendations and Future Research Focuses

The role of the Chinese government in Ethiopian infrastructure development presents both opportunities and challenges, calling for strategic recommendations to optimize benefits and mitigate risks. Firstly, fostering bilateral engagement and policy dialogue through regular consultations and joint committees can ensure projects align with Ethiopia's development plans. Secondly, ensuring sustainable financing, transparency in loan agreements, and alignment with Ethiopia's financial capacity can prevent debt traps. Thirdly, emphasizing capacity building and knowledge transfer through training programs and partnerships can enhance long-term benefits. Fourthly, promoting local participation and ownership fosters economic inclusion and positive public perception. Fifthly, implementing stringent environmental and social safeguards safeguards against adverse impacts. Sixthly, fostering transparency and accountability in project implementation builds trust and ensures public interest. Seventhly, diversifying cooperation into other sectors reduces reliance on infrastructure alone. Eighthly, conducting regular impact assessments informs adaptability in project implementation. Ninthly, engaging in public diplomacy and community engagement enhances communication and addresses local needs. Finally, strategic alignment with broader development goals ensures infrastructure projects contribute to wider sustainable development objectives. These recommendations aim to guide Ethiopia-China cooperation towards a more equitable, transparent, and effective partnership, serving as a model for future engagements.

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