

CARE ETHIOPIA

MID-TERM EVALUATION OF ABDISHE/ LINKAGES PROJECT IN EAST HARARGHE (Final Report)

**Conducted by:
ICOS CONSULTING PLC**

www.icosconsult.com

info@icosconsult.com

+251 118 607499 or +251911208078

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

April 2015

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AWP	Annual Work Plan
BK	Beekeeping
BKGs	Beekeeping Groups
CAD	Canadian Dollar
CBLA	Community Based Legal Advisor
CF	Community facilitator
CFI	Chronically Food Insecure
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
EFY	Ethiopian Fiscal Year
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
FGC	Female Genital Cutting
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
FSP	Food Security Program
FSTF	Food Security Task Force
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GTP	Growth and Transformation Plan
HHs	Households
HTP	Harmful Traditional Practices
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
	Linking Initiatives, Stakeholders and Knowledge to Achieve Gender-
LINKAGES	Sensitive Livelihood Security
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFI	Microfinance Institution
MSP	Multi-Stakeholder Platform
MTE	Mid Term Evaluation
NA	Not Applicable
OCSSCo	Oromia Credit and Saving Share Company
OFG	Oxen Fattening Group
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Program
RUSACCO	Rural Savings and Credit Cooperatives
SAA	Social Analysis and Action
ToR	Term of Reference
VC	Value Chain
VSLA	Village Saving and Lending Association
WAG	Women Asset Building Group
#	Number
%	Percent
%age	Percentage

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	BACKGROUND	5
2.	EVALUATION METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS	6
3.	BRIEF PROFILE OF FEDIS WOREDA AND ABDISHE PROJECT	9
4.	FINDINGS OF THE EVALUATION	14
4.1.	Demographic Characteristics of Survey Respondents	14
4.2.	Effectiveness of the Project	16
4.3.	Unintended Outcomes of the Project.....	62
4.4.	Gender Strategy Analysis.....	63
4.5.	Relevance	67
4.6.	Efficiency	69
4.7.	Project Management and Partnership.....	72
4.8.	Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Risk Management	75
4.9.	Sustainability	77
4.10.	Facilitating and Constraining Factors.....	80
4.11.	Best Practices and Lessons Learned	83
5.	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	85
5.1.	Conclusions	85
5.2.	Recommendations.....	86
	ANNEXES.....	89
Annex 1)	List of Key Informants Consulted.....	90
Annex 2)	Focus Group Discussion Participants (Beneficiary women and their husbands)	92
Annex 3)	Household Survey Questionnaire to Beneficiary Women	94
Annex 4)	Gender Responsiveness Assessment Checklist.....	116
Annex 5)	Group Discussion Questions to Landless Livelihood Group Members	119
Annex 6)	Group Discussion Questions to Female Beneficiaries	125
Annex 7)	Group Discussion Questions to husbands/partners of women beneficiaries.....	129
Annex 8)	Group Discussion Questions to Project Beneficiaries that are Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) Members.....	134
Annex 9)	Interview Questions to CARE Ethiopia Staff	139
Annex 10)	Interview Guide to Relevant Woreda Government Offices.....	141
Annex 11)	Interview Guide to Partner Microfinance Institutions.....	144
Annex 12)	Abdishe Project Logic Model	146

1. BACKGROUND

Since the beginning of 2013, CARE Ethiopia has been implementing a Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) funded program called ABDISHE. ABDISHE is part of CARE Canada's Linking Initiatives, Stakeholders and Knowledge to Achieve Gender-Sensitive Livelihood Security (LINKAGES) program. It is a multi-country initiative consisting of 4 sub-projects in Bolivia, Ethiopia, Ghana and Mali. The Ethiopian component is named ABDISHE (meaning hope for a woman in the local language) is aiming to Strengthening Women's Livelihoods through Markets is contributing to the ultimate outcome of the LINKAGES program. The project aims to achieve three main result areas 1) Increased quantity and quality of food production and consumption by women, and men 2) Women and men are better able to manage and control their economic enterprises and 3) The policy and regulatory environment supports poor women's and men's more equal control of agricultural resources and market processes.

CARE has been implementing the ABDISHE project in 11 Kebeles of Fedis Woreda in Eastern Harerghe Zone of the Oromia Regional State where chronic food insecurity is highly pronounced. The project has planned to reach 6,400 chronically food insecure (CFI) women and their households with a total budget of Canadian Dollar (CAD) 1,793,995. CARE Ethiopia has been implementing the project in partnership with the relevant government partners that include Agriculture Office, Cooperative Office and Women and Children Affairs Offices, and others. Abdishe aligns with the efforts of the Government of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to link productive safety net program (PSNP) beneficiaries to long-term development initiatives.

As the project implementation is halfway its life-cycle, CARE Ethiopia contracted an independent consulting firm, ICOS Consulting, to undertake a mid-term evaluation (MTE) of this project with the purpose to assess achievements to date and capture challenges and lessons learned. The main objective of the mid-term evaluation was to determine the extent to which the objectives, outcomes and outputs defined in the project document have been met and assess the likelihood of achieving them upon project completion, to carry out a detailed and critical analysis of the present situation to generate evidence of change that the project has delivered identify potential options for improvement, which may include modifications in the project design and feed evaluation results into the ongoing implementation of the Project. The specific objectives of the mid-term evaluation include the following:

- i. Trace the changes (prospective) observed in the lives of the target beneficiaries, as a result;

Primary data of both qualitative and quantitative nature were also gathered from various sources. Quantitative data were collected through a survey of beneficiary households. The survey was conducted in three rural kebeles namely Bedhatu, Tuta Kanissa and Bidi Bora; and one urban kebele called Fechatu that were selected purposely on three major criteria that included comparability with the baseline survey, number of beneficiaries and accessibility. A randomly selected of 392 (out of the planned 384¹) beneficiary households (computed at 5% margin of error and 95% confidence level) were surveyed.

In the qualitative assessment, focus group discussions and key informant interviews were conducted with beneficiary women and their husbands/partners, collaborating local government agencies and other implementing partners, village savings and credit association members and leaders, landless youth, project staff at headquarters and project office. Twelve focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with beneficiary women and landless groups, husbands of beneficiary women, CARE Ethiopia staff, and VSLA leaders and members. A total of 110 people participated in the group discussions. Over 23 key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted with representatives of partner government offices, beneficiaries, project staff and others. Part of the key informant interview involved brief gender responsiveness assessment of 11 government partners though secondary data and observations also complemented the interview responses. Four case stories were also developed. Additionally, Fechatu and Tuta Kenisa Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) were also profiled with a checklist to assess their status, capacity and gaps. Following the conclusion of the field work, the field team conducted an exit meeting with project staff and the woreda administrator to share preliminary findings and obtain additional information and feedback.

Quantitative data were entered into SPSS computer software, cleaned and analyzed – frequencies were run, and cross tabulations, graphs and charts were produced. Qualitative data were transcribed and compiled under pre-defined thematic areas. Data from all sources were synchronized before producing the final report.

2.2. Limitations of the Evaluation

The mid-term evaluation was challenged by several factors. One of these challenges came from the lack of operational definitions to performance indicators for the project. Some indicators also lacked baseline and/or targets. The existence of too many indicators also created difficulties to organize data and the report. Another major challenge faced by the evaluation team was related to the sparse living situation of beneficiaries coupled with the

¹ The consultant surveyed more households than planned as part of its endeavor to increase representativeness.

difficulty geography in the woreda. Consultants and enumerators had to travel a lot to administer surveys and conduct group discussions. The difficulty to find beneficiaries and government officials for consultation was probably the other major challenge faced by the evaluation team. Government officials and the community were highly involved in meetings owing to the upcoming national election and other community works. As a result, the evaluation team had to conduct some group discussions following their meetings at their meeting sites though that shortened the time for discussion. Indeed, consultations with relevant partner government offices such as the micro and small enterprise development agency was not made as all their staff left the woreda for a meeting in Adama city. The lack of proper documentation at partner government offices and the unavailability of photocopy machines in the area also created difficulties to get a copy of some of their documents needed for consultation. The field team had to also get official letter from the woreda administration to conduct the survey as Kebeles selected for the survey made it a requirement. However, it should be noted here that CARE Ethiopia's strong relationship with the woreda authorities facilitated the data collection process. Finally, the difficulty faced by women beneficiaries to provide information about their production and income was probably the biggest challenge faced by the evaluation team. There were also variations in units of measures utilized by households in estimating their total produces. Although the team tried to make up for some of the problems by gathering additional market data from Harar and nearby towns to determine the birr value of households produces, it should be clearly acknowledged that the beneficiaries were not able to provide accurate data about their incomes and production.

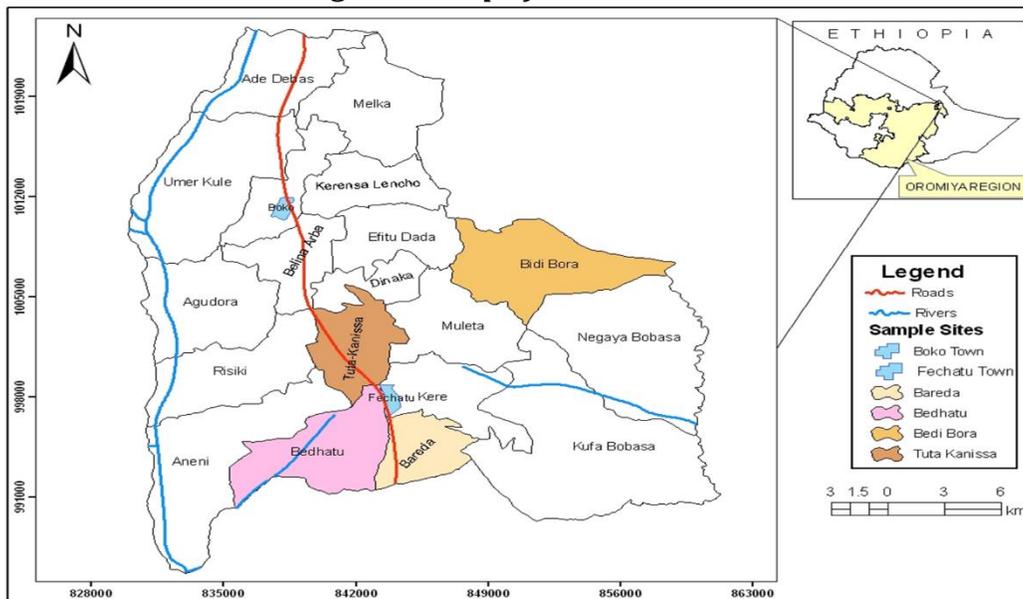
3. BRIEF PROFILE OF FEDIS WOREDA AND ABDISHE PROJECT

3.1. About Fedis Woreda

Fedis Woreda is located at a distance of 24 kms South from Harar and 539 kms East from Addis Ababa and lies between 8°22' and 9°14'N latitude and 42°19'E longitude. It has a total area of 2047.09km². Around 85% of the area is low land while the remaining is midland. Average temperature ranges between 25-30 °C and annual rain fall averages from 650 to 750 mm. The topography of the woreda is predominantly characterized by plains (consisting of few isolated hills) few plateaus, mountains, hills and valleys as well as gorges.

Fedis Woreda, according to the 2007 national census report, has a population of 113,108 (57,250 male and 55,858 female). Women account for 49.3% of the woreda population. Close to 96% of the woreda population live in rural areas. The woreda has 19 kebeles with 2 rural towns.

Figure 1: Map of Fedis Woreda



Agriculture is the dominant economic activity and the base of livelihood for the majority of the residents. However, backward farming system that largely rely on rainfall characterizes

the agricultural activities of the Woreda population. The Woreda is vulnerable to recurring droughts and shocks. It is one of the most food insecure districts in the East Harerghe zone and has received aid relief for over twenty years. Government and non-governmental organizations such as CARE Ethiopia, IMC, WFP and CISP have been implementing different kinds of interventions in the Woreda ranging from emergency food relief and livelihood to water, sanitation and hygiene.

3.2. Brief Profile of the ABDISHE Project

Abdishe is part of CARE Canada's Linking Initiatives, Stakeholders and Knowledge to Achieve Gender-Sensitive Livelihood Security (LINKAGES) program. It is a multi-country initiative consisting of 4 sub-projects in Bolivia, Ethiopia, Ghana and Mali. The project aims to reach 6,400 chronically food insecure Women and their households with a total budget of CAD 1,793,995 or (ETB 32,455,870) and has been funded by DFATD through CARE Canada. CARE Ethiopia implements the project in partnership with the relevant government partners that include Agriculture Office, Cooperative Office and Women and Children Affairs Offices. The Ethiopian component is named Abdishe (meaning hope for a woman in the local language) has aimed to Strengthening Women's Livelihoods through Markets is contributing to the ultimate outcome of the LINKAGES program. It is planned to be implemented in Eastern Part of Oromia region in Fedis Woreda where chronic food insecurity is highly pronounced. Abdishe aims to achieve three main result areas 1). Increased quantity and quality of food production and consumption by women, and men 2) Women and men are better able to manage and control their economic enterprises and 3) The policy and regulatory environment supports poor women's and men's more equal control of agricultural resources and market processes.

Abdishe aligns with the efforts of the Government of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to link PSNP beneficiaries to long-term development initiatives. The project improves the livelihoods of the project beneficiaries through increased quantity and quality of food production and consumption by women and men, enabling women and men to equally manage and control their economic enterprises. Abdishe project has also aimed to support policy and regulatory environment of the local government to improve supports to poor women's and men's more equal control of agricultural resources and market processes.

Fedis's population is vulnerable to food insecurity and that is why the Woreda has been included in the PNSP. In times of drought, Fedis' vulnerability drastically increases since the agricultural sector is usually the first to be affected because of its heavy dependence on stored soil water and since most of its population relies on agriculture for their subsistence. Fedis has experienced several droughts over the last 30 years, and as a result, crop failure (such as sorghum) is a common phenomenon in the Woreda. Such events are having high negative impacts on agriculture production, food and water consumption, malnutrition rates, market stability, etc. Hence, the Abdishe project was specifically designed to provide alternative and accelerated pathways towards graduation from the GFDRE Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP). The project aims to contribute to improving the livelihoods of Chronically Food Insecure Women (CFIW) by deliberately and concurrently assisting PSNP beneficiaries lacking access to other food security and microfinance programs to acquire assets through entry into viable markets and a range of contextually relevant microfinance services.

In addition, most household roles and responsibilities in the Woreda were loaded on the shoulders of women and girls. Among others, reproductive aspects and home management as well as marketing and other business activities were more or less exclusively handled by female members of the households. Men's roles and responsibilities were limited mainly on productive activities and social/public affairs in which women also contribute. Women's asymmetric rights and responsibilities mean that their capacity to engage in their communities and in economic activities can be greatly limited. Hence, there is a need to reduce the workload of women through various interventions in order for them to improve their access to sustainable, just and equitable income security and their overall living conditions. To that end, Abdishe aimed to engage in intensive gender related interventions to improve gender equity in the Woreda through assessment and analysis of practical and strategic needs of male and female members of the local communities.

The Abdishe' Strategic Framework was designed to establish the mechanisms and institutional relationships (e.g. among financial institutions, private sector and PSNP households) to create an enabling environment where PSNP households can graduate. Building the asset base of CFIW by addressing factors that make market engagement too risky for these households, Abdishe aims to provide a model for effective scale-up that goes beyond one livelihood zone, but rather provides the government, donors and others

evidence that is contextually appropriate for establishing the conditions for women's empowerment and integration in livelihood activities in different parts of the country. Through documentation of evidence based learning and experience, common approaches and good practices has also been planned to be identified as well. This information can help inform regional governments' graduation policies and programming, as well as graduation benchmarks.

The project has integrated a wide range of approaches to ensure sustainability of programming activities and provide a viable exit strategy. These approaches include:

- i. Participatory approaches and techniques, including processes that engage poor, rural households, government officials, private sector actors in joint decision-making and planning. These approaches extend stakeholders' sense of ownership and responsibility for the activities that they will be implementing, expand participation, foster ownership, and promote long-term maintenance and sustainability of structural and extension activities.
- ii. Capacity building of community groups and local government in order to increase program implementation efficiency and effectiveness, scale and coverage, sustainability of service delivery, and programming scope. The project has contained a significant amount of capacity building activities both for the target community members, community, and government institutions that can significantly improve the level of their capacities. The project has planned to employ a very participatory and life skill training approaches such as using SAA (Social Analysis and Action) tool through VSLAs for all planned trainings. In addition, all the trainings planned by the project will enhance the saving culture of the target communities, their business skills as well as their engagements on economic enterprises (IGAs) through community based institutions such as VSLA groups, livestock fattening groups, women asses groups, bee keeping groups, etc.
- iii. Strengthening good governance, member accountability and market orientation within VSLAs and facilitating access to training and financial products and services enhances the long-term sustainability of associations formed and strengthened under Abdishe. Additionally, during the establishment phase of the VSLA, group

members will develop their own by-laws. These generally include mechanisms for rotational leadership. This ensures that there is a pool of trained members who have the capacity to lead, thus distributing power across membership.

- iv. Strategic partnerships between the private sector, government, and producers bridge gaps which have undermined market-led initiatives in the past. Taking a long view at the value chain process identifies weaknesses and areas for improvement throughout the production, processing and marketing system which are critical areas for the success of any activity aimed at linking poor to markets. Similarly, the financial linkages forged under Immediate Outcome 1.1 are sequenced in such a manner to mitigate the potential of poor households lacking access due to their rural locations, inability to provide collateral, or inability to find appropriate credit packages.
- v. Integration and complementarities within and outside of the program lends itself to greater sustainability. Within the program, producers are linked to markets and necessary financial supports in order to support long-term viability of their enterprises. Interventions under the program are expected to be market driven, to guarantee that there is a ready and increasing market for the commodities and products produced by participants.
- vi. Promoting women's participation is the core of this project throughout program activity implementation. Integration of women and analysis of how women take part in or benefit differently from the context or the interventions will help CARE to support gender parity throughout implementation. The full inclusion of women also promotes the goal of graduation, as women are more likely to spend income on the betterment of their families through education, improved nutrition and/or healthcare. Working in close collaboration with local government structures, the project has planned to improve government and Civil society collaboration and partnership to women empowerment and gender *issues and* thereby ensure sustainability of proven approaches by contributing to the institutional environment required for future government support and scaling-up.

The project’s logic model is presented in Annex 12.

4. FINDINGS OF THE EVALUATION

4.1. Demographic Characteristics of Survey Respondents

As detailed in Table 1 below, 100% of the respondents to the survey were women. The average age of the respondents was 35.9. Over 74% of the surveyed households were male headed, while 22.5% of them were female-headed. Over 4% of the households indicated they are headed by both men and women². 86% of the respondents were married while 8% and 5% were widowed and single, respectively. The vast majority of the respondents (95.6%) were illiterate. Respondents that attended basic and primary education accounted for 1% and 4%, respectively. None of the respondents have reached secondary education. When occupation of the respondents was assessed, it was found that 87.5% were self-employed while 10% were unemployed. Close to half of the respondents (46%) were engaged in trade/business followed by farming that accounted for over 41% of them. Close to 5% of the survey respondents were engaged in both farming and trade. In the surveyed households, average family size was 6.2. On average, 1.32 boys (out of 2.09) and 1.09 (out of 1.95) girls younger than 18 years of age are currently attending school. While each household has on average 3.9 children younger than 18 years, an average of 2.2 children per household are currently attending school.

Table 1: Socio-demographic characteristics of survey respondents

		Household Headship (% from Total)			
		Male Headed Households	Female Headed Households	Households Headed by both Male and Female ³	Total
Role of the	Mother	74%	21.5%	4.5%	100%

² It was respondents themselves that identified whether the household was male or female headed or both.

³ This refers to households in which both mothers and fathers together are identified as head of the household.

		Household Headship (% from Total)			
		Male Headed Households	Female Headed Households	Households Headed by both Male and Female ³	Total
Respondent in the Family					
Marital Status	Single	4.3%	0.8%	0.0%	5.1%
	Married	68.0%	14.1%	4.1%	86.2%
	Divorced	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.5%
	Widowed	0.8%	7.3%	0.0%	8.1%
	Total	73.2%	22.8%	4.1%	100%
Education	Illiterate	70.1%	20.9%	4.0%	94.9%
	Basic Education	0.8%	0.3%	0.0%	1.1%
	Primary (grade 1-8)	3.3%	6.0%	6.3%	4.0%
	Total	73.2%	22.5%	4.3%	100%
Employment Status	Employed	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	.3%
	Self-employed	64%	20.2%	000%	87.5%
	Unemployed	7.1%	1.9%	1.1%	10.1%
	Other	1.9%	0.3%	0.0%	2.2%
	Total	73.3%	22.3%	4.4%	100%
Current Occupation	Farming	33.2%	8.5%	0.3%	42.0%
	Wage Labor	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
	Paid employment	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	1.1%
	Trade/business	31.9%	11%	3.3%	46.2%
	Other	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	1.1%
	No occupation	2.7%	0.5%	0.5%	3.8%
	Both Farming and Trade/Business	4.4%	0.5%	0.0%	4.9%
	Total	74.2%	21.7%	4.1%	100%
Average of Age of Respondents (Years)		38.0	35.5	30.7	35.87
Average Family Size of Male Headed Households		2.7	3.3	3.1	3.16
Average Family Size of Female Headed Households		2.6	3.2	2.9	3.04
Average Household Family Size		5.2	6.5	6.1	6.18
Average number of boys and girls less than 18 years in the household		3.9	3.9	4.3	3.92
Average number of girls less than 18		1.1	1.1	1.3	1.09

	Household Headship (% from Total)			
	Male Headed Households	Female Headed Households	Households Headed by both Male and Female ³	Total
years in the household attending school				
Average number of boys less than 18 years in the household attending school	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.32
Average number of girls and boys less than 18 years in the household attending school	2.3	2.2	1.9	2.22

4.2. Effectiveness of the Project

In this section of the report, the achievements of the project are presented under each of its ultimate, intermediate, and immediate outcomes.

Goal/Ultimate Outcome: Improved Livelihood Security and resilience for CFI women, girls, men and boys in Fedis, Ethiopia

The goal or ultimate outcome of the program was to improve livelihood security and resilience for CFI women, girls, men and boys in Fedis Woreda. The performance of the project in achieving its goal was meant to be measured by three impact level indicators including the number of CFI women who moved out of food support, Positive Coping Strategies (CSI) employed by women and men, improvements in women's self-esteem score. The evaluation team utilized similar factors to measure progress on the first and third indicators (progress on CSI was left for the end-term evaluation as stipulated in the project's M&E Plan. The table below presents the progress that has been made by the project during the first two years of its implementation on indicators selected to measure progress on the goal.

Table 2: Progress on Project Goal/Ultimate Outcome

Indicators	Baseline	Progress to-date	Overall
------------	----------	------------------	---------

		Target	Actual		project target
			#	%ge	
Number of CFI women who moved out of food support	6400	NA	4,864	Survey data shows that beneficiaries receiving food support decreased by 76%	3840 (60% of target beneficiaries)
Positive Coping Strategies (CSI) employed by women and men	CSI = 37.1 (36.9 for Men and 37.9 for women)	NA	NA	To be determined (TBD) by the end-term evaluation as specified in the M&E plan of the project	CSI = 38 for men and 39 for women (one point increase for both women and men)
Women's self-esteem improved	Women's self-esteem = 2.67 out of 4 scoring	NA	NA	Women's self-esteem increased from 2.67 to 3.15 out of 4 scoring (improved by 0.48 points)	Women's self esteem = 3.50 out of 4 scoring

In terms of CFI women who moved out of food support, beneficiary women were asked whether their household are currently receiving any food support. As presented in Table 3 below, 76% of the respondents stated that their household is not currently receiving any food support. Only 24% of do receive such support. Considering the baseline situation that indicated that all the 6,400 target women beneficiaries were receiving food support before the implementation of the project, it can be inferred that the number of households that have moved out of food support has increased from 0% to 76%, representing 4,864 beneficiaries. This shows that the project has exceeded its 60% target by achieving 127% of the target half way through its implementation. However, as the indicator “moved from food support” was not defined, the evaluation team assumed that beneficiaries that are no longer receiving any food support have moved from such support, which may not necessarily mean that they are food self-sufficient or not requiring external support.

Table 3: Proportion of CFI women that moved out of food support

Are you or any of your family member currently on food support?		Man headed HHs	Woman headed HHs	Both man and woman headed HHS	Total
Yes	Count	52	26	4	82
	% within the household man or woman or both headed households	21	33	25	24
	% of Total	15	8	1	24

No	Count	197	54	12	263
	% within the household man or woman or both headed households	79	68	75	76
	% of Total	57	16	3	76
Total	Count	249	80	16	345
	% within the household man or woman or both headed households	100	100	100	100
	% of Total	72	23	5	100

The findings of the survey regarding the significant decline in the proportion of beneficiaries that used to receive food support was also corroborated by qualitative data. Both beneficiary women and their husbands that participated in group discussions stated that there has been considerable improvement on the quality and quantity of the food produce and consume. During the past two years, they have been able to access improved seed of crops which relatively resist drought and give more yield. Many beneficiaries also mentioned that their consumption of milk and egg have never been higher following the improvement in their livestock rearing activities. Because of the increased food production, households managed to increase their income which in turn enabled them to afford foods like rice, macaroni and pasta, in addition to maize and sorghum based meal. Before the project they said that they solely depend on sorghum and maize based meal which often was severely affected by frequent drought on the area. At present, they produce more food than before and do not seem to seek external food support.

Increasing women self-esteem was another important indicator that was identified to measure progress on the project's goal. In this regard, the project targeted to increase women's self-esteem from 2.67 to 3.5 (out of a possible four score) as measured by eight dimensions as presented in the table below. The findings of the survey revealed that women's self-esteem has increased to 3.15 out of 4 scoring from the baseline of 2.67. In other words, women's self-esteem has increased by 0.48 points since the project implementation commenced. Considering the current level of performance of the project, it is highly likely that it will be able achieve its overall target of increasing the self-esteem score to 3.5.

Table 4: Women's self-esteem Score

	N	Sum	Mean
I am strong enough to overcome life's struggles.	381	1106.00	2.9029
At root, I am a weak person.	382	1247.00	3.2644
I can handle the situations that life brings.	381	1206.00	3.1654

I usually feel that I am an unsuccessful person.	380	1227.00	3.2289
I often feel that there is nothing that I can do well.	378	1154.00	3.0529
I feel competent to deal effectively with the real world.	378	1196.00	3.1640
I often feel like a failure.	378	1186.00	3.1376
I usually feel I can handle the typical problems that come up in life.	374	1215.00	3.2487
Total	3032	9537.00	3.14544

Qualitative data collected from beneficiary women and their husbands have also showed that women have now developed self-confidence in their own abilities and become very assertive of their rights. The project improved women’s self-confidence in many ways. The fact that the project helped women to own assets and engage in income generating activities was instrumental in enabling women to become more independent than before. One participant in the FGD conducted with husbands of women beneficiaries in Bedatu kebele states “Since the women are now independent, there is more love in the household and the marriage and household life is more harmonious. As these women are now bringing income and assets to the household, the husband and other members of the household have started to give weight to what they say. Women and their husbands that participated in the group discussions also revealed that the project addressed food shortages of their households and enabled women, men and children to eat together. According to discussion participants, their households used to experience food shortage before the project support. As a result, the husband used to eat first followed by children. Women used to eat last depending on availability of food. This situation has changed significantly and women are now sitting with their husbands to each food.

Women self-esteem improvement can also be witnessed by their increased participation in household decision making processes. Few years ago, it was a custom that the wife should get permission from the husband to go to anywhere. But now it is neither a norm nor an obligation to a woman to ask permission to her husband. What the wife is now supposed to do is to just inform the husband about where she is at. Indeed, the results of the survey showed that the decision to visit relatives is made jointly by the husband and wife in more than 60% of the households (see the table below). Over 16% of the beneficiary women indicated that they make such decisions by themselves although this may be partly because

of the fact that some of the surveyed women did not have husbands (see table 1 above which shows that more than 13% of the women were either single or divorced or widowed).

As presented in the table below, women are also now involved or increasingly being consulted by their husbands in important decisions such as agricultural input and output, household resources and earnings and others. Indeed, the findings of the survey revealed that a relatively higher proportion of women than men or husbands make decisions relating to healthcare for themselves, contraception use, and earnings of the husband and theirs. To the majority of the households, these decisions are made jointly by women and men. Women beneficiaries that participated in group discussion indicated that the project was instrumental to help them now about their capabilities and potentials. Owing to their engagement in income generating activities, they have now become no more dependent on men and start making decisions by themselves. The custom for women to wait for money supply and decision of their husbands to even on buy and sell crops is now changing a lot. It was learned from both women beneficiaries and their husbands that women are increasingly making decisions on their own about buying and selling of crops. Husbands are also increasingly consulting their wives in making decisions relating to buying or selling of livestock and other important ones. Indeed, apart from their participation in such decisions, some women beneficiaries indicated that they are now buying and selling livestock together with their husbands.

Table 5: Women's Participation or Role in Decision Making Processes

Who usually makes decisions about:	Respondent	Husband/ Partner	Respondent and Husband	Someone Else	Other	Total
Visits to your family or relatives?	16.5%	22%	60.5%	0.5%	0.5%	100%
Contraception use?	25.6%	14.2%	50.9%	9.4%	0.0%	100%
Major household purchases?	18.7%	20.8%	59.6%	0.5%	0.3%	100%
Health care for yourself?	27%	14.9%	57.3%	0.5%	0.3%	100%
How your husband's/partner's earnings will be used?	22.0%	12.9%	64.8%	0.0%	0.3%	100%
How the money you earn	50%	5.2%	44.4%	0.0%	0.4%	100%

will be used?						
Agricultural inputs and outputs?	17.2%	37.1%	45.2%	0.0%	0.3%	100%
The resources of the household?	35.1%	19.7%	45.1%	0.0%	0.0%	100%
			Yes	No	Don't Know	Total
Compared to your situation before two years, do you currently feel that you have more control over the household resources?			88.4%	11.6%	0.0%	100%
Compared to your situation before two years, do you feel that you as a woman are equal to men?			90.2%	9.8%	0.0%	100%
Compared to your situation before two years, do you feel that you are more involved in the household decision making processes?			93.2%	6.8%	0.0%	100%

Husbands that usually beat their wives even on small matters like not preparing 'Hoja' (traditional drink made of coffee bran and milk) stated that they have now stopped doing that as women are becoming more productive member of the family and aware of their rights. Besides, women are now more knowledgeable about their rights. When beneficiary women that participated in the survey were asked about their attitude towards wife beating by husbands, close to 79% of them (on average) did not agree that a husband is justified to beat his wife if the wife goes out without telling him, neglects the children, argues with him, refuses to have sex with him or she burns the food (see the table below). This finding is almost the opposite of the 2011 Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey that reported that two women of every three (68 percent) agree that wife beating is justified in at least one of the five specified situations (CSA, 2012)⁴.

Table 6: Women's Attitude Towards Wife Beating by Husbands

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Total
In your opinion, is a husband justified in hitting or beating his wife if she goes out without telling him?	24.4%	74.6%	1%	100%
In your opinion, is a husband justified in hitting or beating his wife if she neglects the children?	21.8%	76.1%	2.1%	100%
In your opinion, is a husband justified in hitting or	16.2%	80.2%	3.7%	100%

⁴ Central Statistical Agency (CSA), The 2011 Demographic and Health Survey, 2012.

beating his wife if she argues with him?				
In your opinion, is a husband justified in hitting or beating his wife if she refuses to have sex with him?	18.8%	79.2%	2.1%	100%
In your opinion, is a husband justified in hitting or beating his wife if she burns the food?	14.6%	83%	2.3%	100%

The gendered division of labor has also changed over the last two years. Household chores that used to be taken care of by women is now being shared by husbands. Beneficiary women stated that these household chores such as fetching water, chopping firewood and taking care of children have become the responsibility of both men and women. Some women mentioned that they now fetch water in shifts with their husbands. Over 68% of the women that participated in the survey also indicated that their husbands help them with the household chores.

Overall, the results of both qualitative and quantitative data analysis show that the project contributed much to improvements in the livelihood security and empowerment of CFI women. A case of one women that saw significant improvement in her and her household life is presented below.

Anisa Kasim, 29, lives in fedis woreda in bedi bora kebele. It has been two years since she started to involve in the Abdishe project. Before two years she didn't have many assets like she has now. She only had one cow and two donkeys before two years. Even if she sells egg and ground nut after purchasing from local farmers she used to rely on her husband for household expenditure. Her husband was the one who provides for her and their children from the sorghum they produce on their land. Regarding money management, she used to hide money at her backyard in the past and her husband also did that in his way. She said that they never discussed about their financial status frankly, and they used to handle their money in their own ways without consulting each other. Because of this they couldn't plan to do anything with the money together for a long time.



However, after she was involved in Abdishe project, she began to realize that she can do much with her saving, if she plans with her husband and fellow VSLA members, properly. As a result, she combined her and her husband's savings and the loan from the VSLA saving together to open a shop at her village. The shop has been going well and income is increasing. The shop also opened her eye to see what she is capable of do if she can manage to use her income/money wisely. Currently, she owns four cattle, 11 small ruminants and over 20 poultry. Basically, she has managed to more than quadruple her resources since she was involved in the project. She attributed her success to the several training she took through the project, her membership in the VSLA group which helped her to learn much on how to save money, family planning methods and balanced nutrition for children. She also received improved seed for vegetables from Abdishe project and recently began to cultivate vegetables like lettuce, tomato and carrot, which in turn help them to feed their children with more balanced nutrition.

Currently, she has four children two of them are in school while, the remaining two young children are staying at home. Since she has learnt the advantage of family planning, she already began using injection to prevent unnecessary pregnancy. Above all, according to her, the relationship with her husband has never been better because of their growing income and communication. They are now supporting one another and started to see a brighter future together.

It is important, however, to note that beneficiary households still lack some basic household assets. With the exception of mobile telephone where close to 30% of the households indicated that they have it, almost all households do not have television,

electric 'mitad', bed with mattress, table and chair, and refrigerator. Less than 13% of the beneficiary households have radio. The main source of water for 61% of the households is surface water. Over two-third of the households live in a house that is made from grass, mud and wood. Close to 91% of the households use pit latrine.

Objective/Intermediate Outcome 1: Increased quantity and quality of food production and consumption by women and men

The first objective or intermediate outcome of the project was to increase quantity and quality of food production and consumption by women and men. The progress made by the project on the four indicators that were identified to measure changes quantity and quality of food production and consumption is summarized in the table below.

Table 7: Progress on objective/intermediate outcome 1

Indicators	Baseline	Progress to-date			Overall project target
		Target	Actual		
			#	%ge	
Diversity of food groups consumed by male and female beneficiaries,	Only 3 major crops consumed by most HHs (low dietary diversity)		Quantitative and qualitative result show that they eat at least six types of food groups/items (Sorghum, Maize, Barley, Wheat, Meat and Dairy, and Haricot Bean)		HHs consume 5 or more of the 9 food groups (better dietary diversity)
# of meals consumed per day	less than 2 meals per day		2.58 meals/day with minimum of 1 meal to maximum of four meals per day). 64% of households eat 3 meals while 30% of them eats 2 meals per day		3 meals per day
# of food shortage months,	8 food shortage months		In the month before the mid-term evaluation, 91.8% of the respondents had enough food to eat all day ⁵		Decreased length of food shortage season at least by 3 months
Proportion of	85% of HHs		Out of those that purchased food in		75% of HHs

⁵ Data needed to determine the number of months of food shortage in the year was not collected. The collected data was rather on number of days of food shortage.

HHs that could feed from own produces	couldn't feed themselves for 6 months from own produces		the last 6 months, only 2.1% of them indicated that they pay for food from family/friend loan and only 0.8% of them bought with loan from money lender. This means that the remaining 97% respondents were able to pay for food from their own produces (saving, sold livestock, sold poultry, and sold peanut and chat)		feed themselves at least for 9 months
---------------------------------------	---	--	--	--	---------------------------------------

Indicator 1: Diversity of foods consumed

One of the indicators identified to measure progress on changes in the quality and quantity of food consumption was the diversity of food groups consumed by women and men beneficiaries. The results of quantitative and qualitative data analysis show that beneficiary households eat at least six types of food groups/items, including Sorghum, Maize, Barley, Wheat, Meat and Dairy, and Haricot Bean. They eat these food items in the form of injera with wot, porridge, tuytufa, bread and soup. Many beneficiaries also indicated that they are increasing consuming pasta, macaroni, egg, peanut, onion, tomato and rice. Unlike their situation at baseline, beneficiaries indicated that they have now better dietary diversity and the project seems to have progressed well vis-à-vis its overall target of ensuring HHs consume 5 or more of the 9 food groups.

Beneficiary women and their husbands that participated in group discussion also witnessed the increased diversity of food consumed by women and men in the household. The participants claim that in recent years they have seen considerable improvement in their food consumption. Husband were heard saying that as their wives have taken some training on how to feed the children and how to prepare more balance food using the resource at hand, the household has experienced changes in the types of food they eat. One of the participants in the husbands group discussion was quoted as saying “Before two years even one injera was not enough for one farmer because food composition as it is not taken with other food items; but now the household has started to use edible oil and vegetables apart the sorghum injera, which eventually made one farmer to be full with one injera.” The growing income of the households has also enabled beneficiary household to afford other food on the market like pasta and macaroni. Some of participants also mentioned that their consumption of milk and egg could never been higher, following the improvement in their livestock rearing activities. According to the participants the recent

improvement in their feeding practice was not seen two years ago, when they were solely dependent on sorghum and maize based meal which often severely affected by the frequent drought on the area.

Indicator 2: Number of meals consumed per day

The number of meals consumed per day was another indicator that was identified to measure the project’s objective to increase quantity and quality of food production and consumption. In this regard, the target was to increase the less than two meals consumed per day at baseline to three meals after the completion of the project implementation. The results of the survey showed that beneficiary households took an average of 2.58 meals per day during the month before the survey. There was no significant difference that was found between the number of meals taken by women and men in the household (see table below). This shows that the project has progressed very well and it is likely that it will achieve the overall target of increasing the number of meals taken by the target households per day into three meals.

Table 8: Number of meals consumed per day

	N	Mean number of meals consumed per day
How many meals did each member of the household take per day during the last month?	388	2.5851
How many meals did the husband take per day during the last month?	379	2.5330
How many meals did you yourself take per day during the last month?	390	2.5667

As depicted in the figure below, the number of meals taken per day ranged from 1 to 4. Close to two-third (64%) of the surveyed households eat three meals while 30% of them eat two meals per day.

Figure 2: Households and number of meals consumed per day



Indicator 3: Number of food shortage months

Baseline figures showed that target households used to face 8 food shortage months, which accounts for two-third of the year. At present, 91% of the beneficiary households stated that they have enough food to feed their family all day during the month before the survey (see table below). When asked to assess the adequacy of food over the past year, over 47% of the beneficiaries indicated that they had either just enough or excess food. Women and their husbands that participated in the group discussions also stated that they have now plenty of food for consumption and do not have any food shortage months in a year.

Table 9: Food adequacy and consumption

		None (We had enough food)	1-2 days	3-4 days	5-6 days	7 & above days	
In the past month, how many days did your household not have enough food to eat?	N	330	17	4	5	5	361
	%	91%	5%	1%	1%	1%	100%
				Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	

How do you assess adequacy of food during the past year?	Not enough	60	15.6	15.6
	Barely enough	143	37.1	52.7
	Just enough	151	39.2	91.9
	Excess	31	8.1	100.0
	Total	385	100.0	

When beneficiary women were asked to characterize their household in terms of meeting their basic needs, close to two-third (66%) of the households indicated that their household is able to meet minimum needs (expenses) for most of the year. Very few of the households have difficulty meeting their minimum expenses (see the table below).

Table 10: Beneficiary assessment of their household's ability in meeting its basic needs

		Male headed	Female headed	Both of us	Total
Household is able to meet minimum needs (expenses) for most of the year	Count	165	65	12	237
	% within man or woman headed household	60	79	86	66
	% of Total	44	18	3	66
Basic minimum expenses can be met, but irregularly and not bigger expenses such as secondary school or repair	Count	80	15	2	97
	% within man or woman headed household	30	18	14	27
	% of Total	22	4	1	27
Much of the time, the household has difficulty meeting their minimum expenses	Count	22	2	0	24
	% within man or woman headed household	8	2	0	7
	% of Total	6	1	0	7
The household always has a big problem meeting its minimum expenses	Count	3	0	0	3
	% within man or woman headed household	1	0	0	1
	% of Total	1	0	0	1
Total	Count	265	82	14	361
	% within Is the	100	100	100	100

	household man or woman headed?				
	% of Total	73	23	4	100

Indicator 4: Proportion of HHs that could feed from own produces

The proportion of HHs that could feed themselves from their own production was the fourth indicator identified to measure progress on objective 1 of the project. The four year target was to improve the baseline situation where 85% of HHs were not able to feed themselves for 6 months from own produces into a situation where 75% of HHs could feed themselves at least for 9 months. The evaluation team used indirect measures to determine the progress on the proportion of HHs that could feed from own produces. As presented in the third indicator above, 91% of the beneficiary households stated that they have enough food to feed their family all day during the month before the survey. This does not, however, mean that these households did not experience any food shortages in other months of the year. When beneficiary households were asked if they bought any food during the last six months (before the survey), 100% (367) stated that they did. They were also asked about their sources of income to buy the food. Close to 97% the beneficiary households were able to pay for food from their own current income, savings, and selling of livestock, poultry and chat). Only 2.1% of them indicated that they pay for food from family/friend loan and only 0.8% of them bought with loan from money lender (see table below). Hence, it can be argued that although the beneficiaries have been buying food for various reasons, the income most of them use to buy the food came from their current income and other produces. Among the reasons that beneficiaries buy food from the market included buying better food, inadequacy of some food items as their major produces are non-food items such as fattening and chat on.

Table 11: Households sources of income to buy food during the last six months

Source of income to buy food	Number of respondents	% from total number of respondents
Current Income	328	85%
Saving	41	11%
Loan from family/friend	8	2%

Loan from money lender	3	1%
Livestock sale	7	2%
Poultry Sale	16	4%
Chat	5	1.3%
Peanut and Chat	13	3.4%
Others	2	0.5%

Objective/Intermediate Outcome 2: Women and men are better able to manage and control their economic enterprises

The second objective of the project was to ensure that women and men are better able to manage and control their economic enterprises. Percent increase in women and men engaged in economic enterprises, average income and savings of the household were the three indicators identified to measure project progress on this particular objective. The table below provides a summary of progress made so far on the indicators vis-à-vis the baseline and targets.

Table 12: Progress on Objective 2 indicators

Indicators	Baseline	Progress to-date			Overall project target
		Target	Actual		
			#	%ge	
% of women and men engaged in economic enterprises	13.22% of women and 33.33% of men engaged in none farm activities,		49.5% of the women are engaged in off-farm activities/micro enterprises		35% of women and men engaged on non-farm activities
Average income of HHs increased	Average income from physical capital = 1851.88 Birr,		3,648 birr from micro-business alone		40% increase in the income from all assets
Increased average savings of HHs	Average saving = 61.45 Birr		1,680 birr ⁶		Not set at the beginning

The findings of the survey revealed that close to half of the beneficiary women (49.5%) are engaged in economic enterprises. As almost all direct beneficiaries are women, the

⁶ Saving with VSLA equaled 623.6 birr, while saving in other places including home and RuSSACO was 1056.3.

evaluation team did not conduct a survey on men and as a result did not attempt to determine the proportion of men that are involved in economic enterprises. Almost all economic enterprises were established since the project implementation commenced. Review of project progress reports also shows that the project supported 272 HHs through Oxen Fattening Group (OFG), 160 HHs through beekeeping (BK) enterprise, 3493 HHs through goat enterprises and 284 VSLA members in petty trading of ground nut and others. So far, more than 62% of the targeted HHs are supported in one or a combinations of assets and economic building activities and enterprises.

In terms of savings, the beneficiaries have an average current savings of Birr 1,680. Compared to the baseline figure of 61.45 Birr, the average savings of beneficiaries has increased by 2,634%, which is an impressive growth over the last two years. The various kinds of supports provided to beneficiaries and establishment of VSLAs are believed to have played important roles. Indeed, over 97% of the beneficiaries that participated in the survey were members of the VSLA with an average per member saving of 624 Birr. The evaluation team did not find the data collected on income of households reliable due to problems in data collection. However, while it is true that households have now different sources of income, the findings of survey showed that the beneficiary households now earn an average of 304 Birr per month from their micro business. This means that the beneficiary households have earned 3,648 annual income (304 monthly earning multiplied by 12) from their micro-business alone. Considering the baseline average income of 1,851.88 Birr with a 40% target growth rate set for the project, the project targeted to increase household income from 1851.88 (baseline) to 2,593 Birr. With the income from micro business alone, the survey finding revealed that the project has exceeded even its four years target significantly. As presented in the table below, households on average has had a monthly income of Birr 747.82 (which would be close to Birr 9,000 per year) during the past 12 months before the mid-term evaluation.

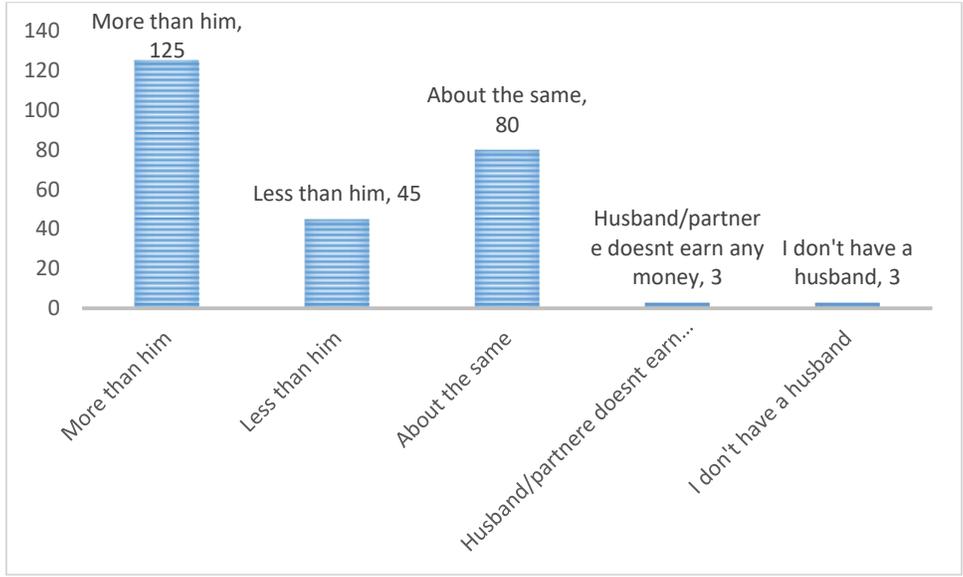
Table 13: Average Monthly Income disaggregated by sources of income

Income Sources	Number of Respondents	Average Monthly Income during the past 12 months
Own business (IGA)	354	304.00

Pension	331	39.43
Farming/Agriculture	357	317.00
Wage labor	332	4.97
Charity	332	42.69
Other	332	39.73
Average Monthly Income from All Sources		747.82

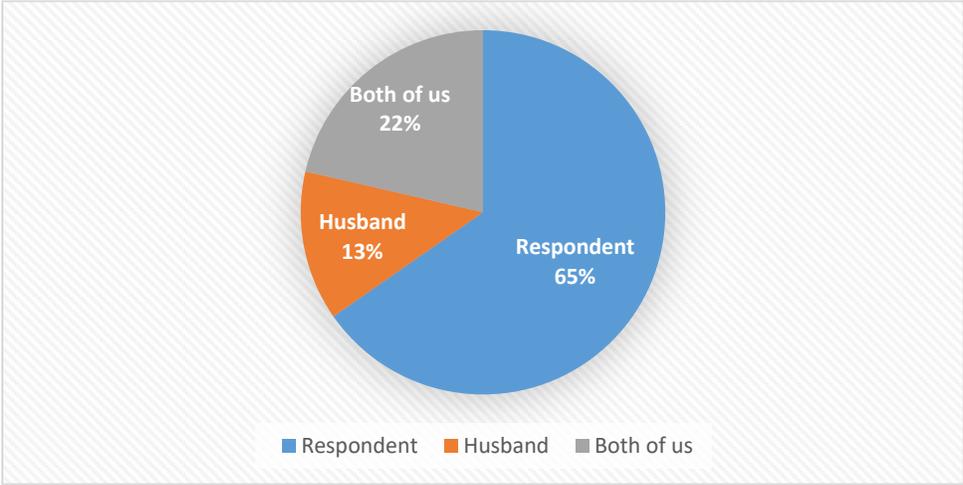
The mid-term evaluation also tried to look into the amount of income earned by women compared to their husband. As depicted in the figure below, close to half of the women (49%) indicated that they earn more than their husbands. Close to 31% of them earn about the same amount earned by their husbands. Only 18% of them indicated that they earn less than their husbands. It can be inferred from these findings that women are earning as much as or even more than their husbands, which could evidence their increased control over household resources. Qualitative data gathered from husbands seem also to support the quantitative findings. The results of a group discussion conducted with husbands of women beneficiaries in Fechatu Kebele, for example, showed that they have seen a shift in ownership of assets and cash flow during the past two years. They stated that they are no more the ones that provide provides for the households as their wives have started to become independent due to their engagement in income generating activities. As a result, they indicated that women have stopped asking money from their husbands to household expenditure. Indeed, one of the group discussion participants argued that it is now the woman who has the more money the man due to her economic empowerment.

Figure 3: Women earnings compared to their husbands



Another indicator that could show women increased control over economic resources may be their role in the management of the household’s economic enterprises. In this regard, close to two-third (65%) of the beneficiary women that participated in the survey indicated that they are the ones who make decisions about their economic enterprises, while 22% of them stated that the decisions are made jointly with their husbands (see figure below).

Figure 4: Decision makers in the HHs economic enterprises



The project played important roles in reducing women's dependence on their husbands for any resource they need for the household. They used to ask their husbands for money for household expenses and even ask permission to sell corn. Unlike the past, they now have assets such as cattle in their own name. They are also generating income and have savings at VSLA. As a result, they have more control and decision making power on many household resources than before as they are no more financially dependent on their husbands. The crops produced in the household are now joint properties. Indeed, women seem to be increasingly controlling the money or income generated by the household, according to many group discussion participant women and husbands. Most of the participants believe that this is a good change because when their wives get more income it is their household which benefits a lot.



Aliya Ossman in Bedhatu Kebele of Fedis Woreda. She claims that she did not even own a chicken before Abdishe project. Now she has upgraded from one Ox to 1 Ox and 1 calf, 20 chickens, 6 goats and 3 donkeys. She also owns a solar light that she bought for 600 birr where she used to use a kerosene lamp as well as a radio. She built a new house with a corrugated metal sheet roof and turned her old house into a kitchen.

Aliya received different kinds of supports from the project. Among these supports included seeds of corn and sorghum, and beekeeping gear such as protective gear like gloves, mask and smoker which has considerably changed her output. Apart from generating income from agricultural production using improved seeds, and beekeeping, Aliya earns additional income from selling groundnut and pepper that she buys and sells them for profit.

There is also a spillover effect on her daughter, who sells eggs and pepper and is currently self-sufficient from what she learned from her mother. Aliya said that she has ten children before she knew about contraception but no both her daughters use contraception. Her daughter has two children but has no current plans to have more. Aliya and her daughter now use birth control. Her children now sleep on separate mats instead of all together. Aliya also says that she fetches water in shifts with her husband.

Objective/Intermediate Outcome 3: The policy and regulatory environment supports poor women’s and men’s more equal control of agricultural resources and market processes

The third objective of the project was ensuring that the policy and regulatory environment supports poor women’s and men’s more equal control of agricultural resources and market processes. The progress made by the project on one of the indicators identified to measure project achievements on the objective is presented below. The evaluation team was not able to determine progress on the other two indicators as they were not operationally defined and were hard to measure.

Table 14: Progress on Objective 3 indicators

Indicators	Baseline	Progress to-date			Overall project target
		Target	Actual		
			#	%ge	
Women's decision making power in different aspects increased	Women's decision making score = 2.76 out of 4 scoring		2.97 at four of the key indicators that were used to measure women's		Women's decision making power score = 3.25 out of 4 scoring

			decision making score at baseline ⁷		
The proportion of target women who report supportive and gender relevant policy and regulatory environment for more equal control of agricultural resources and market processes	No assessment done		Explained qualitatively		Decrease in the proportion of target beneficiaries (women and men) who inform about the existing barrier policy and regulatory environment
% reduced barriers to equal control of agricultural resources and market processes among women and men	3 barriers identified to equal control of agricultural resources and market processes among women and men		Explained qualitatively		10% decrease in the # of barriers to equal control of agricultural resources and market processes among women and men

Increasing women's decision making power in different aspects 2.76 to 3.25 out of 4.0 (maximum score) was the target set by the project. The mid-term evaluation measured women's decision making power in terms of their involvement in decisions relating to usage of their earning, health, purchase, visit to relatives, agricultural input, and use of contraception. As presented in the table below, women decision making score as measured by four of the 11 parameters or indicators that were utilized to measure the decision making score at baseline was 2.97 out of a 4 score.

Table 15: Women decision making score

Type of decision	Baseline Score	Current Score
1. Buying small food items, groceries, toiletries	3.16	
2. Buying clothing for yourself and your children	2.83	
3. Spending money that you yourself have earned	2.72	3.39
4. Buying or selling major household assets (land, livestock, crops)	2.65	2.75
5. Buying or selling jewelry	2.74	
6. Use of loans and savings	2.88	
7. Expenses for your children's education	2.70	
8. Expenses for your children's marriage	2.59	
9. Medical expenses for yourself or your children	2.66	2.96
10. Family planning (contraceptives) service	2.72	2.78

⁷ Some the variables that were used to measure women's decision making score at baseline were not measured during the mid-term evaluation due to oversight.

11. To move to shelter during time of disaster	2.75	
Average score on four of the 11 parameters used at baseline	2.76	2.97

Unlike the quantitative findings, analysis of qualitative data revealed that the project has significantly increased women’s decision making power. Women are now generating income for the households and they no more depend on their husbands to provide resources. This has resulted in mutual respect in the household and husbands are increasingly giving much weight to the ideas and opinions of their husbands. The project was also instrumental in enabling women know about their capabilities and believe in themselves that they can engage in productive work. The project helped women to own assets and generate income to the household, which has enabled them to become well acknowledged and respected as they are contributing to family income. The increased income also increased women voice in household decision making. Many women beneficiaries and their husbands that participated in the group discussions also agreed that women are becoming more open and closer to their husbands. Women are increasingly using endearments to call their husbands and one women indicated that she started to initiate sex that she had not ever done before. Women used to call their husbands “Abe” and now they are calling them by their names. Husbands that participated in group discussions also reinforced these assessments and inferences. The stated that the project improved their communication with their spouse, income generation and quality of life. They claim that they have experienced better relation and affection with their wives since the household was supported by the project. According to them, the change positive change in husband and wife relation was made possible due to the wife’s involvement in income generating activities, and avoidance of pressure on the husband to provide everything to the household. To some of them, this was actually the main cause of conflict in the household.

The project empowered women by helping them own assets, generate additional income to the household, understand their capabilities, and claim their rights. Both beneficiary women and men that were consulted for the mid-term evaluation agreed that back in the old days it was only the man who would decide on how to spend the household earning. But now and especially after the beginning of the Abdishe project, women have started to play important roles in the household decision making processes. According to the participants, this was made possible due to the fact that the project favor women to take the lead in its supports like provision of cattle or goat for fattening. One of the participants in the husbands group discussion explains “The project not only gave economic power to the woman but also a new attitude and confidence that she starts to insist in engaging in

the decision making processes.” Both beneficiary women and their husbands also agreed that decision making has become a joint activity between them. Husbands stated that they consult their wives for a decision regarding any spending. Indeed, one participant stated that he would never spend a dime without her permission. Below is what one husband had to say about the household decision making process now and before:

“Some years ago, I was the one who decides on what to do with the earning. I only used my wife as a bank to keep the money safe, and did neither invite nor allow her to take part in decisions regarding how to spend the money we got. In the past I didn’t even think about informing my wife regarding what I am going to do with the money, but now I cannot imagine myself doing anything without consulting my wife. I even ask my wife’s opinion to lend our neighbors some money.”

Another contribution of the project on women and their households relates to the enhanced role of women in decision making processes such as purchasing and selling of household assets. Both women beneficiaries and their husbands agree that women’s role in decisions involving buying and selling of household assets such as cattle and crops has increased significantly over the past two years. Husbands indicated that they now decide to purchase and sell any asset after consultation with their women. There seems also a growing recognition among men about the importance of involving women in such decision making processes. One man that participated in the group discussion says “Since women are the ones who are responsible for the household in general, I wouldn’t dare to do anything against her will including purchasing and selling of any agricultural input/output. I believe that the decision I made that is not supported by my wife will eventually fail and never succeed.”

Although measuring the proportion of target women who report supportive and gender relevant policy and regulatory environment for more equal control of agricultural resources and market processes, and the number of reduced barriers to equal control of agricultural resources and market processes among women and men was difficult to the evaluation team, analysis of qualitative data showed encouraging progress in this regard. The project has provided training and supported community and government institution to provide more gender-equitable service. Reflections of the community also indicate that there is a general changes on the recognition and supports to women from the various community and government institutions. One of these changes relate to increased awareness among women about their rights and reduction of gender based violence owing to the project support. To this effect, the Woreda Justice Office together with the project

staff established legal posts/small office in few kebeles. Community legal advisors who are women were trained with the active involvement of the justice office, these women were given a small office in the kebele areas so that they monitor and consult such issues. There are also trained community women who are working closely with these offices in such areas such as identifying and informing violence cases. This helped a lot in identifying cases fast which further enables the Justice Office and Police to take immediate action. Apart from identifying and informing cases of violence, the community is also increasingly involving in violence avoidance like female genital mutilation through social punishments such as not attending to funerals.

The project has also contributed to increased women awareness regarding their rights, civil code and constitution. Women and their husbands that participated in group discussions stated that husbands are not beating their wives as they used to be before. Among others, women's awareness about their rights due to the Community Based Legal Advisors (CBLA) has contributed to the decline in women beating. One of the husbands that participated in the group discussion was quoted as saying "we used to hit our wives starting from the day we got married before. Now we do not hit our wives any more". A beneficiary woman also stated that her husband used to hit her for not turning on the light when it got dark which is nor more happening. Another woman also indicated that her husband used to hit her before. But as she is aware of her rights now, she is not in a position to let her husband beat her any more. Men also seem to understand that they should not beat their wives. Husbands that participated in the group discussions expressed that beating their wife is an old thing and now believe that there is no justifiable reason to beat women. These assertions, however, should not imply that there are no more gender based violence. Although it was the opinions of the minority women that participated in the group discussions, there are still gender based violence in many forms and much needs to be yet done to address the problem. Some women indicated that they have husbands that beat them for neglecting a crying child and arguing with their husbands. Many of the women also stated that they cannot still refuse sex to their husbands, and they still wake up before their husbands and go to bed after the husband.

Another contribution of the project to women empowerment was the decline in polygamy. Polygamy has also declined much during the last two years. According to some women beneficiaries and their husbands that participated in the group discussions, the project enhanced their income and their awareness on health. Although they think that it is against

their religious belief, some women indicated that they are increasingly utilizing contraception to reduce the number of children. They argue that not too many children means ‘clean woman and a happy husband’. Some husbands of women beneficiaries on their part also indicated that the project empowered women to become clean. As a result, they have no any reason to look for other women. They stated that they are no more having other wives. However, there were exceptions. A woman that participated in one of the group discussions, for example, indicated that she did not have the chance to see the changes claimed by other women. She stated that she still lives in the old days and her husband has taken a much younger wife.

Immediate Outcome 1.1. Increased women and men agricultural production and productivity

Increasing women and men agricultural production and productivity was one of the immediate outcomes identified for the project. The Table below presents progress made by the project on the first immediate outcome indicators.

Table 16: Progress on Immediate Outcome 1 Indicators

Indicators	Baseline	Progress to-date			Overall project target
		Target	Actual		
			#	%ge	
# of crops grown by women and men	Many families grow only 3 crops per year		Most beneficiary households (77%) of households grow Sorghum. 44% of the households also grow Peanut and Maize. Chat is grown by 34% of the households. 63% of the households grow 1 to 3 crops while only 21% of them grows 4 to 6 crops.		At least 6 types of crops grown
Annual income from agric. Increased	112.3 Birr average annual income from agriculture	219.5	Birr 317.20 ⁸ which represents 44.5% increase from the cumulative expected growth in the past two years (Birr 219.5). Put differently, the income from agriculture grew by 182% from the baseline.		40% increase in annual income from agriculture
Proportion of beneficiaries cropping with	Almost negligible proportion of farmers planted		100% of the target HHs for cereal and vegetable production are using		10% of target beneficiaries planted

⁸ The figure is an average of agricultural income collected from 169 households only.

improved varieties of seeds increased	with improved varieties of seeds		improved seeds in recommended way ⁹		improved crop seeds
---------------------------------------	----------------------------------	--	--	--	---------------------

Analysis of quantitative and qualitative data revealed that beneficiary households are currently growing different types of crops, including Sorghum, Maize, Barley, Peanut, Chat, Wheat, and Haricot Bean. The project targeted to ensure at least six types of crops grown by households. However, the indicator lacked clarity as to whether the six crops will have to be produced by each of the project beneficiaries or not. Indeed, the number of crops grown by households vary significantly. As presented in the table below, 26% of the beneficiary households grow only one type of crop. Two and three crop growing households accounted for 20% and 17% of the respondents, respectively. Only 21% of the beneficiary households produce four or more number of crops.

Table 15: Number of crops grown by households

Number of crops produced/grown	N	Percentage
1	102	26%
2	67	17%
3	80	20%
4	34	9%
5	33	8%
6	15	4%

In terms of type of crops, Sorghum was the crop that was grown most commonly by households followed by Maize and Peanut (see the table below). Households produced an average of 1.8 quintals of any or a combination of the five commonly produced crops in the current year that included Maize, Sorghum, Haricot Bean, Peanut and Chat.

Table 18: Types of crops grown by households

	Maize	Sorghum	Haricot Bean	Peanut	Chat	Other
Total number of HHs that produce	171	297	72	170	133	24
Percent from total respondents	44%	77%	19%	44%	34%	6%

⁹ Source: project report for the period July-Dec 2014

Group discussion participant women and men also indicated that they have been engaged in diverse income generating and agricultural activities such as production of chat, sorghum, maize, groundnut production, animal fattening and others. They said that they were only involved in agricultural activities for income generation before two years. But now they claim that they are engaged and engaging in more diverse income generating activities such as fattening, vegetable production, beekeeping and so on. The provision of assets and skill training were instrumental to their increased engagement in diverse income generating activities. Some participants also consider the project an eye opener regarding the cultivation of vegetables which they previously consider an impossible thing to do because of the drought and unsuitable land. According to them the project proves them wrong regarding their previous beliefs by providing them relatively drought resistance vegetable seeds like lettuce, carrot, tomato and onions. Even if they didn't start to produce on a large scale to the market, they are optimistic that one day they will become major vegetable producers in the eastern area. Apart from agricultural production, women are also increasingly involving in trading eggs, ground nut, milk and others since the introduction of the project.

Quantitative data also show improvements in agricultural production and productivity of beneficiary households. The average annual income earned from agriculture was Birr 317.20. Compared to the baseline of 112.30 Birr per annum, agricultural income of households has increased by more than 182%. The project has achieved more than what it was targeted to achieve during the last two years. The determination of yield or agricultural productivity was, however, a challenge as unit of measurement varied. Attempts were made to convert and standardize the measurement for some crops, including maize, sorghum, peanut, haricot bean and chat. In order to approximate productivity, the total amount of crops produced in quintals by each household that own farm land was divided by their size of farmland owned by the household measured in hectares. This resulted in a little above 11 quintals of any or a combination of the above crops per hectare. Nevertheless, the conversion to standardize the unit of measurement and the possibility that some households may not farm all their farm land during the past year would certainly distort the figure. Qualitative findings clearly showed modest (not significant as there were drought and climate change that affected production and yield) increase in yield/productivity owing to the use of improved seeds with the support of the project. Although it is difficult to fully attribute the change to the project intervention, data collected from beneficiary households revealed that the distribution of improved seeds helped them to produce more crops in a small plot of land. The provision of training

on beekeeping, animal fattening and others; and transfer of assets with inputs such as animal feed were instrumental for women to produce more in a short period of time. Some beneficiaries also learned how they can use the compost from animal dung to make fertilizer, which they think will be helping them to increase production and productivity. The provision of improved seed of sorghum, maize and vegetables boosted the quantity of their production even in the presence of drought. Besides, the improved seed have short growing period than their local seed, which helped. Some group discussion participants also stated that their increased involvement in livestock and poultry development has increased their milk and egg production. The fact that the project focused on women was considered an important approach to see improvements on household's production and productivity. One woman that participated in one of the group discussions says, "I was the poorest of the poor, now I am the wealthy one. I have 6 goats that I did not have before the project support. I am no more worried about school supplies or cloths for my children as I can provide them."

Immediate Outcome 1.2: Increased women and men equal consumption of food

In the absence of indicator definitions, the evaluation team measured equal consumption of food among men and women Increased women and men equal consumption of food by the number of meals taken and whether women and men eat together. In terms of meal, women and men were found to eat almost equal number of meals per day. Indeed, women consumes a little more meals (2.57 meals) compared to men who eats 2.53 meals per day.

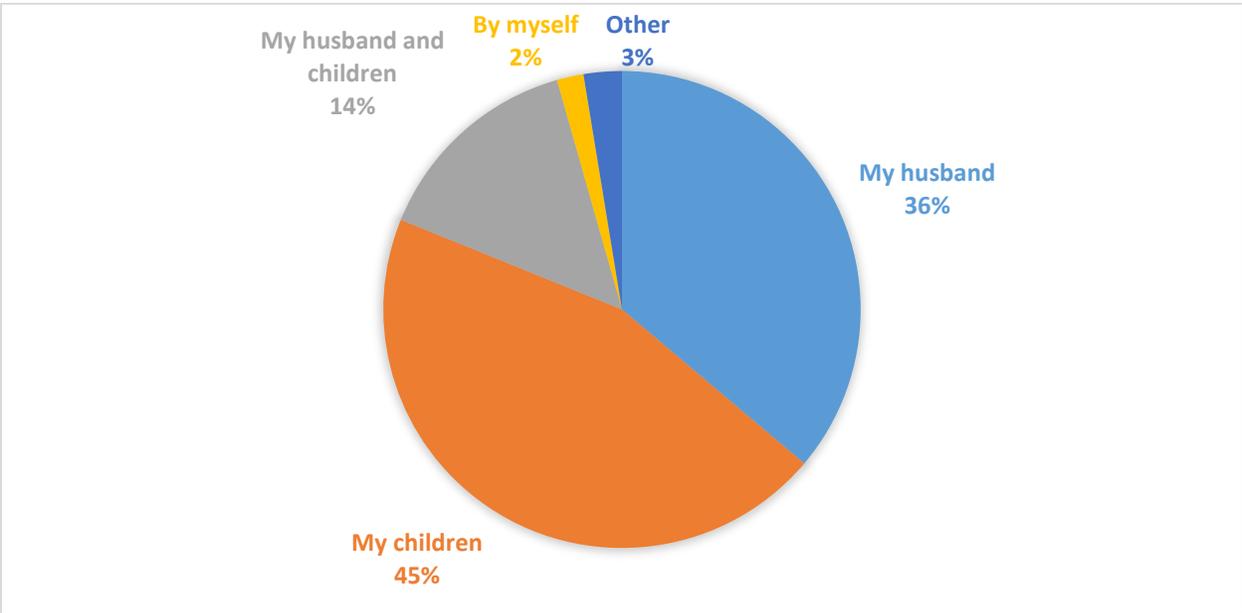
Table 19: Progress on Immediate Outcome 1.2

Indicators	Baseline	Progress to-date			Overall project target
		Target	Actual		
			#	%ge	
Proportion of women and men who reported increased equal consumption of food among men and women.	Only 52% of women reported equal consumption of food among men and women		NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of the women eat their food with their husband and children • 45% of them eat their food with their children • Only 2% of them indicated that 	At least 70% of women and men reported equal consumption of food among men and women

				they eat alone If measured by the number of meals, men consume 2.53 meals while women do 2.57 meals per day.	
--	--	--	--	---	--

Assuming that as long as men and women (husband and wife) are eating together they can consume the amount of food that they need, beneficiary women were asked about who they eat their food with to measure equality in food consumption among men and women, As depicted in the figure below, women who eat with their husbands only and those who eat with their husbands and children accounted for 50%. Over 45% of the beneficiary women eat their food with their children. Only 2% of them indicated that they eat alone. Given that more than 85% of the beneficiary women are married, it can be inferred that over 30% of the women are not still eating their food with their husbands.

Table 5: Beneficiary women responses to the question “who do you eat your food with”?



Analysis of qualitative data collected from women beneficiaries and their husbands, however, revealed that women eat their food with their husbands. Moreover, the same variety of major food items such Sorghum, Maize, Barley, Wheat, Meat and Dairy, and

Haricot Bean which are consumed by the male HH members are also being consumed by the females. Most group discussion participants indicated that the project helped them to increase their food production which has made the traditional eating prioritization among family members unnecessary. In the periods before the project intervention, the households did not have adequate food for the family. As a result, they had to prioritize where men/husbands eat first followed by children and then women at last. This arrangement often puts women at a disadvantage as there was no much leftover for them to eat. At present, it was stated that both husbands and wives eat together except when the husband should leave the house early in the morning for farming and other engagements. Indeed, most group discussion participants agreed that they now give priority to their children in their family eating arrangements. They also indicated that children are the first that are fed when the household experiences food shortage.

Immediate Outcome 1.3. Decreased gap between men’s and women’s control over resources necessary to ensure sustainable food production.

Decreasing gap between men’s and women’s control over resources necessary to ensure sustainable food production was another immediate outcome of the project. As presented in the table below, women’s control over resources in the household has increased. 76% of the women respondents indicated that they equally participate in agricultural input and output decision making processes. 12.5% of them also indicate that they make such decisions on their own.

Table 20: Progress on Immediate Outcome 1.3 Indicators

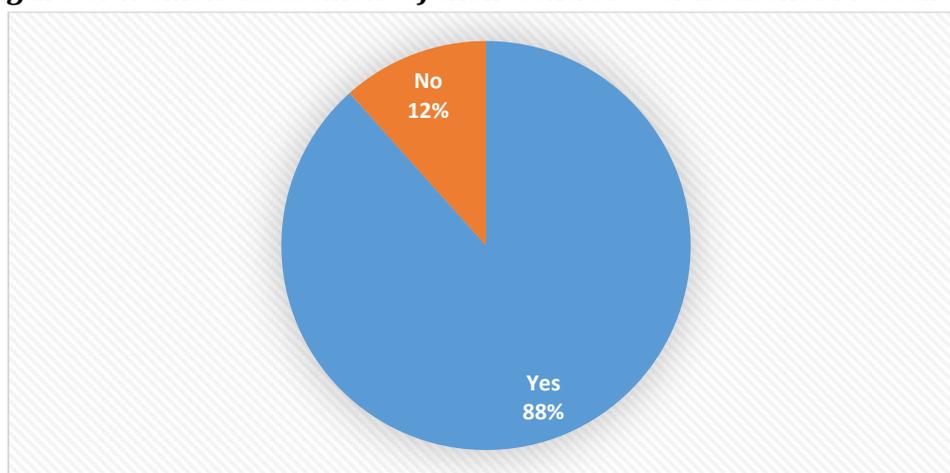
Indicators	Baseline	Progress to-date			Overall project target
		Target	Actual		
			#	%ge	
% of women with control over key productive assets compared with men	18.8% of women decide on crop products, 45.5% of women decide on livestock products and none on perennial plants		76% of the respondents indicated that they equally participate in agricultural input and output decision making 12.5% of them indicate that they make such decisions on their own		50% of women decide on crop products, 70% of women decide on livestock and 80% decide on fruits and vegetables

Analysis of qualitative data gathered from women and their husbands also revealed that women's control over the resources of the household such as crops and livestock has increased significantly. As the project helped women to own assets in their own name and engage in income generating activities, their involvement in decisions concerning these and other household resources has improved over the past two years. Husbands also confirmed that they are increasingly consulting their wives in decisions that involve crops, livestock and other resources. Some women that participated in group discussions even indicated that they are the ones who mainly decide on assets that are registered on their name.

The project contributed much to reducing the gap between men's and women's control over resources. Women beneficiaries indicated that everything used to belong to men. Owing to the project support, women have now started to own assets such as cattle in their own name. They also stated that women used to own only chicken and had to go without any asset when she gets divorced. At present, they argued that they have known their rights and have now equal say on the household resources including land. Indeed, women beneficiaries that participated in one of the group discussions were quoted as saying "When we heard about the ABDISHE project, we said that women's rights arrived". They believe that they were in the dark before ABDISHE and their situation has changed significantly.

Women beneficiaries were asked to compare their situation before two years and evaluate their current status in terms of their control over the household resources. As depicted in the figure below, the vast majority of them (88%) indicated that they currently feel that they have more control over the household resources.

Figure 6: Women assessment of their control over household resources



Immediate Outcome 2.1. Increased women and men equal access to the knowledge, skills and services needed to strengthen and diversify their economic activities.

The project has planned to ensure women have equal access to the knowledge, skills and services needed. To achieve this objective, it targeted to increase the proportion of women who have access to knowledge, skills and services needed from the baseline of the 25.76% baseline to 50%. In this regard, although access to knowledge, skills and services is a broader term that may be subject to different interpretation, the results of the survey revealed that the 16% of the women beneficiaries have received training and technical support needed to strengthen and diversify their economic activities through the project. If what the project accomplished is taken as an addition to what the women have had before the project, it can be argued that the proportion of women who got access to knowledge, skills and services has been enhanced by 16%. Adding the baseline figure with what has been added by the project, it may be said that over 41% of the women have had access to the knowledge, skills and services they needed (see table below). As the project beneficiaries were women, the evaluation team was not able to measure equality of access to knowledge, skills and services among men and women.

Table 21: Progress on Immediate Outcome 2.1 Indicators

Indicators	Baseline	Progress to-date			Overall project target
		Target	Actual		
			#	%ge	
Proportion of women who reported equal access to the knowledge, skills and services needed	25.76% women and 45.11% of men reported access to the knowledge, skills and services needed			41.76%	50% of women and men reported access to the knowledge, skills and services needed
Proportion of HHs used improved crop and livestock inputs increased	6.4% of HHs accessed improved crop inputs and none on improved livestock			15%	20% of HHs accessed improved agricultural inputs

When we look at the progress achieved as stated in the project progress reports, it can be seen that more than 62% of the project target have already benefited from the created access to the knowledge, skill and business development services.

Table 22: Women that received improved seed, and training and technical support

	Improved Seeds	Training and Technical Support
Women beneficiaries that received	54	60
% from total	15%	16%
Total	367	367

Another indicator that was identified to measure progress to the project's objective of increasing women and men equal access to the knowledge, skills and services was the proportion of HHs that used improved crop and livestock inputs. The target was to increase the proportion of HHs who accessed improved crop inputs and none on improved livestock from 6.4% (baseline data) to 20%. As presented in the table above, the results of the survey showed that 15% of the households that participated in the survey have received improved seeds through the project. This may show that the project has achieved much more than what it could have been expected to achieve half way its implementation.

Immediate Outcome 2.2. Increased in women and men engagement on Value Chain (VC) activities

Training was provided on some value chains to enable beneficiaries produce their inputs such as animal feed, multiply seeds and queens, and produce fertilizer from compost which were found important to ensure sustained supply of necessary inputs to their economic enterprises. In the second year of the project implementation, it was learned that one of the big challenge that women were facing while they were participating in the Ground nut value chain was separating the shell of the ground nut as they were separating with their hands. Responding to the challenge, the project purchased and distributed 10 shelling machine to women’s group engaged in Ground nut trading. Most importantly, the project follows a market based approach. As part of this process, value chain assessment was implemented, value chain and urban livelihood was researched and options were assessed in consultation with stakeholders. Nevertheless, the project did not work much on value chain, particularly in facilitating market linkages. Some beneficiaries, for example, had to sell their outputs at a much cheaper price as they were not much aware of the market.

Project progress reports stated that comprehensive value-chain development activities started to be implemented recently. For example, oxen fattening schemes is supported with partial VC approach. More systematic and comprehensive support is planned for the coming periods.

Table 23: Progress on women and men engagement in VC activities

Indicators	Baseline	Progress to-date			Overall project target
		Target	Actual		
			#	%ge	
% of HHs (women and men) engaged in VC activities	7% of the community members involved in VC activities		Was difficult to determine at this stage as was no much progress to get concrete evidence		25% of beneficiaries engaged in VC activities
Proportion of HHs who sold products as primary, sorted by quality and processed	11.61% sold after processed/value added, 35.58% sold by sorting based on quality and 50.93% sold as primary product				At least 30% of HHs sold after processed/value added, only 25% sold by sorting based on quality and only 25% sold as primary product

Immediate Outcome 2.3. Collectives and Business Development Service Providers (BDSP) provided more equally relevant support to male and female owned enterprises

Data or information on the provision of more equally relevant supports to male and female owned enterprises by Collectives and Business Development Service Providers (BDSP) provided support was hard to find. This was mainly because the government body that was responsible for coordinating the provision of such supports was not available for consultation by the evaluation team. Project documentations, however, show that the micro and small enterprise development agency have been providing different types of support to male and female project participants. The support they have been providing included capacity building training in different areas, technical advice, and business development services and linking the groups with different sector offices. The project has provided training and supported community and government institutions to provide more gender-equitable service. Reflections of the community also indicated that there is a general improvement on the recognition and supports to women from the various community and government institutions.

Immediate Outcome 3.1. Local value chain (VC) actors (women's groups, collectives, suppliers) have increased role in the formulation of policies and regulations that enhance men's and women's food, nutrition & income security

Data and information that could evidence the role of value chain actors in the formulation of policies and regulations that enhance their food, nutrition and income security was not found. Indeed, it may also be difficult for such local value chains from one of the 800+ woredas in the country to have increased role in the formulation of policies and regulations that are often formulated at national and regional levels. The appropriateness of the indicator considering the project context and coverage may also be questionable. It may, however, worth noting that the interaction between community members with local government bodies and their participation in the multi-stakeholder meeting has been increasing. Such engagements may contribute ideas that local authorities may utilize to influence policies and regulations at higher levels.

Immediate Outcome 3.2. Improved capacity of local government structures to effectively and transparently engage women in development planning and implementation processes

The evaluation team was not able to obtain documented evidences that show the level of representation of women and their participation in development planning and implementation processes. Capacity building trainings have, however, been provided by

the project, even though the reports on the frequency and consistency of the trainings were not uniform. This can be attributed to the high turnover rates experienced in the Woreda Administration and its sector offices. While there is no Gender budgeting as such, trainings on Gender sensitivity and planning has been given for all 28 sectors by the Abdishe project including training on reporting. The Women, Children and Youth Affairs Office was found to have a gender sensitive operation with gender being mainstreamed with each sector in the Woreda having a gender focal person. There is a reporting system and the head of office claims that gender has been institutionalized. However there is a tangible knowledge gap between the head of the woreda office for Women, Children and Youth Affairs and the gender focal persons in the sector offices as a result of staff turnover.

The Woreda Police and Justice Offices have also received trainings and the gender focal persons in these offices started reporting to the Women, Children and Youth Affairs Office of the Woreda after gender sensitivity trainings were offered by the Abdishe project. Furthermore there are five Community Based Legal Advisors per Kebele that were established by the Justice Office in collaboration with and support of the project. The Woreda Health office has also received trainings on gender and nutrition, and gender based violence. The service provision and community engagement in these offices is reportedly very conducive to the needs of the residents of the Woreda as a result of the trainings conducted by the Abdishe project. The health office showed an understanding of national health policies as they pertain to sexual and reproductive health and had various documents concerning this area.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Office of the Woreda has a lower responsiveness and awareness. There seems to be an association of Gender equality with “women’s issues”, and male engagement in the Woreda, seems to be very low. Interviews with key government staff in the woreda also revealed that Gender issues are perceived as a women’s issues.

The project has also empowered women to actively participate in the implementation of its activities and other related activities of the government. The progress reports show that more than 62% of the target HHs have been participating in the planning and implementation of the project actively.

Progress on Project Outputs

The progress made by the project in achieving the targets set for indicators that were identified to measure progress on its intended outputs is summarized in the table below.

Table 24: Progress on Output Indicators

Outputs	Indicators	Baseline Status	Progress to Date
1.1.1. HHs supported on improved agricultural technologies	# of women and men beneficiaries trained on improved technologies (disaggregated by sex),	1300 beneficiaries with lack of knowledge on improved agri. techniques,	1300 beneficiaries trained on using improved agricultural techniques,
	# of DAs and experts trained on improved technologies	38 DAs and woreda agriculture office experts	38 DAs and experts trained on improved agricultural technology
1.1.2 Seed multiplying farmers' groups supported (groups formation, bylaws development, model farmers trained, improved seeds provided) to create sustainable supply of improved seeds	# of seed multiplying centers/ farmers established	There are no organized seed multiplying centers	4 seed multiplying centers established
	# of seed multiplying centers supported		4 seed multiplying centers supported
	Quantity of seeds provided		
	# of farmers trained on seed multiplication techniques	There are no farmers trained on seed multiplication	200 model farmers trained on seed multiplication
1.1.3 Community nursery sites supported (with equipments, seeds) to produce different fruit tree seedlings	# of community nursery sites supported	4 nursery sites demanding supports	4 community nursery sites supported
1.1.4 Seeds (cereal, vegetable and fruit) provided for women and men to produce food crops	# of HHs provided with fruit seedlings	More than 100 women and men demand fruit seedlings,	100 farmers provided with fruit seeds
	# of W & M provided with seeds & produced vegetable crops; Amount	More than 800 farmers demand crop seeds	800 HHs provided with vegetable seeds for gardening

Outputs	Indicators	Baseline Status	Progress to Date
	of seeds provided		
	Amount of grain supported to produce food crops;	More than 35,589 kg of crop seeds needed,	35,589 kg of crop seeds provided for women and men for producing food crops;
	# of women supported vegetable crops	More than 100 women demand vegetable seeds	100 Women provided with vegetable seeds
1.1.5 HHs supported with bee keeping equipments	# of women and men received complete set of beehives and accessories;	More than 60 women and men demand bee keeping equipment supports,	60 women and men received 60 complete set of beehives and accessories
	# of groups received complete set of honey processing equipments	There are no bee keeping groups formed	4 women and men bee keeping groups formed and received 4 complete set of honey processing equipments
1.2.1 HEWs and woreda government staff trained on diet diversity and nutrition	# of HEWs and woreda experts trained on food diversity and nutrition	44 HEWS and experts	44 HEWs and woreda experts trained in knowledge of food diversity and nutrition
1.2.2 Women and men including 5 M2M groups trained on nutrition, food diversity & appropriate feeding practices	# of W & M and M2M group members trained on nutrition, food diversity and feeding practices	More than 550 women and men demanding training in nutrition, food diversity and appropriate feeding practices	550 women (85%) and men trained on nutrition, food diversity and appropriate feeding practices
1.2.3 School community members (students, teachers and parent committees) trained on nutrition including post-training/practical demonstration	# of school community members trained	More than 375 school community members demanding training on nutrition	375 school community members trained

Outputs	Indicators	Baseline Status	Progress to Date
1.2.4 Women and men trained on equitable food allocation (including practical demonstration) at HH level	# of W & M trained on equitable food allocation among HH members	More than 530 women and men demand equitable food allocation among HH members	530 women (85%) and men trained on equitable food allocation among HH members
1.2.5 Cooking demonstration sessions conducted at community level	# of cooking demonstrations at community level	No cooking demonstrations conducted at all	66 cooking demonstrations staged
1.3.1 Women and men trained on equitable distribution of roles on use and decision making on agricultural inputs and produces	# of women and men trained on equitable distribution of roles on use and decision making on agricultural inputs and produces	More than 443 women and men demand knowledge and skill on equitable distribution of inputs and produces	443 women and men trained on equitable distribution of inputs and produces
1.3.2 SAA conducted at community level	# of staff and woreda experts trained on SAA	48 staff and woreda gov't experts	48 staff and woreda experts trained on SAA tools
	# of SAA facilitators and core group members trained on SAA	none- SAA facilitators	572 SAA facilitators and core group members trained on SAA tools.
	# of community discussions (SAA) staged	None - SAA sessions staged	2376 SAA sessions staged
1.3.3 Gender sensitive extension services provided to target community, particularly women, on crop, livestock and apiculture technologies	# of women and men beneficiaries trained	More than 1300 beneficiaries demand knowledge about gender sensitive services	1300 Women beneficiaries trained on using improved agricultural techniques
2.1.1 VSLAs/PMAAs established and linked to BDSPs, markets and MFIs	# VSLAs/PMAAs established and linked with BDSP and MFIs	There were no VSLAs/PMAAs	320 VSLAs/PMAAs established and linked with BDSP and MFIs

Outputs	Indicators	Baseline Status	Progress to Date
	# of VSLA Promoters trained with VSLA and MIS		176 VSLA Promoters trained with VSLA and MIS
2.1.2 Leadership and HH asset management training given for women	# of women provided with training on leadership and HH asset management	None- no training given on leadership and financial asset management	1500 women provided with training on leadership and HH asset management
2.1.3 Women Asset Groups formed and supported	# of WAGS established and # of members trained	There were no WAGs	· 351 WAGs established and members trained
	# of HHs supported with goats	6400 HHs/ women/ demand goat support	6400 HHs supported with goats
	# of goats supported	6400 women has no goats at all	10530 goats supported
2.1.4 Oxen Fattening Groups (OFGs) formed and trained	# of OFGs established and # of members trained	There were no OFGs existing	27 OFGs established and members trained
	# of HHs supported with fattening oxen	270 HHs/women demand oxen supports	270 HHs supported with 270 oxen
2.1.5 Guarantee fund provided to VSLAs through MFIs	# of beneficiaries provided with guarantee fund	There has been no scheme for guarantee funds	There has been no scheme for guarantee funds
2.1.6 Men and boys trained on equitable household workload distribution and decision making	# men and boys trained on equitable workload distribution	More than 264 men and boys demand training on equitable workload distribution	264 men and boys trained on equitable workload distribution

Outputs	Indicators	Baseline Status	Progress to Date
2.1.7 Technical support given to community institutions (VSLAs/PMAs) to provide gender equitable services and activities	# institutions supported to provide gender equitable services and activities.	There have been no VSLAs/PMAs existing	11 VSLAs/PMAs supported to provide gender equitable services and activities
2.1.8 VSLA members trained on Market information system and VSLA	# of VSLA members trained with VSLA and MIS	There have been no VSLAs/PMAs existing	1600 VSLA members trained with VSLA and MIS
2.1.9 VSLA practices guideline revised considering recent developments	# of guidelines revised	One (CARE owned) VSLA guideline	1 VSLA Guideline revised
2.1.10 VSLAs/PMAs members trained on productivity and financial management	# of VSLAs/PMAs members trained on productivity and financial management	There has been no VSLA members trained	320 VSLAs members trained on productivity and financial management
2.1.11 Community conversations conducted using VSLAs as platform for wider community interaction on the roles of women and men on access and control over processes in VCs	# of community conversation sessions conducted	There has been no SAA sessions	33 community conversation sessions conducted
2.1.12 Events organized where role model HHs, who have more equitable workload distribution in their home, will be awarded	# of events organized	"0" events in the title	6 events organized where role model HHs are recognized
2.2.1 Technical support given to VCs at community level	# of VCs supported at community level	VC activities not clearly known	3 VCs supported at community level
2.2.2 Women and men trained on VCs (Ground nut, oxen and honey) and market information system to engage	# of women and men trained on VC and market information systems	1000 women and men demanding training on VCs	1000 women and men trained on VCs

Outputs	Indicators	Baseline Status	Progress to Date
them in selected VCs			
2.2.3 Feasible livelihood options identified to poor urban women	# economic activities identified	There is no clearly identified livelihood option	At least 5 livelihood options identified
2.2.4 Poor urban women trained and supported to engage in selected activities	# urban women trained and supported	More than 240 poor urban women demand training & support	240 urban women who received training and support
2.2.5 Model farmers trained on Value chains and management information system	# of model farmers trained	More than 280 model farmers need training on VC and MIS	280 model farmers trained on VC and MIS
2.2.6 Inputs provided to targeted women and men necessary to inter into other VC activities	# of women and men received inputs to enter VC activities	More than 70 women demand inputs to enter in to VC activities	70 women provided with inputs to enter in to VC activities
2.3.1 Community based collectives and BDS providers identified and supported	# of collectives and BDS providers identified. # of collectives and BDS providers capacitated.	10 potential collectives and BDS providers identified.	10 collectives and BDS providers capacitated to provide appropriate services.
2.3.2 Linkage b/n VSLAs, PMAs and Private sector established	# of VSLAs and private sectors linked	There are no formal linkages formed between private sectors and VSLAs	600 VSLA members and private sectors linked
3.1.1 Women, men and community leaders trained on climate resilience and adaptive strategies.	# of women and men trained	There has been no formal training conducted	210 women and men trained
3.1.2 Community FSTFs trained on gender sensitive planning and monitoring of food security programs	# of FSTF members trained	10 FSTFs existing in the woreda with 100 members	100 community FSTF members trained on gender sensitive planning and FS programs monitoring

Outputs	Indicators	Baseline Status	Progress to Date
3.1.3 Women trained to provide paralegal supports to improve equal decision making and to reduce GBV	# of women's trained on paralegal support providers	More than 165 women demand training on paralegal issues	165 women trained on paralegal support providers
3.1.4 Community institutions members trained on women empowerment and gender sensitive programming	# of institutions and members of community institutions trained on women empowerment and gender sensitive programming	There are 25 community institutions with 600 members	600 members of community institutions trained on women empowerment and gender sensitive programming
3.1.5 Capacity building support provided to community based institutions to address gender gaps.	# of community institutions supported	There are 6 community institutions demanding capacity building support	6 community institutions supported
3.1.6 Provide training to target women on women empowerment (through woreda women affairs offices)	# of women trained on women empowerment	More than 140 women demanding training	140 target women on women trained empowerment
3.1.7 Community based multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) established and strengthened on women empowerments and gender issues (with 50 % women representation)	# of Platforms organized	There are no formally organized MSPs	8 MSPs organized
3.1.8 Community based MSPs supported to organize bi-annual discussions at village level and to gather evidences on women empowerment, VC financing, BDS and related activities to inform and influence policies and systems	# of MSPs supported;	No MSPs supported	3 MSPS supported

Outputs	Indicators	Baseline Status	Progress to Date
3.1.9 Experience sharing/ learning visit organized to other CARE operational areas for selected women and Men	# of women and men participated on experience sharing visits	1400 women and men need experience sharing visits	1400 women and men participated on experience sharing visits
3.1.10 The level of control women have over HH resources and finance assessed	# of assessment	1 assessment needed	1 assessment made
3.1.11 Capacity building supports provided to HEW to enable them assess the social determinants of FP	# of HEWs trained	9 HEWs exist at 9 rural kebeles	9 HEWs trained
3.2.1 Bi-annual community discussion forums organized on policies, guidelines, practices and learning related to gender and/or women empowerment	# of sessions staged among sectors offices	8 bi-annual forums needed	8 sessions staged among sectors offices
3.2.2 DAs and HEWs trained on key analysis tools: Gender, CVCA & DRR	# of DAs and HEWS trained	60 DAs, HEWs and experts	60 DAS, HEWS and woreda experts trained
3.2.3 Community level joint learning forums (bi-annual review & reflection sessions) organized to foster mutual learning and scale up of good practices that support women empowerment actions and to evaluate progresses	# of learning forums organized	No forums organized	8 forums organized for joint learning
3.2.4 The impact of productive engagement of women on children's malnutrition and engaging men on HH	# of assessment	No assessment made at all	1 assessment conducted

Outputs	Indicators	Baseline Status	Progress to Date
Chores assessed			
3.2.5 The situation of men's income generating ability as women engage in productive activities and bring more income for the HH assessed	# of assessments	No assessment made	2 assessment conducted
3.2.6 Bi-annual monitoring and annual impact tracking assessments conducted	# of assessments		5 sessions conducted

4.3. Unintended Outcomes of the Project

The following are some of the 'unintended outcomes' of the project, although some of them could be categorized as intended considering the broader terms used in the project objectives such as livelihood improvement and women empowerment.

- **Decline in migration.** Migration of community members to other places such as Harar town has declined as the project created opportunities for them to have access to financial resources and engage in income generating activities. There was also a case where a woman who had left her kebele in Fedis Woreda for Babile looking for better lives had to come back to Fedis when she heard of the opportunities created by the Abdishe project.
- **Reduced polygamy.** Polygamy has declined as women become empowered to claim their rights and their husbands found them clean. Many husbands consulted by the evaluation team stated that they are no more interested in looking for other wives as the quality they used to seek is now available at home. Some husbands and their wives even dared to say that polygamy is no more their problem.
- **Social change and increased access to social services.** Many beneficiaries indicated that their livelihood has improved much and, as a result, they are sending their children to school without worrying much about school materials. Women and their families are better off now and they are sending their children to school, have access to medical care, and so on Social change is also happening not only in the beneficiaries but also beyond the project. Some VSLAs are being established in areas outside the project kebeles. The project is also believed to have contributed to improvements in sanitation of children and women.
- **Increase involvement of men in household chores:** Although it is difficult to consider this an unintended outcome, the fact that men are increasingly involved in household chores such as fetching water, chopping fire wood and taking care of children was a widely shared opinion of both women and men consulted for the evaluation. Involvement of men in household chores has never been the case before two years and even pregnant women had to fetch water for the household. That trend is now changing and fetching water and chopping firewood are now being

done by men, sometimes in shifts.

- **Dealt with HTPs.** The project contributed to dealing with harmful traditional practices (HTPS). It created awareness and helped the community abandon some HTPS such as food taboos for pregnant women and curing Marasmus or Edma by burning. The community used to believe that pregnant women that eats eggs, milk, meat, mango and potatoes will make the child too big to be delivered. As a result, pregnant women used to refrain from eating such food. The project helped them to learn about balanced diet. “We used to sell our gold and buy useless biscuits for our children (corn being the gold). We now know better and feed our children balanced diet,” women beneficiaries that participated in one group discussion said.

4.4. Gender Strategy Analysis

1. Quantity and quality food production and consumption by Women and Men

The project was instrumental in increasing food production and consumption. Participants of focus group discussions also confirmed the increase in their overall material wealth as a result of increased financial wellbeing from a diverse set of sources of income. The positive outcomes of the lessons on nutrition has increased the number of meals received per day as well as eating habits. Participants also reported an increase in decision making power and overall independence from their male family members including their spouse.

Gender dynamics in the household

While there are reports that the lines between the gender divisions of labor are getting blurred, the precise actions are very narrowly defended. For example, men reported to helping their wives fetch water, but only when they are pregnant as a result of the compassion they feel for their pregnant wives. Queries regarding other traditional gender division of labor resulted in inconsistent responses which included some claim that there is a shared responsibility in childcare while others did not.

Joint decision making and control over of resources and shared responsibilities in both domestic and economic engagements.

The husbands of beneficiary women reported being happy that their wives no longer look at them as a source of income. During FGDs, the men repetitively stated being happy not having the sole responsibility for the households wellbeing and are now in the position of asking their wives for financial support instead. However it is not necessarily a positive outcome as men may become lazy or channel their extra income into personal luxury use while their wives provide for the familial wellbeing in the household. In this case, this might even revert to HTPs such as Polygamy as an outlet for the extra income, although polygamy is reported to have declined during the past two years.

The women in the focus group discussions on the other hand reported to having a better say in joint decisions accompanied by an increase in self-confidence and self-reliance.

Mitigating factors

Mother to mother groups, VSLA groups and Community Based Legal Advisors have formed considerably strong support systems in the society as observed in Bidi Bora and Bedatu Kebeles. This includes issues such as raising awareness on rights in areas such as decision to marry, practices of polygamy, wife inheritance and land inheritance etc.

2. Capacity to manage and control economic enterprises

Illiteracy in the Woreda has been stated as one of the key issues concerning the sustainability of the program as even a VSLA group requires at least one literate person to act as secretary. The cultural difference in the perception of money is an area that is very relevant from the gender perspective as well as its implication on the existing RUSACO and VSLA debate. The men in the area seem to have claims on what they consider “big money” whereas the women are free to take charge of the “small money” which can be seen on the practices of the sale of Khat in the baseline documents.

3. Policy and Regulatory environment

A gender responsiveness assessment was conducted on the Woreda administration office to assess the gender responsiveness of the policy environment, technical capacity concerning gender issues, organizational culture as well as planning and monitoring. It was found that Gender is included in the policy and strategy documents of the woreda administration office; the Women’s, Youth and Children’s Office as well as the Health Office.

While gender is mainstreamed at the woreda level including a Gender equitable management policy but there is an existing information gap between the management and the rest of the staff. Gender equality in the Woreda is equated with the project's focus on the gender division of labor and has little emphasis on other areas such as gender based violence and gender equality.

There is no gender budgeting implemented, while there is a semblance of a gender budget set for the Woreda Women's, Youth and Children's sector. The Woreda Women's, Youth And Children's Office works on community based trainings on HTPs and women in employment at the woreda civil service. There is reporting from the Gender focal person in each sector in the woreda that reports directly to the Women, Children and Youth Affairs Office. Most focal people are women.

There are reported opportunities for the promotion of women to leadership positions in the woreda as well as attitudinal change for male woreda employees in some sectors though the change is not uniform. There is existing mechanism of identifying women to promote to a management track. The Abdishe project provided training on gender to woreda staff although there are marked differences in the level of awareness and internalization of the gender sensitization trainings provided by the project.

Some key informants reported experiences of not being given equal opportunities and equal benefits while they are women including promotion opportunities. This is because of lack of understanding and a habit of undermining women's capacity. This was, however, contested by other informants. What cannot be contested is that there is a certain level of knowledge transfer and a spillover effect both institutionally as well as at the beneficiary level that should be encouraged.

The sectors' gender focal persons started reporting to the Women, Youth and Children's office after the trainings were given by the Abdishe project. The gender focal person, with the exception of a few sectors, usually carries out the work in addition of their other duties. There is an obvious need for additional awareness and gender sensitization training for implementing partners to ensure internalization. The trainings provided so far are not uniform and may not be sustainable as a result of staff turnover.

There is also resistance from male staff, including accusations that “women are on top of our heads” and some male staff showing outright resistance to taking the role of Gender focal person. Institutional commitment to gender mainstreaming is dubious and politically motivated which may exacerbate the differences in awareness between male and female staff. As most gender focal people are women and it is women that attend trainings and seminars, the gap between male and female staff may compromise the gender equitable provision of services in some sectors of the woreda.

Areas of concern and the way forward

Abdishe project aims to achieve three main result areas including an increased quantity and quality of food production and consumption by women with men with women and men left with a better ability to manage and control their economic enterprises. This is supported by ensuring the policy and regulatory environment supports poor women’s and men’s more equal control of agricultural resources and market processes.

While the Gender sensitive approach is to be commended, an approach that is not inclusive of men may not exactly a gender sensitive approach as that may have repercussions in the in long run. These issues are already present as men are showing some interest in the trainings and meetings offered by the project at both the beneficiary as well as the partner levels. As the implementation of the SAA is not uniform, while the places observed where Social Analysis and Action has been adequately implemented seems to show remarkable progress, the lack of consistency has left some gaps in awareness and internalization. Gender sensitization given to implementing partners also show a lack of consistency as well, which coupled with high staff turnover, may result in a lack of overall internalization. In addition, the focus on the gender division of labor in the economic sphere as well as the household has overshadowed other areas such as Harmful Traditional Practices and Gender Based Violence (GBV). All these combined may adversely affect the sustainability of the project results and appropriate amendments to the strategic documents may need to be addressed accordingly.

One other area of concern relates to the Shegoye or Dancie, which is a tradition where young adolescents form groups and spend the night in another house all together and without adult supervision. This aspect of the local culture is a possible area of concern for Sexual and Reproductive health and source of Gender Based violence issues as the culture

evolves and the link with the rest of the world magnifies with the market linkage, cell phone technology and economic development. Finally the ability to manage economic resources has close ties with literacy, which has so far not been addressed by the project.

4.5. Relevance

Food security is a major challenge in Ethiopia. In the 2013/2014 fiscal year, an estimated 6 million people in the country were considered chronically food insecure and covered by the PSNP. These people reside in a total of 319 Woredas (close to half of the total Woredas of the country) of the eight regional states, and Fedis Woreda is one of them¹⁰. The recent food security program (FSP) of the Ethiopian Government, which covers a period from 2010 to 2014 has four components, namely, Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), Household Asset Building Programme, Complementary Community Investment, and Voluntary Resettlement. The ABDISHE project was found well aligned with the government's food security programme, particularly with the PSNP and Household Asset Building components of the programme. The objective of the PSNP is to assure food consumption and prevent asset depletion for rural food-insecure households in a way that stimulates markets, improves access to services and natural re-sources, and rehabilitates and enhances the natural environment. The objective of the Household Asset Building Programme is to diversify income sources and increase productive assets for food insecure households in CFI woredas, and to contribute to the achievement of improved food security status.

The project's goal to Improve Livelihood Security and resilience for CFI households is well aligned with the PSNP and household asset building components of the food security program. As such, it contributes to achievement of the FSP's expected Outcome of improved food security status of male and female members of food insecure households in CFI woredas, improved. It also contributes to the major outcome of the household asset building component which aimed to diversify income sources and increase productive assets for food insecure households in CFI woredas. Since the beneficiaries are PSNP women, the project is also playing important roles in increasing the number of PSNP graduates in the Woreda.

¹⁰ Ministry of Agriculture. *Productive Safety Net and Household Asset Building Programs- Annual Work Plan and Budget for 2013/14 (2006 EFY)*

The fact that the project targeted women to promote women's and men's more equal control of economic resources and enterprises was also found very coherent with the country's constitution, policies and strategies. The Constitution of Ethiopia recognizes gender equality as a basic requirement for the full realization of all other rights and Articles 25, 34, 35 and 89 of the Constitution affirm gender equality in all spheres and protect the fundamental rights of women and their interest. The National Policy on Ethiopian Women has also the objectives of creating and facilitating conditions for equality between men and women in all political, social and economic spheres; creating conditions to make rural women beneficiaries of social services; eradicating traditional practices inflicted on women; and eliminating stereotypes and discriminatory perception and practices that constrain the equality of women. Similarly, the Current Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) of the government takes promotion of gender and youth empowerment and equity as one of the seven strategic pillars on which it depends to sustain broad based, fast, and equitable economic growth so as to eradicate poverty in due course. The government has also been implementing to ensure that women and youth maximize their returns from land and labour; and agricultural development programmes and extension efforts, off-farm activity promotion programmes, and market development programs benefit women and youth. Hence, it can be concluded that the government policy supports and facilitates equality among women and men, and the project contributed to these policies by empowering women economically and socially.

As described in the foregoing paragraphs, the relevance of the program with the laws, policies and strategies of the government is well established. Review of the project design and implementation processes as well as site visits also proved the same. In terms of design, the project was developed building on the lessons learned from the implementation of different projects by CARE Ethiopia. Besides, consultations were made with relevant government sector bureaus to inform the design of the project. Hence, although a situation assessment was not conducted at the beginning, the consultations and learnings from previous projects ensured relevance of the project to the target communities.

Stakeholders have been actively involved in the implementation of the project. Various woreda and kebele level government offices actively participated in the implementation of the project in various ways. All government stakeholders consulted by the evaluation team

also strongly agree that the project was highly relevant to the beneficiaries and the woreda. The relevance of the project in changing the livelihood and status of the beneficiary women and their households was also clear. The capacity building components of the project benefited the woreda government by bridging its gaps in the areas of gender equality mainstreaming and promotion, addressing gender based violence and others.

In sum, Fedis woreda is frequently affected by recurrent drought and helping people in the woreda build their assets and diversify their income sources was vital. The project's activities and objectives are still burning issues of the community. The provision of drought resistant seeds; vegetables with shorter cultivation period; nutrition rich crops and others were some of the major examples that made the project very relevant to the woreda community to cop up with the impacts of recurrent droughts. The project was also found very well aligned with the priorities of the federal, regional and local government priorities.

4.6. Efficiency

Several factors affected the efficiency of the project positively and negatively. There were some favorable situations that the project took advantage of to enhance its efficiency. For example, the project has managed to get resources such as office space and halls for free from the woreda government. The project office was hosted at the woreda administration premise. The project also utilized the Woreda administration's existing structure such as development army, health extension workers and others. Apart from improving sustainability project outcomes, the utilization of existing structure is believed to have saved a lot of resources that could have been allocated to establish project specific structures at community level. The project also used experts of some government offices such as the Woreda Justice Office to provide training to government staff of other sector offices on different topics. The use of available government capacity and resources helped much to save costs that could have been utilized for administrative purposes.

The rate of fund utilization may also show the existence or lack of efficiency. If we take the budging and financial reporting as categorized by the project, we can say that close to 90% of the project fund was used to programmatic purposes. Besides, the rate of fund utilization was above the budget (107%). The project has utilized around 77% of the total project

budget up until December 31, 2014 (see table below).

Table 25: Fund Utilization

Description of Budget Lines		Total		
		Budget (CAD)	Actual (CAD)	Budget Utilization(%ge)
A. Direct Program Expense				
1.1	Remuneration for overseas project employees	-	-	-
1.2	Remuneration for Local Employees	256,347.68	215,873.09	84%
1.3	Fees to sub-contractors	-		
1.3	Travel expenses (local and international travel, vehicle rent, fuel, maintenance...)	45,155.00	65,887.00	146%
1.4	Benefit and allowable expense for staff relocation and field assignment	-	-	
1.5	Training cost	-	-	
1.6	Students and trainees training cost	-	-	
1.7	Other training cost	790,914.00	653,975.54	83%
	Outcome 1	208,957.00	191,393.96	92%
	Outcome2	540,154.00	432,468.65	80%
	Outcome3	41,803.00	30,112.93	72%
1.8	Recipient country government employees expense	-	-	
1.9	Supplies expense	50,362.00	84,774.07	168%
1.10	Project direct administration expense	135,698.00	187,858.00	138%
1.11	Other direct project cost	34,284.00	30,863.75	90%
Sub-total		1,243,794.00	1,239,231.44	99.6%
B. Administrative Expense				
2.1	Allowance for indirect/overhead costs	51,725.00	148,707.78	287%
2.2	Other administrative expenses			
Sub-total		51,725.00	148,707.78	287%
Total		1,295,519.00	1,387,939.22	107%

The involvement of government and community contributed much to project efficiency. During the purchase of oxen and goats the project office played more of a facilitation role while the actual activity was undertaken by a committee comprising representatives from government office and community. The establishment of VSLAs was also instrumental in disseminating information, providing training, and facilitating credit and saving, which contributed to the cost effectiveness of the project.

The efficiency of the project was negatively affected by the longer time taken to get approval from the Oromia regional government. Close to nine months elapsed before the project started its actual implementation, which also slowed down implementation. The delay resulted in delayed fund utilization and project activity implementation.

The fact that CARE Ethiopia has been implementing the project in 11 kebeles of one woreda targeting as 6,400 CFI women with a total budget of over 32 million Ethiopian Birr was not considered an efficient use of resources by some stakeholders as such as huge resource could have covered other woredas and reached larger number of beneficiaries. While the project is being implemented in one woreda as a model, some stakeholders argue that the project was resource intensive targeting few beneficiaries. Given the magnitude of the project, the woreda administrator had to even require all relevant woreda sector offices to prepare their plans in line with the project. While it is understandable that the project used a heavy cost model, it should also be noted that the revolving and transferable nature of assets transferred to the first level beneficiaries to second level beneficiaries and then to third level beneficiaries could help mitigate the resource intensity and increase number of beneficiaries over the long term.

CARE Ethiopia was highly involved in the implementation of project activities that probably could have been taken care of beneficiaries or other private undertakings. Some project activities such as procuring of oxen and goats could have been better managed by linking beneficiaries with some institutions such as government affiliated or private MFIs. In other words, CARE Ethiopia could act as a catalyst by facilitating such linkages and providing guarantee to the beneficiaries to enable them get loan from MFIs. Other alternative approaches such as equipping beneficiaries with skills and knowledge so that they can do some project activities should also have been explored. Hence, reduced roles of

CARE Ethiopia in the project implementation could have reduced the cost of project implementation.

The project incurred additional costs by conducting training sessions in Harar town. Given the fact that there were freely available halls in Fedis woreda administration that are offered freely by the woreda administration, it can be said that the project efficiency could have been helped had the training sessions been conducted at the project site rather than Harar town. Information obtained from the project staff, however, revealed that the non-utilization of the woreda halls was due to three key reasons, including the unsuitability of the halls for powerpoint presentations; the need to take woredas officials or staff away in order to reduce distraction; and the fact that Harar town was a center for some training sessions that involved stakeholders from woreda to zonal government bodies.

The lack of adequate capacity of the government is also believed to have increased project cost. As the government lacks the necessary resources to provide technical support to beneficiaries, the project had to look for alternative routes and train model farmers, progressive project beneficiaries to bridge the gaps.

Another source of inefficiency came from draught. The project's effort to multiply improved seeds in the some selected farmers plots was not successful last year due to drought as all the seeds planted on the farm land were damaged causing even additional cost. Much resources are believed to have been wasted due to this unforeseen drought and the projects plan to provide improved seed for many beneficiaries did not go as planned.

4.7. Project Management and Partnership

The project was implemented with active participation of a range of its stakeholders. The relevant Woreda government offices such as the Woreda Administration Office; Woreda Women, Children and Youth Affairs Office; Woreda Agriculture Office; and Woreda Justice Office were actively involved in the implementation of the project starting from the beginning. Indeed, the project office is based inside the Woreda Administration's premise, which facilitated regular communication and strong collaboration between the project office and the government. Moreover, there has also been strong relationship with government structures down at Kebele Administration level (smallest administrative unit)

with Keble Food Security Task Force, Development Agents and community social structure like 'Afosha'. The signatory offices; Agricultural Development, Economic and Finance Development, Women and Children Affairs have been participating in all stages of the project. Moreover, Action and Technical committees were organized at each Woreda that facilitated smooth implementation of the project. Members of technical committee are focal persons represented by their respective government sector offices. The woreda government appreciated the transparency in project activities by the project office, and considered the coordination and partnership in the process of implementing the ABDISHE project very good.

Apart from the government sector offices, the project has also been working with Fedis agricultural research Center and Haramaya University. The Fedis Agricultural research Center is one of the big institutions found in the operational area which has been providing improved and adaptable cereal seeds to the project. It has also been promoting some technologies that can reduce women's work load like fuel efficient stoves and ground nut shelling machine. to rural women¹¹. The center also provided technical and capacity building training to the woreda experts and selected community members. The Haramaya University, through the integrated seed sector development program, also entered into an agreement with the project to scale up and support the seed multiplication activity at group of farmers' level. They provided technical support, capacity building training and improved seed variety that can adapt to the operational area.

The partners contributed positively to the implementation and women empowerment efforts of the project in many ways. The project benefited much by involving relevant government offices in the areas of awareness creation, provision of agricultural inputs such as improved seed to farmers, identification of capacity gaps, capacity building, beneficiary selection and group formation, and so on. Beneficiary selection criteria, for example, was developed with active involvement of woreda officials. Project office space that could have costed the project much was provided by the woreda administration for free. The different sector offices of the government also provided technical supports which contributed to the efficient implementation of the project. Some of their staff, for example, served as resource people and provided training and technical support. Focal persons were also assigned at

¹¹ CARE Ethiopia, ABDISHE Project July to December 2014 Progress Report, January 2015.

each of the relevant sector offices that liaised with the different office departments. There was also strong gender mainstreaming agenda in the sector offices, which enhanced gender sensitivity in their organizations. The active participation of the government in the project implementation has made it easier for the project to gain access to the community, promote sense of ownership, and enhance sustainability of project activities and outcomes.

There were evidences that indicate flexibility in implementing the project and addressing challenges faced during implementation. For example, in the second year of the project implementation, it was learned that one of the big challenge that women were facing while they were participating in the Ground nut value chain was separating the shell of the ground nut as they were separating with their hands. This task was traditionally considered exclusively women's task. Responding to the challenge, the project purchased and distributed 10 shelling machine to women's group engaged in Ground nut trading. Moreover, since CARE Ethiopia is a foreign charity organization that is not legally allowed to engage directly in the promotion of gender equality and women rights, the approach taken by the project to ensure implementation of activities relating to such engagements through the appropriate government bodies was also another effective approach utilized by the project.

As much as partner government offices were very supportive, there were areas where they hindered the implementation and results of the project during the past two years. One of the major challenges relates to their unavailability due to their busy schedules and lack of adequate capacity. They often are preoccupied with different meetings and deal with many partners other than CARE's project. This delayed implementation of some project activities and created difficulties to conduct joint monitoring, among others.

As far as partnership is concerned, another major limitation of the project was the lack of partnership with microfinance institutions (MFIs). The evaluation team is well aware of the efforts exerted to forge partnership with Oromia Credit and Saving Share Company (OCSCo) although that effort has not achieved the purpose yet. Considering the important roles MFIs could play in the implementation of the project and sustainability of some of its results, the project should probably have looked at ways to establish partnership with other private MFIs.

4.8. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Risk Management

The project's monitoring and evaluation was guided by a comprehensive and well-designed M&E plan. The ABDISHE project M&E system is a Result Based Monitoring and Evaluation system. The M&E plan has clearly outlined the causal and results chain, responsibilities, information users, types of reports with their frequency of reporting, and an M&E matrix with indicators identified to measure progress from goal to output levels. The system is made up of a combination of quantitative and qualitative monitoring methods which includes participatory reflection/reviews, periodic joint monitoring, and surveys and studies conducted by external teams of experts. Quarterly and annual progress reports as well as baseline, mid-term and end line studies were identified as major routine and non-routine reports of the project M&E system. The project M&E system has adopted a strategy to facilitate the sharing of information to ensure that all stakeholders are fully informed on AFSP activities and to help adjust implementation plans where appropriate. Monthly and quarterly project management meetings, semiannual stakeholder review and reflection meetings, and annual program review and planning meetings were also identified as forums to exchange project information and make informed decisions. In addition, standardized data gathering and reporting tools were in place to capture and manage beneficiary data, and periodically report on progress. Excel spreadsheet was utilized to manage beneficiary data although it may be difficult to manage quality and voluminous project data with such spreadsheet.

Conducting bi-annual monitoring and annual impact tracking assessments was also included in the project's annual plans. The team composed of the zonal and woreda key sector offices conducted joint monitoring together with the project staff in some project sites. This joint monitoring played important roles in bringing government, community, beneficiaries, project staff and other stakeholders together to discuss project results and challenges, share experiences, and appreciate its achievements. However, many government stakeholders indicated that joint monitoring and evaluation was not regular although the problem may relate to the difficulty to bring stakeholders, including the government partners, together for such review. Although the project had planned well for information sharing with stakeholders, some government offices advised the need for them to get action plan and performance reports of the project on monthly basis. The lack of operational definitions to the indicators and the inclusion of too many indicators were

among the major limitations of the M&E plan, which also challenged the mid-term evaluation.

The project M&E plan has also included a risks register outlining potential risks, their probability of occurrence and mitigation measures. Some risks such as potential misunderstandings by certain members of the communities or by the authorities that could indirectly affecting CARE's reputation were well managed by implementing an inception workshop at the beginning of the project with all stakeholders and following an approach that was based on transparency, accountability and good governance. The risk that engagement of women in VSLA and economic activity might increase women's work load was also well identified and several measures were taken to respond to the issue in more systematic way. For example, the project incorporated activities like SAA to engage men in HH chores to counter balance this anticipated risk and promoting the labor saving technology for women engaged in VSLA and livelihood activity. The evaluation team also witnessed men's increased involvement in household chores due to such interventions. A study has also recently been conducted specifically to determine if the project has actually increased work load to women. Although some activities were implemented to address the risk before knowing the results of the study, it can be said that the measures taken brought positive changes in the household and empowered women.

However, as much as the project managed some risks well, it did not do the same for some others. Although risks such as delays in project approval from the regional government and drought were well anticipated by the project, much does not seem to have been done to prevent their occurrences or mitigate their impact. Among others, their probability of occurrence was not adequately forecast by the project. As a result, the risk associated with the potential delay in project approval that was expected to have a low probability of occurrence actually happened and delayed the project for around nine months. Besides, some risks such as drought and climate change were not adequately assessed and followed up. Indeed, periodic progress reports did not indicate the possibility of their occurrence although the project had planned to track trigger indicators and take measures to mitigate their impact. Given the fact that the project areas is often hit by frequent drought, the risk level should have been elevated from medium to high so that adequate preparations could have been made to mitigate its impact. Consequently, drought and climate change actually happened and important activities of the project such as multiplying improved seeds, and

showcasing the importance of using improved seeds (as opposed to local ones) was seriously challenged. The project did not also anticipate risks relating to the possibility of not getting the right MFIs to partner with in the project area. Although there have been negotiations with OCSCo, alternative options such as the engagement of private MFIs do not seem to have been adequately explored.

4.9. Sustainability

Several project activities have been contributing to the sustainability of the project. In this regard, the project worked in close collaboration with the government and the community from activity implementation to review of progress. The intensive government and community engagement in the project implementation increased their sense of ownership. Each of the relevant woreda sector offices assigned woreda focal persons to facilitate project implementation. A purchase committee at woreda level composed of representatives from relevant government offices, beneficiaries, community and project staff has been established to procure oxen, goat and other services provided by the project. Government and community institutions were capacitated and involved in creating awareness and educating the community on several development issues such as gender equality, harmful traditional practices (HTPs), nutrition and others. Working with the community members selected from the larger community, the project provided them with an intensive capacity building training and special skill training such as colony multiplication. All these situations were important initiatives proactively undertaken by the project to enhance the sustainability of its activities and outcomes even after it phases out.

The project was engaged in building the capacity of government and community institutions with the aim to provide training and technical support to beneficiaries even after the project phases out. Community level government employees and representatives were also involved in the project implementation. Government social workers, development agents, health extension workers and health development army were involved in the selection of beneficiaries and creation of awareness. The provision of training to these community level institutions and their involvement in the project implementation will play important roles in ensuring sustainable provision of training and

technical support to the beneficiaries and the community at large. Nevertheless, the high government staff turnover is challenging the sustainability of learnings imparted by the project onto the existing government staff.

The fact that the assets transferred to beneficiaries are revolving and transferring to other beneficiaries is another indicators for sustainability. Some first level beneficiaries, for example, have already transferred the asset transferred to them by the project to second level beneficiaries as they have managed to generate income at least as much as the asset transferred to them. Government is trying to replicate some of the key project outcomes. The appreciation and acknowledgement of the government on these project activities and outcomes such as asset transfer, seed multiplication and VSLA formation shows some potential for sustainability.

Apart from asset transfer, the project invested a lot to develop capacity in beekeeping, seed multiplication, VSLA formation, fattening, and others to ensure that beneficiaries are able to engage to effectively run their economic enterprises. Training was also provided on some value chains to enable beneficiaries produce their inputs such as animal feed, queen multiplication and so on which are found important to ensure sustained supply of necessary inputs to their economic enterprises. In this regard, the skills and knowledge acquired by the beneficiaries will contribute much to the sustainability of women's economic enterprises. Most importantly, the project follows a market based approach. As part of this process, value chain assessment was implemented, value chain and urban livelihood was researched and options were assessed in consultation with stakeholders. Nevertheless, the project did not work much on value chain, particularly in facilitating market linkages. Indeed, the project woreda is not densely populated. As a result, starting and doing business is difficult as people cannot get the right volume of sales given the dispersed population. Besides, it is very difficult and time consuming for the communities to explore market opportunities unless attempts are made to link them to central markets. Some beneficiaries, for example, had to sell their outputs at a much cheaper price as they were not much aware of the market. The lack of strong market linkages with central and better paying markets would not allow beneficiaries get better prices and profit for their products such as honey and oxen, which also may ultimately negatively affect their continued engagement in their economic activities.

Women empowerment is at the center of the project, all the primary beneficiaries of the project are women, and all partner institutions are well trained to be more responsive to gender issues and women empowerment. The project interventions were built on the need, priorities and capacity of the local community members to address the gender inequality and women empowerment. Hence, the fact that the project primarily targeted women was found a sustainable strategy given the fact that one of the underlying causes of poverty identified is gender inequality and empowerment of women is also empowerment of the household and the community. Working on gender issues increased project sustainability in various ways. As women are often good at managing finance, the fact that they are a center of attention by the project has been helping households to utilize resources more efficiently. Due to women's increased involvement in decision making such as selling oxen, for example, households are benefiting from such involvement as women do not spend money for unreasonable entertainment that their husbands would do. One of the husbands of women beneficiaries that participated in the group discussions concluded his idea by saying "when a man went out to sell an ox he will have a good meal after the selling and buy his friends expensive khat as a celebration to the big profit. However, if a women is responsible for selling that ox she would return home without spending a dime from the profit". He conclude his idea by saying "when a man gets a profit, the man will benefit, but when a woman gets a profit the household benefits." Hence, the women centered project implementation has increased the potential to sustain improved livelihood of theirs and their households.

Most women beneficiaries that participated in the survey and group discussions indicated that they can sustain their economic enterprises regardless of whether the project continues to support them or not. They believe that they can maintain their economic enterprise without any support from the project. However, they have some doubts about the sustainability due to water shortage and drought. According to them even if the project has given them improved seed of sorghum and maize which relatively resist drought and grow in short period of time, they still consider their land vulnerable to drought and further shortages of water. Drought and climate change is a major risk to the sustainability of the project. The project made important interventions to deal with such risks by distributing drought resistant seeds. However, the community is still vulnerable to major climate shocks. As a result, the sustainability of project outcomes will be challenged as beneficiaries may fall back unless there is more work on the issue of drought and climate

change in partnership with research institutions and others that can play important roles in introducing drought resistance variety of crops or seeds and dealing with disasters.

4.10. Facilitating and Constraining Factors

This section presents the factors that facilitated and constrained the implementation of the project during the last two years.

4.10.1. Facilitating Factors:

The policy environment, strong government support and structure and participatory project implementation were some of the major facilitating factors, which are described below.

- i. **Favorable policy environment that support gender equality:** Various government legal, policy and strategy documents strongly support the promotion of gender equality in the country. Besides, the project activities were highly aligned with the government food security program. These favorable policy environments were instrumental to getting the support of government at all levels to the implementation of the project.
- ii. **Strong government support and interest:** There was high interest and willingness to participate in all project activities from government sector offices. Indeed, the government supported the project implementation by providing project offices and facilitating the use of its existing structure. Government support was particularly pronounced in landless groups established by the project. Apart from providing land to landless groups, government offered water pump machine and other supports that was highly beneficial in helping the groups earn income faster.
- iii. **Participatory project implementation and stakeholder involvement:** The project has been working closely with relevant government and community institutions, some service providing organizations which facilitated its implementation and enhanced its sustainability. Transparent beneficiary selection

processes promoted stakeholders' ownership of the project and reduced potential complaints.

- iv. **Supportive government structure.** The existence of supportive government structure up to the community level facilitated the implementation of the project in various ways, including creating awareness, mobilizing the community, selecting beneficiaries, and so on.
- v. **Involvement of women in economic activities.** As some women in the woreda were already involved in market and economic activities, implementation of the project activities was facilitated. However, the fact that the project has been mainly supporting subsistence farmers was a challenge to see immediate results and livelihood improvements.

4.10.2. Constraining factors

Several factors constrained and challenged the implementation of the project. The major ones are described below:

- i. **Government bureaucracy:** The government bureaucracy was an impediment to the effective implementation of the project starting from the very beginning. As a result of delays in the approval of the project by the regional government, the project the project was operational nine month late from planned launching time and a significant amount of budget had to be moved to the second year, which caused some challenges.
- ii. **Partners and communities over occupied with meetings:** Continuous meeting at all levels made government partners and community members too busy to provide supports to the beneficiaries and project activities. The problem is getting highly pronounced during the first half of the 2015 fiscal year as national election will be held in May.

- iii. **Sparsely populated target population:** The project woreda is not densely populated. As a result, the cost of implementing the project activities was higher.
- iv. **Lack of strong and right MFIs.** There is only one MFI, a branch of OCSCo, in the woreda, which also has limited capacity to provide financial services to CFI women. As a result, the project was not able to find the right MFI partner to transfer the guarantee fund so that beneficiaries could have access to loan and other financial services. Besides, although VSLAs can be an entry point for CARE, they may not be able to provide access to full financial services demanded by CFI households. There is a need to link the VSLA as well as its members with other rural financial service providers such as MFIs and rural saving and credit cooperatives (RuSACCOs), so that target beneficiaries and other community members will be able to have access to a range of financial services. Nevertheless, the project was not able to establish the necessary linkages between MFIs and VSLAs needed to ensure their sustainability.
- v. **Culture and lack of awareness:** People in the target kebeles lacked proper awareness on saving and loan, and other financial services. Given the fact that people in the project woreda are Muslims, some beneficiaries had difficulties to engage in VSLAs as receiving and paying interest for the use of borrowed money is not acceptable by their religion.
- vi. **Weak capacity of the government:** The local government offices were found to lack some technical capacities and resources to facilitate the implementation of the project. As the government lacks the necessary resources to provide technical support, the project had to look for alternative routes, such as train model farmers, so as to bridge some gaps.
- vii. **Drought and climate change:** Draught was another challenge to the implementation of the project. The project's effort to multiply improved seeds in the some selected farmers plot was not successful last year due to delayed rainfall and subsequent flooding. Apart from damaging the seeds planted on the plot and causing even additional cost, the climate change hampered the production of improved and drought resistance seeds, and the opportunity to

- demonstrate the value of improved seeds as opposed to local ones. Drought particularly affected the performance of the cereal seed production and honey production, although the project was able to demonstrate to the community that improved seeds produce more than local seeds.
- viii. **Government staff turnover:** The project was engaged in building or strengthening the capacity of government personnel on several topics such as gender sensitivity. However, government (Woreda) staff turnover has been a challenge to take advantage of capacity enhanced by the project. In addition, absence of project focal persons and purchasing committees members caused delays in the implementation of livestock purchase and asset transfer activities of the project.
- ix. **Shortage of water and fertilizer.** According to many beneficiaries, their livestock development and agricultural production have been limited by the shortage of ground and surface water. They also mentioned the absence of fertilizer for their land that they needed to increase their productivity and production.

4.11. Best Practices and Lessons Learned

The following were the best practices and/or lessons drawn from the implementation of the project during the last two years.

- Many stakeholders considered the project's approach to address community economic and social issues by targeting women a best practice that needs to be replicated elsewhere. Empowering women addresses household's food security and livelihood. Through establishment of savings, accessing credit, creation of income generating opportunities, and assumption of leadership roles in VSLAs and Producer Marketing Groups (Women Asset Building Groups or WAGs, Oxen Fattening Groups or OFGs, and Beekeeping Groups or BKGs), female beneficiaries have clearly become more empowered.

- The fact that women can manage and control assets with small training and support was also an important lesson drawn from the implementation of the project.
- The legal posts that were established in few kebeles by the Woreda Justice Office with the project support was a best practices to address violence. In these posts there are community legal representatives who work closely with the Justice office in identifying and informing violence cases. These community representatives are women and have received training on HTPs, women rights and others. The Federal government representatives also visited this best practice and recommended sharing it with other woredas.
- An important lesson learned from the project implementation was the need to forge partnerships with microfinance institutions ahead of time to transfer funds to the beneficiaries without delay.
- The seed multiplication with some progressive farmers groups was a best practice and lesson that worked well in ensuring that farmers can do the multiplication without the need to travel to remote places.
- The participatory and transparent way of project implementation and monitoring at zonal, woreda and community level created ownership and trust to smoothly implement the project. Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) initiated through the project have proven to be an innovative and effective means of enhancing direct participation by a diverse range of interest groups, including private processors /traders, government officials, research institutions, and project beneficiaries.
- Adoption of a community-based approach by supporting and capacitating community institutions such as Community Based Legal Advisors (CBLA), Village Saving and Lending Association (VSLA), Women Asset Building Group (WAG) and Oxen fattening Group (OFG) were considered exemplary in addressing major socio-economic concerns of the community and sustaining the ongoing services and results.
- Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) promoted by the project have proven to be an excellent foundation and entry point so as to increase awareness of savings, financial literacy, and capacity for income generation and asset accumulation. In addition to increasing financial and human capital at the individual and household levels, VSLAs have contributed to enhanced social

capital of Abdishe beneficiaries at the community level. The integration of the WAG and OFG with the establishment of VSLAs have also contributed much to the effective and efficient utilization of human and other resources of the project in addition to strengthening the members of the group.

- Abdishe project involves several distinct but complementary components including establishment of VSLAs, technical training in business and value chains, transfer of productive assets and others. These helped many beneficiaries to diversify their livelihoods, increase household incomes and accumulate productive assets over a relatively short period of time.
- Community based asset transfer mechanisms enhanced accountability, and ensured transparency and sense of ownership. Livestock insurance system also minimized risks and strengthened sustainability of transfer modalities.
- Regularly monitoring weather forecast and other information was found essential to take the necessary preparation and mitigate the impact of draught on the project beneficiaries and resources.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Conclusions

- i. Generally, implementation of the ABDISHE project is on the right track. Most outcome indicators show positive changes from the baseline. Impacts of the project on lives of women and their families are well recognized by women, their husbands, the communities, government structures and others stakeholders.
- ii. The project has registered commendable results with regards to reducing the number of households that used to depend on food support and improving their income as well as overall livelihood.
- iii. The project registered commendable results in terms of enhancing women self-esteem, empowering them to claim their rights and increasing their participation in household decision making processes.

- iv. The project increased agricultural production and productivity of beneficiaries and diversified the households' sources of income which in turn enhanced their resilience and ability to cope with some level of shocks.
- v. The project made significant contributions in promoting equality of consumption among men and women by increasing food production and income, and facilitating mutual respect and understanding in the household.
- vi. The project promoted gender equality by empowering women to engage in income generating activities, own assets in their own name, learn about their rights and become productive member of the household.
- vii. Although the fact that the project targeted women has brought much improvement in the empowerment of women and improvement in the livelihood of their households, the non-inclusiveness of men in the project may not be the right gender approach for sustainable development.
- viii. The project was found very relevant and appropriate in terms of its alignment with national and regional legal as well as policy priorities of the government, and the needs and realities of the local community and beneficiaries.
- ix. While some of the project outcomes are sustainable, the continuation of some other project results may be at risk due to drought, climate change, limited work on value chain activities, illiteracy and other factors.
- x. The use of existing government structure has made the project easier to implement and cost effective, and will contribute to its sustainability.
- xi. Draught, bureaucracy and staff turnover at government, sparsely populated population, lack of adequate capacity of government, and lack of strong MFIs were among the major factors that constrained the implementation of the project.

5.2. Recommendations

- i. The project needs to improve its efficiency by taking advantage of available government and community resources. Moreover, CARE Ethiopia may need to reduce its high involvement in project implementation by engaging relevant partners in the process.
- ii. The remaining period should give much attention to sustainability issues. This may include sharing the lessons to other non-beneficiary kebeles and also woredas

towards assuring transferability. In addition, an exit strategy needs to be designed and implemented in collaboration with government and community institutions to effectively transfer ownership of project activities and outcomes to government sector offices and community.

- iii. The project needs to strengthen the existing Kebele Legal posts and facilitate their establishment in other kebeles in the woreda.
- iv. The project needs to review its risk register and adequately plan for their prevention or mitigation measures.
- v. The project M&E framework needs to be reviewed to ensure that indicators are set at manageable size and are operationally defined to facilitate reliable and valid measurement of progress.
- vi. Joint monitoring with periodic on-site visits needs to be regularized involving government and other key stakeholders at different levels to facilitate information sharing, promote ownership, identify challenges and so on.
- vii. OCSCo is currently working with CFI households. It also provides women focused financial products targeting individuals and groups. Considering its limited organizational and financial capacity, the project can strengthen the MFI's capacity and provide revolving fund to increase its poverty outreach. In doing so, there is also a need that the MFI has designed and provided financial products that are appropriate to the target CFI women.
- viii. Considering the informal nature of VSLAs as well as their limited capacity, sustainable financial access could be ensured if the project establishes meaningful linkages between VSLAs and other rural financial institutions such as MFIs and RUSACCOs. As business oriented solution to poverty is important to address sustainability issues, there may also a need to engage the private sector such as privately owned MFIs in the project implementation as the business interest could help sustainability of project outcomes
- ix. Considering the fact that VSLA members are illiterate with no or poor education to manage the association's financial services, the provision of adult education may be worth considering by the project to ensure their continued presence and availability of basic financial services over the long term. Moreover, the project may need to capacitate these VSLAs so as to help them maintain adequate records, manage their resources, establish linkages with other financial service providers and so on.

- x. Continuous training of trainers needs to be provided to a range of government staff so as to ensure that knowledge and skills gained through the project can be maintained without being highly affected by government staff turnover over the long term.
- xi. A more thorough and all inclusive gender sensitization training is necessary to insure the sustainability of the capacity building efforts of the Abdishe project including a more thorough awareness of other gender issues aside from the gender division of labor.
- xii. Linking beneficiaries with central markets is vital to help beneficiaries get better prices for their produces and ensure profitable engagement in their economic enterprises and enhance sustainability of project outcomes.

ANNEXES

Annex 1) List of Key Informants Consulted

No.	Name of the Interviewee	Organization	Position	Telephone
1.	Sintayehu Tilahun	CARE Ethiopia	Project coordinator /Until Hidar 30-2014/	0116662287
2.	Jemal Abdosh	CARE Ethiopia	Project Team Leader	0911754735
3.	Remedan Umer	Woreda Agriculture office	Head	
4.	W/r Sozit	Woreda Women children and youth office	Head	
5.	Muktar Bushra	Woreda Administration	Woreda Administrator	
6.	Endale Fufa	Woreda Justice office	Head	0913535125
7.	Yared Fekadu	Oromiya Credit and saving share company	Acting manager and accountant	0912921457
8.	Fanaye Gebrehiwot	CARE Ethiopia	Gender Advisor	
9.	Mebratu Kifle	“	Livelihood and DRR Advisor	
10.	Firehiwot Megersa	“	Marketing Advisor	
11.	Nebiyleul Tadesse	“	MF & VSL Advisor	
12.	Sozit Mohammed	Women, Children and Youth Affairs	Head of Women Affairs	
13.	Aster Wondemu	Women, Children and Youth Affairs	Deputy Head	
14.	Muktar Bushra	Woreda Administration	Woreda Head	
15.	Alemayehu Feleke	Woreda Agriculture	Planning and Monitoring	
16.	Fatiyaa Bakrw	IMX	Gender Focal Person	
17.	Dechasa Deme	Wordea Health	Head	
18.	Ayantuu Mamo	Health Office	Health Extension Worker	
19.	Helal Haque	CARE Ethiopia	FSF	0116627379

Annex 2) Focus Group Discussion Participants (Beneficiary women and their husbands)

Name	Sex	Age	Kebele	Types of Support Received	Remark
1. Amina Abedo	F	40	TK	Improved seed/VSLA/secondary	waiting
2. Haydi Abedi	F	27	"	Improved seed/maize, 1 ox,	
3. Haydi Abrayi	F	29	"	3 goats	3 transferred
4. Alfiya Usman	"	33	"	VSLA/trading/3 goats	2 transferred
5. Ashiya Siraj	"	35	"	3 goats/VSLA	2 about to transfer
6. Zeituna Ahmed Ali	"	40	"	3 goats	2 transferred to VSLA
7. Kechelie Mohammed	"	25	"	Improved seed/3 goats	2 transferred
8. Amin Jiro Ahsuma	"	50	Bedatu	Goat	
9. Fatuma Jibrel	"	50	"	"	
10. Tuhara Mume	"	30	"	"	
11. Halima Jibrel Ahmed	"	35	"	"	
12. Moreya Mohammed	"	28	"	"	
13. Asha Bilal	"	45	"	"	
14. Aliya Usman Shulem	"	45	"	Oxen	
15. Dagi Umar	"	30	"	goat	
16. Fatuma Amie	"	30	Bidi Bora	3 goats, improved seed (corn)	2 delivered
17. Amo Yesuf	"	28	"	2 goats, improved seed	2 nd beneficiary
18. Shembira Yudu	"	37	"	3 goats, improved seed	Not transferred
19. Aliya Aliji	"	35	"	Cattle (ox), seed	Not transferred
20. Hawa Shekur	"	40	"	3 goats, seed	Transferred
21. Ishiya Abdulahi	"	40	"	Cattle (ox), seed	Transferred
22. Amin Behar	"	38	"	3 goats, seed	1 transferred
23. Kemiya Amedo	"	40	"	Waiting	
24. Fatua Ali Leta	"	35	Fechatu	3 goats, improved seed (tomato, potato and	

Name	Sex	Age	Kebele	Types of Support Received	Remark
				corn)	
25. Amina Abdulahi	"	35	"	3 goats, improved seed (tomato and onion)	
26. Wosila Yasch	"	25	"	"	
27. Ayisha Aleshu	"	45	"	3 goats, improved seed	
28. Chaltu Yasin	"	20	"	Secondary waiting (3 goat), seed	
29. Ametula Amet	"	40	"	Waiting - 2 goats - 1 remaining and seed	
30. Zelatuna Mohammed	"	50	"	3 goats transferred	
31. Zeyneba Haru	"	39	"	"	
32. Iftu Muss	"	37	"	"	
33. Kedo Adem	"	25	"	3 goats, 2 transferred	
34. Merem Adem	"	50	"	2 nd round 3 goats	
35. Halima Umer	"	30	"	3 goats transferred	
36. Muktar Kassim	M	23	Bidi Bora		
37. Hussien Thair	"	27	"	3 goat, seeds	
38. Yuya Mohamude	"	29	"	Waiting, seeds	
39. Mohammed Umer	"	32	"	3 goats	
40. Abdi Dawit	"	30	"	Waiting	
41. Omar Mume	"	29	"	Ox, improved seed	
42. Kalif Ahmed	"	26	Bedatu	Ox	
43. Abraham Nuro	"	30	"	Goat	
44. Sheraf Ebrahim	"	22	"	"	
45. Jemmal Abdulahi	"	20	"	"	
46. Abdom Mohammed	"	30	"	"	
47. Adam Mumme	"	30	"	"	
48. Hassen Ebro	"	60	"	Seed (corn)	
49. Ararso Abdujde	"	40	"	Ox	
50. Mohammed Ahmed	"	25	"	Goat	
51. Esmael Mumme	"	30	"	"	
52. Kawfo Ahmed	"	42	"	"	
53. Mussa Yusuf	"	22	"	Honey	

Annex 3) Household Survey Questionnaire to Beneficiary Women

SECTION 1: IDENTIFICATION DATA

Q101	Questionnaire Identification Number	
Q102	Region/City Administration	
Q105	<i>Villege</i>	
Q106	Kebele	
Q107	House Number	
Q108	Name of interviewer	
Q109	Date of interview	
Q110	Time interview started	
Q111	Time interview ended	

No.	Questions And Filters	Choice Categories	Responses
SECTION 2: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON HOUSEHOLD			
Q201	Sex of the respondent	Male Female	1 2
Q202	Age of the respondent	_____ Years	
Q203	Role in the family	Mother Father Guardian Other _____ No response	1 2 3 4 99
Q204	Is the household man or woman headed?	Male headed Female headed	1 2
Q205	Marital status of the respondent	Single Married Divorced Widowed Live with partner/cohabit No Response	1 2 3 4 5 99
Q206	What is the highest level of education you completed?	Illiterate Basic Education	1 2

No.	Questions And Filters	Choice Categories	Responses
	(CIRCLE ONE)	Primary (grade 1-8) Secondary (grade 9-10) Preparatory (11-12) 10+TVET College/university No Response	3 4 5 6 7 99
Q207	What is your current employment status?	Employed Self-employed Student Unemployed Other (Specify) _____ No Response	1 2 3 4 5 99
Q208	What is your current occupation?	Farming Wage Labor Paid employment Trade/business Student Other (Specify) _____ No occupation No Response	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 99
Q209	Including yourself, how many people live in this household?	Male Female Total No Response	1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 99
Q210	How many children under the age of 18 live in this household?	Boys Girls Total No response	1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 99
Q211	How many of the children younger than 18 years of age are currently attending school?	Boys Girls Total No response	1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 99
Q212	Was your household benefiting from the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) in the past?	Yes No No Response	1 2 99
Q213	Is your household currently benefiting from the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP)?	Yes No No Response	1 2 99

No.	Questions And Filters	Choice Categories	Responses
Q214	Do you know about the ABDISHE project that is being implemented by CARE Ethiopia?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q215	What kinds of supports did you get from the ABDISHE project? MULTIPLE CHOICES POSSIBLE	Oxen Goat Seed Market linkages Training and technical support Other (specify) _____ No Response	1 2 3 4 5 6 99
Q216	When did you start participating in the ABDISHE project?	Two years ago Since one year ago Other (specify) _____ No Response	1 2 3 99
Q217	How were you selected to be involved in the project?	1. Recommendation of community committees 2. Recommendation of kebele administration 3. Other (specify) _____ 4. Don't know 5. No response	1 2 3 88 99
SECTION 3: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY			
Q301	What are the major produces of the household in the last 12 months? Multiple Answer possible	Cattle Goat and Sheep Poultry Maize Sorghum Haricot Bean Other1 (specify) _____ Other2 (specify) _____ Other3 (specify) _____ Other4 (specify) _____ No produces No response	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 99
Q302	What was the amount of household's annual production for each type of produce in the current year ?	Cattle Goat and Sheep Poultry Maize	1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

No.	Questions And Filters	Choice Categories	Responses
		Sorghum Haricot Bean Other1 (specify) _____ Other2 (specify) _____ Other3 (specify) _____ Other4 (specify) _____ No produces No response	5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 10 _____ 11 _____ 12 _____ 99
Q303	Do you usually work throughout the year, or do you work seasonally, or only once in a while?	Throughout the year Seasonally/part of the year Once in a while No Response	1 2 3 99
Q304	Who does much of the work in the household at present?	Husband Wife Equally shared by husband, wife and other members of the family Other (specify) _____ No response	1 2 3 4 99
Q305	Who did much of the work in the household before you were supported by the project?	Husband Wife Equally shared by husband, wife and other members of the family Other (specify) _____ No response	1 2 3 4 99
Q306	What is the main source of income for the household at present? Multiple answers possible	1.Wage labor 2.Own business 3.Pension 4.Farming – Livestock 5.Farming – Agriculture 6.Working children 7.Charity 8.Other1 (specify) _____ 9.Other2 (specify) _____ 10. Other3 (specify) _____ 11. No response	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 99

No.	Questions And Filters	Choice Categories	Responses
Q307	What was the main source of income for the household before you were supported by the project? Multiple answers possible	1.Wage labor 2.Own business 3.Pension 4.Farming – Livestock 5.Farming – Agriculture 6.Working children 7.Charity 8.Other1 (specify) _____ 9.Other2 (specify) _____ 10. Other3 (specify) _____ 11. No response	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 99
Q308	Are you or member of your family involved in any off farm activities	1. Myself 2. Husband/Spouse 3. Children 4. Other 5. None 6. No response	1 2 3 4 5 6
Q309	How many members of the household are income earners at present?	0 (None) 1 2 3 4 More than 4 No response	0 1 2 3 4 5 99
Q310	On average, how much does the household earn every month (from all sources) during the last 12 months? If not exact, take the best estimate	Below 200 200-300 Br 300-500 Br 500-1000 Br 1000-2000 Br More than 2000 Br No response	1 2 3 4 5 6 99
Q311	On average, how much did the household earn every month (from all sources) before it was supported by the project? If not exact, take the best estimate	Below 200 200-300 Br 300-500 Br 500-1000 Br 1000-2000 Br More than 2000 Br No response	1 2 3 4 5 6 99
Q312	What was the approximate average income earned per month from each source of income during the last 12	1. Wage labor 2. Own business 3. Pension	1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

No.	Questions And Filters	Choice Categories	Responses
	months?	4. Farming 5. Working children 6. Charity 7. Other1 (specify) _____ 8. Other2 (specify) _____ 9. Other3 (specify) _____ 10. No response	4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 99
Q313	How regular has your household earned its income in the past 12 months?	Daily Weekly Monthly Quarterly Biannually Not regular No response	1 2 3 4 5 6 99
Q314	Are you currently involved in a micro-business or micro-enterprise?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q315	Is the micro-business a group or individual business owned by you?	Group business Individual business Other (Specify) _____ No response	1 2 3 99
Q316	If you are engaged in a micro-business, who is the decision maker in the business?	You yourself Your husband Other (Specify) _____ No response	1 2 3 99
Q317	If you are engaged in a micro-business, what kind of business is it?	_____	
Q318	If you are engaged in a micro-business, when was the micro-enterprise business established?	Month: _____ Year: _____	
Q319	If you are engaged in a micro-business, what amount of average income do you earn/generate from the business per month?	Birr: _____	

No.	Questions And Filters	Choice Categories	Responses
Q320	If you are engaged in a micro-business, have you been able to expand or diversify your business over the past two years?	Yes No Not applicable (not engaged in business) No response	1 2 3 99
Q321	Have you been able to save some money that you generated from the micro-enterprise that you engage in?	Yes No Not applicable (not engaged in business) No response	1 2 3 99
Q322	How did you pay for food during the last six months? Do not read responses. Record one primary response only. <i>Prompt if necessary: maize meal, sugar, cooking oil</i>	1.Current income (cash) 2.Savings 3.Loan from family or friend 4.Loan from money lender 5.Sold livestock 6.Sold poultry 7.I have not bought any food recently 8.Other (specify)_____ 9.No response	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 99
Q323	Have you or any of your family ever been on food support?	1.Yes 2.No 3.No response	1 2 99
Q324	Are you or any of your family currently on food support?	1.Yes 2.No 3.No response	1 2 99
Q325	How did you pay for any school-related expenses during the last 12 months? Do not read responses. Record up to three primary responses only. Prompt if necessary: school fees, uniforms, books, other materials	1.Current income (cash) 2.Loan from family or friend 3.Loan from VSLA/RuSACCO 4.Loan from microfinance 5.Loan from money lender 6.Sold food surplus 7.Sold food meant for consumption 8. Sold livestock 9. Sold poultry 10. Sold other asset (specify):_____ 11. Could not pay 12. Other(specify)_____ 13. No Response	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 99

No.	Questions And Filters	Choice Categories	Responses
Q326	<p>How did you pay for healthcare during the last six months?</p> <p>Do not read responses. Record up to three primary responses only.</p> <p>Prompt if necessary</p>	<p>1.Current income (cash) 2.Savings 3.Loan from family or friend 4.Loan from money lender 5.Sold livestock 6.Sold poultry 7.I have not got health service recently recently 8.Other (specify)_____</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 99</p>
Q327	<p>How did you pay for an unexpected household expense, such as a house repair, or urgent medical treatment during the last six months?</p> <p>Do not read responses. Record up to two primary responses only.</p>	<p>1.Current income (cash) 2.Savings 3.Loan from family or friend 4.Loan from VSLA/RuSACCO 5.Loan from microfinance 6.Loan from money lender 7.Sold food surplus 8.Sold food meant for consumption 9. Sold livestock 10. Sold poultry 11. Sold other asset (specify): _____ 12. Could not pay 13. Other(specify)_____</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 99</p>

No.	Questions And Filters	Choice Categories	Responses
Q328	<p>What was the average expenditure of the household for basic services over the last 12 months?</p> <p>Make sure to take response for all,</p> <p>Read the choices if necessary</p>	<p>1. Food and nutrition 2. Production (inputs) 3. Health 4. Housing 5. Education 6. Transportation 7. Clothing 8. Entertainment 9. Other1 (specify) _____ 10. Other2 (specify) _____ 11. Other3 (specify) _____ 12. Don't know 13. No response</p>	<p>1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 10 _____ 11 _____ 88 _____ 99 _____</p>
Q329	<p>To what extent do you feel that your household is financially secure at present?</p>	<p>More secure Less secure No change from previous years No response</p>	<p>1 2 3 99</p>
Q330	<p>Compared to other households in your community, how well do you feel you can meet the basic needs of the family? Would you say ...?</p> <p>Read out responses.</p>	<p>Much better than other households A bit better than other households About the same as other households A bit worse than other households Much worse than other households No response</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 99</p>
Q331	<p>Does your household currently earn more income than it used to earn before two years?</p>	<p>Yes No No response</p>	<p>1 2 99</p>
Q332	<p>What types and number of productive assets did/does the household currently own?</p> <p>(Multiple responses are possible)</p>	<p>1. Farm land (hectares) 2. Cattle 3. Sheep and goats 4. House 5. Poultry 6. Bicycle</p>	<p>1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____</p>

No.	Questions And Filters	Choice Categories	Responses
	Note <i>Productive assets are those that can be used to generate income.</i>	7. Motor cycle 8. Mobile phone 9. Beekeeping 10. Donkey 11. Other (specify) _____ 12. Other (specify) _____ 13. Other (specify) _____ 14. No response	7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 10 _____ 11 _____ 12 _____ 13 _____ 99
Q333	What is the total value (in Ethiopian Birr) of productive assets the household currently own?	1. Farm land (hectares) 2. Cattle 3. Sheep and goats 4. House 5. Poultry 6. Bicycle 7. Motor cycle 8. Mobile phone 9. Other (specify) _____ 10. Other (specify) _____ 11. Other (specify) _____ 12. No response	1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 10 _____ 11 _____ 99
Q334	Are you a member of a Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA)?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q335	When did you or any member of the household become a member of the VSLA?	Month _____ Year (GC) _____	
Q336	Where did you save money before you became a member of VSLA?	At home Microfinance/Bank RuSACCO Other (specify) _____ No response	1 2 3 4 99
Q337	Including VSLA, where do you currently save money?	Home VSLA RuSACCO	1 2 3

No.	Questions And Filters	Choice Categories	Responses
	Multiple response possible	Bank/MFI Other (specify) _____ No response	4 5 99
Q338	What amount of saving do you currently have at the VSLA?	Birr _____	
Q339	What amount of saving do you currently have at home and other institutions/places other than the VSLA?	Birr _____	
Q340	Have you ever borrowed money from the VSLA during the last two years?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q341	If you have ever borrowed money from the VSLA, how much money did you borrow from the VSLA?	Birr _____	
Q342	If you have ever borrowed money from the VSLA, for what purpose did you borrow the money?	To engage in micro-business To buy food To pay for education To pay for health Other (specify) _____ No response	1 2 3 4 5 99
Q343	If you have ever borrowed money from the VSLA, have you paid the loan back to the VSLA?	Yes No Loan partially repaid Repayment period not due yet Other (specify) No response	1 2 3 4 5 99
Q344	What benefits did your household get from becoming a member of VSLA? Multiple response possible	1.Establishment of micro-business which increases family income 2.Increased family productive assets 3.Improved family health 4.Children enrolled in schools 5.Increased savings 6.No benefit 7.Other (specify) _____ 8.No response	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 99

No.	Questions And Filters	Choice Categories	Responses
Q345	Are you currently a member of Rural Savings and Credit Cooperatives (RuSACCO)?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q346	When did you or any member of the household become a member of the RuSACCO?	Month _____ Year (GC) _____	
Q347	What amount of saving do you currently have at the RUSACCO?	Birr _____	
Q348	Have you ever borrowed money from the RuSACCO during the last two years?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q349	If you have ever borrowed money from the RuSACCO, how much money did you borrow from the RuSACCO?	Birr _____	
Q350	If you have ever borrowed money from the RuSACCO, for what purpose did you borrow the money?	To engage in micro-business To buy food To pay for education To pay for health Other (specify) _____ No response	1 2 3 4 5 99
Q351	In what way did the supports you received through the project improve your livelihood? Multiple answers possible	1. Developed confidence to participate in the household decision making 2. Increased family income 3. Increased own saving funds which was not possible in the past 4. Became visionary with set objectives and goals 5. Increased social bonds 6. Able to access loan fund 7. Understood the local market opportunities for my product/service 8. Got the skills needed to run micro enterprises	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

No.	Questions And Filters	Choice Categories	Responses
		9. Better management of my finance 10. Other (specify) _____ 11. No response	9 10 99
SECTION 4: GENDER AND HOUSEHOLD WELLBEING			
Q401	In general, how do you rate your family's health over the past 12 months?	Excellent Good Fair Poor Very poor No response	1 2 3 4 5 99
Q402	Was any member of the household ill over the past 12 months?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q403	Did the family members that was ill get treatment from a health service provider for this illness?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q404	In the month before the program intervention, how many days did your household not have enough food to eat?	None (we had enough food all days) 1-2 days 3-4 days 5-6 days 7 days or more No response	1 2 3 4 5 99
Q405	In the past month, how many days did your household not have enough food to eat?	None (we had enough food all days) 1-2 days 3-4 days 5-6 days 7 days or more No response	1 2 3 4 5 99
Q406	How many meals did each member of the household take per day during the last month?	No meals One meal Two meals Three meals Four meals No response	1 2 3 4 5 99
Q407	How many meals did the husband take per day during the last month?	No meals One meal Two meals	1 2 3

No.	Questions And Filters	Choice Categories	Responses
		Three meals Four meals No husband in the household No response	4 5 6 99
Q408	How many meals did you yourself take per day during the last month?	No meals One meal Two meals Three meals Four meals No response	1 2 3 4 5 99
Q409	How many meals did girls in the family take per day during the last month?	No meals One meal Two meals Three meals Four meals There are no girls in the household No response	1 2 3 4 5 6 99
Q410	How many meals did boys in the family take per day during the last month?	No meals One meal Two meals Three meals Four meals There are no boys in the household No response	1 2 3 4 5 6 99
Q411	Who do you eat your food with in the household? MULTIPLE CHOICES POSSIBLE	Husband Children By myself Other (specify) _____ No response	1 2 3 4 99
Q412	What is the common and major food of the household at present?		
Q413	What was the common and major food of the household before you were supported by the project?		
Q414	What kind of food does the head of the household eat at present?		

No.	Questions And Filters	Choice Categories	Responses
Q415	What kind of food do you eat at present?		
Q416	How do you assess adequacy of food supply in your household over the past year?	Not enough Barely enough Just enough Excess No response	1 2 3 4 99
Q417	Does your household have a radio?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q418	Does your household have a television?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q419	Does your household have mobile telephone?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q420	Does your household have non-mobile telephone?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q421	Does your household have refrigerator?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q422	Does your household have table?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q423	Does your household have chair?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q424	Does your household have a bed with cotton/sponge/ spring mattress?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q425	Does your household have an electric 'mitad'?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q426	Does your household have a bicycle?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q427	Does your household have motorcycle/motor scooter?	Yes No No response	1 2 99

No.	Questions And Filters	Choice Categories	Responses
Q428	Excluding kitchen and toilets, how many rooms does the dwelling unit have?	One Two Three or more No response	1 2 3 99
Q429	What type of dwelling/house does the family live in? <i>Observe and confirm</i>	1. Wood, mud and grass made house 2. Bricks, cement and stone made house 3. Other (specify)_____ 4. No response	1 2 3 99
Q430	What is the main water source of the household?	Pipe Protected well Surface water (lake, river, etc) Spring Other (specify)_____ No response	1 2 3 4 5 99
Q431	What is the main type of toilet facility used by household members?	Flush Pit latrine No toilet Other (specify)_____ No response	1 2 3 4 99
Q432	How would you characterize the household in terms of regularity of its income <i>Data collector may observe and ask employment, small savings, and/or on income generating activities</i>	1. Family has regular income and assets that contribute to income 2. There are some income gaps during the year and/or assets are very limited 3. Income is irregular and there are no assets OR there are some assets but no income 4. Family has NO assets and NO income. They live from day to day, not knowing where their next meals will come from 5. Other_____ 6. No response	1 2 3 4 5 99

No.	Questions And Filters	Choice Categories	Responses
Q433	Would your household continue saving money at the VSLA/RuSACCO?	Yes No Not applicable (not a member of these) No response	1 2 3 99
Q434	Would your household continue earning the income it is earning now without any more support from the project?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q435	Would your household be able to maintain its income generating business without any more support from the program?	Yes No Not applicable (household does not have a business) No response	1 2 3 99
Q436	Would the support provided by the program help your household sustain its business?	Yes No Not applicable (household does not have a business) No response	1 2 3 99
Q437	Do you believe that the livelihood and wellbeing of the household and that of yours has improved since it was involved in the project?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q438	What is your occupation, that is, what kind of work do you mainly do?		
Q439	Aside from your own housework, have you done any work in the last seven days?	Yes No	1 2
Q440	Do you do this work for a member of your family, for someone else, or are you self-employed?	For family member For someone else Self employed	1 2 3
Q441	Are you paid in cash or in kind for this work or are you not paid at all?	Cash only Cash and kind In kind only Not paid	1 2 3 4
Q442	Who usually decides how the money you earn will be used: you, your husband/partner, or you and your husband/partner jointly?	Respondent Husband/partner Respondent and Husband/partner jointly Other	1 2 3 4

No.	Questions And Filters	Choice Categories	Responses
Q443	Would you say that the money that you earn is more than what your husband/partner earns, less than what he earns or about the same?	More than him Less than him About the same Husband/partner doesn't earn any money Don't know	1 2 3 4 5
Q444	Who usually decides how your husband's/partner's earnings will be used: you, your husband/partner, or you and your husband/partner jointly?	Respondent Husband/Partner Respondent And Husband Jointly Husband/Partner Has No Earnings Other	1 2 3 4 5
Q445	Who usually makes decisions about health care for yourself you, your husband/partner, you and your husband/partner jointly, or someone else?	Respondent Husband/partner Respondent and husband/partner jointly Someone else Other	1 2 3 4 5
Q446	Who usually makes decisions about making major household purchases: you, your husband/partner, you and your husband/partner jointly or someone else?	Respondent Husband/partner Respondent and husband/partner jointly Someone else Other	1 2 3 4 5
Q447	Who usually makes decisions about visits to your family or relatives: you, your husband/partner, you and your husband/partner jointly or someone else?	Respondent Husband/partner Respondent and Husband/partner jointly Someone else Other	1 2 3 4 5
Q448	Does your husband help you with household chores like looking after the children, cooking, cleaning the house, and doing other work around the house?	Yes No	1 2
Q449	Does your husband help almost every day, at least once a week or rarely?	Every day At least once a week Rarely	1 2 3
Q450	Do you own this or any other house either alone or jointly with someone else?	Alone only Jointly only Both alone and jointly	1 2 3

No.	Questions And Filters	Choice Categories	Responses
		Does not own	4
Q451	Do you own any land either alone or jointly with someone else?	Alone only Jointly only Both alone and jointly Does not own	1 2 3 4
Q452	In your opinion, is a husband justified in hitting or beating his wife if she goes out without telling him?	Yes No Don't Know	1 2 3
Q453	In your opinion, is a husband justified in hitting or beating his wife if she neglects the children?	Yes No Don't Know	1 2 3
Q454	In your opinion, is a husband justified in hitting or beating his wife if she argues with him?	Yes No Don't Know	1 2 3
Q455	In your opinion, is a husband justified in hitting or beating his wife if she refuses to have sex with him?	Yes No Don't Know	1 2 3
Q456	In your opinion, is a husband justified in hitting or beating his wife if she burns the food?	Yes No Don't Know	1 2 3
Q457	Is there a law in Ethiopia that prevents a husband from beating his wife?	Yes No Don't Know	1 2 3
Q458	Who makes most of the decisions such as agricultural inputs, outputs and so on in the household?	Husband Wife Other (specify) _____ No response	1 2 3 99
Q459	What is your role in household decisions on agricultural inputs and outputs?	I am the decision maker I equally participate in the decision making process I have no role in these decisions Other (Specify) _____ No response	1 2 3 4 99

No.	Questions And Filters	Choice Categories	Responses
Q460	Compared to your situation before two years, do you feel that you are more involved in the household decision making processes?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q461	Compared to your situation before two years, do you feel that you as a woman are equal to men?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q462	Who controls the resources of the household and makes decisions about them?	Husband Wife Other (specify) _____ No response	1 2 3 99
Q463	Compared to your situation before two years, do you currently feel that you have more control over the household resources?	Yes No No response	1 2 99
Q464	How would you characterize the household in terms of meeting its basic needs <i>Data collector may ask about how the household meets their basic, minimum expenses</i>	1. Household is able to meet minimum needs (expenses) for most of the year 2. Basic minimum expenses can be met, but irregularly and not bigger expenses such as secondary school or repair 3. Much of the time, the household has difficulty meeting their minimum expenses 4. The household always has a big problem meeting its minimum expenses. 5. Other (specify) _____ 6. No response	1 2 3 4 5 99
Q465	Would you say that using contraception is mainly your decision, mainly your husband's/partner's decision, or did you both decide together?	Mainly respondent Mainly husband/partner Joint decision Other	1 2 3 4
Q466	I am strong enough to overcome life's struggles.	1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Agree 3 = Strongly Agree	

No.	Questions And Filters	Choice Categories	Responses
Q467	At root, I am a weak person.	4 = Strongly Disagree 3 = Disagree 2 = Agree 1 = Strongly Agree	
Q468	I can handle the situations that life brings.	1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Agree 4 = Strongly Agree	
Q469	I usually feel that I am an unsuccessful person.	4 = Strongly Disagree 3 = Disagree 2 = Agree 1 = Strongly Agree	
Q470	I often feel that there is nothing that I can do well.	4 = Strongly Disagree 3 = Disagree 2 = Agree 1 = Strongly Agree	
Q471	I feel competent to deal effectively with the real world.	1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Agree 4 = Strongly Agree	
Q472	I often feel like a failure.	4 = Strongly Disagree 3 = Disagree 2 = Agree 1 = Strongly Agree	
Q473	I usually feel I can handle the typical problems that come up in life.	1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Agree 4 = Strongly Agree	
Q474	What suggestions do you have for the project to enhance the sustainability of the improved livelihood and wellbeing of		

No.	Questions And Filters	Choice Categories	Responses
	the household obtained through the project support?		
Q475	What were the major positive contributions and impact of the project in improving the livelihood of the household you're your wellbeing?		
Q476	What were the major negative contributions or unintended outcomes of the project on your wellbeing and that of the household?		
Q477	What suggestions do you have to improve the supports and services of the project so as to improve the livelihood and wellbeing of women like you?		

Annex 4) Gender Responsiveness Assessment Checklist

N.B. This checklist is adopted from ILO Gender Audit Manual and WHO Gender Assessment Tool.

The questions below will be directed to project collaborating organizations at woreda level. The questions/checklist assesses the gender responsiveness of these organizations on different areas, including program organizational culture; gender policy; strategic and program planning and design implementation and monitoring; networking and partnership; HR and Financial resources; technical expertise; and information and communication.

A. GENDER POLICY

1. Is gender mainstreamed in the organization's structure and systems? Does the organization have a gender strategy? Does the vision, goals or principles of the organization have an explicit commitment to promoting or achieving gender equality? Does your gender policy have an action plan that includes clear allocation of responsibilities and time for monitoring and evaluation?
2. Does your organization have a written gender policy that affirms a commitment to gender equity? If yes who is involved in developing the gender policy? What would you say is the level of institutional commitment to mainstreaming gender in your organization? What kind of financial provisions are available for the implementation of Gender policy (Gender Budget)? Do you employ Gender Budgeting? Are any specific funds allocated towards activities and objectives addressing gender inequality?
3. Is there a written equal employment policy? Are male and female staff members entitled to equal benefits? Is gender awareness and performance included in staff performance appraisal? Are recruitment and selection procedures transparent and gender-sensitive for all types of jobs, including technical and management related jobs? What is the sex balance of staff at all levels of the organization? Are there proactive strategies implemented to recruit or promote women into senior management positions? How? By positive action, additional facilities, training ...?
4. Has there been an increase in the representation of women in senior management positions in the past few years? Does your organization employ policies that make the work environment a friendly and equitable place of work for both men and women? If Yes, Please cite examples. If no, Why or why not?

5. What would you say needs to be done differently?

B. ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

1. Is there institutional awareness and commitment to promote equality in service access between women and men in the organization? Does the organization have rules and regulations that reinforce gender sensitive behavior and discourage insensitive jokes, comments and sexual harassment? If yes, in what way?
2. Do you believe there is there a gap between how men and women in your organization view gender issues? If yes, how?
3. Has the working environment in your organization improved for women over the past two years? If yes, how? If not, what should be improved?
4. Does the organization have an adequate infrastructure to enable female staff to carry out their work (e.g. in relation to safe working environment, toilet facilities, transports arrangement, working hours etc)?
5. Do you think your organization could do much more than it is currently doing to institutionalize gender equity? If yes, in what areas?

C. TECHNICAL CAPACITY

1. Does your organization have a person and/office responsible for Gender Issues? Has this person received any capacity building trainings on issues such as Gender mainstreaming and Gender budgeting? Would you say this person is qualified to carry out his or her mandate? What is the qualification of this staff member? Has your staff received Gender trainings to carry out their job with full awareness of relevant Gender Issues?
2. Is gender awareness and performance included in staff performance appraisal? Are male and female staff members entitled to equal benefits?
3. Has there been an increase in the representation of women in senior management positions in the past few years? Are there proactive strategies implemented to recruit or promote women into senior management positions? How? By positive action, additional facilities, training ...?
4. Is there staff training in gender issues in your organization? Are there effective mechanisms for co-ordination and consultation among staff in terms of gender learning? Would you say there has there been an increase in gender awareness among staff members? e.g. as a result of training?
5. Would you say that your organization has the necessary knowledge, skills and attitude to carry out its work with gender awareness/sensitivity? What are the capacity gaps of the organization in promoting gender equality and equity?

D. STRATEGIC AND PROGRAM PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

1. Is the integration of gender equity in programs mandated in your organization? If yes, in what way?
2. Are gender equity goals and objectives included in your organization's strategic and program designs? If yes, in what way?
3. What strategies, activities and services will the organizations have to implement to address gender specific needs and concerns?
4. Does your organization program/project implementation include activities that provide women and men with equal access to services? Do the output of the organization contribute to empowerment of women/men and changing unequal gender relations at target group levels? (Explain in relation to your specific activities)
5. Is gender-disaggregated baseline information and data (reports) collected and available for programs/services? Does your organization have program indicators that include a gender dimension?
6. Is the gender impact of programs monitored and evaluated? Are lessons learnt regarding implementation of specific gender equality objectives being documented?
7. How can the systems be improved in order to better incorporate and monitor gender?

E. NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIP

1. Is commitment to gender equity a criterion in your organization's selection of partners?
2. Is the promotion of gender equity included in the written agreements outlining your organization's relationship with partners?
3. Does your organization provide training and tools on gender planning, analysis and evaluation to partners?

F. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

1. Is there an overview of existing documentation on gender equality, and is this widely accessible?
2. Is there an overview of available gender training modules/tools?
3. Are policy documents on gender actively disseminated to the staff and partner organizations?
4. Is gender equity/equality incorporated in your organization's communications, fundraising and media strategies?

5. Is a gender perspective and gender sensitive language use reflected in your publications (brochures, newsletters)?

Secondary documents to collect

Document	Remark
Strategic Plan	
Gender Policy/Manual	
Organizational Structure (Detailed)	
Annual Plan	
Annual Budget	
Annual Progress Reports	
Strategic Plan Progress Review Reports	
Annual Financial Reports	
Gender disaggregated data on staff based job grade	
Data on Gender trainings for staff	
Partnership/ collaboration agreements and MOUs	
Recent Communication documents	
Service User forms	
Others	

Annex 5) Group Discussion Questions to Landless Livelihood Group Members

GROUP DISCUSSION FACILITATION PROTOCOL TO FACILITATORS

I. Introduction /Warm-up

- Thank participants for their willingness to participate in this discussion.
- Explain the purpose of the group discussion
- Introduce yourself
- Explain the role of the facilitator and note takers
- Let participants introduce themselves

II. Instruction

- Assure all participants that personal data will be kept confidential.
- Make clear what is expected of participants
- Make clear the time length of discussion (between 45 minutes and 1 hour).
- Make sure that each participant in THE group fills out the group discussion Participant Profiling Form. Help participants who may not be able to write or read.
- Keep eye contact with the participants, and make sure you include everyone.
- Set ground rules for the group with the participants: Consider the following rules:
 - Respect for different views, no wrong answers, one person speak at a time, everyone has the right to speak without being interrupted, raise your hands and get a signal from the facilitator before your talk, keep your answers short and precise to allow others participate, switch off/silence your cellphones.
- Do NOT promise what you cannot deliver.
- Use an interpreter, if possible

III. Closing and Post Discussion Activities

- Summarize the ideas which emerged from the focus group, noting where there was consensus and where there was not consensus)
- Let participants to add anything before you close?
- Thank everyone for their time and input
- Make sure to write the group discussion report immediately after the discussion.

LANDLESS LIVELIHOOD GROUP MEMBERS FGD PARTICIPANT PROFILING FORM

Name of Group: _____

Date of Establishment of the Group: _____

Woreda: _____

Kebel: _____

Number of members in the group: Male _____ **Females:** _____ **Total:** _____

Name	Sex	Age	Yearly Income Before the Project Support	Yearly Income After the Project Support	Sources of Income Before the Project Support	Sources of Income After the Project Support	Land Owned by the Group Before the Project Support (in Hrs)	Land Owned by the Group after the Project Support (in Hrs)	Remark
1.									
2.									
3.									

4.									
5.									
6.									
7.									
8.									
9.									
10.									

FGD QUESTIONS TO LANDLESS LIVELIHOOD GROUP MEMBERS

1. In what areas or activities is the group currently engaged in?
2. What kinds of supports did the Group and its members receive from the CARE project? Were those supports relevant?
3. What kinds of supports did the Group get from the government?
4. What was your contribution in terms of resources during and after establishment of the group?
5. How were members selected for the project support? Who was involved in the selection process? How effective was the selection process?
6. To what extent and in what ways did the project help the Group to have better access to financial services?
7. What was the major change in your life after you have started benefiting from the project? What changes did you observe in your yearly income?
8. How do you describe your land ownership before and after the project?
9. How do you describe your annual income before and after the project?
10. How many members of the Group are members of the VSLA? What amount of savings does the Group have from the VSLA? How many members have savings at the VSLA? Is the saving made individually or as a group?
11. Did the group and/or its members receive loans from the VSLA or other financial institutions since it was established, if any? If so, how much loan did the group receive so far? Was the loan obtained individually or as a group?
12. Does the Group have savings in institutions other than VSLA such as RuSACCOs, Microfinance, and so on?
13. What kinds of productive assets such as land does the Group currently own? In what ways did the project help the group in getting land and other productive assets?
14. How much average income do the group members get from the group's economic activities per month/year?
15. How is the Group governed and managed? Does the Group have a by-law or any other governing document? How do you evaluate the group cohesion and understanding as well as adherence to the by-law?
16. What kinds of market and other linkages have the group established so far?
17. What are the strengths and weaknesses as well as challenges of the group? What improvements and supports would you suggest in this regard? How long should the project support the group?
18. What would you identify as the positive and negative outcomes of the project support in the lives of Group members and their families?

19. What has changed in the lives of the group members? What would have happened to these people if they did not get the support from the project?
20. To what extent is the Group and its economic activities sustainable without the support of the project?
21. Do you have any additional information that you would like to add?

Note: Before we close, can you help us identify a group member that benefited from the project that could help us show case how the project support contributed to the increase/decrease in income and asset, and improvement of livelihood?

Annex 6) Group Discussion Questions to Female Beneficiaries

GROUP DISCUSSION FACILITATION PROTOCOL TO FACILITATORS

I. Introduction /Warm-up

- Thank participants for their willingness to participate in this discussion.
- Explain the purpose of the group discussion
- Introduce yourself
- Explain the role of the facilitator and note takers
- Let participants introduce themselves

II. Instruction

- Assure all participants that personal data will be kept confidential.
- Make clear what is expected of participants
- Make clear the time length of discussion (between 45 minutes and 1 hour).
- Make sure that each participant in THE group fills out the group discussion Participant Profiling Form. Help participants who may not be able to write or read.
- Keep eye contact with the participants, and make sure you include everyone.
- Set ground rules for the group with the participants: Consider the following rules:
 - Respect for different views, no wrong answers, one person speak at a time, everyone has the right to speak without being interrupted, raise your hands and get a signal from the facilitator before your talk, keep your answers short and precise to allow others participate, switch off/silence your cellphones.

- Do NOT promise what you cannot deliver.
- Use an interpreter, if possible

III. Closing and Post Discussion Activities

- Summarize the ideas which emerged from the focus group, noting where there was consensus and where there was not consensus)
- Let participants to add anything before you close?
- Thank everyone for their time and input
- Make sure to write the group discussion report immediately after the discussion.

WOMEN BENEFICIARIESFGD PARTICIPANT PROFILING FORM

Name	Sex	Age	Remark
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

FGD QUESTIONS TO WOMEN BENEFICIARIES

1. How have you and your family benefited from the project support so far? What has changed in your and your family's lives in the past two years?
2. What are your current sources of income and livelihood? How is it different from the time you were not supported by this project?
3. How many of you are engaged in income generating activities? How do you evaluate the sustainability of your economic enterprises? What gaps do you have in managing your enterprises?
4. What has changed in the quality and quantity of food production in the household? How is it different from the time you were not supported by the project?
5. To what extent were you involved in the program design, implementation and review process?
6. What has changed in the quality and quantity of food consumption in the household? How is it different from the time you were not supported by the project?
7. What has changed in the distribution of workload in the household? Who does much of the work inside and outside the house? How is it different from the time you were not supported by the project?
8. How do you decide how your earnings will be used in the household? What are your roles in such decisions?
9. How do you make decisions about making major household purchases in the household? Who decides on the purchase and sale of livestock? Who decides on the purchase of agricultural inputs and output? What are your roles in such decisions?
10. How do you make decisions about health care for yourself in the household? What are your roles in such decisions?
11. Whose role is it to make decisions on contraception use in your family? Husband or Wife?
12. Who usually makes decisions about visits to your family or relatives in the household? What are your roles in such decisions? Do you visit friends and family on your own? Do you visit the mosque and the market on your own? If no, why not?
13. In times of food shortage, who gets to eat first, second and third in the household? How is it different from the time you were not supported by the project?
14. Do you have membership in an Afosha or Quibe? What are your roles in these organizations? What do you believe to be the role of women in these associations?
15. What other associations exist in your locality? Are you a member of any other association? What is your role in that Association? What do you believe should be the role of women in these associations?
16. In your opinion, is a husband justified in hitting or beating his wife if:
17. She goes out without telling him?

18. She neglects the children?
19. She argues with him?
20. She refuses to have sex with him?
21. She burns the food?
22. Do you have any additional information that you would like to add before we complete our discussion?

Annex 7) Group Discussion Questions to husbands/partners of women beneficiaries

GROUP DISCUSSION FACILITATION PROTOCOL TO FACILITATORS

I. Introduction /Warm-up

- Thank participants for their willingness to participate in this discussion.
- Explain the purpose of the group discussion
- Introduce yourself
- Explain the role of the facilitator and note takers
- Let participants introduce themselves

II. Instruction

- Assure all participants that personal data will be kept confidential.
- Make clear what is expected of participants
- Make clear the time length of discussion (between 45 minutes and 1 hour).
- Make sure that each participant in THE group fills out the group discussion Participant Profiling Form. Help participants who may not be able to write or read.
- Keep eye contact with the participants, and make sure you include everyone.
- Set ground rules for the group with the participants: Consider the following rules:
 - Respect for different views, no wrong answers, one person speak at a time, everyone has the right to speak without being interrupted, raise your hands and get a signal from the facilitator before your talk, keep your answers short and precise to allow others participate, switch off/silence your cellphones.
- Do NOT promise what you cannot deliver.
- Use an interpreter, if possible

III. Closing and Post Discussion Activities

- Summarize the ideas which emerged from the focus group, noting where there was consensus and where there was not consensus)
- Let participants to add anything before you close?
- Thank everyone for their time and input
- Make sure to write the group discussion report immediately after the discussion.

HUSBANDS/PARTNERS OF WOMEN BENEFICIARIES FGD PARTICIPANT PROFILING FORM

Name	Sex	Age	Remark
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

FGD QUESTIONS TO HUSBANDS/PARTNERS OF WOMEN BENEFICIARIES

1. How have you and your family benefited from the project support so far? What has changed in your and your family's lives in the past two years?
2. What are your current sources of income and livelihood? How is it different from the time you were not supported by this project?
3. How many of you are engaged in income generating activities? How do you evaluate the sustainability of your economic enterprises? What gaps do you have in managing your enterprises?
4. What has changed in the quality and quantity of food production in the household? How is it different from the time you were not supported by the project?
5. To what extent were you involved in the program design, implementation and review process?
6. What has changed in the quality and quantity of food consumption in the household? How is it different from the time you were not supported by the project?
7. What has changed in the distribution of workload in the household? Who does much of the work inside and outside the house? How is it different from the time you were not supported by the project?
8. How do you decide how your earnings will be used in the household? What are your roles in such decisions?
9. How do you make decisions about making major household purchases in the household? Who decides on the purchase and sale of livestock? Who decides on the purchase of agricultural inputs and output? What are your roles in such decisions?
10. How do you make decisions about health care for yourself in the household? What are your roles in such decisions?
11. Whose role is it to make decisions on contraception use in your family? Husband or Wife?
12. Who usually makes decisions about visits to your family or relatives in the household? What are your roles in such decisions? Do you permit your wife to visit friends and family on her own? Do you permit your wife to visit the mosque and the market on her own? If no, why not?
13. In times of food shortage, who gets to eat first, second and third in the household? How is it different from the time you were not supported by the project?
14. Do you have membership in an Afosha or Quibe? What are your roles in these organizations? What do you believe to be the role of women in these associations?
15. What other associations exist in your locality? Are you a member of any other association? What is your role in that Association? What do you believe should be the role of women in these associations?
16. In your opinion, is a husband justified in hitting or beating his wife if:
 - a. She goes out without telling him?
 - b. She neglects the children?
 - c. She argues with him?
 - d. She refuses to have sex with him?

- e. She burns the food?
17. Do you have any additional information that you would like to add before we complete our discussion?

Annex 8) Group Discussion Questions to Project Beneficiaries that are Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) Members

GROUP DISCUSSION FACILITATION PROTOCOL TO FACILITATORS

I. Introduction /Warm-up

- Thank participants for their willingness to participate in this discussion.
- Explain the purpose of the group discussion
- Introduce yourself
- Explain the role of the facilitator and note takers
- Let participants introduce themselves

II. Instruction

- Assure all participants that personal data will be kept confidential.
- Make clear what is expected of participants
- Make clear the time length of discussion (between 45 minutes and 1 hour).
- Make sure that each participant in THE group fills out the group discussion Participant Profiling Form. Help participants who may not be able to write or read.
- Keep eye contact with the participants, and make sure you include everyone.
- Set ground rules for the group with the participants: Consider the following rules:
 - Respect for different views, no wrong answers, one person speak at a time, everyone has the right to speak without being interrupted, raise your hands and get a signal from the facilitator before your talk, keep your answers short and precise to allow others participate, switch off/silence your cellphones.
- Do NOT promise what you cannot deliver.
- Use an interpreter, if possible

III. Closing and Post Discussion Activities

- Summarize the ideas which emerged from the focus group, noting where there was consensus and where there was not consensus)
- Let participants to add anything before you close?
- Thank everyone for their time and input
- Make sure to write the group discussion report immediately after the discussion.

FGD WITH PROJECT BENEFICIARIES THAT ARE VSLA MEMBERS

Name	Sex	Age	Remark
------	-----	-----	--------

PARTICIPANT PROFILING FORM

1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

FGD QUESTIONS TO PROJECT BENEFICIARIES THAT ARE VSLA MEMBERS

1. What kinds of supports did the VSLA and its members receive from the project (revolving fund, training, technical support and so on)? Were those supports relevant and adequate? Who provided the services and how were they provided?
2. How did the members benefit from the VSLA and the project support? To what extent were the VSLA instrumental to the change in income and asset base of households?
3. What training activities supported by project have you participated in? What benefits did you get from the training programs? What were the strengths and weaknesses of the training sessions?
4. How do you evaluate the group cohesion and understanding as well as adherence to the by-law? What are the strengths and weaknesses as well as challenges of the VSLA? What improvements and supports would you suggest in this regard to strengthen the VSLA?
5. How does the group help members deal with their personal and business challenges (both financially and emotionally)?
6. How were members selected for membership in the VSLA and project support? Who was involved in the selection process? How would you describe the selection process?
7. To what extent has the income and productive assets of the members increased/decreased as a result of project support? What were/are your sources of income and asset bases before and after the project support?
8. How have the income and assets created by the household through the project support contributed towards meeting basic needs (food security, health services, education, etc.) and wellbeing of the household in general and that of highly vulnerable children in particular? What has changed in this regard before and after the project support?
9. Does the VSLA have any linkage with microfinance institutions and other key stakeholders? If so, what kind of linkage and working relationship does it have?
10. If any, what kinds of efforts were exerted by the VSLA to get support from microfinance institutions, government, the private sector and other development actors? If so, what kinds of supports did it get so far?
11. What would you identify as the positive and negative outcomes of the project support in your household's lives? What would have happened to the household if they did not get the support from the project and become member of the VSLA?
12. To what extent is the VSLA sustainable without the support of the project? Would the VSLA continue without any more support from the project? How long should the project support the VSLA? What suggestions do you have to improve sustainability of the VSLA?

13. What is your vision of the VSLA? What are your plans short-term and long term?
14. What additional information would you like to add?

Annex 9) Interview Questions to CARE Ethiopia Staff

Name	
Position	
Address (telephone)	

1. To what extent were the relevant representatives from communities, target groups, government and civil society involved in the project design, implementation and monitoring?
2. To what extent was the link between CARE, government, and other partners effective in the implementation of the project? What worked well and what did not? What were the challenges? What improvements would you suggest?
3. To what extent was the project management model (i.e., instruments; economic, human and technical resources; implementation arrangement; management structure; information flows; decision making in management) efficient and effective in comparison to the outputs delivered?
4. What type of work methodologies and practices have been used to increase efficiency of the project implementation and monitoring?
5. To what extent were project costs appropriate to the results achieved? Was there another way to reach the results at a lower cost? If there are other ways, what could they be?
6. To what extent is the project still relevant to the expressed objectives and priorities of the target groups?
7. On what basis did you select project beneficiaries? Who was involved in the identification and selection process?
8. To what extent did the project contributed to increased quantity and quality of food production and consumption of men and women?
9. What are the current gaps between men's and women's control over resources to ensure sustainable food production?
10. To what extent did the project help to beneficiaries to diversify their sources of income?
11. To what extent did the project contribute to the increase/decrease in the income and productive assets of the beneficiaries? What has changed in terms of sources of income and asset base of households after the project intervention?
12. To what extent did households move on the vulnerability continuum? What proportion of the beneficiary households can graduate now?
13. In your view, what has changed in the control and management of economic enterprises and resources between men and women in the woreda?

14. To what extent and in what ways did the project empower women and contributed to the reduction in gender-based violence, equitable distribution of workload, control over their economic resources and so on?
15. What has actually changed for each of the different target groups (positive, negative, intended and/or unintended changes)? To what extent and how did the project contribute to these changes?
16. What were the constraining and facilitating factors and the influence of the context on the achievement of project results?
17. How did the policy and regulatory environment support or constrain in empowering women in decision making processes and insuring equal control over agricultural resources and market processes to women?
18. To what extent and in what ways did the project help landless youth to improve their livelihood?
19. Which local government and institutions have been supporting the project? To what extent are these stakeholders ready to continue supporting or carrying out specific project activities?
20. How do you evaluate the sustainability of project results and outcomes? Which project results and outcomes are sustainable and which ones may not be sustainable? Why?
21. How do you evaluate the sustainability of landless livelihood groups, economic enterprises established by beneficiary women and VSLAs when the project phases out?
22. What are the challenges and risks that are likely to jeopardize sustainability of project outcomes?
23. How do you evaluate the M&E system that is put in place to monitor results and track progress toward achieving project objectives? What are its strengths and weaknesses?
24. What lessons and best practices did come out during the implementation of the project that could be used to improve the project implementation in the future or scaled up or implemented elsewhere?
25. What would you identify the factors that contributed to the success and/or failure of the project's implementation in terms of its impact on gender? If any what were the factors contributing to why some men and women may have benefited more than others?
26. What recommendations and strategies would you suggest to address gender issues in livelihoods and economic development interventions?
27. What kinds of linkages have been established by of the project with other relevant stakeholders?
28. What recommendations do you have to improve the project implementation in the future?

Annex 10) Interview Guide to Relevant Woreda Government Offices

(Micro and Small Enterprise Development Agency, Woreda Women, Children and Youth Affairs Office; and Woreda)

Name of Organization	
Woreda	
Name	
Position	
Address (telephone)	

1. Do you know about the ABDISHE project is a four year initiative that is being implemented by CARE Canada and CARE Ethiopia in partnership with the Government of Ethiopia?
2. Does your organization have any working relationship with the project? What kinds of relationships does your organization have with the project?
3. In what ways and what kinds of institutional supports and services does your organization provide to the implementation of project?
4. What is your assessment of the quality of coordination and partnership between your organization and CARE Ethiopia in the implementation of the project? To what extent was the partnership effective in the implementation of the project? What improvements would you suggest to strengthen the link and collaboration?
5. How do you evaluate the relevance of the project to target women in the Woreda?
6. To what extent have the project contributed to increased income and asset base of chronically food insecure households?
7. To what extent have the project improve livelihood security and resilience of chronically food insecure households?
8. In your view, what has changed in the control and management of economic enterprises and resources between men and women in the woreda?

9. To what extent and in what ways did the project empower women and contributed to the reduction in gender-based violence, equitable distribution of workload, control over their economic resources and so on?
10. What has changed in the last two years in the woreda in terms of access to financial services by chronically food insecure women and their families? How did the project contribute to these changes?
11. How do you compare the wellbeing of chronically food insecure women now and before two years in the woreda?
12. What would you identify as major positive and negative impacts and outcomes of the project?
13. What were the strengths and weaknesses/challenges of the project?
14. How do you evaluate the sustainability of the project outputs and outcomes such as economic enterprises established by women through the project support, skills gained through the project support, increased and diversified income and assets and so on? What are the risks and challenges to sustainability? What would you recommend to sustain the outputs and outcomes of project?
15. What enabling and constraining factors do you see in the policy and regulatory environment in ensuring poor women's and men's equal control of agricultural resources and decision making processes?
16. What would you identify the factors that contributed to the success and/or failure of the project's implementation in terms of its impact on gender? If any what were the factors contributing to why some men and women may have benefited more than others?
17. What recommendations and strategies would you suggest to address gender issues in livelihoods and economic development interventions?
18. What recommendations do you have to improve the wellbeing of poor women and their families through sustained access to financial services, income, and so on?
19. Do you have any additional information that you would like to add?

Documents and statistics to collect

Documents and statistics	Remark
Number of PSNP beneficiaries now and before two years	
Strategic Plan	
Last year progress report	
Number of cases of gender based violence	
Other relevant documents (please ask and	

specify)	

Annex 11) Interview Guide to Partner Microfinance Institutions

Name of Institution	
Branch Name	
Woreda/City	
Name	
Position	
Address (telephone)	

1. Do you know about the ABDISHE project is a four year initiative that is being implemented by CARE Canada and CARE Ethiopia in partnership with the Government of Ethiopia?
2. Does your organization have any interest working on such projects? What kinds of areas of engagement and working relationships your organization should have or develop with the project?
3. Assuming future partnership what kind of institutional supports and services does your MFI require to provide financial service to Chronically Food Insecure households?
4. In what ways and what kinds of institutional supports and services does your organization could provide in the future to the implementation of project?
5. What is your recommendation on the quality of coordination and partnership to be established between your organization and CARE Ethiopia in the implementation of the project? What are the factors making the partnership effective in the implementation of the project? What improvements would you suggest to strengthen the link and collaboration?
6. How do you evaluate the relevance of the project to CFI women in the Woreda?
7. What kinds of supports did your institution should receive from the project to improve the livelihood of poor women and their families?
8. Does your institution have any financial service and product that it provides to chronically food insecure women and/or their families? If so, when did it start providing the services and what kinds of services do you provide for these women and their families?
9. To what extent did the project help in improving access to financial services to poor women and facilitating linkage between your institution and women's economic enterprises?
10. To what extent would your institution continue providing its service and support that it has started providing to CFI women and their families in the absence of any supports from other

stakeholders?

11. What challenges does your institution face in providing services and/or supports to CFI women and their members?
12. What enabling and constraining factors do you see in the policy and regulatory environment in ensuring access to financial services to CFI and poor women and their households?
13. What recommendations do you have to improve the wellbeing of CFI women and their families through sustained access to financial services?
14. Do you have any additional information that you would like to add?

Annex 12) Abdishe Project Logic Model

ULTIMATE OUTCOMES		Improved Livelihood Security and resilience for vulnerable women, girls, men and boys in Fedis, Ethiopia.						
▲		▲					▲	▲
INTE. OUTCOMES	1. Increased quantity and quality food production and consumption by women and men			2. Women and men are better able to manage and control their economic enterprises			3. The policy and regulatory environment supports poor women's and men's more equal control of agricultural resources and market processes.	
▲	▲	▲		▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
IMMEDI. OUTCOMES	1.1 Increased women and men agricultural production and productivity	1.2 Increased women and men equal consumption of food	1.3 Decreased gap between men's and women's control over resources necessary to ensure sustainable food production.	2.1 Increased women and men equal access to the knowledge, skills and services needed to strengthen and diversify their economic activities.	2.2 Increased in women and men engagement on VC activities	2.3 Collectives and Business Development Service Providers (BDSP) provided more equally relevant support to male and female owned enterprises	3.1 Local value chain (VC) actors (women's groups, collectives, suppliers) have increased role in the formulation of policies and regulations that enhance men's and women's food, nutrition & income security	3.2 Improved capacity of local government structures to effectively and transparently engage women in development planning and implementation processes
▲	▲	▲		▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
OUTPUTS	1.1.1. HHs supported on improved agricultural technologies	1.2.1 HEWs and woreda government staff trained on diet diversity and nutrition	1.3.1 Women and men trained on equitable distribution of roles on use and decision making on agricultural inputs and produces	2.1.1 VSLAs/PMAs established and linked to BDSPs, markets and MFIs 2.1.2 Leadership and HH asset management training given for women	2.2.1 Technical support given to VCs at community level	2.3.1 Community based collectives and BDS providers identified and supported	3.1.1 Women, men and community leaders trained on climate resilience and adaptive strategies. 3.1.2 Community FSTFs trained on gender sensitive planning and monitoring of food security programs	3.2.1 Bi-annual community discussion forums organized on policies, guidelines, practices and learning related to gender and/or women empowerment
	1.1.2 Seed	1.2.2 Women and	1.3.2 SAA conducted at	2.1.3 Women Asset Groups	2.2.2 Women and	2.3.2 Linkage b/n	3.1.3 Women trained to	3.2.2 DAs and HEWs

	<p>multiplying farmers' groups supported (groups formation, bylaws development, model farmers trained, improved seeds provided) to create sustainable supply of improved seeds</p>	<p>men including 5 M2M groups trained on nutrition, food diversity & appropriate feeding practices</p>	<p>community level</p>	<p>formed and supported 2.1.4 Oxen Fattening Groups (OFGs) formed and trained 2.1.5 Guarantee fund provided to VSLAs through MFIs</p>	<p>men trained on VCs (Ground nut, oxen and honey) and market information system to engage them in selected VCs</p>	<p>VSLAs, PMAs and Private sector established</p>	<p>provide paralegal supports to improve equal decision making and to reduce GBV 3.1.4 Community institutions members trained on women empowerment and gender sensitive programming</p>	<p>trained on key analysis tools: Gender, CVCA & DRR</p>
	<p>1.1.3 Community nursery sites supported (with equipments, seeds) to produce different fruit tree seedlings</p>	<p>1.2.3 School community members (students, teachers and parent committees) trained on nutrition including post-training/practical demonstration</p>	<p>1.3.3 Gender sensitive extension services provided to target community, particularly women, on crop, livestock and apiculture technologies</p>	<p>2.1.6 Men and boys trained on equitable household workload distribution and decision making 2.1.7 Technical support given to community institutions (VSLAs/PMAs) to provide gender equitable services and activities</p>	<p>2.2.3 Feasible livelihood options identified to poor urban women</p>		<p>3.1.5 Capacity building support provided to community based institutions to address gender gaps 3.1.6 Provide training to target women on women empowerment (through woreda women affairs offices)</p>	<p>3.2.3 Community level joint learning forums (bi-annual review & reflection sessions) organized to foster mutual learning and scale up of good practices that support women empowerment actions and to evaluate progresses</p>
	<p>1.1.4 Seeds (cereal, vegetable and fruit) provided for women and men to produce food crops</p>	<p>1.2.4 Women and men trained on equitable food allocation (including practical demonstration) at HH level</p>		<p>2.1.8 VSLA members trained on Market information system and VSLA 2.1.9 VSLA practices guideline revised considering recent developments</p>	<p>2.2.4 Poor urban women trained and supported to engage in selected activities</p>		<p>3.1.7 Community based multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) established and strengthened on women empowerments and gender issues (with 50 % women representation) 3.1.8 Community based MSPs supported to organize bi-annual discussions at village level and to gather evidences on women empowerment, VC financing,</p>	<p>3.2.4 The impact of productive engagement of women on children's malnutrition and engaging men on HH Chores assessed</p>

							BDS and related activities to inform and influence policies and systems	
	1.1.5 HHS supported with bee keeping equipments	1.2.5 Cooking demonstration sessions conducted at community level		2.1.10 VSLAs/PMA members trained on productivity and financial management 2.1.11 Community conversations conducted using VSLAs as platform for wider community interaction on the roles of women and men on access and control over processes in VCs	2.2.5 Model farmers trained on Value chains and management information system		3.1.9 Experience sharing/ learning visit organized to other CARE operational areas for selected women and Men 3.1.10 The level of control women have over HH resources and finance assessed	3.2.5 The situation of men's income generating ability as women engage in productive activities and bring more income for the HH assessed
				2.1.12 Events organized where role model HHS, who have more equitable workload distribution in their home, will be awarded	2.2.6 Inputs provided to targeted women and men necessary to inter into other VC activities		3.1.11 Capacity building supports provided to HEW to enable them assess the social determinants of FP	3.2.6 Bi-annual monitoring and annual impact tracking assessments conducted