



**Final Evaluation of
Water for Food Security, Women's Empowerment and
Environmental Protection (SWEEP) Project**

(East and West Belesa Woredas of Central Gondar Zone,
Amhara Regional State)

Final Report

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The consulting team

ACRONYM

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
CM	Child Marriage
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FHH	Female-Headed Households
GBVs	Gender-Based Violence
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
GTP	Growth and Transformation Plan
HTP	Harmful Traditional Practice
IGA	Income Generating Activity
KII	Key informant interview
MHH	Male Headed Households
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NTD	Neglected Tropical Diseases
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PWD	People with Disability
SAA	Social Analysis and Action
SDG	Sustainable Development goal
SWEEP	Water for Food Security, Women's Empowerment and Environmental Protection
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
WASHCO	Water Sanitation and Hygiene Committee
WHO	World Health Organization

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

CARE, with the financial support from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), has been implementing a three-year project titled "Water for Food Security, Women's Empowerment and Environmental Protection (SWEEP)" Project in East and West Belesa Woredas of Central Gondar Zone, Amhara Regional State. The SWEEP project was designed to address the socio-economic and environmental problems causing food insecurity, including inadequate access to water supply and environmental degradation, social barriers and gender inequality, limited livelihood opportunities and low productivity. Therefore, the final evaluation aims to evaluate the project's impact in terms of changes for the intended beneficiaries and provide evidence for future decisions demonstrating accountability to the project beneficiaries, stakeholders, and donors.

Methodology

The final evaluation was guided by project intervention logic and the theory of change and employed the OECD DAC and ADA evaluation criteria. The assessment covered the two intervention woredas and ten kebeles consistent with the baseline and Mid Term Review (MTR) methodologies. A field team consisting of two senior researchers, two qualitative researchers, and ten enumerators were deployed. The evaluation employed a household survey of 869 households using a tablet-based data collection application to assess changes against key outcome and impact indicators. The team visited major stakeholder organisations, conducted 15 key informant interviews using pre-designed checklists, conducted 32 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with 234 participants, and conducted six case stories on selected project outcome areas.

Evaluation Results

- (1) **Impact** - Measuring the project's impact at this stage might be difficult since impacts occur sometime after the project's implementation. However, an attempt is made in this evaluation to show the observed impacts of the project in food security, access to safe water supply, the capacity to adapt to environmental and economic shocks, and gender-based violence.
 - **Food security** - The final evaluation result reveals that the project activities are interconnected and contribute to increased food security and marginalized target households' resiliency. This has been evidenced by the livelihood changes attained and reported by communities engaged in Income-Generating Activities (IGAs). The majority of the households (84%) in the final evaluation study said they ensured food security for eight or more months per year. The result is much higher than the MTR result (49%), and none of the households was able to feed their members for five months per year during the baseline.
 - **Capacity to adapt to environmental and economic shocks**- The strategies to cope with economic shocks were selling firewood/charcoal (52% baseline, 18% MTR, and 14% end-line) and migrating to other localities to find work and earn money/food (23% baseline, 24% MTR, and 8% end-line). The reduction in the percentage of households selling firewood/charcoal shows a fundamental shift in protecting the vegetation, which is possibly the result of the awareness raised in environmental management. The decrease in migration could also be due to an increase in income level and improvement

in livelihoods. The evaluation result indicated that the household's capacity to adapt to both economic and environmental shocks has significantly increased – the ability to adjust to economic shocks has risen from 1% during the baseline to 71.4% in the end-line survey. Similarly, the capacity to adapt to environmental shocks has increased from 15% during the baseline to 68.6% in the end-line survey.

- **Gender-based violence** - the SWEEP project has supported the local community to organise into Social Analysis and Action (SAA) groups and begin conversations about existing challenges and ways of mitigating harmful social and gender norms that affect women, girls and marginalized groups. The implementation of SAA has improved the local community's understanding and action in gender equality and in preventing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs). There is a significant improvement from the baseline as nearly all the surveyed households (96%) believe early marriage (marriage under 18 years of age) is a harmful practice that affects girls' lives. Prevalence of HTPs and GBV, such as female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage (CM), sexual harassment, and physical abuse, has shown a significant decrease from the baseline. The final evaluation result revealed that GBV (physical violence and sexual harassment) in the target community is 27.5%, 24% and 69% for baseline and MTR, respectively. Similarly, CM and FGM in the targeted community have shown a continuous decrease (baseline 22%, MTR 9%, and final evaluation 5.7%).
- (2) **Relevance** - The project is relevant in many aspects as it has aligned with national and international strategies and policies, and the project activities are consistent with community needs. The project has generally achieved its objectives and needs additional intervention to sustain project outputs and reach more vulnerable community members in the current non-SWEEP intervention kebeles of the two woredas.
- (3) **Effectiveness** - The SWEEP project generally achieved all three interrelated project outcomes and all the eight outputs as verified by the logical framework's indicators.

Outcome 1: Improved access to water resources for domestic consumption and productive use and enhanced and sustainable productivity of land for varied uses

Indicator 1: % increase of access to the safe water supply of households in the target Woredas and Kebeles

The project had facilitated access to safe water for the local community by constructing new water schemes and rehabilitation of existing water schemes. During its project lifetime, SWEEP completed the construction of 119 new hand-dug well, 12 solar pump water system, 3 R-masonry dams, rehabilitation of 208 non-functional water supply schemes including a dam, and all of them are fully functional and accessible to the community. Also a total of 2,469 household water filtration kits are distributed to households. The project created access to safe water for domestic use and productive uses for 119,794 target people in the two woredas, 165% of its original plan.

Access to safe water supply for domestic consumption has increased from 26% (baseline) to 55% (final evaluation) across the two intervention woredas. Not only access but also the distance from the sources has significantly reduced – households

within less than 30minutes for the round trip from the water point were 22%, 31%, and 57% during baseline, MTR and final evaluation, respectively.

Indicator 2: increase of irrigated land size in 4 Kebeles

The project had a plan to construct four irrigation schemes (two in West Belesa and two in East Belesa) with a potential irrigation capacity of 110ha. While the construction of schemes in West Belesa remained with some finishing works, the projects in East Belesa are completed, started functioning, and 133.7 ha of land are being irrigated. When all the irrigation schemes started functioning, a total of 329.7ha land will be irrigated.

Indicator 3: % increase of women and girls in targeted Kebeles who spend 8-10 hours/day or less on HH chores

The project attained a significant improvement in reducing women and girls engagement in household chores. The final evaluation result¹ revealed that 67% of girls and women (47% and 87.1% for women and girls, respectively) spend less than 10 hours per day that significantly reduced the work burden compared with the baseline (24%).

Outcome 2: Marginalised groups empowered to contribute productively in the household and community

Indicator 1: income increase of marginalised beneficiaries in targeted Kebeles

According to the final evaluation survey result, the average income per household was 29,021 Birr, an increase of many folds compared with 3,400 Birr during the baseline study, and nearly twice the MTR result (15,493 Birr). The dominant source of income was from agricultural activities. The income level varies significantly between woredas, West Belesa being much higher than the respondents' annual income from East Belesa. Female Head of Household (FHH) and heads of households with a disability have significantly lower income level compared to the other project target groups. Non-agricultural income-generating activities contributed to about 15% of the household income. The average non-agricultural income differs significantly between woredas (2,211 at East Belesa vs Birr 5,653 at West Belesa).

Indicator 2: % increase of marginalised rural women holding a leadership position in local committees in targeted kebeles

The evaluation result showed that the intervention has significantly improved communities' perception towards women's ability to hold and play a leadership role in the watershed, WASH and Irrigation Management Committees, and VSLAs in the targeted Kebeles. In comparison, none of the women held a leadership position during the baseline, 52% during the MTR and reached 55% during the final evaluation. They actively participated in the local committee, as witnessed in the end-line assessment.

¹ The result is presented separately as there is a significant difference between girls and women.

Indicator 3: % increase of rural women who can equally participate in major income and expenditure decisions in the household in targeted Kebeles

While most of the target women who participated in the final evaluation reported having been consulted on how the income or product earned is to be utilised, only about a quarter of them participated in decisions involving selling and buying livestock (such as oxen, sheep and goats). On the other hand, a transaction involving chicken and eggs is dominantly left to women. Overall, 51% of the target women can equally participate in major income and expenditure decisions in the household, which is a remarkable improvement compared to the baseline (11%) and MTR (38%).

Indicator 4: % increase of improved attitude/perception in communities towards women's ability to hold and play a leadership role in targeted Kebeles

The project intervention has contributed significantly to building women's self-confidence to convey their messages in public meetings and their assertiveness in dialogues and decision-making processes. Concerning this, the final evaluation result revealed that 93% of the beneficiary households perceive that target women can hold and play a leadership role that was 56% and 87% during baseline and MTR, respectively.

Outcome 3:

Indicator 1: % increase of beneficiaries who have meaningfully participated in formal (government-led) and informal (civil society-led, private sector-led) decision-making spaces

According to the end-line result, 94% of the respondents confirmed that local government considers their participation (10% all the time and 84% occasionally), which altogether shows significant improvement as compared to the situation during the baseline (25%) and MTR (80%).

Indicator 2: % increase of beneficiaries who report that government (Woreda) took their requests into consideration

The final evaluation survey also assessed if the local community's requests are heard and adequately answered by the local government. The majority of respondents confirm that the local government involves community members in planning, budgeting and monitoring for essential social services. Overall, 94% of the respondents who participated in such consultation mentioned local government considers their request and act upon issues accordingly (9% all the time and 85% occasionally). The finding indicates a significant improvement of community participation in the government's lead planning, budgeting, and monitoring for essential social services compared to the situation during the baseline (30%) and MTR (67%).

Indicator 3: % increase of beneficiaries whose level of satisfaction for government service provision improved

The level of satisfaction of the communities with government service provision has visibly improved. The local community's overall satisfaction towards the government

service provisions increased from 6% during the baseline to 42% during the MTR, and it slightly increased to 45% in the end-line survey.

- (4) **Efficiency**- The evaluation has assessed the project's efficiency in terms of how well the various activities translated the available resources into the intended outcome regarding quantity, quality and timeliness. The application of diverse partners' coordinated effort has contributed to efficiency and minimised overlapping and duplication of effort. The project fully achieved joint coordination, technical supports, pulling human and other resources and minimising project implementation cost. Efficient utilization of resources enabled the project to benefit higher number of the initial target VSLA beneficiaries (152%). In relation to the water schemes, 30% of the resources were raised from community contributions.
- (5) **Sustainability** - Several factors contribute to the project's sustainability after the phase-out of the project. The phase-out plan, community and related structures organised and strengthened to take over the project's roles and responsibilities. The active participation of project target groups, local communities, and government institutions in planning, implementing, and monitoring the project's activities. The project built capacities of major stakeholders involved in project. As a result, a sense of ownership on project outputs was created, which facilitates sustainability of the project activities after the phase-out. Detailed analysis of the sustainability of the project is provided in the analysis.

Summary of major indicators

Indicator	Baseline	Mid-line	End-line	Target
<i>Impact/Goal</i>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % increase in households (HHs) in targeted Kebeles reporting ensured food security for 8 months or more per year 	0%	49%	83.5%	5%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % increase in households in households with the capacity to adapt to economic shocks 	1%	60%	71.4%	6%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % increase in households with an increased capacity to adapt to environmental shocks 	15%	60%	68.6%	20%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % decrease in the weighted average of gender-based violence (physical violence and sexual harassment) in households (HHs) in targeted Kebeles 	69%	24%	28% ²	59%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % decrease in weighted average values for CM and FGM in households (HHs) in targeted Kebeles 	22%	9%	6%	12%
<i>Outcome 1</i>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % increase of access to safe water supply in the targeted Woredas 	26%	42%	55 %	46%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % increase of access to the safe water supply of HH in the target Kebeles 	20%	46%	75%	80%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increase of irrigated land size in 4 Kebeles (in ha) 	0	0	329.7ha ³	110ha

²While there is a significant improvement as compared with the baseline, the difference between the weighted average result of the MTR and final evaluation is not significant in statistical terms (at 95% confidence level). The end-line result of sexual harassment/abuse accounts for 22% while physical abuse was reported by 33% of the respondents.

³From the total 329.7ha of irrigable lands, 133.7ha of lands are currently irrigated

Indicator	Baseline	Mid-line	End-line	Target
• % increase of women and girls in targeted kebeles who spend 8-10 hours/day or less on household chores	24%	88%	67.1% ⁴	44%
<i>Outcome 2</i>				
• Income (in ETB) of marginalised beneficiaries in targeted Kebeles	3,400	15,493	29,021	4420
• % increase of marginalised rural women holding a leadership position in local committees in targeted Kebeles ⁵	0%	51.5%	55% ⁶	50%
• % increase of rural women who can equally participate in major income and expenditure decisions in the household	11%	38%	51%	41%
• % increase of improved attitude/perception in communities towards women's ability to hold and play a leadership role in targeted Kebeles	56%	87%	93%	81%
<i>Outcome 3:</i>				
• % increase of beneficiaries who have meaningfully participated in formal (government-led) and informal (civil society-led, private sector-led) decision-making spaces	30 %	67 %	94%	55%
• % increase of beneficiaries whose level of satisfaction for government service provision improved	6 %	42 %	45%	26%
• % increase of beneficiaries who report that the government (Woreda) took their requests into consideration	25 %	80 %	94%	50%

Conclusions

CARE implemented the three-year project (SWEEP) with financial support from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). The project's principal aim was to address the socio-economic and environmental problems causing food insecurity in East and West Belesa Woredas of Central Gondar Zone, Amhara Regional State. This final evaluation presented the measures of the changes that the SWEEP project brought to the intended beneficiaries and provided evidence and learning for future interventions.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the final evaluation the evaluation team forwarded the following recommendations:

- The SWEEP project has contributed to the overall socio-economic and livelihood improvements in the intervention woredas. However, there is still chronic food insecurity and environmental shocks in some months as witnessed in the final evaluation that people in these woredas (mainly in East Belesa) sell assets to feed families, migrate for daily

⁴This indicator has yield significantly different result for women and girls in the end-line survey. Women engaged less than 8-10 hours in household chore is 47.1% while girls engaged in household chores was 87.1%. A more useful comparison could have been made if the result of the baseline had been estimated in that manner.

⁵ Includes Watershed, WASH and Irrigation Management Committees as well as Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs)

⁶ It was learned from the final evaluation survey that 84% of the targeted rural women actively participated in local committees and gatherings such as women's association, self-help group, community development, and religious gatherings.

labour, and children drop out from school during the difficult periods. Thus, it is commendable that the project shall continue the components of the SWEEP project interventions to reach the communities and households in the rural Kebeles that have not been reached so far.

- The regional government should be focused on monitoring the previous intervention kebeles to sustain the achieved results, and expand the SAA and VSLA intervention to reach the marginalized households that have not been reached within the kebeles.
- The government (and possibly NGOs) should scale-out and replicate the success and learning from SWEEP to other woredas with similar socio-cultural, economic and environmental settings.
- The SWEEP project intervention has achieved progress in women's social and economic empowerment in the intervention area. Future extension plan may need to consider the strategic importance of women's economic and social empowerment. Therefore, the expansion of VSLA along with the other components of the SWEEP project in the remaining kebeles of the intervention woredas merits replication as it is critical to achieving women's engagement in economic activities and ensures gender equality and sustainable development.
- The experience from current VSLAs, which have now taken strong roots, suggests that forming VSLAs and pooling savings from members is possible. However, providing the VSLAs with a legal basis to utilise the savings requires collaborative mechanisms and considerable support from line offices (such as Women and Children's Affairs, micro and small businesses, cooperatives, and microfinance institutions). Their collaborative support could pave the way for the VSLAs to grow and sustainably address member livelihood. CARE's role, in this regard, could be monitoring the collaborative activities of the line offices and facilitation and provision of technical support whenever the need arises to assure fruition of the VSLAs.
- The environment-friendly solar powered water supply is a new technology and robust compared to the other small-scale water supply system. Therefore, promoting this kind of technologies is highly commendable in future planning and in similar development interventions.
- The SWEEP project has contributed much to reduce GBVs and HTPs. However, the majority of the communities in project operational areas tend to be traditional and cultural. As obviously known, such norms, values, traditions, and practices usually perpetuate violence, discrimination, and other forms of gender imbalances between men and women and girls and boys. Thus, if the project is to extend its intervention in the future, similar interventions will help mitigate GBVs and HTPs and reduce its negative impact on women's health and socio-economic developments.
- The IGAs run by university graduates in West Belesa are at their infant stage, and hence the profitability of their businesses is not yet visible. There is a need to provide them with soft skills (such as workplace readiness skills, emotional regulation skills, interpersonal skills, etc.) and market information to improve young graduates' employment prospects and income.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT ANALYSIS

CARE Ethiopia, with the financial support from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), has been implementing a three-year project titled "Water for Food Security, Women's Empowerment and Environmental Protection (SWEEP)" Project in East and West Belesa Woredas of Central Gondar Zone, Amhara Regional State. The SWEEP project was designed to address the socio-economic and environmental problems causing food insecurity in East and West Belesa, including inadequate access to water supply and environmental degradation, social barriers and gender inequality, limited livelihood opportunities and low productivity. The SWEEP project's overall envisaged impact was stated as *"improved food security and resilience of chronically food-insecure households in East and West Belesa woredas"*. Thus, to achieve such an envisaged effect of the project, SWEEP has planned to meet the following three interrelated project outcomes and eight output-level results.

Outcome I: Improved access to water resources for domestic consumption and productive use and enhanced and sustainable land productivity for varied uses.

Output 1: Water supply schemes fully functional and accessible to the community

Output 2: Irrigation systems improved and fully-functional

Output 3: Natural environment around watersheds developed and protected

Output 4: Capacity developed within the community to manage and operate water resource systems sustainably

Outcome 2: Marginalised groups empowered to contribute productively in the household and the community.

Output 5: Marginalised groups engaged in income-generating activities

Output 6: Community-engaged to challenge existing gender roles and expand the role of women and girls

Outcome 3: Local government capacitated and community empowered to initiate and lead community development and adaptive measures.

Output 7: Increased capacity for joint learning

Output 8: Increased capacity of local government to engage with the community to address needs

According to the SWEEP project's intervention logic, the project and its interventions were designed to improve water resources, empower marginalised groups, and support community developments through the development or rehabilitation of water and irrigation systems and watersheds. The restoration and development of the water, irrigation and watersheds schemes are supposed to lead to sustainable access to water resources for domestic and productive use, decrease the burden on women and girls to collect water, improved climate change adaptability

and increased groundwater potential, reduced soil erosion, and improved productivity of land for agricultural and other use. The project also endeavours to engage with the community and support marginalised groups in IGAs to increase access to productive resources, increase the number of marginalised individuals engaging in businesses, leadership roles and decision-making and increased understanding of the gender roles. Promotion of joint learning and community development is expected to lead to increased capacity for collaborative learning between government, CARE and other stakeholders, and increased local government capacity to engage with the community to address needs.

A closer look at the project documents also shows the broader goal and intervention logic of the project. Issues such as access to markets, market information, livelihoods diversification, gender inequities, climate change, and water access have been discussed in the project document. The local community and government structures capacity in coordinating and managing the development effort has also been identified. Thereby addressing such multiple development interventions in a more participatory and collaborative approach, the project aims to improve the food security and resiliency of chronically food-insecure households in East and West Belesa woredas in the Amhara regional state.

The SWEEP project's direct beneficiaries were 131,834⁷ chronically food insecure and drought-affected residents of East and West Belesa woredas, with 50% of the project who were rural women and girls (14-17 years) people with disabilities and unemployed youth (15-29 years). The project also benefits an additional 2,365 government woreda experts and community workers on capacity development through training, making a total number of 134,199 people living in the targeted woredas directly benefiting from the project. Also, around 21,000 people living in the intervention kebeles were indirect beneficiaries of the project outputs such as increased access to water from developed sources during the critical season and/or drought, reduced flooding and sedimentation due to improved watersheds for people living downstream and overall improved management of water resources and the natural environment.

The SWEEP project has also framed out its project management approaches and methodologies. The project implementation and management partners include Offices of Water, Irrigation and Energy; Agriculture, Finance and Economy, Disaster Prevention and Food Security Coordination, Women, Children and Youth, Micro and Small-Scale Enterprise Coordination, Land Administration and Environmental protection, Government Communication and Administration at regional, zonal and woreda levels. The project steering committee has also been established, comprising the key local partners to oversee project performance, integration and collaboration at all levels (region, zone, woreda and kebele). Furthermore, as part of the project's management, periodic follow-up, monitoring and evaluation activities were included in the project's design. In line with that, baseline evaluation to assess the existing contexts and situations and to set baseline values were undertaken as scheduled before the project's actual intervention. The project has also carried out a midline evaluation in the midway of the project implementation period to gauge its performance.

⁷ The total number of direct beneficiaries increased to 142,211 in the course of the implementation.

The baseline study has documented evidence on East and West Belesa woredas existing situation, with particular reference to food security and resilience, water supply, gender and social norms, participation, and income of disadvantaged segments. The result of the baseline survey has documented the dire situation of the study population. According to the baseline study, most of the target population could not feed their household throughout the year. The families were facing critical food shortage challenges for 5-7 months in a year, experiencing frequent shocks and limited capacity to adopt positive coping mechanisms. The baseline has presented that the overwhelming majority of households earned a meagre daily income of Birr 2.33 per person per day. Female-headed households' daily income was worse by far, which was less than 2 Birr per day. The baseline study result on the existing social norms and practices on pervasive effects of HTP and GBVs and wellbeing of women and girls in the study woredas revealed that the gender roles favour men and boys to the productive sphere.

In contrast, women and girls shoulder the burden of household chores that consume a significant amount of their energy and time (more than 8 hours a day). The result of the baseline has also indicated that access to safe water was far below the standard. A significant proportion of respondents was using unprotected water sources during rainy and dry seasons. Equally important, water consumption per household/day among the surveyed households was far below the rural communities' minimum standard. The baseline had also shown that there were limited participation and decision-making practices of women in the intervention woreda. And again, women had no decisive role in production and livelihood making and financial decision-making undertakings. Women have substantial involvement in decision making only on minor household expenditures and income areas.

The MTR show that the project was relevant to the community's socio-economic and environmental needs, and it meets the development priorities of the national, regional, and local governments. The project is aligned with the Growth Transformation Plan (GTP II), integrating the natural resource management at the centre of food security and disaster prevention and preparedness. The MTR assessed the project relevance and addressed the national policy of achieving gender equality and the target community's safe water supply needs. More importantly, it has touched the real needs and problems of marginalised community groups such as women, female-headed households and people living with a disability. The MTR showed that the project's strategies and components, carried out with the active participation and ownership feeling of partners at all levels, were comprehensive and integrated. As addressed in the MTR, gender, harmful traditional practices, and environment are cross-cutting issues, including the due emphasis given to government and community capacity development to ensure the results' sustainability.

According to the MTR, the project has made positive progress and revealed impact level results. The income-generating sources of marginalised community groups are getting diversified. About 19% of the household's income was generated from non-agricultural activities, and the per capita daily income grew from 2.33 to around 7.68 ETB. The project improved the quality of life of marginalised peoples in the target area, improved gender equality at the household level, reduced domestic labour burdens for women, reduced travel distance and time to fetch water, and increased water consumption volume. The MTR suggested WASHCOs linkage with relevant government offices to ensure sustainability needs and further attention and capacity development. Concerning the natural environment around watersheds, protection and development of visible vegetation cover and physical structures that

conserve soil and water resources started. However, the watershed management committee was in critical need of capacity building and value chain development interventions. The MTR has also shown that saving among VSLA members was one coping mechanism during drought or other challenges in their lives.

The MTR of the project identified key challenges and gaps that would potentially hamper future achievements and provided plausible recommendations for the project management team to act on accordingly. As a follow up of the baseline and mid-term evaluation, CARE International Ethiopia, through a competitive approach, has commissioned an external consultant, ABAMELA Business Plc, a development consulting firm, to undertake the final evaluation.

2.2 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FINAL EVALUATION

The purpose of the final evaluation is three-fold: (a) to measure and evaluate the impact of the project, in terms of assessing the changes for the intended beneficiaries; (b) be accountable to the project beneficiaries, stakeholders and donor; and (c) to provide evidence and learning for future decisions on whether and how the project could be continued/replicated. The objectives of the final evaluation are:

- The extent to which the project has achieved its impact, outcomes and outputs (assessing its attribution and contribution), including assessing the intended and unintended⁸, be it positive or negative, effects of the project on its beneficiaries, their communities and the Government partners. This should also include an analysis of how the Covid19 measures affected project implementation.
- Assess and analyse the effectiveness (the extent to which the intervention achieved its objectives, including any differential results across groups) and efficiency (the extent to which the intervention delivered results in an economical and timely way).
- Assess and analyse the project's sustainability (the extent to which the intervention's net benefits continue or are likely to continue).
- Identify and highlight the main areas of success and failures, lessons learned, and recommendations to the project's key stakeholders (including partners, donor) for future projects.
- Assess and analyse the extent to which cross-cutting issues such as gender, environment, climate change and social inclusion were taken into account during the implementation and could be scaled up and/or improved for future programmes.
- Assess and analyse the extent to which CARE's management response to the midterm evaluation recommendations was considered during the remaining implementation period.
- Assess and analyse climate resilience impacts qualitatively using the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment conducted by CARE Ethiopia at the beginning of the project cycle as a baseline.

⁸Also regarding the COVID19 pandemic

3. LESSONS LEARNT, INNOVATIVENESS OF METHODS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 LESSONS LEARNED

As the world is running out of clean/freshwater to feed and nourish a growing global population and ensuring sustainable development and ending hunger and malnutrition is considered a primary goal of development actors. Therefore, better water management is crucial to global food and nutrition security. In this regard, irrigation is key to increasing food production and farm income and improving resilience against weather variability. Irrigation management increases the volume and the diversity of food produced, including dry season crops and micronutrient-rich foods such as fruits and vegetables. Improvements in the proximity and cleanliness of water sources and technologies for water extraction support women's empowerment and well-being, saving time and improving health. The SWEEP project's design integrating the three outcome areas and the positive results achieved provides a lesson for future implementation of similar programs and projects.

Several lessons were drawn from the implementation of the SWEEP project. Working with Bahir Dar University on the piloted watershed is an avenue that the SWEEP project opened opportunities for the universities to experiment with their community outreach efforts. Women empowerment approaches in participation and leadership (WASHCo, NRM, other committees) have registered an important lesson for future interventions. Including people with disabilities in the project was not just a moral imperative; it was also a requirement to comply with international and national laws and support sustainable development goals. Inclusiveness of the SWEEP project and the success in achieving the intended result was the other significant aspect of the lessons learned. Community participation and contribution of the resources (material and labour) that covered about 30% of the costs are lessons learned in the SWEEP project, which merits replication.

The VSLA approach promoted by the project at the grassroots level was appropriate for rural poor women with no other alternative sources to mobilise finance for saving and credit services to start a business. The VSLA, in addition to the creation of access to loan services, has facilitated discussion and solution for women problems at the community and household level. It has great importance in reducing HTPs and GBVs. Thus, the approach is a replicable one while designing other similar intervention.

One of the other approaches that led the project to success was the close and joint project management system with local government and community stakeholders. The knowledge and understanding of all the project stakeholders involved in this survey about the project were very high. The study participants have an in-depth knowledge of the project intervention and reflected that they had a greater appreciation for being involved in the implementation processes practically compared as compared with other projects in the woreda. The stakeholders' involvement at all the stages of the project execution has facilitated a smooth implementation and achievements of the project's desired results by fostering a sense of ownership.

The environment-friendly solar energy-driven water system is a new technology in the area and generates a better water quantity than small hand-dug water-well. The amount of water produced with the solar pump can serve both for drinking and other development purposes like the production of vegetables and fruits around homesteads. The solar pumping water scheme deserves promotion as it is environmentally friendly technology and is a more useful system for the community.

3.2 INNOVATIVE ATTRIBUTES OF THE SWEEP PROJECT

The SWEEP project introduced several innovative approaches to learning from projects in other interventions contributing to livelihoods and environmental management. The project integrated several intervention components such as water supply for domestic and productive uses and women empowerment (economic and social) through coordination and collaborations, inclusiveness, and community contributions.

The project initiated solar-driven water supply systems for domestic and productive (irrigation) uses in both intervention woredas. The technology is operationally cost effective, environment-friendly and climate-resilient as compared to systems with diesel-based power generator systems. The solar system has several advantages, such as low operational cost and ease of operation, leading to cost-effectiveness and reliable service provisions. Considering high acceptance and demand from community and government and the multiple benefits of the technology, the project constructed 12 solar-driven water supply systems that constituted 200% of the target. The project has also introduced a surface solar pump system for irrigation systems in East Belessa, which is the first of its kind at a national level. The project installed a surface solar pump and pumping water from the dams to irrigated lands. The innovation changed the situation that dams constructed for irrigation purpose were non-functional for more than ten years. Currently, more than 82 hectares of land is under irrigation and benefited more than 1,500 persons.

The use of water filtration kits has also been introduced to treat water at the point of use, mainly for households with no access to safe water sources. In consultation with the PSC and ensuring the services' sustainability by reducing dependency, the project distributed kits subsidizing 75% initially, 65% in the second round and 100% from the third round. More than 2,469 household kits were distributed with this approach, of which more than 1000 kits procured with the money collected from users. To ensure continuity of product supply and uninterrupted use of the service, SWEEP supported establishment of two water-filtration kit shops (one per woreda) run by groups of people live with disability and made functional.

Regarding women empowerment, the project introduced and initiated the VSLA and SAA approach to ensure women's economic and social empowerment, respectively. Both of the approaches are new for the intervention woredas and the Central Gonder zone in general. Initially, it was planned to establish 50 VSLA groups but established 101 VSLA groups with all rounded supports-manual/guideline, training, kits, passbooks, etc. The established groups mobilized and saved money, which was far beyond expectations. The VSLA groups took loans from the savings and engaging in various income-generating activities, contributing to the household income. Based on the lessons from the established VSLAs and the government and communities' requests, the project established and supported another 50 VSLA groups reaching a total of 101 VSLA groups with 2,132 active members who saved more than ETB 1.2 million.

More than 1,300 members took loans and engaged in various IGAs that contributed to improving the food security of marginalized households. In addition, 133 self-initiated VSLA groups are established with 2,561 members and saved more than ETB 500,000. Also, 202 female government staffs from both woredas established VSLA groups and saved more than ETB 109,120, and 15 members took a loan of ETB 75,000. The result is suggestive of the sustainability and scalability of the VSLA component of the intervention.

The SWEEP project introduced the SAA approach in the intervention woredas to address social norms and barriers affecting community members, mainly women and girls' social and economic development. The project established 30 SAA groups with more than 800 participants (both men and women) that enabled to conduct discussion on the communities' social norms. This SAA initiative sensitized the communities about gender equality and equity. The intervention has encouraged women to participate in meetings involving conflict resolution, resource utilization, and fighting harmful traditional practices (such as child marriage and female genital cutting). The changes in attitudes are well felt at both the household and community level through the existing community networks of SAA members, as they are also members of the kebele development army structure. The proportion of rural women holding a leadership position in local committees has also increased.

The project has initiated a steering committee (PSC) at the region, zone and woreda levels as a coordination and collaboration mechanism. Participation of the stakeholders and beneficiaries ensured transparency and accountability throughout the project management cycle. The zonal and woreda PSC representatives conduct joint field monitoring visits every quarter. Likewise, the woreda PSC with kebele/community representatives also conduct review meetings to conduct joint field monitoring visits. The regional and zonal PSC members learn and share experiences for the wider application in their respective sectors. In this regard, CARE has been selected along with two other NGOs working in the Amhara region to present and share the SWEEP project's learning and experiences in a forum where representatives of more than 158 governmental and nongovernmental organizations attended at Bahir Dar town on February 2021. The lessons learnt from CARE witnessed ownership and accountability feeling among government actors, and is essential for the sustainability of the project outputs.

The SWEEP project's inclusiveness approach is the other dimension of its innovativeness. The project has targeted marginalized groups like persons with disabilities, women (mainly female-headed households), and unemployed youths as the main targets in its design stage. During the implementation phases, the project ensured the target groups' inclusiveness in each service areas of the project planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting, and evaluation stages. Overall, more than 3,000 persons with disabilities benefited from the project, and that demonstrated the potentials persons with disabilities have to participate and engage in development interventions. The SWEEP inclusiveness approach's experiences and learning are well documented and shared for the wider community both within and outside of CARE Ethiopia. The evaluation result has suggested that the inclusiveness approach brought shift in mind-set shift of the community and government officials in terms of participating and considering PWD in the development and social development interventions.

3.3 WASH AND NTD INTEGRATION

CARE Ethiopia has implemented a scaling-up WaSH- Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) integration project in East and West Belessa Woredas from July 2018-June 30, 2020 in 10 (5 in each woreda) SWEEP intervention kebeles with the financial support from the government and the SWEEP project. This WASH and NTD integration model program, initiated by CARE and being implemented since 2015, has shown encouraging outcome and indicated the importance of continuing to use a WASH NTD integrated program approach. As a result, CARE scaled up this model and its mechanisms in the SWEEP project.

The evaluation data revealed that the project contributed significantly to improving the awareness, attitude and practice of hygiene and sanitation among rural communities and students in many ways. The project increased access to a safe and sufficient water supply for better health and environmental sanitation. Also, it increased access to improved sanitation facilities and improved sustainable utilisation of sanitation facilities. The project constructed six⁹ water supply schemes and enabled 4,801 (2,253 girls) school children to access a safe water supply. Also, the construction of 11¹⁰ sex-disaggregated and inclusive (10 inclusive latrines for people with a physical disability) Ventilated Improved Pit Latrines (VIPL)-each with five seats and handwashing facilities- enabled a total of 8,103 (3,900 girls) school children to access sanitation facilities.

According to the informants and discussants, the project makes an essential difference in schools where students had no choice but to defecate in the open. The lack of WASH services was also one of the main obstacles for students to enrol and attend school, especially for girls. Currently, the school compound is cleaner and safer; students use the restrooms any time they need, thus creating a conducive environment for the students and teachers, mainly for girls.

The project improved the community's and students' behaviour to contribute to sustainable adoption of good hygienic practices and reduced risk of water contamination and NTDs. According to informants, the project has increased latrine coverage in rural communities. At the community level, 23,660¹¹ (11,899 female) people have access to basic sanitation facilities by constructing 4,885 household latrines. Compared to the baseline situation, latrine coverage increased from 14% to 72.2%¹² at the end of the project.

The proactive engagement and successful performance of trained School WASH and menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) clubs, improved students face washing, hand washing, latrine utilisation, and proper waste disposal behaviour. Similarly, the average students' shoe-wearing practices increased from 74.6% to 98% in all schools. Schools compound became Open Defecation Free (ODF), clean and safe to the teaching-learning process. According to informants, the MHM platform in school improved schoolgirls' attendance and participation. According to an informant, getting MHM service at school reduced discriminatory social norms, including boys teasing, and increased school attendance and enrolment, decreased

⁹ Scaling-up WaSH and NTDs integration project terminal report

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Ibid

¹² Ibid

school absenteeism among adolescent girls, empowered girl's to develop confidence and increased the use of the locally prepared sanitary pad.

The evaluation data has also shown that the project contributed to capacitating local governments and empowering the community to initiate, participate in and lead health development works and adaptive measures. As part of the capacity building, the project trained 902 persons on WASH and NTD promotion and integrations. Among which 100 were Zonal and woreda government experts, 26 health extension workers, 113 kebele cabinet members, 675 health development armies, 50 school WASH and MHM clubs and 38 religious leaders. According to the informants, the training brought remarkable attitudinal and behavioural changes among local government staffs and different community structures, the effect of which has remarkably trickled down to the community level.

According to government officials, the project's other most significant contributions was its response to the emergent COVID 19 epidemic. The officials acknowledged and appreciated the project's flexibility and the timeliness of responding to the emergent COVID 19 epidemic. The project contributed through printing and distributing leaflets and posters to raise awareness on prevention measure of COVID-19, promoting key COVID-19 prevention measures, and organising and training voluntary emergency response teams that can advise and inform the community about COVID-19 mitigation measures at woreda, kebele and village level.

The project has also helped the Zonal government with materials that include 19 microphones, 2500 bottles of liquid bleach, 3400 soaps, 4100 bottles of hand sanitizers, and 23 hand washing facilities. The sensitisation and promotion work on the COVID 19, the material support, and the constructed WASH infrastructures at the community and school levels support the epidemic's prevention.

3.4 CARE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION OF THE MID TERM REVIEW

The midterm review of the SWEEP project put forward 14 recommendations and the CARE management accepted 12 of them, seven were accepted in full and five were only partially accepted. Two of the recommendations that deal with inclusion of livestock as livelihood segment in the project area and introduction of drought resistant and short-reaping crop/fruit seeds were not accepted. The summary matrix consisting of the recommendations, acceptance by CARE management, responsible body for its implementation and detailed remark along each recommendation is attached (Annex D).

The CARE management accepted the need to focus on alternative income-generating activity of the community groups; assisting the legalization and formal handover of water supplies to WASHCos; ensuring genuine citizens' participation, good governance and accountability; women's representation in local committees' leadership; improving men's engagement in household chores; strengthening watershed management by appropriate land use rights to ensure ownership by the local community; increase the participation and engagement of groups in WASHCos, watershed/NRM and irrigation scheme committees; the need for future project development to consider Woreda towns in the safe water supply and VSLA; and integration of hygiene and sanitation in the safe water supply. We consider that the project fully addressed the latter. The recommendation on VSLA approach to have a clear and shared direction is only

partially addressed while the suggested road development and other basic service provision were not addressed as it involves huge resource and is the government's role. Inclusion of livestock as livelihood segment and introduction of improved, drought resistance and short-reaping crops is not addressed as it was not planned initially, but the management appreciated it to be considered in follow up project.

3.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- The SWEEP project has contributed to the overall socio-economic and livelihood improvements in the intervention woredas. However, there is still chronic food insecurity and environmental shocks in some months as witnessed in the final evaluation that people in these woredas (mainly in East Belesa) sell assets to feed families, migrate for daily labour, and children drop out from school during the difficult periods. Thus, it is commendable that the project shall continue the components of the SWEEP project interventions to reach the communities and households in the rural Kebeles that have not been reached so far.
- The regional government should be focused on monitoring the previous intervention kebeles to sustain the achieved results, and expand the SAA and VSLA intervention to reach the marginalized households that have not been reached within the kebeles.
- The government (and possibly NGOs) should scale-out and replicate the success and learning from SWEEP to other woredas with similar socio-cultural, economic and environmental settings.
- The SWEEP project intervention has achieved progress in women's social and economic empowerment in the intervention area. Future extension plan may need to consider the strategic importance of women social empowerment to help them develop a sense of autonomy and self-confidence and act individually and collectively to change social relationships and the institutions and discourses that exclude and keep them in poverty. Economic empowerment allows women to think beyond immediate daily survival and exercise greater control over their resources and life choices. Therefore, the expansion of VSLA along with the other components of the SWEEP project in the remaining kebeles of the intervention woredas merits replication as it is critical to achieving women's engagement in economic activities and ensures gender equality and sustainable development.
- The experience from current VSLAs, which have now taken strong roots, suggests that forming VSLAs and pooling savings from members is possible. However, providing the VSLAs with a legal basis to utilise the savings requires collaborative mechanisms and considerable support from line offices (such as Women and Children's Affairs, micro and small businesses, cooperatives, and microfinance institutions). Their collaborative support could pave the way for the VSLAs to grow and sustainably address member livelihood. CARE's role, in this regard, could be monitoring the collaborative activities of the line offices and facilitation and provision of technical support whenever the need arises to assure fruition of the VSLAs.

- The environment-friendly solar powered water supply is a new technology and robust compared to the other small-scale water supply system. Therefore, promoting this kind of technologies is highly commendable in future planning and in similar development interventions.
- The SWEEP project has contributed much to reduce GBVs and HTPs. However, the majority of the communities in project operational areas tend to be traditional and cultural. As obviously known, such norms, values, traditions, and practices usually perpetuate violence, discrimination, and other forms of gender imbalances between men and women and girls and boys. Thus, if the project is to extend its intervention in the future, similar interventions will help mitigate GBVs and HTPs and reduce its negative impact on women's health and socio-economic developments.
- The IGAs run by university graduates in West Belesa are at their infant stage, and hence the profitability of their businesses is not yet visible. There is a need to provide them with soft skills (such as workplace readiness skills, emotional regulation skills, interpersonal skills, etc.) and market information to improve young graduates' employment prospects and income.

4. FINDINGS

4.0 BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS

According to the official statistics obtained from West Belesa, the woreda has a total population of 182,396 (48.3% female). There are about 1,699 (47.9% female) registered persons with disabilities. Agriculture is predominantly the livelihood system and economy of the West Belesa woreda, where *teff* is the primary crop. The woreda has 198 schools, 35 health facilities, and 250 water schemes, mainly hand-dug water supply facilities. The population of West Belesa are followers of orthodox Christian.

The other intervention site, East Belesa, has a total population of 146,599 (48.6% female). There are 1,444 (43% female) registered PWDs. The woreda is highly prone to drought and associated food insecurity problems. The economy of the population is predominantly based on agriculture. Compared to the West Belesa, east Belesa woreda has less economical, infrastructural and other development facilities. The woreda has 71 schools and 36 health facilities. Even though agriculture is the dominant economic activity in the woreda, the woreda is characterised by high land degradation, recurrent drought, and associated food insecurity challenges. Crop and livestock production are the main agricultural activities of the population. In both woredas, the population has still high attachments to cultures, norms and traditions.

In this evaluation survey, 869 randomly selected beneficiary households were interviewed from the communities in the intervention areas of East Belesa and West Belesa woredas of the Central Gondar zone, Amhara region. Of the sample households, 511 (58.8%) were selected from five kebeles in West Belesa woreda, while the remaining 358 (41.2%) were from East Belesa woreda.

TABLE 1: BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS OF HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS BY WOREDA, HEADSHIP, AND DISABILITY STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, DECEMBER 2020¹³

	Woreda		Headship		Disability status		Total n=869
	East Belesa n=358	West Belesa n=511	MHH n=481	FHH n=388	With disability n=90	No disability n=779	
Age group							
14-29	14.5% _a	16.0% _a	7.3% _a	25.5% _b	17.8% _a	15.1% _a	15.4%
30-45	60.1% _a	59.3% _a	57.4% _a	62.4% _a	48.9% _a	60.8% _b	59.6%
46-65	22.9% _a	23.1% _a	32.0% _a	11.9% _b	27.8% _a	22.5% _a	23.0%
66+	2.5% _a	1.6% _a	3.3% _a	0.3% _b	5.6% _a	1.5% _b	2.0%
Marital status							
Married	65.6% _a	80.6% _b	94.4% _a	49.7% _b	58.9% _a	76.3% _b	74.5%
Divorced	22.6% _a	9.2% _b	2.3% _a	30.2% _b	21.1% _a	14.0% _a	14.7%
Widowed	7.0% _a	6.1% _a	2.1% _a	11.9% _b	6.7% _a	6.4% _a	6.4%
Never married	4.7% _a	4.1% _a	1.2% _a	8.2% _b	13.3% _a	3.3% _b	4.4%
Educational status							
Illiterate	70.7% _a	75.7% _a	68.8% _a	79.6% _b	76.7% _a	73.3% _a	73.6%
Non-formal	3.9% _a	2.5% _a	5.0% _a	0.8% _b	5.6% _a	2.8% _a	3.1%
Grade 1-4	11.7% _a	9.4% _a	13.1% _a	7.0% _b	10.0% _a	10.4% _a	10.4%
Grade 5-8	8.4% _a	7.0% _a	8.7% _a	6.2% _a	5.6% _a	7.8% _a	7.6%
Grade 9-10	4.2% _a	4.7% _a	4.0% _a	5.2% _a	2.2% _a	4.7% _a	4.5%
TVET certificate & above	0.11% _a	0.6% _a	0.4% _a	1.3% _a	0.0% ¹	0.9% _a	0.8%
Mean household size	4.6 _a	5.0 _b	5.3 _a	4.2 _b	4.7 _a	4.9 _a	4.8

Of the surveyed households, 55.4% were male-headed, and 44.6% were female-headed. Age-wise, 15.4% of the household heads were within the youth age group of 14-29. About three-fourths of the household heads were married (65.6% in East Belesa and 80.6% in West Belesa). Illiteracy is a widespread phenomenon that accounts for 73.6% of household heads. The difference in the level of illiteracy shows no significant variation between woredas or disability status. However, the difference across gender of the head was statistically significant (68.8% of MHH vs 79.6% of FHH were illiterate). Mean household size was 4.8 persons with a considerable difference between the two woredas (4.6 East Belesa 5.0 West Belesa) and across headship (5.3 MHH vs 4.2 FHH).

¹³Note that in all the tables where comparison of values (means or proportions) in tables is made values in the same row and subtable not sharing the same subscript are significantly different at $p < .05$ in the two-sided test of equality for column means/proportions. Cells with no subscript are not included in the test.

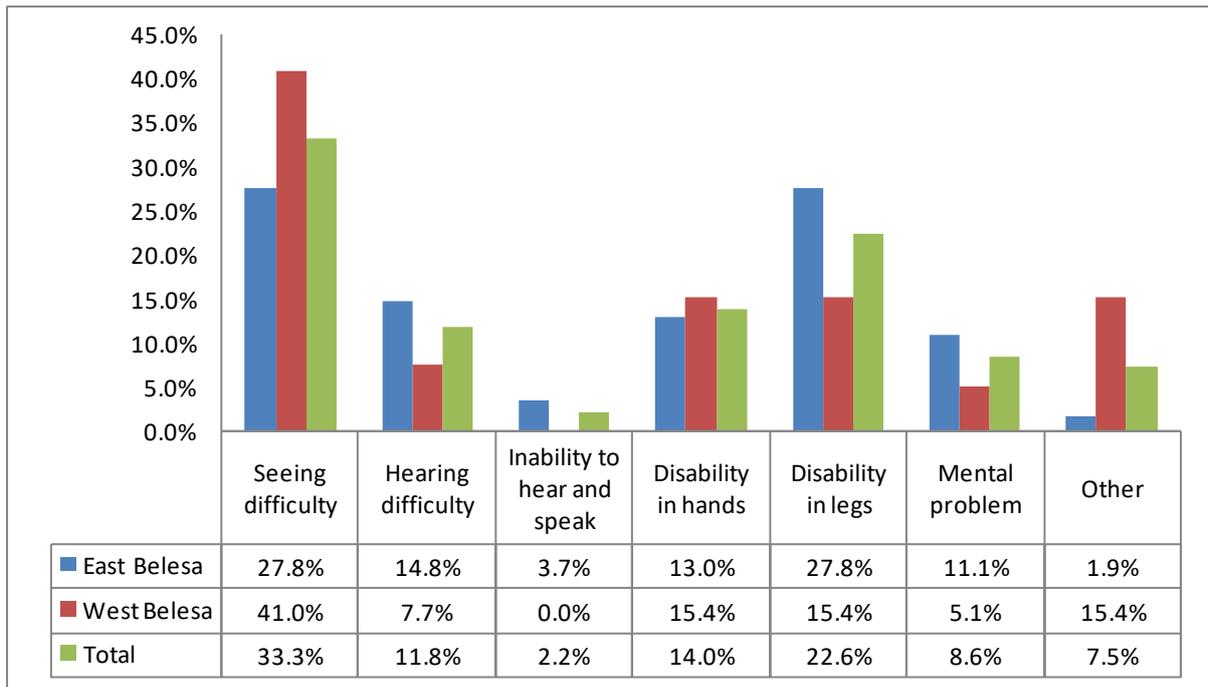


FIGURE 1: TYPES OF DISABILITY AMONG THE HEADS OF THE HOUSEHOLDS, DECEMBER 2020

Of the surveyed household heads, 10.4% of them had some form of disability. The significant types of disability among the household heads were: seeing difficulty, disability in legs, disability in hands, hearing and mental problem as per their order (Figure 1). The survey concerning the disability status of spouses also revealed that 6.5% had some form of disability. The significant types of disabilities among the spouse were: seeing difficulty, hearing difficulty, disability in legs, disability in hands, and mental problem as per their order (Figure 2).

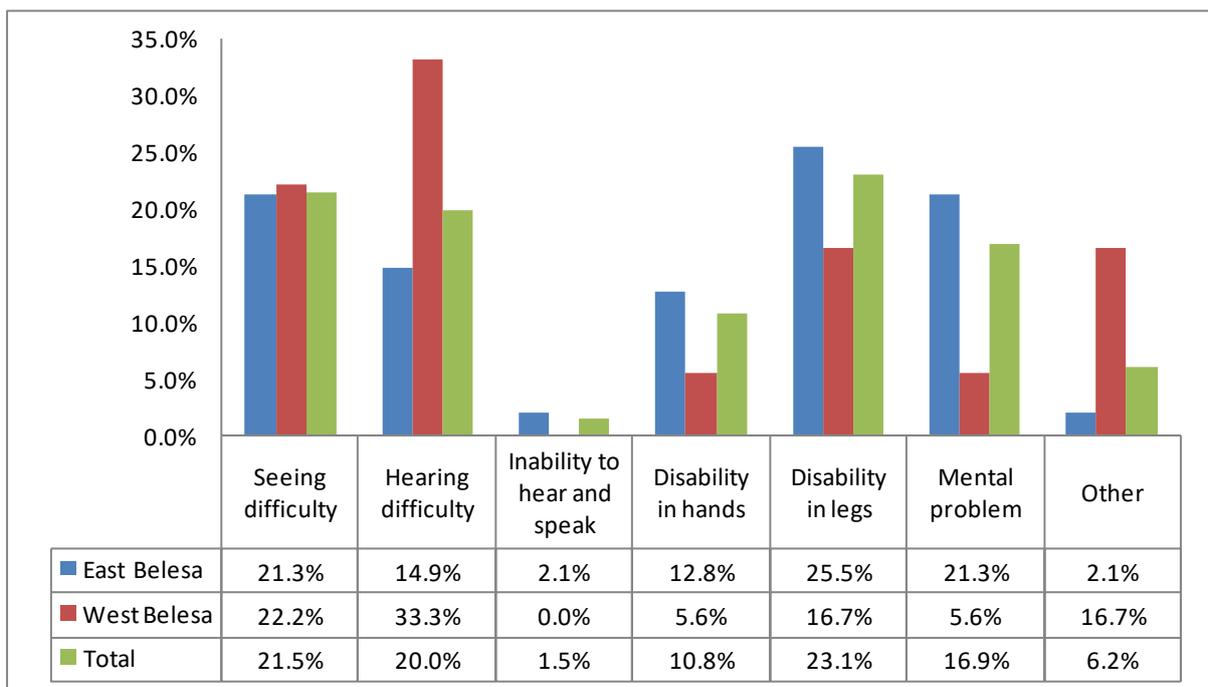


FIGURE 2: TYPES OF DISABILITY AMONG THE SPOUSES, DECEMBER 2020

4.1 RELEVANCE

4.1.1 Alignment with National and International Strategies and Policies

The project is consistent with national and international development policies, goals and initiatives. The SWEEP project comprehensively targets to address the Universal Sustainable Development Goals. These include: ending extreme poverty in all forms (Goal 1); achieving food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (Goal 2); ensuring healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all ages (Goal 3); achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls (Goal 5); and ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (Goal 6); protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (SDG 15); and promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (SDG 16).

The SWEEP project is in line with the Water Resource Management Policy of the GoE that aimed to enhance and promote all national efforts towards the efficient and equitable utilisation of the available water resources for socio-economic development on a sustainable basis. The SWEEP project is well aligned with the water and sanitation strategy of GoE that calls for more decentralised decision-making, promoting the involvement of all stakeholders. The stakeholders' participation increases cost recovery and integrates water supply, sanitation, and hygiene promotion activities. The SWEEP project objectives are relevant in addressing the aims of the Natural Resource Conservation Strategy of GoE. It contributes to improving agricultural production through the management of natural resources and agricultural lands. As indicated in the National Population Policy, empowering the marginalised groups to contribute to the household and community's productivity is relevant. For instance, women empowerment aims to raise women's socio-economic status, increase their educational potential, and remove legal and customary barriers blocking their rights' realisation.

The SWEEP project is relevant to the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II). It aims to enhance smallholder farmers and pastoralists' productivity, improve participation and engagement of the private sector, expand the amount of land under irrigation, and reduce chronically food-insecure households. The GTP II also outlines the GoE's targets in Natural Resource Conservation and Utilization, Food Security, Disaster Prevention and Preparedness, and Water. The GTP II targets include increasing rehabilitated land, community watersheds, land area under modern irrigation schemes, rural women farmers who benefit from extension services and potable water supply coverage.

The SWEEP project takes climate change adaptation measures per the 2007 guideline of the Climate Change National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) of the Ethiopian Government. This SWEEP project complements the GoE's work in treating upstream watershed areas and live fencing and planting shallow-rooted plants around the water points. The project also adopted additional resilience enhancing measures such as capacity development and institutional strengthening of the local community and community-based organisations per CARE's Community Based Adaptation (CBA) framework.

4.1.2 Consistency of Activities with Result Attainment and Response to Community Needs

Results of the KIIs and FGDs with government stakeholders and community members revealed that the issues the project sought to address were coherent with the needs on the ground. It was designed and implemented to address the lack of access to water resources for domestic consumption and productive use, improve the local community's hygiene and sanitation, reduce the prevalence of waterborne diseases, and improve food security and livelihood situations through IGAs. FGD participants state that the targeting criteria were appropriate and fair to get involved in the project as beneficiaries. Efforts were exerted to ensure that the most in need community members benefit from the project interventions. In general, poor and marginalised groups, FHH and PWDs, were identified as the most marginalized.

They [project staffs] allowed us to identify our problems. Members of the community, those deprived of the household resource, were identified and mobilised to form VSLA and SAA groups. The project supported the VSLA groups to do the saving and loans activities and engage in various income-generating activities based on own interest and demand" [FGD participant from a female community member, in West Belesa woreda].

Informants from all the relevant sector offices¹⁴ reported that the project was designed and implemented in consultation with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that the project aligns with government priorities, strategies and programs. These key informants' reflection also shows that the community's needs and interests were identified first in a participatory approach and acted upon accordingly.

Key informants and FGD participants were also asked about how relevant the project intervention for the marginalised target groups was and the extent to which it addressed their needs and interests. Accordingly, all the respondents believe that the project has provided greater attention and priorities to marginalised women and persons with disabilities. Key informants added that the vast majority of project targets generally are from chronically food insecure and marginalised women.

The study team has also assessed how the project's theory of change is coherent and the presences of the right strategies and approaches to achieve the intended outputs, outcomes, and impact. Key informants in this regard confirm that all planned activities of the project are adequately addressed and had brought intended results. The respondents' reflection (KIIs and FGDs) also shows that they are satisfied with water schemes' instalments near their vicinity. The water schemes' construction had created better access to clean drinking water for target groups involving mainly women and PWDs. As a result, the project's successful implementation through the predefined strategies and approaches led to intended outcomes.

Overall, the SWEEP project has improved access to water resources, contributed to the empowerments of marginalized groups. The project has also supported community development by developing or rehabilitating water and irrigation systems and watersheds,

¹⁴Agriculture and Rural Development; Women, Children and Youth, Cooperative, TVET/Micro and small enterprise, PSC lead, and project office staffs

engaging with the community, and supporting marginalized groups in IGAs. SWEEP has promoted joint learning and community development as stipulated in its theory of change.

Moreover, the study has assessed the level of coordination, management and financing arrangements, support to institutional strengthening, local ownership, aspects that the project did not address or maximised intended project outcomes/impacts, and issues that should be included in future projects. In these regards, respondents explain that the project had promoted and practised joint and participatory project coordination and management from the design stage through all the implementation phases. According to them, representatives from the general community, project-specific target groups, and relevant local government sector offices have actively coordinated and managed its implementation and performance. FGD participants added that the project significantly reduces travel time to fetch water and promotes internal saving and loan for women VSLA groups to run their own business through access to internal loans.

According to the respondents, the project was implemented for three years. And during these implementation years, it has contributed to access to drinking water, supported watershed management practices, and promoted and supported VSLA activities. The project has also provided various supports like seeds, plastic tubes, and plantation management-related training for agriculture and rural development experts as capacity-building efforts. Assumptions and risks were found to be generally well defined. The implementation of the project has followed the fundamental principles and plans contained in the project proposal. CARE Ethiopia's entry into the target woredas and communities was guided by the woreda authorities and local community leaders. Government line offices were consulted during the commencement of the project and participated during the implementation as well. Overall, all key informants and FGD participants affirmed that the project was relevant to the local community and the government's needs and interests.

4.1.3 Project Outcomes that needed to be included in Future Projects

The project has generally achieved its objectives, and significant improvements are attained as compared with the baseline situation. However, due to the nature of the problem, some outcomes need to be considered in future intervention. The food security concerns of households need to be addressed as they cannot feed their members for about two or more months per year, and an average of three meals per day is not yet attained. Besides, about one-third of the households are struggling to cope with food insecurity. Access to protected water sources has significantly improved. However, per day water consumption per person is about 10 litres, far less than half of the 25 litres WHO standard. Increasing the supply of protected water sources remains to be the focus of future interventions. The intervention on women empowerment has registered a significant outcome in terms of participation at a community level. However, women are less privileged in participating in household-level decision making regarding major income and expenditure matters such as the sale and livestock purchase. About half of the women are not engaged in such a decision-making process at a household level, which might need to focus on future programs. The reported prevalence of sexual violence (22%), CM (6.4%) and FGM (5%) has indicated significant improvement as compared with the baseline situation. However, due to the limitation of reporting these cases, the prevalence could be much higher, hence calling for sustained intervention. More than half of the beneficiaries (71% East Belesa and 43% West Belesa) are not satisfied with government

service provisions such as water supply and maintenance, irrigation water supply and maintenance, essential health services, animal health care, and lack of access road. Addressing such infrastructural development requires intensive capital investment, and lack of such services prevails in many parts of the country. Still, it needs further prioritisation and be part of the future intervention target.

4.2 EFFECTIVENESS

The evaluation of the project's effectiveness is made using the indicators and means of verification included within the logical frameworks. Most of the findings in this section are based on the evaluation survey, interviews and discussion with project beneficiaries, major stakeholder organisations, and annual and terminal project performance reports.

4.2.1 Outcome I: Improved Access to Water Resources for Domestic Consumption and Productive Use and Enhanced and Sustainable Productivity of Land for Varied Uses

Output 1: Water supply schemes fully functional and accessible to the community

Recorded evidence from the respective local government bodies and the project holder indicates that the project has created access to safe water for domestic and productive uses for 119,274 target people in the two woredas. The achievement of the project is 152% of its original plan. Constructing new water schemes, rehabilitation and restoration of the existing small-scale water schemes, solar pumped water systems, and dams were the main water facility developments of the project in both woredas that improved the community's access to safe water. The construction of 119 new hand-dug well (59 in West Belesa), 11 solar pump water system (seven in West Belesa), three R-masonry dams (one in West Belesa), and rehabilitation of 207 hand-dug well (101 in West Belesa) are completed during the project lifetime; and all are fully functioning. Besides, 2,469 water filter kits are distributed (569 in West Belesa). The local community contributed labour in excavation works and supplied local construction materials during the construction of the water schemes.

Data was also collected from surveyed households on the primary water sources for domestic and productive use to measure water supply schemes' achievement. Accordingly, unsafe water sources include unprotected hand-dug well, surface water, rivers and ponds. As presented in Table 2, 60% of the final evaluation respondents have access to safe water¹⁵ sources for domestic uses, significantly improved from 26% of the baseline result. The remaining 40% of the respondents are yet using water from unprotected springs, rivers, ponds and surface water.

Participants of the FGD and KII also mentioned that the water facilities' have multiple social and health impacts on the community. The reflection of key informants and FGD participants includes reducing the level of water-borne related diseases that improved the local community's health condition.

¹⁵A safe water source is defined as water sources from protected hand-dug well fitted with a pump, capped on spot spring development, protected drill wells, protected deep wells, pipe systems and filtered or treated with water filtration kits.

The discussants have also indicated that the communities are currently accessing water in their nearby areas that reduced travelling distance, time, and energy to fetch water, which the discussants considered a remarkable achievement. According to the discussants, on average, most of them travel 30 minutes in round trips to fetch water in both dry and wet seasons. The current final evaluation survey result also revealed that there is encouraging progress in water sources' distance. For instance, the baseline report has documented that about 22% of households travel 30 minutes to an hour and 78% travel more than an hour to fetch water.

TABLE 2: PRIMARY SOURCE OF WATER FOR DOMESTIC USE (DRINKING, COOKING AND WASHING) DURING DRY SEASON BY WOREDA, HEADSHIP, AND DISABILITY STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, DECEMBER 2020

	Woreda		Headship		Disability status		End-line Total
	East Belesa	West Belesa	MHH	FHH	Disabled	Able-bodied	
Average volume of water consumption (in litres) for domestic use per day per household	48.3 _a	55.4 _b	53.8 _a	50.7 _b	47.9 _a	53.0 _b	52.4
Water consumption per person per day (in litres)	10.5	11.1	10.2	12.1	10.2	10.8	10.9
Source of water for domestic use							
— Protected hand-dug well fitted with a pump	17.9%	13.0%	16.3%	14.3%	15.0%	19.2%	15.4%
— Harvested roof water	5.1%	7.0%	5.3%	7.1%	6.3%	4.3%	6.1%
— Pipe water	16.2%	20.5%	18.7%	18.0%	18.4%	17.3%	18.4%
— Protected spring	14.5%	8.4%	11.9%	10.8%	11.4%	12.0%	11.4%
— Protected dam (or pond)	9.8%	7.3%	9.1%	7.8%	8.5%	9.1%	8.5%
Total protected water source utilization	63.5%	56.3%	61.3%	58.1%	59.6%	62.0%	59.9%
— Unprotected hand-dug well	8.1%	6.1%	6.7%	7.6%	7.0%	8.2%	7.1%
— Unprotected spring	8.1%	14.2%	10.7%	11.8%	11.4%	9.1%	11.2%
— Unprotected dam (or pond)	5.2%	7.0%	5.8%	6.6%	6.3%	4.3%	6.1%
— Running water (river)	15.2%	16.3%	15.6%	15.9%	15.7%	16.3%	15.7%
Total unprotected water source utilization	36.5%	43.7%	38.7%	41.9%	40.4%	38.0%	40.1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Travel time to and from the water source							
— Under 30 minutes	29.9% _a	76.1% _b	55.7% _a	58.8% _a	52.2% _a	57.6% _a	57.1%
— 30-60 minutes	56.1% _a	22.9% _b	37.4% _a	35.6% _a	38.9% _a	36.3% _a	36.6%
— Over 60 minutes	14.0% _a	1.0% _b	6.9% _a	5.7% _a	8.9% _a	6.0% _a	6.3%

The baseline situation has been improved during the midterm review, in that 31% of the respondents had access to safe water sources within 30 minutes of round trip, and 55% of them had access to safe water sources between 30-60 minutes of the round-trip walking. The final evaluation result has shown a further improvement that 57% of the respondents had access to safe water sources within 30 minutes of round trip, and 37% of them had access to safe water sources between 30-60 minutes of a round trip. The travel time was found to be similar between FHH and MHH and disability status. Although significant improvement is recorded in this regard, the variation still exists between woredas where more than three fourth of the households in West Belesa have the facility nearer to their residence (within 30 minutes round trip) while the majority of them (70%) in East Belesa yet travel more than 30 minutes.

Three years ago, we travelled long distances that took about two hours on round trips to fetch drinking water. Hence, we spent much time and energy, especially when we brought water more than once a day. We could not clean even simple household utensils properly during that time due to a critical shortage of water at home. Thanks to this project, we have now a water scheme near our residential areas, which takes not more than 20 minutes on round trips. We also have enough quantity of water all the time in the year

Reflection of FGD participants in West Belesa

As stated above, water users get somehow a similar volume of water in both dry and wet seasons. The water volume of very few water schemes decreases in April and June (dry season). FGD participants also added that the improved water schemes' instalments have helped overcome the problems associated with contaminated water and sanitation challenges. Respondents also described the project's contribution to the community's health condition that the prevalence of water-borne diseases such as cholera and diarrhoea has significantly reduced.

The other significant improvement was achieved in hours spend on household chores by both women and girls. It was reported that 24% of women and girls in targeted Kebeles spend 8-10 hours/day or less on household chores during the baseline. However, the final evaluation result revealed that 47% of the women and 87.1% of girls spend less than 8-10 hours per day; the average for girls and women stood at 67.1% (See annexed table 18). As shown in the annexed Table 22, there is also a significant increase in the percentage of men and boys' involvement in household chores such as water collection, firewood collection, meal preparation, and washing dishes.

Output 2: Irrigation systems improved and fully-functional

According to the PSC members at zonal and regional levels, the project had a plan to construct four irrigation schemes with a potential irrigation capacity of 329.7 ha of land. The construction of the two schemes in West Belesa has remained with some finishing works during the final evaluation. However, the schemes in East Belesa are completed and functioning, and about 133.7 ha of land has been irrigated. Training has also been offered for relevant staff to equip them with the necessary skills and techniques to administer and maintain the schemes effectively.

Besides, this evaluation survey found out that households in both woredas carry out irrigation farming on their own or rented lands using water sources (mainly small streams) other than four of the project's schemes. According to the final evaluation result, 10% of the land households possess is irrigated. The proportion of irrigated land is slightly higher for FHH and PWD than MHH and the able-bodied household heads, respectively.

The findings of the evaluation justify the emphasis of the intervention to benefit the targeted groups. Of the total land under the surveyed households' possession (967.6 ha), the irrigated farmland during the past 12 months was 91.6 ha (9.5%). The project has also provided other support to the target households (technical support and inputs such as vegetable and fruit seeds). As per the KII with the relevant sector representatives, the support has a considerable impact on improving the community's livelihood.

Table 3: Land possession, size and access to irrigation by woreda, headship, and disability status of the head of the household, December 2020

	Woreda		Headship		Disability status		Total
	East Belesa	West Belesa	MHH	FHH	Disabled	Able-bodied	
Percent of households who possess farm land	72.9% _a	94.7% _b	91.3% _a	78.9% _b	70.0% _a	87.5% _b	85.7%
Mean size of total farm land (in hectares)	1.1 _a	1.1 _a	1.4 _a	0.8 _b	0.9 _a	1.1 _b	1.1
Own	0.7 _a	0.8 _b	0.9 _a	0.6 _b	0.6 _a	0.8 _a	0.7
Rented	0.4 _a	0.3 _b	0.5 _a	0.2 _b	0.3 _a	0.4 _a	0.4
Size of total farmland (ha)	388.6	579.0	659.6	308.0	887.8	79.9	967.6
Irrigated farmland during the past 12 months (ha)	8.1	83.5	56.1	35.5	85.2	6.4	91.6
%	(2.1%)	(14.4%)	(8.5%)	(11.5%)	(9.6%)	(8.0%)	(9.5%)

Output 3: Natural environment around watersheds developed and protected

A review of the project reports reveals that a total of 12 watershed schemes (6 in each woreda) have been established. In connection to this, 12 watershed management committees (6 in each woreda) are formally documented and have bylaws to govern the watershed users and manage the watershed developments effectively. The SWEEP project provides watershed management training to 144 committee members (72 in each woreda), 40 development agents (20 in each woreda) and 136 woreda and kebele cabinets (68 from West Belesa). In doing so, the project contributed to protecting 2,200 ha of land (343.9 in West Belesa), achieving 183% of its plan.

Watershed management in the intervention areas is implemented using physical and biological treatments. Over 2,200 ha of degraded land due to natural and human-made calamity is covered with vegetation. As part of the watershed management component, the project supported seeds, seedlings, and nursery materials. This evaluation's field observation witnessed that the watershed areas are protected and covered with shrubs, trees, and grasses (see figure 3).



FIGURE 3: WATERSHED SCHEMES DEVELOPMENT IN KALI KEBELE OF WEST BELESA WOREDAS, DECEMBER 2020

The study further shows that the project's watershed management measures decreased soil erosion, increased soil moisture, reduced sedimentation and run-off, stabilisation of gullies and riverbanks, and rehabilitation of degraded lands. This assessment reconfirms the importance of watershed management as a key to improving the land cover of watersheds and contributing to poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihood.

TABLE 4: HOUSEHOLDS ENGAGEMENT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BY WOREDA, HEADSHIP, AND DISABILITY STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, DECEMBER 2020

	Woreda		Headship		Disability status		Total
	East Belesa	West Belesa	MHH	FHH	Disabled	Able-bodied	
Households that plant trees like conifer and other local trees on the land they possess	49.4% _a	80.2% _b	73.2% _a	60.6% _b	62.2% _a	68.2% _a	67.5%
Households who build terraces and other physical structures on the land they possess to conserve soil/water	54.2% _a	82.8% _b	78.4% _a	61.9% _b	57.8% _a	72.5% _b	71.0%
Other measures households take to prevent soil erosion and water run-off							
— Growing different crops at a time	34.6% _a	20.7% _b	31.8% _a	19.8% _b	30.0% _a	26.1% _a	26.5%
— Changing ploughing type	33.8% _a	61.6% _b	47.2% _a	53.9% _a	43.3% _a	51.0% _a	50.2%
— Changing crop planting dates	23.7% _a	15.1% _b	21.0% _a	15.7% _b	16.7% _a	18.9% _a	18.6%
— Proper grazing including cut and carry	7.3% _a	24.3% _b	17.3% _a	17.3% _a	11.1% _a	18.0% _a	17.3%
— Use small scale irrigation	2.8% _a	5.7% _b	6.0% _a	2.6% _b	2.2% _a	4.7% _a	4.5%
Households who reported that there is a watershed (soil and water conservation) activity in their community	92.5% _a	96.9% _b	96.0% _a	93.8% _a	94.4% _a	95.1% _a	95.1%
Households who reported that there is a tradition of planting trees in their community	59.8% _a	85.3% _b	75.1% _a	74.5% _a	67.8% _a	75.6% _a	74.8%
Source of seedlings for those who do not have a nursery in their community							
Government	92.0% _a	85.2% _b	85.8% _a	88.4% _a	81.4% _a	87.4% _a	86.9%
CARE project	2.2% _a	9.0% _b	6.9% _a	7.7% _a	14.0% _a	6.7% _a	7.3%
Private suppliers	5.8% _a	5.8% _a	7.2% _a	3.9% _a	4.7% _a	5.9% _a	5.8%

The evaluation survey result has shown that more than two-thirds of the households mentioned that their community developed a tradition of planting trees, build terraces and physical structures on the land they possess to conserve soil/water. Such an effort is practised more significantly in West Belesa than in the eastern part and among MHH households compared with FHH. Key informants in East Belesa mentioned that the social, economic and cultural developments of East Belesa and the availability of various development amenities is far behind the west Belesa. According to the key informants, poverty and environmental factors limit East Belesa from undertaking conservation measures to the neighbouring woreda level. Nearly all the respondents are aware that there is a watershed (soil and water conservation)

activity in their community and believe that a collaborative natural resource conservation practice reduces the negative impacts of climate change and prevents natural resource degradation. In both woredas, the government is the primary source of seedlings, while few have also mentioned CARE project and private suppliers. Overall, 69% of the final evaluation respondents believe that the capacity to adapt to environmental shock is improved but with a significant difference between woredas, gender and disability status of the head of the household. The East Belesa woreda, FHH, and the disabled have significantly lower adaptation capacity to environmental shocks than their counterparts.

Output 4: Capacity developed within the community to manage and operate water resource systems sustainably

Besides developing the water schemes, the project has also mobilized the local community to establish 341 WASH committees (3,763 members - of which 52.3 % of the members and 42.5% in a leadership position are female) with legal mandates. The project has provided the necessary technical training for WASH committees and members of the respective partner sectors offices to ensure sustainability and appropriate use and management of the water facilities.

All the water schemes have WASHCo, each with 11 members, of which at least 6 of them are female. The gender balance indicates the level of attention the project devoted to addressing gender equality in its interventions. Besides, our field observation shows that most of the water facilities are protected (fenced). The water user groups are saving money to use for the facility maintenances and to pay salaries for employees managing the water facilities. Community FGD participants were asked how they protect the water facilities for sustainable use. Saving money for maintenance, keeping an eye to protect the facility from any illegal water use (based on their bylaws), and keeping the scheme fenced were mentioned. From these, the study team understood the community's commitment to managing the water facilities, encouraging and positive indicator for the services' sustainably.



FIGURE 4: ONE OF THE PROTECTED WATER FACILITIES IN KALI KEBELE OF WEST BELESA CONSTRUCTED BY THE PROJECT, DECEMBER 2020

TABLE 5: WATER RESOURCES FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTIVE USE, DECEMBER 2020

Outputs	Unit	The plan	End-line		
			East Belesa	West Belesa	Total
New drinking water supply schemes developed	Number	115	60	59	119
New drinking water supply schemes which are functional	Number	115	60	59	119
Existing drinking water schemes that are rehabilitated/maintained	Number	180	106	101	207
Rehabilitated drinking water supply schemes that are functional	Number	180	106	101	207
Solar pump water system established	number	6	4	7	11
Masonry dam constructed	number	3	2	1	3
WASH committees established	Number	305	152	167	341
Trained government officials and experts	Number	40	19	20	39

Overall, new water schemes are built, existing water schemes are rehabilitated, irrigation dams are built, watersheds developed, water scheme managements are improved, and access to water for domestic and other productive uses is improved. Almost all the study participants witnessed that the project involved all relevant stakeholders through the planning and implementation processes, including participatory joint monitoring.

4.2.2 Outcome 2: Groups Empowered to Contribute Productively in the Household and Community

Output 5: groups engaged in income-generating activities

One of the SWEEP project's expected achievements was the empowerments of social groups through VSLA and income-generating activities. The project has organized chronically food-insecure and marginalized households (such as women, girls, FHH, and PWDs) into VSLA and SAA groups. The review of secondary data and interview with key informants from Women, Youth and Children of the woredas indicated that a total of 101 VSLA groups (51 in West Belesa) had been established during the project period.

The VSLA groups comprised a total of 2,198 group members (all female). Most of the VSLA groups have an average group size of 20 members. VSLA membership criteria include age (less than 50 years), vulnerability status (poor and women like FHH and PWDs), and joblessness. The project provided the necessary skills training on bookkeeping, saving and loan management, gender equality, and community facilitation in due time and as planned. The project mobilized and supported the group that saved Birr 1,172,480. The project report indicated that 1,794 group members took loans to operate income generation activities.

Women who are currently running IGAs reported that poultry and egg production, multiplication of vegetable seeds, rearing goats, local beverages production, and petty traders are the commonly practised IGA activities. The IGAs are the main contributing factor to earning income and reducing households' vulnerability from chronic food insecurity.

According to the final evaluation survey result, the average income per household was 29,021 Birr, an increase of many folds compared with 3,400 Birr during the baseline study, and nearly twice the MTR result (15,493 Birr). The dominant source of income was from agricultural activities. The income level varies significantly between woredas, West Belesa being much higher than the average annual income in East Belesa. FHH and households with disabled head have a lower income level compared to the other project target groups.

Non-agricultural income-generating activities contributed about 15% of the household income. The average non-agricultural income differs significantly between woredas (2,211 at East Belesa vs Birr 5,653 at West Belesa).

TABLE 6: AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME THE HOUSEHOLD EARNED PER ANNUM FROM FARMING AND NON FARMING ACTIVITIES AND CAPACITY TO ADAPT ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL SHOCKS BY WOREDA, HEADSHIP, AND DISABILITY STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, DECEMBER 2020

	Woreda		Headship		Disability status		Total
	East Belesa	West Belesa	MHH	FHH	Disabled	Able-bodied	
Income from non-irrigation farm	6,660.8 _a	28,029.5 _b	22,140.3 _a	15,613.9 _b	12,499.9 _a	20,003.4 _b	19,226.3
Income from Irrigation farm	192.0 _a	9,320.8 _b	6,350.2 _a	4,580.5 _b	2,426.1 _a	5,922.1 _b	5,560.0
<i>Total agricultural income</i>	6,852.8 (76%)	37,350.3 (87%)	28,490.5 (87%)	20,194.4 (82%)	14,926.0 (81%)	25,925.5 (86%)	24,786.3 (85%)
Non-agricultural income generating activities	2,210.9 _a (24%)	5,652.6 _b (13%)	4,105.5 _a (13%)	4,395.0 _a (18%)	3,523.5 _a (19%)	4,316.9 _a (14%)	4,234.7 (15%)
<i>Total income</i>	9,063.7 _a	43,002.9 _b	32,595.9 _a	24,589.3 _b	18,449.6 _a	30,242.4 _b	29,021.1
Households capacity to adapt to economic and environmental shocks							
Households with an increased capacity to adapt economic shocks	59.8% _a	79.5% _b	72.1% _a	70.6% _a	61.4% _a	72.6% _b	71.4%
Households with an increased capacity to adapt to environmental shocks now than before?	61.7% _a	73.4% _b	73.8% _a	62.1% _b	70.1% _a	55.6% _b	68.6%

The VSLA groups were established to have internal saving and loan services to enable members to engage in IGAs, improve food security status, and hold discussions among group members to learn and solve various social issues. Thus, group members have been conducting regular meetings every two weeks, and each member contributes 20 Birr for saving and 2 Birr for social services during the session. The VSLA groups have bylaws. According to their bylaw, group members have the right to take loans up to three times their savings.

If anyone of our group members wants to take a loan, she must come with three individuals from our group to sign for her to take responsibility for the loan's timely return and associated risks.

[FGD with VSLA members]

According to the VSLA bylaws, the loan is delivered for group members for three months with a 5% interest rate. At the end of the 3rd month, the loan should be returned. The majority of

VSLA groups have no challenges experienced so far related to loan return. FGD participants have mentioned the benefits of VSLA.

I had no job before joining the VSLA group. I had no income; getting enough food was a challenge to my family. Thanks to CARE and the project, I became one of the members of the VSLA group. I started saving money and got a loan to undertake produce and sell local drinks/beverage. The business was productive, and I earned some profits. After returning the 1,000-Birr loan, I took a 2,000 Birr loan for the second time; with that, I rented land and produced teff and vegetables like onion and garlic. This time, I am earning enough income to feed my family.

[FGD discussion participants in West Belesa]

The project supported VSLA groups with a passbook, registry book, minute book, and training. As mentioned above, the financial capital of each group is growing overtime. As a result, groups are planning to involve in group IGAs. One of the interviewed VSLA group has envisioned establishing a grain mill, and for this, the group has requested land from the government for its establishment.

Group members, regardless of their gender, age and disabilities, agree that the saving and credit services are not the only benefits that the groups are gaining but awareness on preventing HTPs and GBVs. According to them, GBVs and HTPs such as female genital mutilation, early marriage, and extraction of milk teeth have reduced.

One of the astonishing phenomena of the project that the study team found out is the replication of VSLA. According to the FGD participants and key informants, neighbouring members have started organizing VSLA groups. Taking lessons and experience from the VSLAs established with the project's support, self-motivated VSLAs are being established in some rural areas and started saving and credit services.

Concerning the household's capacity to adapt to economic and environmental shocks, the final evaluation survey result revealed that 71.4% and 68.6% of the households adapted to economic and environmental shocks, respectively. The evaluation result indicated that the household's capacity to adapt to both types of shocks has significantly increased. The ability to adjust to economic shocks has increased from 1% during the baseline – 60% mid-line and 71.4%. Similarly, the capacity to adapt to environmental shocks has also increased from 15% during the baseline – 60% mid-line and 68.6%.

Output 6: Community-engaged to challenge existing gender roles and expand the role of women and girls

According to the project report, there are 30 actively operating SAA groups with 873 members. Female members occupy more than 50% of the leadership positions of the SAA groups. SAA groups organize monthly meetings to discuss various social issues, including gender equality, household chores among family members, childcare and development, and prevention of GBVs and HTPs. FGD participants of the different groups agree that group members are making a considerable increase in awareness of group members contributing to reducing GBV cases and HTPs. The awareness improved gender inequality challenges such as women's access to

resources, equal participation in decision making in their families and community, and improved participation of men in household chores. However, socio-cultural and economic factors remain primary barriers to eradicating gender inequalities, GBVs, and HTPs. The evaluation survey included several questions concerning women's participation in decisions related to household income and expenditure, community perception towards their leadership role, and their involvement in community-level organizations such as women's association, self-help groups, community development, etc. (Table 8).

As shown in Table 7, most women reported that their spouses consult them on how the income or product earned is utilized. However, only less than a quarter of them participate in decisions involving selling and buying livestock (such as oxen, sheep and goats). A transaction involving chicken and eggs is, however, dominantly left for women. Overall, 51% of the target women can equally participate in major income and expenditure decisions in the household, which is a remarkable improvement compared to the baseline (11%) and MTR (38%).

TABLE 7: PERCENT OF WOMEN WHO PARTICIPATE IN HOUSEHOLD-LEVEL DECISION MAKING BY WOREDA, HEADSHIP, AND DISABILITY STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, DECEMBER 2020

	Woreda		Headship		Disability status		Total
	East Belesa	West Belesa	MHH	FHH	Disabled	Able-bodied	
Purchase of cattle, oxen, and other large livestock	42.9%	7.1%	18.1%	27.1%	24.1%	21.8%	22.0%
Selling cattle, oxen, and other large livestock	43.7%	7.6%	17.9%	28.7%	22.9%	22.6%	22.7%
Purchase of sheep and goats	45.8%	8.4%	18.6%	30.9%	24.1%	23.9%	24.0%
Selling sheep and goats	48.1%	9.1%	19.4%	32.7%	26.8%	25.1%	25.2%
Selling/purchase of chicken and eggs	95.5%	93.9%	93.5%	95.8%	96.6%	94.3%	94.5%
purchase/sell of productive assets like agricultural inputs and tools	73.2%	29.8%	43.7%	53.5%	57.4%	46.9%	48.0%
Renting out/in plots of land	87.7%	37.3%	55.7%	61.2%	67.5%	57.1%	58.1%
Deciding on how much of the income/product to save or to consume	92.6%	79.7%	84.9%	85.4%	87.5%	84.8%	85.1%
Taking loans and utilization of the money borrowed	95.2%	69.4%	81.4%	78.6%	90.7%	79.0%	80.1%
Percentage of rural women who can equally participate in major income and expenditure decisions in the household	69.4%	38.0%	48.1%	54.9%	55.3%	50.6%	51.1%
Family planning (contraception use and decision on the number of children)	95.2%	95.6%	95.0%	95.9%	91.9%	95.8%	95.4%
Schooling of children	94.6%	94.8%	94.9%	94.4%	96.5%	94.5%	94.7%
Marriage of children	90.7%	94.8%	94.9%	90.8%	93.0%	93.1%	93.1%

The project intervention has contributed to building women's self-confidence to convey their messages in public meetings and their assertiveness in dialogues and decision-making processes. Concerning this, the survey result has revealed that more than 90% of the beneficiary households¹⁶ believe that the SWEEP project has contributed to their social, economic and

¹⁶The difference between woredas and gender of the head is not significant.

leadership participation and assertiveness in dialogues and decision-making processes they can play a leadership role.

TABLE 8: PERCEPTION ON WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY BY WOREDA, HEADSHIP, AND DISABILITY STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, DECEMBER 2020

	Woreda		Headship		Disability status		Total
	East Belesa	West Belesa	MHH	FHH	Disabled	Able-bodied	
Perception of the community towards women's ability to hold and play a leadership role	91.1%	93.5%	93.5%	91.2%	85.6%	93.3%	92.5%
The percentage of households who believe in the contribution of the SWEEP project to their social, economic, leadership participation, assertiveness in dialogues, and decision-making processes	90.0%	96.1%	93.1%	94.1%	88.9%	94.0%	93.5%

SAA participants in FGDs described that group discussion has contributed to changes in behaviour and communication among men and women participants. They started to practice sharing household chores within their families. Women began ploughing, which was considered earlier as the role of men. Men began supporting their spouses with cooking food, house cleaning, fetching water, and taking care of children. FGD participants added that the trend shows that most men had reduced resistance against letting their wives attend public meetings and are willing for a collaborative decision-making process on household activities and resources. As said by an FGD participant in West Belesa

As far as I know, our household decisions depend on the urgency, importance and situation. Major decisions in the household, particularly decisions concerning household income allocation and expenditure, are made together with my husband. After I joined the VSLA and started making money, I decide thorough mutual consensus with my spouse.

[FGD, in West Belesa]

TABLE 9: PERCENT OF WOMEN WHO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN COMMUNITY LEVEL DECISION MAKING BY WOREDA, HEADSHIP, AND DISABILITY STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, DECEMBER 2020

	Woreda		Headship		Disability status		Total
	East Belesa	West Belesa	MHH	FHH	Disabled	Able-bodied	
Women's association	85.1%	84.5%	84.9%	84.8%	80.0%	85.4%	84.9%
Self-help group	72.7%	98.3%	84.4%	91.1%	79.3%	89.6%	88.4%
Community development	76.2%	85.5%	83.8%	78.9%	73.8%	82.5%	81.7%
Religious gathering	84.8%	75.3%	80.5%	77.0%	75.9%	79.3%	78.9%
Percentage of rural women who actively participated in local committee	79.7%	85.9%	83.4%	83.0%	77.3%	84.2%	83.5%

An FGD participant in one of the SAA group states that: -

SAA group discussions help women to express their views and share social, economic, and cultural issues. SAA discussions cover crime prevention, health, water scheme management, sanitation and hygiene, HTPs and GBVs, gender issues, children education, and other socio-economic and cultural issues. The local administration takes some of the problems we discussed in our group to act upon.

[FGD, in East Belesa2020]

In general, the evaluation result showed that gender equality and the prevention of GBVs and HPTs were effectively addressed.

4.2.3 Outcome 3: Local Government Capacitated and Community Empowered To Initiate and Lead Community Development and Adaptive Measures

Output 7: Increased capacity for joint learning

Interviews with experts in relevant sector offices and project management team members from PSC, focusing on the overall project activities; follow up, monitoring and achievements, gaps and lessons. The project facilitated a joint project management approach whereby planning, implementation and monitoring are done at different levels in a close and participatory manner. Experts interviewed in relevant sector offices reflected that they obtained extensive lessons from joint planning, implementation and monitoring exercises.

Joint project consultation and management of the project with stakeholders has resulted in achieving the desired outcomes and facilitating participants' learning and lessons. Participatory planning and collaborative management decisions were instrumental in the project's achievements and completion of activities. The evaluation team understood that the joint participatory project management collaborates with the project and has developed a strong sense of ownership.

In this regard, the final evaluation survey assessed if the local community's requests are heard and adequately answered by the local government. The majority of respondents (94%) confirm that the local government involves the community members in planning, budgeting, and monitoring basic social services. The local government has also considered the community's request and acting upon issues accordingly. In this regard, the result shows a significant improvement compared to the baseline (25%) and MTR (80%).

The community scorecard and participatory project management systems were the key contributing factors in developing the capacity and ownership of the project among local communities. PSC members and FGD participants acknowledged that PSC members and local communities have developed their skills and get empowered because of the extensive engagements in joint monitoring exercise and the project's capacity-building efforts. The local community's overall satisfaction towards the government service provisions increased from 6% during the baseline to 42% during the MTR, and it increased slightly to 45% in the end-line survey.

TABLE 10: PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS BY WOREDA, HEADSHIP, AND DISABILITY STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, DECEMBER 2020

	Woreda		Headship		Disability status		Total
	East Belesa	West Belesa	MHH	FHH	Disabled	Able-bodied	
Does kebele/woreda government involve any member of your household in its planning, budgeting and monitoring for basic social services (like water, electricity, road access, environmental protection, education, health, etc.)?							
Yes always	14.0% _a	7.6% _b	12.3% _a	7.7% _b	10.3% _a	10.0% _a	10.2%
Yes, sometimes	75.1% _a	89.8% _b	84.0% _a	83.5% _a	84.2% _a	80.0% _a	83.8%
No	10.9% _a	2.5% _b	3.7% _a	8.8% _b	5.5% _a	10.0% _a	6.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
If yes, does Woreda/kebele considered your opinions and development needs in its planning and budget making?							
Yes always	14.5% _a	5.1% _b	10.2% _a	6.8% _a	8.5% _a	11.1% _a	8.7%
Yes, sometimes	77.0% _a	90.7% _b	84.4% _a	86.6% _a	85.9% _a	80.2% _a	85.4%
No	8.5% _a	4.2% _b	5.4% _a	6.6% _a	5.6% _a	8.6% _a	5.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Although the community's participation in community-level programs and projects is high, the local community's overall satisfaction with government service provisions was much lower. The community's satisfaction could be lower as the development in infrastructure and services (such as water supply, health care, access road, and the like) depends on the availability of resources.

TABLE 11: PERCENT OF BENEFICIARY HOUSEHOLDS SATISFIED WITH FACILITIES AND SERVICES BY WOREDA, HEADSHIP, AND DISABILITY STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, DECEMBER 2020

	Woreda		Headship		Disability status		Total
	East Belesa	West Belesa	MHH	FHH	Disabled	Able-bodied	
Drinking water supply and maintenance	31.9%	56.5%	46.5%	46.1%	45.6%	46.4%	46.3%
Irrigation water supply and maintenance	10.7%	41.4%	31.4%	25.4%	24.7%	29.2%	28.8%
Basic health services (such as reproductive health)	38.6%	67.2%	55.3%	55.5%	53.3%	55.6%	55.5%
Animal health care	39.8%	81.1%	62.2%	66.2%	59.1%	64.5%	63.9%
Access road	23.2%	36.9%	33.5%	28.5%	36.4%	30.7%	31.2%
Percentage of beneficiaries satisfied with government service provisions	29%	57%	46%	44%	44%	45%	45%

Output 8: Increased capacity of local government to engage with the community to address needs

The evaluation has found out that the project has been providing several capacity building to relevant sector offices. According to the project personnel in CARE and PSC members, there were several sessions. A total of 31 CSC sessions took place with 1,848 (467 female, four persons with disabilities) to sensitize accountabilities for duty bearers and rights holders. Respondents confirm that the capacity building was the first of its kind in the intervention woredas to support the local community and government bodies. The reflection of key

informants shows that the stakeholders gained practical knowledge on identifying the local community's development needs and interests for a successful intervention.

Overall, the project activities were positively linked and contributed to the intended outcome. Almost all the project's objectives are achieved in the given timeframe and the quality standards. The evaluation results provide sufficient information to judge that the project effectively meets its intended outcome level results. The main factors contributing to the project's success were joint management, active involvement, and a strong partnership with relevant stakeholders. The only exception was some lag in the functionality of the irrigation scheme in West Belesa.

4.3 EFFICIENCY

The evaluation assessed the project's efficiency in terms of how well the various activities translated the available resources into the intended outcome regarding quantity, quality and timeliness. The project coordination staff in the two woredas and coordination staff in CARE Addis Ababa were all qualified and experienced for the project coordination and management. The project had institutional structures that allowed efficient project monitoring and implementation systems. The joint monitoring system enabled the project participants to gain lessons, built their capacities and synergies, and take corrective actions timely. The local community and government key partners (agriculture and rural development; women, children and youth, water development, woreda administration, finance and economy) had a strong engagement in monitoring the project implementation throughout the processes at all levels. According to the key informants and FGD participants, the project management structures employed at different levels were appropriate and successful.

The monitoring followed each component of the project implementation, vis-à-vis the set standards. The monitoring and evaluation coordinated joint effort with relevant stakeholders at the management level—mandated to check the entire spectrum of project execution and correct the shortcomings that evolved through the process.

The project had a strong partnership and involvement of various government and community stakeholders. Local administrations, sectors offices, and target communities had a decisive participation in the project implementation, providing technical and administrative support. The utilization of these diverse partners' coordinated effort has contributed to the project implementation's efficiency and minimized duplication of efforts.

The evaluation team recognized the disbursement and utilization of the allocated budget among the different sectors that implemented diverse activities. The project's comprehensive nature justifies the project's cost-effectiveness and transparency compared with similar projects implemented by other organizations operating in the country. Thus, considering the total budget utilized and the diverse project components and activities accomplished, and benefits accrued, it is concluded that the project's return on investment was high.

4.4 IMPACT

According to the United Nations Development Group¹⁷ (2011), impact implies changes in people's lives. Changes in people's lives might include changes in knowledge, skill, behaviour, health or living conditions for children, adults, families or communities. Such changes are positive or negative long-term effects on identifiable population groups produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended. These effects can be economical, socio-cultural, institutional, environmental, technological or of other types. Positive impacts have some relationship to internationally agreed development goals, national development goals, and national commitments to international conventions and treaties. Measuring the project's impact at this stage might be difficult since results occur sometime after the project's implementation. However, an attempt is made in this evaluation to show the observed impacts of the project in food security, access to safe water supply, the capacity to adapt to environmental and economic shocks, and gender-based violence.

4.4.1 Food Security

The FAO definition of food insecurity is stated as a situation in which people lack secure access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and active and healthy life (World Food Summit, 1996). Factors that lead to food insecurity include non-availability of food, lack of access, improper utilisation and instability over a certain period. Hence, this evaluation's food insecurity refers to households having not enough food to feed all family members throughout the year. It relates to a household that provides its members less than three meals per day with a small amount in terms of frequency.

The assessment result reveals that the project activities are interconnected and contribute to increased food security and marginalized target households' resiliency. This is evidenced by the livelihood changes attained and reported by communities engaged in IGAs. FGD participants mentioned that community members who have been engaged and earn income from their businesses could cover household food needs and afford education, health, and other necessary household expenses. They also added that their psychology and social status has improved due to improvements in their income. The household survey data is used to provide a descriptive analysis of the food insecurity situation based on three different indicators: (1) the prevalence of shortage of food during the past 12 months, (2) the average number of meals households eat per day during the past 12 months, and (3) measures of how families cope with food insecurity.

The study households were able to provide food (at least two meals per day with adequate food portion in each meal) to their families during the past harvest season for about ten months on average. However, there is a significant difference across the household heads' woreda, headship, and disability status; households in East Belesa, FHH, and those headed by a disabled encounter food insecurity for more months. The greater majority of the families (84%) in the

¹⁷United Nations Development Group (2011). Results-Based Management Handbook. Available at: <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/UNDG-RBM-Handbook-2012.pdf>

final evaluation study reported that they ensured food security¹⁸ for eight or more months per year, much higher than 49% of the Survey respondents during the MTR.

According to the final evaluation result, 83.5% of the households in the study woredas have ensured food security for eight months or more per year, which is a significant improvement compared with the baseline situation where none of them was able to feed their members for five months per year. Considering three meals per day as a standard, 87% of the households were food secured with a significant difference between woredas (80.0% East Belesa vs West Belesa 90.0%), the gender of the head (90.0% MHH vs 83.3% FHH) and disability status (80.0% PWD vs 86.7% able-bodied).

TABLE 12: NUMBER OF MONTHS THE HOUSEHOLD HAD TWO OR MORE MEALS AND AVERAGE NUMBER OF MEALS PER DAY DURING THE PAST YEAR BY WOREDA, HEADSHIP, AND DISABILITY STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, DECEMBER 2020

	Woreda		Headship		Disability status		End-line Total
	East Belesa	West Belesa	MHH	FHH	Disabled	Able-bodied	
The average number of months households were able to provide food (at least two meals per day) to their families during the past harvest season	9.3 _a	9.9 _b	10.0 _a	9.3 _b	8.3 _a	9.8 _b	9.7
Percentage of households in the study woredas who reported that they ensured food security for eight months or more per year	78.5% _a	87.1% _b	85.2% _a	81.5% _a	67.4% _a	85.4% _b	83.5%
The average number of meals the family members eat per day during the past 12 months							
1 meal	3.4% _a	0.0% ²	0.6% _a	2.3% _b	2.2% _a	1.3% _a	1.4%
2 meals	56.1% _a	27.8% _b	35.3% _a	44.6% _b	53.3% _a	37.9% _b	39.5%
3 meals	35.2% _a	69.9% _b	59.9% _a	50.3% _b	42.2% _a	57.1% _b	55.6%
4 meals	5.3% _a	2.3% _b	4.2% _a	2.8% _a	2.2% _a	3.7% _a	3.6%
Average number of meals	2.4 _a	2.7 _b	2.7 _a	2.5 _b	2.4 _a	2.6 _b	2.6
Percentage of food secured households considering 3 meals per day as a standard	80.0%	90.0%	90.0%	83.3%	80.0%	86.7%	86.7%

The study had also asked households information regarding the experience of food intake at the household level. As shown in Table 12, nearly all the households could feed their families two or more meals per day during the past 12 months. The household had an average of 2.6 meals per day during the past year. There is, however, a significant difference between the woredas, headship, and disability status. Respondents from West Belesa, MHH, and able-bodied heads provide more meals per day to their family. The majority of them endure food security for eight months or more year than their counterparts on average.

TABLE 13: HOUSEHOLDS' COPING STRATEGIES BY WOREDA, HEADSHIP, AND DISABILITY STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, DECEMBER 2020

	Woreda		Headship		Disability status		End-line Total
	East Belesa	West Belesa	MHH	FHH	Disabled	Able-bodied	
Relying on less preferred and less expensive foods	52.5% _a	23.3% _b	31.8% _a	39.7% _b	48.9% _a	33.8% _b	35.3%
Borrowing food, or relying on help from a friend or relative	27.8% _a	27.2% _a	24.1% _a	31.8% _b	37.8% _a	26.3% _b	27.5%
Limiting portion size at mealtimes	36.3% _a	24.7% _b	24.3% _a	35.8% _b	44.4% _a	27.7% _b	29.5%

¹⁸ Having two or more meals per day with adequate food portion in each meal

	Woreda		Headship		Disability status		End-line Total
	East Belesa	West Belesa	MHH	FHH	Disabled	Able-bodied	
Restricting consumption by adults in order for young children to eat	29.8% _a	20.4% _b	22.1% _a	26.9% _a	28.9% _a	23.7% _a	24.2%
Reducing number of meals eaten in a day	39.4% _a	22.3% _b	26.1% _a	33.4% _b	39.3% _a	28.2% _b	29.3%
Coping index (CSI)	6.1 _a	2.7 _b	4.3 _a	3.9 _a	7.2 _a	3.7 _b	4.1
Coping severity							
Low coping	63.6% _a	75.3% _b	73.0% _a	67.4% _a	57.8% _a	72.0% _b	70.5%
Medium coping	19.8% _a	17.5% _a	15.1% _a	22.5% _b	17.8% _a	18.5% _a	18.4%
High/distress coping	16.7% _a	7.3% _b	11.9% _a	10.1% _a	24.4% _a	9.6% _b	11.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Household's response to food insecurity, how they cope with food shortage depends on the available social, economic, and demographic resources they have and their experience in dealing with a similar problem in the past. The final evaluation collected data for estimating the Coping Strategy Index¹⁹ (CSI) to measure how households strive to cope with food insecurity situation, which is used to compare the difference in coping between the different groups²⁰. The CSI score is a product of the frequency of the five universal measures of coping strategies, and the weight of the severity is used. The five standard coping strategies and their severity weightings are: Eating less preferred/expensive foods (1.0); borrowing food or relying on help from friends and relatives (2.0); limiting portion sizes at mealtimes (1.0); limiting adult intake so that small children can eat (3.0) and reducing the number of meals per day (1.0). The scores for each coping strategy are added together to give a composite score for each household. Higher values of the index indicate the severity of food insecurity.

According to the evaluation survey result (Table 13), higher CSI is revealed among households in East Belesa compared with West Belesa. Of the surveyed households, 16.7% in East Belesa and 7.3% in West Belesa were in distress coping²¹, and the difference is statistically significant. There is a significant difference in coping and food insecurity with the disability status of the household heads, 24.4% of the households headed by the disabled were in distress coping compared with 9.6% of those headed by a non-disabled person (Figure 4). The difference in CSI scores between MHH and FHH doesn't show a significant difference, which could be the outcome of the gender empowerment component of the SWEEP intervention that improved the FHH.

¹⁹Coping strategy index (CSI) was initially developed to capture the nature and magnitude of the relative severity of household food insecurity in a given context. Maxwell and Caldwell (2008) reduced the context-specific CSI to a simple set of behaviours that are universal and developed to be used to compare the coping behaviour of food insecurity across different contexts.

²⁰The terminal evaluation cannot make a valid comparison of CSI between baseline and end-line for the reason that it was not part of the required analysis of the baseline and MTR.

²¹Maxwell et al. (2013) classified CSI scores into three groups setting a threshold to rank coping severity (CSI= 0–2 as 'no or low coping strategies', CSI = 3–12 as 'medium coping actions', and CSI ≥13 as 'high coping strategies') to explain the household coping strategies in Tigray region of Ethiopia.

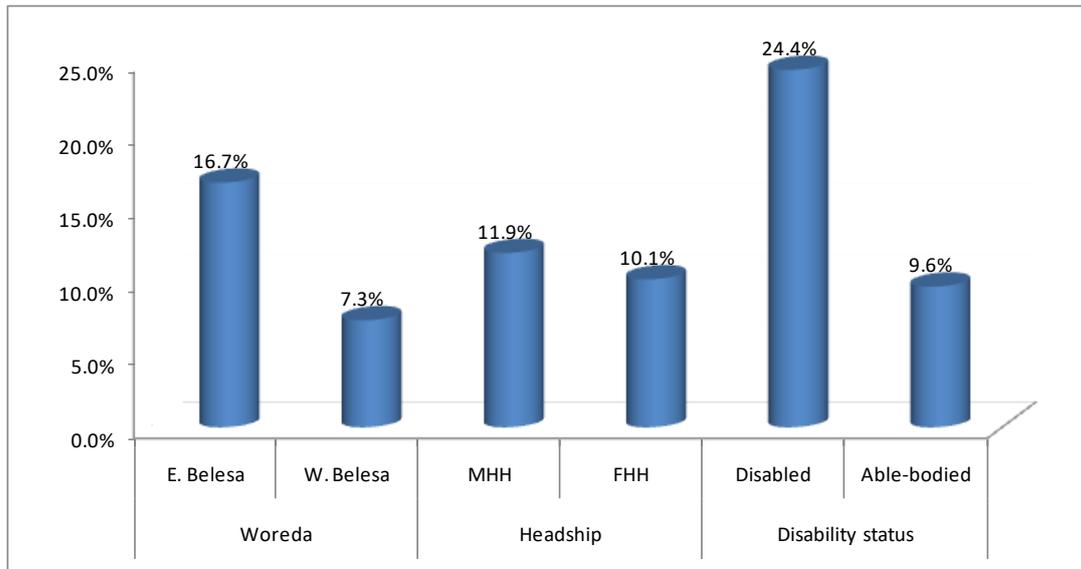


FIGURE 5: HOUSEHOLDS IN DISTRESS COPING BY WOREDA, HEADSHIP, AND DISABILITY STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, DECEMBER 2020

Resilience is another notion closely related to coping with food insecurity in that it represents a long-term coping strategy. Resilience is a factor that has been initially used as an indicator of food security itself, but currently, it is being measured as an outcome of food security. According to USAID (2012), the concept of resilience refers to people, households, communities, countries and systems to cope with both anticipated and unanticipated adverse shocks and vulnerabilities. Hence resilience is a fundamental measure of coping with acute and chronic food insecurity in ensuring food and nutrition security. Accordingly, implementation of the project that protects and support agriculture, food and nutrition through building the resilience of communities and institutions while addressing, at the same time, the underlying long-term factors driving risks and disasters via environmental management is a significant impact area of the project.

However, there were cases where households could face severe food shortages and other livelihood problems. In East Belesa, there were several cases where climate change had led to food shortage. Concerning this, all FGD discussion participants in drought-affected kebeles have mentioned their last year's experiences. According to the group, most of the households in these areas were exposed to a severe food shortage crisis, and the shortage was caused by high rain and associated flood that damaged their crops. According to the final evaluation assessment, VSLA members generate significantly higher income from non-agricultural activities (4,864 for members of VSLA vs 3,458 for non-VESLA members) as coping mechanisms as they share their saving among each other while others were forced to sell their livestock. According to the assessment result, negative coping is practised more significantly among non-VSLA members - 64.1% of VSLA members and 77.4% of non-VSLA members sell their livestock to cope with the crisis. Awareness and understandings of government stakeholders increased on managements of DRR due to the project's training.

4.4.2 Increased Capacity to Adapt to Environmental and Economic Shocks

Corbett (1988) categorizes the coping strategies adopted by households based on their specific characteristics into three separate stages. The first stage of coping with food insecurity (sometimes called adaptation coping strategies) is marked by the initial phase of the inability to provide a sufficient amount of food to all household members. As discussed in the previous section, most of them are coping well (70% have no food insecurity stress at all, 18% struggling to cope, and 11% in a stressful situation). At this stage, households endeavour to cope with the food insecurity situation by relying on less preferred and less expensive foods, borrowing food, or relying on help from a friend or relative, limiting portion size at mealtimes, restricting consumption by adults for young children to eat, and reducing the number of meals eaten in a day. At this stage, the responses put into action are reversible and may not damage households' livelihoods and future productive capacity. Strategies employed in the second stage, also called crisis strategies, are characterised by taking high-interest loans and selling either non-productive or productive assets, including livestock and land. One primary concern in assessing how they adapt to the economic and livelihood impacts of climate change was selling livestock and other productive assets to buy food items reported by more than two-thirds of the households (Table 14).

In the second stage, the responses are less reversible as families are forced to use strategies that reduce their productive assets and threaten their future livelihoods as priorities change from asset ownership to food consumption. Such an approach permanently lowers future food consumption options. In the final stage, a prolonged food crisis leads households to a dire situation in which impoverishment, a growing dependency on charity and migration are the typical outcomes. In this final stage, having exhausted all coping mechanisms, households would be utterly dependent on aid or outside support for survival. The other coping strategies and alternative income activities to cope with economic shocks include selling firewood/charcoal (52% baseline, 18% MTR, and 14% end-line) and migrating to other localities to find work and earn money/food (23% baseline, 24% MTR, and 8% end-line). The reduction in the percentage of households selling firewood/charcoal shows a fundamental shift in protecting the vegetation, which is possibly the consequence of the awareness raised in environmental management. The decrease in migration could also be due to an increase in income level and improved livelihoods.

TABLE 14: PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS AFFECTED BY MAJOR SHOCKS AND THE STRATEGIES THEY ADOPTED DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS TO COMPENSATE FOR FOOD SHORTAGE BY WOREDA, HEADSHIP, AND DISABILITY STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, DECEMBER 2020

	Woreda		Headship		Disability status		End-line Total	Baseline Total
	East Belesa	West Belesa	MHH	FHH	Disabled	Able-bodied		
Percentage of households who got severely affected by major shocks during the past 12 months								
— Crop loss due to weather changes	59.8% _a	39.5% _b	51.6% _a	43.3% _b	46.7% _a	48.0% _a	47.9%	45%
— Crop loss due to crop disease and/or pests	21.2% _a	41.1% _b	35.6% _a	29.6% _a	31.1% _a	33.1% _a	32.9%	100%
— Livestock death due to disease or drought	44.1% _a	30.7% _b	37.0% _a	35.3% _a	44.4% _a	35.3% _a	36.2%	52%
— Shortage of food to feed the family	6.1% _a	2.5% _b	2.7% _a	5.7% _b	7.8% _a	3.6% _a	4.0%	
— Other shocks like illness or death of working family member	3.9% _a	3.3% _a	2.5% _a	4.9% _a	4.4% _a	3.5% _a	3.6%	100%
The percentage of households who adopted different strategies during the past 12 months to compensate for the food shortage								
— Sell livestock and buy food items	69.1% _a	70.4% _a	79.7% _a	57.2% _b	52.3% _a	72.0% _b	69.8%	88%
— Sell/rent other productive assets like land and buy food items	21.1% _a	8.0% _b	13.0% _a	15.7% _a	27.9% _a	12.4% _b	14.2%	52%
— Collect and sell firewood and charcoal	28.9% _a	1.3% _b	13.0% _a	16.0% _a	24.4% _a	13.0% _b	14.3%	52%
— Migrate to other localities to find work and earn money/food	7.0% _a	0.3% _b	4.3% _a	2.4% _a	5.8% _a	3.1% _a	3.4%	25%
— Migrate to urban areas and work as daily labourers	11.0% _a	5.8% _b	6.1% _a	10.8% _b	10.5% _a	7.9% _a	8.2%	23%
— Send children to stay with relatives	6.5% _a	1.8% _b	3.1% _a	5.1% _a	9.3% _a	3.3% _b	4.0%	17%
— Send children to work as daily labourers	3.7% _a	2.0% _a	1.7% _a	4.2% _b	7.0% _a	2.2% _b	2.8%	15%
— Withdraw children from school	1.4% _a	0.3% _a	0.9% _a	0.6% _a	0.0% ¹	0.9% _a	0.8%	10%
— Harvest immature crops and feed the family	2.8% _a	1.8% _a	2.6% _a	1.8% _a	2.3% _a	2.2% _a	2.3%	
— Consume seeds kept for the next season	2.8% _a	18.8% _b	12.3% _a	9.9% _a	12.8% _a	11.1% _a	11.3%	

One of the SWEEP project's impact areas is the increase in the households' capacity to adapt to environmental and economic shocks in the targeted areas. The assessment of crop loss and animal health problems due to various forms of weather changes such as small amount of or erratic rainfall, crop and animal diseases has revealed that it has shown a significant improvement compared to the baseline results. However, such environmental shock affects about one-third of the households, suggesting sustainable environmental management interventions.

TABLE 15: HOUSEHOLDS PERCEPTION OF THEIR CAPACITY IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BY WOREDA, HEADSHIP, AND DISABILITY STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, DECEMBER 2020

	Woreda		Headship		Disability status		Total
	East Belesa	West Belesa	MHH	FHH	Disabled	Able-bodied	
Households who believe that they have a better capacity to withstand environmental shocks now than before	61.7% ^a	73.4% ^b	73.8% ^a	62.1% ^b	55.6% ^a	70.1% ^b	68.6%
Households who believe that communal and individual natural resource conservation practices contribute to reduce the negative impacts of climate change and prevent natural resource depletion/degradation	95.3% ^a	99.2% ^b	97.7% ^a	97.4% ^a	97.8% ^a	97.6% ^a	97.6%

Key informants also stressed that empowerment of the target women and girls through improved access to income-generating activities and livelihoods enabled them to improve food security status. According to the final evaluation survey result (Table 15), more than two-thirds of the households believe that they have a better capacity to withstand environmental shocks now than before. Nearly all households believe that communal and individual natural resource conservation practices contributed to reducing the negative impacts of climate change and preventing natural resource degradation. Equally important, FGD participants and key informants mentioned that the local government offices had developed capacities to respond to the community's needs and interests due to their active involvement in the project in the training and project implementations process.

4.4.3 Increased Access to Safe Water Supply

The UN declared that access to clean, safe drinking water is a fundamental human right and an essential step toward improving living standards worldwide. Access to water is one of UN-MDGs' primary goals. The consensus is that it is only through access to water and sanitation that the world would achieve sustainable livelihoods, better health and better economies. Without improvements in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), targets in health, gender equality, education, and poverty are not achievable. The SWEEP baselines in 2018 reported that 26% of households in the target woredas had access to safe water supply, i.e. 74% of households drink water from unsafe sources. The final evaluation result has shown that 60% of households have access to safe water sources for domestic use, and the travel time has significantly reduced. Improvement in access to safe water is likely to reduce waterborne diseases and improve the target groups' overall health conditions. According to UNICEF, 60 to 80% of Ethiopia's infectious diseases are attributed to limited access to safe water and inadequate sanitation and hygiene services²².

Environmental concerns are central to sustainable water resource planning to maintain and enhance the ecosystem that affects the water balance. Vegetation influences the volume of water retained by the soil, the amount that runs off, and what is returned to the atmosphere. In which regard, key informants explained that several water schemes' construction and rehabilitation were made, which implied increased access to safe drinking water and other productive use. FGD participants have a similar reflection that the project has dramatically

²²<https://www.unicef.org/ethiopia/water-sanitation-and-hygiene-wash>

improved water resources access by developing a new water scheme and rehabilitation of existing water schemes. All the participants agree that these water facilities have contributed to increased access to safe water resources for domestic and productive use. Furthermore, water schemes near them have reduced travelling time and energy for women and girls to fetch water and have extra time for other productive activities.

Regarding the irrigation schemes, communities in both districts have started producing vegetables using the small rivers and spring water and overcoming their food shortage during critical seasons. The production of vegetables is an excellent opportunity to improve the nutritional needs and health of their family. However, the development of the irrigation schemes in West Belesa had no impact as they did not start functioning.

4.4.4 Decrease in Gender-Based Violence

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women has defined gender-based violence (GBV) as an act of violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women. GBV may, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. Concerning households' behaviour, there is a significant improvement from the baseline that nearly all the surveyed households (96%) believe early marriage (marriage under 18 years of age) is a harmful practice that affects girls' lives. According to the final evaluation result, GBV (physical violence and sexual harassment) in households in the targeted kebeles was 27.5%, which has significantly decreased from the baseline (69%) but statistically similar to the MTR (24%). Similarly, CM and FGM in households in targeted kebeles have shown a continuous decrease (baseline 22%, MTR 9%, and end-line 5.7%).

The SWEEP project has supported the local community to organize them into SAA and began conversations about existing challenges and ways of mitigating harmful social and gender norms that affect women, girls and marginalized groups. The support brought positive impacts on the local community's capacity in gender equality and the prevention of GBVs and HTPs.

TABLE 16: ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE OF HOUSEHOLDS TOWARDS FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION AND CHILD MARRIAGE, AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE BY WOREDA, HEADSHIP, AND DISABILITY STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, DECEMBER 2020

	Woreda		Headship		Disability status		End-line Total	Baseline Total
	East Belesa	West Belesa	MHH	FHH	Disabled	Able-bodied		
Households who believe that child marriage is a harmful practice and that it affects the lives of girls	92.5% _a	99.2% _b	96.9% _a	95.9% _a	95.6% _a	96.5% _a	96.4%	62%
Households whose youngest daughter is circumcised	8.8% _a	2.7% _b	5.9% _a	3.7% _a	9.8% _a	4.5% _a	5.0%	25%
Households who facilitated (arranged) early marriage in their family during the past year	11.5% _a	2.9% _b	5.8% _a	7.2% _a	5.6% _a	6.5% _a	6.4%	20%
Sexual harassment/abuse	28.8% _a	17.4% _b	20.4% _a	24.2% _a	26.7% _a	21.6% _a	22%	67%
Beating by a husband	34.1% _a	32.3% _a	32.8% _a	33.2% _a	30.0% _a	33.4% _a	33%	72%

The SAA is a suitable platform for reducing social and cultural barriers that hamper the implementation of any relevant local development activities, realize gender equality, and ensure equal share of household chores among husbands and wives and boys and girls in the family. Participants of the SAA acknowledged that economic impacts related to the celebration of some community rituals and health impacts associated with GBVs and HTPs' practices have reduced. The culture of sharing household chores and responsibilities among women and men and boys and girls in the community, at least among the project target groups, has been changed. The improvement in decision-making processes among husband and wife is leading to betterments of household economic conditions.

4.5 SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is understood as a condition under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony that fulfils the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations. A project is determined as sustainable when a continued utilization of its results can be assured after completing the project. The project has established and appropriately functionalised various strategies and structures at different levels as a sustainability approach. These include, among others, PSC, WASHCO, watershed and irrigation committees, VSLAs and SAAs platforms. These all have helped the project to mobilize local government and communities to successfully implement the intervention and develop a definite sense of ownership among project participants.

Moreover, the SWEEP project's sustainability is examined from three key aspects: project design, monitoring and evaluation, and operation and maintenance sustainability. The project design has started with clear, verbalized goals, objectives, and underlying postulations. The project components were rigorously monitored to ensure that resources are well utilized most prudently. A review of project document and interviews with key informants' show that the project had properly designed its sustainability model while preparing the intervention plan, including follow up and monitoring, coordination, and overall management systems and mechanisms.

The phase-out plan, community, and related structures organized and strengthened to take over the project's roles and responsibilities and the formal and legal handing over efforts are essential determinant in ensuring this project's sustainability. To this end, the project organised the food insecure and marginalized targets into VSLA and SAA groups to effectively create awareness of the importance of saving and credit services and undertake IGAs to improve livelihoods. The project had exerted utmost efforts to engage women in viable income generation activities. These women VSLA groups have been earning an income that led them to economic betterments, contributing to decreased economic dependency on others (husband). These VSLA groups have now learned the economic and social benefits of their VSLA. They are managing their groups with their schedule. In their reflection during the FGD sessions, they have a firm stand and interest to continue with the VSLA irrespective of the project's existences. The effect of VSLA is deep-rooted as the neighbouring villages' communities have started to form VSLA taking lessons from VSLAs organized by the project.

Community participation leads to low maintenance cost and reduces the misuse of water facilities to achieve developmental goals. The SWEEP project has formed WASHCO as an appropriate platform for facilitating active involvement in project targets and contributing to

its sustainability that ensures its sustainability. As a result, the community develops trust with the project. They establish a permanent system to freely contribute funds for the water supply project (to cover maintenance costs) that makes the project sustainable.

FGD participants shared insights about SAAs that in the kebeles where SAA sessions are being undertaken, key GBV challenges, gender inequality problems, and HTPs have primarily been reduced. The VSLAs are likely to sustain as they are highly demanded by the members and positively impact participants livelihood and emotional wellbeing.

The sense of ownership on development activities is created among stakeholders, facilitating continuity of the project activities after the phase-out. The establishments of various local structures and management committees like WASHCOs and watersheds, the developments and implementation of internal bylaws, and the project's continued capacity building supports are contributing elements for the project's sustainability. The views expressed in an FGD with PSC in West Belesa shows the factors of sustainability.

The project's overall performances have been assessed regularly by the project steering committee comprised of key sector offices. The project approach, implementation, and achievements are scalable, and results are highly appreciated. In most of the Kebeles where the woreda officials are making visits to monitor development activities, it has become common to see the community undertaking VSLA and SAA meetings in the project's absences. Sector offices have also discussed ways of maintaining the development results of the project. Furthermore, the woreda cabinet-level decided to continue supporting the community and the project activities through the sector offices.

[FGDs with PSC in West Belesa 2020]

4.6 CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

4.6.1 Gender Equality

The final evaluation assessed the project's achievements related to gender equality. Gender equality is inherently linked to sustainable development and is vital to realising human rights for all. The overall objective of gender equality is a society in which women and men enjoy the same opportunities, rights and obligations in all spheres of life. To this end, gender equality has been the SWEEP project's primary focus. Hence, the project activities on gender-related aspects were well integrated with the project intervention design. The design of all the project components seriously considered gender equality. The project activities helped women discuss their social issues freely and learn and decide on matters that affect them.

As collecting water was mainly the responsibility of women and girls, it was among the critical issue for women and girls in both woredas. The SWEEP intervention improved gender equality-related problems, including sharing household chores among men and women and boys and girls. Increased awareness about gender equality and hygiene and sanitation facilities in the project area reduced girls' school dropouts. Besides, women have reduced their household burden and enjoy the extra time engaging in other productive work.

The SWEEP project also contributed to mitigating traditional norms and social barriers that contributed to the communities' pre-existing gender inequalities. The regular discussion of gender-related issues such as GBVs and HTPs (that include uvula cuttings, early marriage, milk tooth extraction, and female genital mutilation) in SAA and VSLA groups contributed to developing awareness of gender equality and its negative impacts. Women and PWDs' representation in political power at the woreda and kebele level and their social acceptance in the local community have also increased. Overall, Local partners well reflect the project implementation and the results achieved.

Despite the encouraging results in gender equality, women and girls' household tasks, control over resources, and decision-making roles at the household level are not to the required level between men and women, which is the subject of future intervention.

4.6.2 Climate Change

The project had conducted Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA) as a baseline assessment for the project. The assessment results revealed several findings related to the level of vulnerability and coping mechanisms of the community. Accordingly, frequent drought, soil erosion/flood, crop disease and pests, erratic rainfall, and human diseases were identified to be the main hazards and shocks in their order of appearances, negatively affecting the households' livelihood conditions. Similarly, the final evaluation has also identified drought, unseasonal rain (early arrival and/or withdraw), floods, crop and livestock diseases as challenges in the study areas.

The CVCA participants reported increasing weather/climate variability damaged their productive resources and livelihood options, which were difficult for most of them to cope with adequately. Residents were experiencing severe hunger, illnesses, reduced productive capacity, and migration of productive forces. During such shocks, household members skip their meals (eat very few), sell-out assets, send children to serve other households in exchange for food, migrate to other areas, and engage in labour works. It was also reported that when drought occurs, farmers sell animals as a destocking practice and use the cash to purchase food, receive loans to buy food as well to fulfil other consumption needs. Nevertheless, most of the coping strategies were unsuccessful and damaging.

Unlike the situation during the baseline, the final evaluation survey results reveal that households use positive coping strategies such as promoting saving, environmental protection measures (development of watersheds and tree plantations), diversifying income sources through IGAs and other similar actions. According to the study participants, the project has designed and implemented various key mitigation measures that helped them to contribute to reduced environmental impacts and potential shocks and hazards.

These include, among others, that the project has installed a solar-driven water supply system, which is a climate-smart and friendly intervention. The solar pump water supply is a new technology and robust in generating water compared to the small-scale water supply system. Training on soil and water conservation techniques and skills development on climate information has contributed to analyse risks and mitigate the impacts of adverse climate change. The training had also created awareness among the community to participate in watershed development and environmental protection activities. Besides, the project supported

agriculture and rural development offices in both woredas to produce seedlings and plantation in watershed areas. The protection measures against watershed and plantation of seedlings prevented the spread of gullies, protected the area from soil erosions, and improved the area's restoration.

Moreover, the project successfully designed and implemented livelihood improvement schemes as an alternative environmental protection measure. The income improvements through establishments of VSLA and the facilitation of access to finance to engage in viable IGAs have contributed positively to reducing community dependency on natural resources for their livelihood. Thus, in contrast to the baseline situation, currently, households have practically developed capacities and employed positive coping strategies against potential shocks and hazards.

4.6.3 Social Inclusion

Social inclusion generally refers to understanding the relationship between the way people function and how they participate in society and making sure everybody has the same opportunities to participate in every aspect of life to the best of their abilities and desires. Social inclusion was a critical part in the SWEEP project. It is vital to achieving the project's broader goal of improving food security and resilience of chronically food-insecure households to ending extreme poverty. The project conducted a social standards assessment in which social inclusion was an essential aspect of achieving sustainable development. Recommendations from the social standards assessment were incorporated in the project's final design, included in the log frame indicators. CARE and the project steering committees monitored and regularly reported the project's progress - quarter, bi-annual and annual.

The SWEEP project identified the target groups such as females, female-headed households, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, unemployed youths (mainly female) based on their vulnerability status. Participation, influence, and equal access to the intervention's benefits were realized in the SWEEP project. Most importantly, the project strengthened the marginalized person's social and economic capabilities. Poor women were trained on energy saving stoves and were enabled to produce and sell stoves. Through the VSLA, female-headed households and persons with disabilities were engaged in various IGAs from their loans. The project provided training and support for young female graduates in entrepreneurial activities, etc. The project also established and practiced a community scorecard (CSC) as relevant accountability mechanisms at a woreda level sustainability of social inclusion practice in all the development programs and projects. The evaluation also affirmed that the project addressed the risks and possible impacts of project activities on the community. The SWEEP project has duly considered the safety and security measures arising from project-related activities - constructions, use of equipment and technology, and protection from hazardous materials.

4.7 STRENGTH AND LIMITATIONS

The SWEEP project has several strengths in its implementation and overall management. The identified strength of the project is listed here below.

- Project coordination and joint management with stakeholders. The project has been implemented in close participation with all the key stakeholders. Furthermore, the implementation process was transparent, building trust and genuine partnership with the local government counterparts and community stakeholders. The interviewed stakeholders repeatedly mentioned joint planning, implementation and review of progress and achievements.
- Involvement and targeting of chronically food-insecure households and marginalized groups as stipulated in the initial project plan were the project's major strength from the start until the end of the project. The project targets food-insecure households and the most marginalized ones (FHH and PWDs) as targets. As shown in the beneficiaries' profile, the project's main target comprises women beneficiaries that constitute the largest proportion of the total project target.
- The project has achieved all the results. The project has effectively mobilised the stakeholders, efficiently mobilized and used resources to achieve predefined results.
- The establishments of VSLA and SAA group, watershed and WASHCO are an appropriate platform for facilitating active involvement in contributing to the project's sustainability. Besides, in the groups and committees, female members and leaderships have a majority representation. The groups have internal bylaws used to govern the performances and management of the group members and their activities.
- The project has planted culture of saving and loan services. The saving and loan culture in groups has improved and started practising among the community other than the project supported VSLA groups.
- The global pandemic COVID-19 spreading rapidly caused crippling fear and anxiety at all levels posing challenges to most projects globally. Since its emergence, it was difficult to conduct public meetings, community mobilization, facilitating training, and building interventions in the study areas. The project activities were administered with the application of COVID-19 prevention protocols. Consequently, the desired project results were achieved regardless of the ongoing impacts of the pandemic.

The following are some of the limitations of the project

- The irrigation schemes in West Belesa are unlikely to start functioning soon. The project should have done a prior assessment of the possible challenges to seek remedial action ahead when the need arises.
- The woreda cooperative offices have limited involvements in support of VSLA. This office should have also been involved in implementing the project to support the

VSLAs gain legal personality to access banks' loans and get technical support from formal structures.

- While some VSLAs are voluntarily being formed where awareness is created, some VSLA members' withdrawal is observed in East Belesa. The problem is believed to be a lack of equal awareness among group members.

5. VISIBILITY

The study team tried to assess the project's visibility in the study area from different perspectives. It was found out that printed materials (leaflets and pamphlet) describing the project's were produced and disseminated to relevant bodies in the study areas. The print materials' profile content includes project targets, objectives, focus areas, key activities, and intended results and changes).

Logo of CARE Ethiopia and the funding agency, project name, and year of construction of the water facilities are visibly put on water schemes. FGD participants and key informants were also asked to tell the name of the organization implementing the project. The study team has also asked if non-targeted community members knew about the project. All participants said that CARE-Ethiopia is prominent in the intervention areas as the water schemes and VSLAs are peculiarly known among the community. It is understood that almost all members of the community have an awareness of the project. However, the study participants (beneficiary households and key stakeholders) have further in-depth information about the project and CARE-Ethiopia; conversely, knowledge about the funding agency is minimal. Thus, as learned in the project evaluation, the project design and collaborative management approach have contributed to the project's visibility in the study areas. Besides, the project targeted and addressed the marginalised community members' problems, which added values for increased publicity of the project and CARE among the local community.



Figure 6: project description and Logos are posted on all the facilities

6. EVALUATION DESIGN AND APPROACH

6.1 METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

The final evaluation was guided by project intervention logic and the theory of change. The end-line study employed the OECD DAC and ADA evaluation criteria (relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability). The final evaluation used both quantitative and qualitative data collection approaches. The quantitative method used a cross-sectional design using a survey questionnaire with a representative sample of the target households to assess project outcomes quantitatively. The final evaluation team gathered qualitative data by reviewing documents, focus group discussions (FGDs), Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), case stories, and observations. The evaluation engaged women and men groups, unemployed youth, people with disabilities, sector offices, government officials of Water Resource Development Office, Micro and Small Enterprises Development Office, Social Affairs Office and WASCHO Committee members. The evaluation employed approaches that enhance the triangulation of evaluation results from the different sources.

6.1.1 Sample Size Determination

The analysis unit for the quantitative data of the evaluation were households in the two-project operational woredas with a representative sample of the target population. For large populations, Cochran (1963:75) developed the following equation to yield a representative sample for proportions. The sample size is determined based on the assumptions that the required level of precision (5%), confidence level wanted ($Z= 1.96$), p is the estimated proportion of an attribute that is present in the population ($p=50\%$ is considered as it yields the maximum sample size), and q is $1-p$. Applying the above formula, we estimate a sample size of 384. Since the evaluation is planned to cover the two woredas, we planned to adjust the estimated sample size (design effect ≈ 2) and considered the response rate of 90%. It was considering the adjustments that a total of 869 households were estimated. The estimated sample size was similar to that of the baseline and mid-line assessments that give statistical strength for comparison of results.

6.1.2 Sampling Procedure

The estimated sample size was distributed to the two woredas based on their respective population size, i.e., applying Probability Proportional to Size (PPS). Accordingly, the sample size for East Belesa woreda was 358 households, and for West Belesa woreda is 511 households. The sample size for each Woreda was further distributed to the selected Kebeles with the PPS procedure. All the 10 Kebeles selected for this final evaluation were similar to those kebeles where the baseline and midline evaluations were carried out to make a statistically valid comparison between baseline and end-line results.

Consistent with the method applied for the mid-term evaluation, a systematic simple random (SSR) sampling technique was used to select eligible survey respondents from the list of project beneficiaries from each Kebele.

TABLE 17: SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION OF THE FINAL EVALUATION BY WOREDA AND KEBELE, DECEMBER 2020

Woreda	Kebele	Number	%	Woreda	Kebele	Number	%
East Belesa	Bursan	83	23.2%	West Belesa	Adisalem	155	30.3%
	Chama Korach	93	26.0%		Kalay	217	42.5%
	Tilli	44	12.3%		Tala	49	9.6%
	Tertawa	90	25.1%		Wareb	52	10.2%
	Achikan	48	13.4%		Dikuana	38	7.4%
	Total	358	100.0%		Total	511	100.0%

6.2 DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS TOOLS

Household survey: The evaluation employed a household survey of 869 households to assess changes against key outcome and impact indicators. The household survey questionnaire used during the baseline and midline with necessary adjustments and some relevant questions to meet the evaluation criteria was used for the final evaluation. The approved English version of the questionnaire was translated to Amharic for implementation and used to develop a tablet-based data collection program. Data collection was done on Kobo Toolbox's Android application. KoBoToolbox is a free, open-source tool for mobile data gathering developed by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. KoBoToolbox is widely used for data entry in humanitarian organizations like the International Rescue Committee (IRC), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and Save the Children.

Key informant interviews: The evaluation team visited various stakeholders and undertook 15 key informant interviews using pre-designed checklists and get wide-ranging and in-depth feedback and learning. The visit included project key stakeholders, including relevant local government partners at kebele, Woreda, zone and regional levels, and CARE's project staff. The evaluation team consulted major stakeholder organizations - Women and Children Affairs, Water and Irrigation, Health, Agriculture and Food Security, TVTEDA, Education & Finance and Economic Development, etc.

Focus group discussions: The evaluation conducted a total of 32 FGDs with 234 participants including community members, both male and female separately, including with youth and female-headed household, persons with a disability, WASHCO members, community representatives and religious leaders to assess implementation experiences and effectiveness, successes, challenges and lessons learned, and develop recommendations. Focus group discussions (FGD) were conducted complying with the protocols for preventing COVID-19 transmission.

Direct Observations: Direct observation is a valuable tool used for this evaluation task. Some of the watershed and water development facilities and income generation workplaces were visited and carefully observed. The study team spend time observing the available physical facilities and took pictures.

Case Stories: case stories relevant to the project and appropriate for lessons and experience sharing were identified and captured. Six case stories were conducted on selected project

outcome areas. CARE field officers were involved in selecting the thematic areas and storytellers.

Desk review: The evaluation team conducted a desk review of the following documents: national-level policies, strategies, publications and other highly relevant documents. These include project documents including baseline evaluation, mid-term evaluation, various assessment and progress reports, attendances of training, VSLA and IGA records, minutes and recordings of WASHCO, MEAL plan, CVCA report, EGSIM checklist and other relevant internal documents. The reviewed materials helped to get an insight into the project and substantiate the evaluation's quantitative and qualitative findings.

6.3 FIELDWORK ADMINISTRATION

A field team consisting of two senior researchers, two qualitative researchers, and ten enumerators were deployed on 5th of December 2020. The interviewers, recruited from the respective woredas, were trained, and the tools were tested. Interviewers were recruited from the study woredas to utilise the advantage of local knowledge and experience and maximise communication efficiency with households. The training generally covered the contents and structures of the household questionnaire and the data collection methods. The training was mainly devoted to instruction on interviewing techniques and field procedures with Smartphone-based data collection techniques, reviewing the study objectives and detailed understanding of the questionnaire's content, and the role of interviewers in the data collection process.

Moreover, the data collectors were informed to adhere to key gender norms and gender-sensitive issues. The collected data was uploaded to the system twice a day. Given the current COVID-19 situation, the data collectors were advised to take every possible precaution. Data collectors were provided with adequate facemasks and hand sanitary materials and advised to practise the prescribed social distancing and personal protection.

After completing the training of data collectors and field testing, actual data collection in the two study woredas commenced on Monday 7th of Dec 2020. CARE field staffs facilitated the field level activities at both woredas. The KII with representatives of different relevant sector offices in both woredas and FGDs with VSLA, SAA, WASHCO and Watershed groups were successfully organized. The field-level data collection was completed on the 17th of December 2020. Different methodologies were used to ensure the collected data reasonably meet the five standards of data quality: validity, integrity, precision, reliability and timeliness. Several activities were attributed to maintaining the quality of the survey data. These include proper designing of the data collection instruments, use of tablets for data collection, selection of experienced interviewers to carry out data collection, the familiarity of the survey personnel to the local language and culture, and adequate time for training of the data collectors and close supervision and facilitation of the data collection process. The assessment team protected any forms of unethical approaches that inflict any physical, emotional, psychological and mental harm on respondents.

The evaluation team has adhered to CARE's Policy and Code of Conduct while assessing with children, women and PWDs. The evaluation team implemented ethical codes relevant to research work, such as obtaining informed consent from participants and ensuring them the

confidentiality of the information to be obtained; anonymity of the participants; and the principle of obtaining prior permission for taking visual images of any participant. The evaluation team also remained objective and neutral throughout the design, administration, and analysis processes. The consultant is cognizant of the social and cultural diversities of participants and is free of any biases against any particular groups. The consultant maintained neutral attitudes and was not engaged with activities that have positive or negative influences on the evaluation results.

7. CONCLUSIONS

CARE implemented the three-year project (SWEEP) with financial support from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). The project's principal aim was to address the socio-economic and environmental problems causing food insecurity in East and West Belesa Woredas of Central Gondar Zone, Amhara Regional State. This end-line assessment evaluates the project's impact in terms of changes for the intended beneficiaries and provides evidence for future decisions demonstrating accountability to the project beneficiaries, stakeholders, and donors.

Through the construction and maintenances of water schemes, the project creates access to safe water for drinking and productive uses in the two woredas that contribute to improving the community's livelihoods and health. On the other hand, the irrigation systems create the potential to grow vegetables, fruits, and other agricultural products for consumption and sale in the local market. The watershed schemes established in the two woredas and the awareness created constitute a significant step toward improving the natural environment by decreasing soil erosion, increased soil moisture, reduced sedimentation and run-off, and stabilization of gullies and riverbanks, and rehabilitation of degraded lands. The functioning of the established watershed committee is a base for the sustainability of watershed management.

The project has significantly impacted the intermediate outcome levels - enhanced productivity and income, diversified farming and dietary intake, empowerment of women and other marginalized groups and equitable decision-making processes. The VSLA groups, comprised of women, have changed the households' living conditions. The project also organized SAA groups that made a remarkable contribution to increasing awareness and practices of communities on GBVs and HTPs, including FGM and child marriage. One of the project's prominent achievements is the joint project management system established with the relevant and concerned stakeholders. The joint management and the provision of capacity building to the stakeholders helped participants draw lessons and develop their capacities in identifying development priorities.

ANNEXES TO THE REPORT

A. LEARNING BRIEFS

With financial support from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the SWEEP project has been implemented for three-years. The project has the overall objectives to address the socio-economic and environmental problems causing food insecurity, including inadequate access to water supply and environmental degradation, social barriers and gender inequality, limited livelihood opportunities and low productivity in East and West Belesa woredas of Central Gondar Zone.

According to the project theory of change, the project has three pillars of intervention—promotion of joint learning and community development, engagement with the community and supporting marginalized groups in IGAs, and development or rehabilitation of water and irrigation systems and watersheds—all leading to meet the overall goal of the project " **water resources improved, marginalized groups empowered, and food insecurity and resiliency improved** ". The following learning briefs are presented to illustrate some of the most significant results of the SWEEP project.

Learning Brief I –Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA)

Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) in the SWEEP project comprises 15-20 and chronically food-insecure women participants organized by the project. A total of 101 VSLA groups (51 in West Belesa) were established during the project. These VSLA groups are comprised of a total of 2,198 group members (all female) with a total amount of ETB 1,172,480 saving.

The VSLA approach focused on creating solidarity groups and is being employed as a coping strategy during drought and emergency food insecure seasons. Once the group started saving money, they began offering financial assistance to their members to operate various IGAs. The group meets every two weeks and collects ETB 20 from each member for saving and ETB 2 for social issues.

Organizing food insecure and women into VSLA is a cost and time-effective way of delivering various services and technical support to large numbers of women beneficiaries in a manner far more efficient than working with individual beneficiaries. VSLA is an appropriate platform to provide skill training relevant to their business operations and social issues, exchange information among members, mobilize internal saving and loan services, engage women in viable IGAs in groups and individual levels. Besides, VSLAs build social cohesion and capital and are a safe and fertile environment for discussion on social and cultural norms that may impede development and contribute to food insecurity, gender inequality and prevalence of GBVs and HTPs, etc.

Access to sustainable micro-credit was long considered impossible in the rural communities of the study districts. Yet, with the SWEEP project's support, chronically food insecure and women gain access to credit with acceptable terms. The operation of these self-managed savings-credit systems—village savings and loan associations (VSLA)—were well received in project communities.



The story of one of the VSLA members (Aster Muchie) in Kali Kebele of West Belesa was an eminent and example to show the importance of VSLA.

I was running my IGA with the help of an internal loan accessed from my VSLA group. It has played an enormous role to change my life and others who were chronically food insecure and women and engaged in IGAs through loan accessed from their respective groups. I was the first VSLA member to get an internal loan and obtain 1,290 profits out of the first business (resale of a donkey) that helped me to have now two readily available shoats estimated to be sold at least ETB 4,000.

Thus, VSLA demonstrates and proves that it can be an entry point to mobilize internal saving and loan services for women in rural areas to engage in any potential IGAs to overcome the economic crisis. The group members have built personal confidences to participate in any local development activities and social issues actively—the discussions and exchange of information gradually empowered the women. VSLA has brought social change to the community. There is ample qualitative evidence gathered through the FGDs and KIs that women gained autonomy in their households and the community, and they are empowered to make decisions. Further, VSLA members' husbands are now consulting with their wives on agricultural practices, household assets, health expenditures, and other household decisions.

As a group of women, we support each other, aiming higher to achieve better results for ourselves and our family. We have made personal commitments; we have a team spirit that keeps us going; we have greater self-confidence, and we

are learning and imitating good practices that make us empowered more. — Tali Kebele VSLA member

VSLA loans focus on improving household living conditions that the members monitor. Loans are given to individuals with a plan to utilize the resource effectively. As the VSLA groups matured, women have now reached a stage to expand their businesses and increase savings. The VSLA groups respect their binding bylaws in that each member is highly respectful. As a result, the repayment rate is at 100 per cent.

After learning from their neighbours' success, some neighbouring villages have established a functioning VSLA. Some village women already decided and started their VSLA with active saving and credit services to operate IGAs. However, there needs to be legal grounds-get licensed for their groups to effectively utilize their resources for growth and get additional loans based on the legal personality of the VSLA.

In conclusion, the project's VSLA component has successfully enabled women to gain credit access so that group members make their own decisions to improve livelihoods and social status. With access to credit, women have started operating small income-generating activities that ease the financial stress and reduce food insecurity challenges on the entire family. VSLA members report during field data collection events indicates that being in a VSLA has helped improve social cohesion among the villagers. The VSLAs also contributed to reducing gender inequalities in the community, and it is a useful channel to share information among group members. In the words of one member, "*The VSLA gives us the opportunities to discuss our matters and operate small businesses, and it allows us to convene our basic needs.*"

The group helps to bring together women with shared interests and needs. Group members can be easily reached and supported by development actors, extension agents, private sector actors, financial institutions, and other service providers. It creates an opportunity for local development actors to facilitate capacity building and empowerment services and convey useful social messages to women. VSLA promotes and improves the saving culture of chronically food insecure and women to access loan from internal saving to engage in small scale IGAs. The existences of the group promote women to gain a voice in the community and household decision-making.

Learning Brief II - Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Traditional Practices

The SWEEP project aims to reduce the lack of easy access to water in both woredas that poses a particular burden on women and girls, who are solely responsible for collecting household water. The dire water situation has meant that more time must be spent on water collection, leaving little time for women and girls to engage in other activities.

The project also intended to reduce the negative impacts of traditional cultural norms creating social barriers that contribute to the existing gender inequality. Despite the vast burdens, women and girls' work is still considered lesser than men and boys' work, creating a considerable disparity in the perceptions. There is inequality in terms of access to and control of resources, and related, decision making at the household level, which leads to a significant power imbalance that favours men. As witnessed in the FGDs and KIIs men have much greater access to and control over essential resources, assets, services and benefits such as farmland and tools, sale of livestock, sale of bulk food and cash crops, household income and expenditure, agriculture extension services, education and training, cooperative services, and political power/prestige. In comparison, women have greater access to and control over kitchen

utensils, health extension services and income generated from the sale of poultry, animal products, small food crops and incomes from petty trading.

Moreover, though women have equal access to farmlands and have gained access to credit services, in general, men have more access to land, savings and credit than women in the area. Women and girls are also faced with threats of rape or violence, mainly when out collecting water or firewood, and are at risk for beating/ domestic violence and exploitation. They are under-represented at the woreda and kebele level, with very low percentages of women in political positions across the board.

Thus, considering gender inequalities, the project has engaged with communities by using CARE's Social Analysis and Action (SAA) methodology. SAA groups are established to challenge existing norms and barriers for gender equality and community transformation.

The SAA provided a suitable platform to facilitate discussions on various social and cultural barriers. The cultural barriers include unequal household chores and other gender equality issues between men and women and boys and girls. The platform created a suitable environment to employ local knowledge to solve local problems and share their experiences and acknowledge.

SWEEP project has also supported the local community to undertake conversations about existing social, cultural and traditional challenges and ways of mitigating them to reduce harmful traditions that affect women, girls and groups through SAA. Prevalence of HTPs and GBVs such as female genital mutilation, child marriage, sexual harassment, and physical abuse has shown a significant decrease. Men were actively involved in SAA discussions and other activities to effectively support the mitigation measures of gender inequality issues.

The project has supported about 30 active SAA groups with 873 members. At least 50% of the leadership positions of the groups constitute women. Group discussions are made monthly, and the discussions cover various social issues, including gender equality, household chores among family members, childcare and development, and prevention of GBVs and HTPs. The group discussion contributed to increased awareness of group members that contributed to reducing GBV and HTPs. SAA has also been an important tool to address gender inequality challenges such as women access to resources, participation in decision making, and household chores.

Gradually, men and boys have started to share household chores in their families. Critical health-threatening GBVs and HTP practices have also significantly reduced in the project areas. Husband's resistance in letting their wife attend public meetings have also declined. The SAA helped both genders learn and practice how to be consultative and willing to collaborate on household activities and resources. Celebration of some community rituals that negatively impact both the community's economic and health status has also been reduced much. Besides, the construction of new water facilities and rehabilitation of existing water schemes has also contributed to reducing the travel time for women and girls to fetch water that enabled them to use the time for other productive activities.

However, gender-related social constructs are still apparent and are reinforced to support male power structures and stereotyped masculinities. The key to addressing this imbalance is men's continued involvement to play a prominent role in interventions in socio-cultural influence positions. There is a need for a continued effort to bring a lasting solution for the prevalence of GBVs, HTPs and other gender equality issues.

Learning Brief III –Access to Safe Water

The SWEEP project conducted an extensive Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment before implementing intervention on community access to water for drinking and productive uses in the two-project implementation woredas. Due to poor vegetation coverage and steep slopes, large portions of the highlands have limited sources of surface and groundwater potential. In contrast, the lowland areas have potential surface water and groundwater supplies such as rivers, streams and springs. In contrast, most of the population resides in the highland regions, thus creating a massive disparity in access to a sustainable water supply. Hence, in the highland areas, water sources of all sort were scarce, especially in the dry season. Women and girls were spending significant amounts of time and energy, sometimes travelling six hours a day across challenging terrain to fetch water.

The joint rapid assessment report indicated that potable water coverage of East Belesa and West Belesa was 45% and 34%, respectively, much less than the regional average of 53.3%. Furthermore, the non-functionality of water supply facilities was 62%. Two of the primary reasons were lack of spare parts and limited discharge during the dry season.



The vast majority of schools and health facilities in West and East Belesa (90% and 98%, respectively) were in a critical shortage of water facilities access. Most parts of the two woredas have experienced erratic and uneven rainfall distribution causing drought for several years. As a result of the El Nino induced drought in 2015, 2-9% of the communities in the East Belesa area have been receiving emergency water rationing as their primary source of water.

The project has also undertaken a final evaluation to measure and evaluate the project's impact, assess the changes and provide evidence and learning for future decisions on whether and how the project could be continued/replicated. Thus, this learning brief is prepared to document achievements and changes related to access to water.

The project has achieved a remarkable result by constructing new water facilities and rehabilitating existing water schemes. It has created access to safe water for domestic and productive uses for 119,274 target people in the two woredas. In the project lifetime, the construction of 119 new hand-dug well (59 in West Belesa), 11 solar pump water system (7 in West Belesa), 3 R-masonry dams (1 in West Belesa), rehabilitation of 207 hand-dug well (101 in West Belesa) were completed, and are fully functional. As part of the project activity, 2,469 water filter kits (569 in West Belesa) were also distributed.

The project's water source development component has facilitated access to safe water sources within 30 minutes of a round trip for about 57% of the target community members. Access to safe drinking water can reduce the prevalence and transmission of water-borne diseases such as cholera and diarrhoea outbreaks. Women, girls and PWDs have benefited more from the reduction of the travelling time to fetch water.

One of the learning areas related to water schemes' developments was installing a solar energy-driven water system that is new and highly productive technology in the area that generates a better water quantity than a small hand-dug well. The water generated with the solar pump can serve both for drinking and other development purposes like the production of vegetables and fruits around homesteads. This new technology is also environmentally friendly.

The other key learning related to this particular water scheme development was the establishment and proper functioning of the WASHCo. WASHO in all the areas are trained well and developed the capacity to maintain facilities and manage the schemes sustainably. The beneficiaries fenced the water facilities with local woods for better protection and management. Community contribution of resources and labour for the water facilities' maintenance services ensures ownership of the project and its sustainability.

Learning Brief IV –NGO, Local Government and Community Collaboration

In today's climate of declining international aid, social development initiatives worldwide work through collaboration with local governments and communities to raise resources to increase their interventions and programs' effectiveness and sustainability. NGOs play a significant role in today's society, typically picking up the government's shortfalls in citizens' social development activities via donors' philanthropy. A successful partnership begins with both the NGOs and the local governments becoming committed to collaboration — and convinced of its value. While many donors have been actively encouraging — and even requiring — these collaborative relations, the SWEEP project appears to be the one that effectively demonstrated significant success. One of the significant achievements in the SWEEP project is how collaboration was understood and approached by the parties from the start of the project – CARE Ethiopia, the local government, and the beneficiary community. Cooperation, which refers to a process of engaging with other groups to address issues that might not be efficiently handled by one of the entities alone, is well exercised in the SWEEP project and proven to be workable.

The project had an extensive situational assessment and discussion with the key government partners before implementing the intervention. The partners include Water, Irrigation and Energy; Agriculture; Finance and Economy; Disaster Prevention and Food Security; Women, Children and Youth Affairs;

Micro and Small-Scale Enterprise; Land Administration and Environmental Protection at regional, zonal and woreda levels. The project steering committee has been established, comprising these vital local partners to oversee project performance, integration and collaboration at all levels (region, zone, woreda and kebele).

SWEEP has promoted joint learning and community development as stipulated in its theory of change. Establishing a collaborative project management system with the local government and community was crucial in its achievements and ensuring its sustainability. As part of the project's management, periodic follow-up, monitoring and evaluation activities were included in the project's design. The local community and government key partners (agriculture and rural development; women, children and youth, water development, woreda administration, finance and economy) had a strong engagement in monitoring the project implementation throughout the processes at all levels. The joint monitoring system enabled the project participants to gain lessons, build their capacities and synergies, and take corrective actions timely. The monitoring followed each component of the project implementation, vis-à-vis the set standards. The monitoring and evaluation coordinated joint effort with relevant stakeholders at the management level—mandated to check the entire spectrum of project execution and correct the shortcomings that evolved through the process.

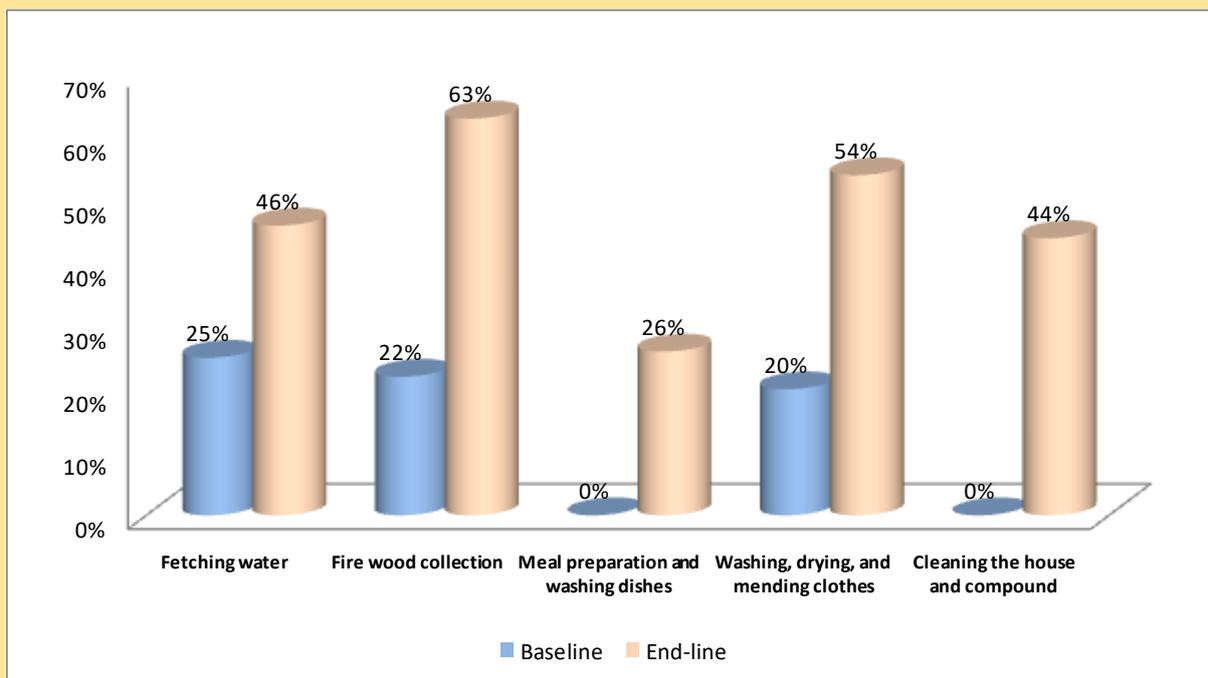
The Community Score Card (CSC) and participatory project management systems were the key contributing factors in developing the project's ownership among local communities. The CSC is a participatory, community-based monitoring and evaluation tool that enables communities to assess the quality and appropriateness of services. The CSC brings together the service user and the service provider of a particular service to jointly analyse issues underlying service delivery problems and find a common and shared way of addressing those issues. The CSC increases participation, accountability and transparency between service users, providers and decision-makers. Government staffs were trained on the CSC methodology to facilitate its implementation in communities. The regional government also incorporated CSC into its work and scaled it up for government level activities. The stakeholders' involvement at all the project execution stages has facilitated a smooth implementation that fostered a sense of ownership, trust, and genuine partnership. The utilization of these diverse partners' coordinated effort has contributed to the project implementation's efficiency and minimized duplication of efforts. The collaborative management and the provision of capacity building to the stakeholders helped local partners draw lessons and develop their capacities in identifying development priorities.

Learning Brief V – Transforming Gender Norms, Roles, and Power Dynamics

Gender norms affect the social well-being of the current generation, and it has a significant influence in shaping the futures of adolescent girls and boys. The SWEEP project intervention attributed to changes in men's behaviour of their manhood conceptions. Men and boys are already taking part in this change, but the challenge remains in determining how to encourage best and support the process to sustain. Those who wish to spark and support men's evolution toward gender equality must determine what stands in the way of men's change and what types of advocacy, social and economic policies, educational campaigns, and programs best facilitate this process. Socio-cultural and economic factors remain primary barriers to eradicating gender inequalities, GBVs, and HTPs. Traditional practices can reinforce gender inequalities. The gender inequalities in return can lead to more severe forms of control, such as gender-based violence (GBV).

The outcome of the SWEEP project, the Social Analysis and Action (SAA) group discussion, has contributed to changes in behaviour and communication between men and women. They started to practice sharing household chores within their families. Women began ploughing, which was considered earlier as the role of men. There were 30 actively operating SAA groups with 873 members in the intervention woredas. Female members occupy more than 50% of the leadership positions of the SAA groups. SAA groups organize monthly meetings to discuss various social issues, including gender equality, household chores among family members, childcare and development, and prevention of GBVs and HTPs. Men began supporting their spouses with firewood collection, cooking food, house cleaning, fetching water, cleaning the house, and the like.

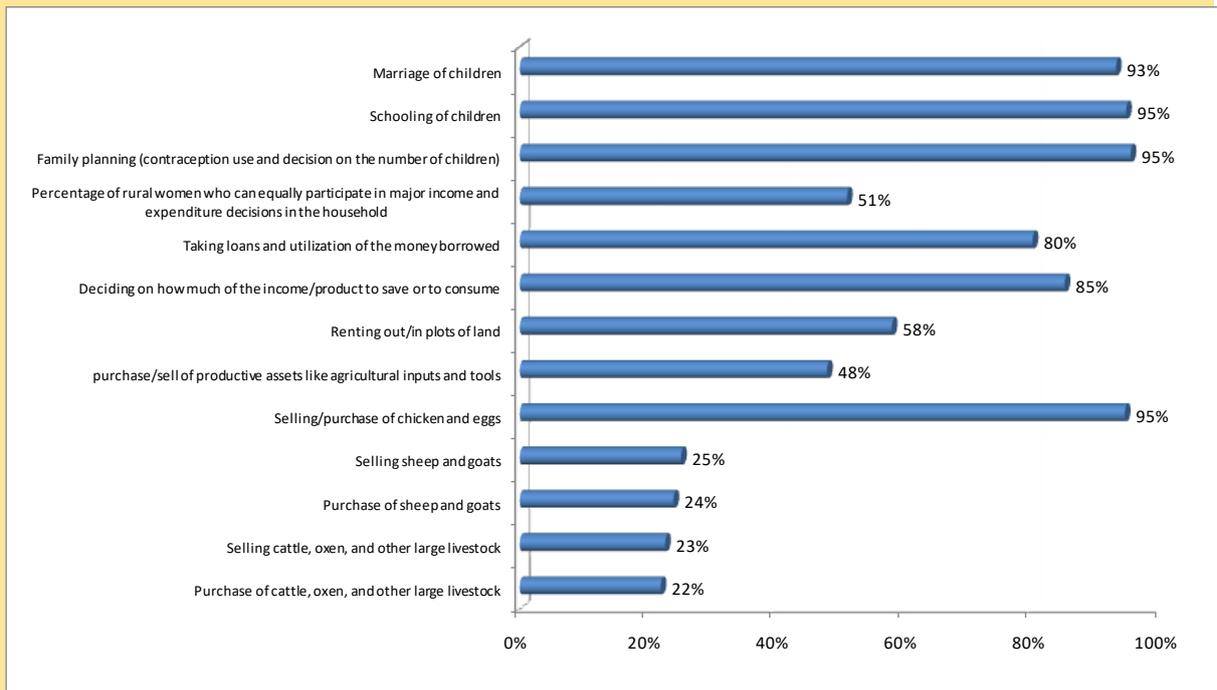
According to the result of the FGDs with SAA members, the group members are making a considerable increase in awareness of group members contributing to reducing GBV cases and HTPs. The awareness improved gender inequality challenges such as women's access to resources, equal participation in decision making in their families and community, and improved participation of men in household chores.



Changes in the men's and boy's participation in household chores between baseline and end-line

The final evaluation survey included several questions concerning women's participation in decisions related to household income and expenditure, community perception towards their leadership role, and their involvement in community-level organizations such as women's association, self-help groups, community development, etc. Most women reported that their spouses consult them on how the income or product is utilized. However, only less than a quarter of them participate in decisions involving selling and buying livestock (such as oxen, sheep and goats).

Overall, 51% of the target women can equally participate in major income and expenditure decisions in the household, which is a remarkable improvement compared to the baseline (11%) and MTR (38%). However, far more work remains to address gender inequality in this regard. The project intervention has also contributed to building women's self-confidence to convey their messages in public meetings and their assertiveness in dialogues and decision-making processes. Concerning this, more than 90% of the beneficiary households believe that the SWEEP project has contributed to their social, economic and leadership participation and assertiveness in dialogues and decision-making processes.



Percentage of women participating in household level decision making

Possibly in no area of men's gender norms is there a faster change than in the rapid evolution in equal participation of participating in household level decision making and sharing of domestic activities or care work; these may well prove to be the most profound and transformative changes in the intervention areas. In this regard, the outcome of the SWEEP project is a strong indication of a rapid expansion and wider acceptance of more gender equitable norms among men in the traditional community. The intervention not only indicated the potential for engaging men and boys, but also the opportunities for a wide range transformation in the socio cultural development of the communities.

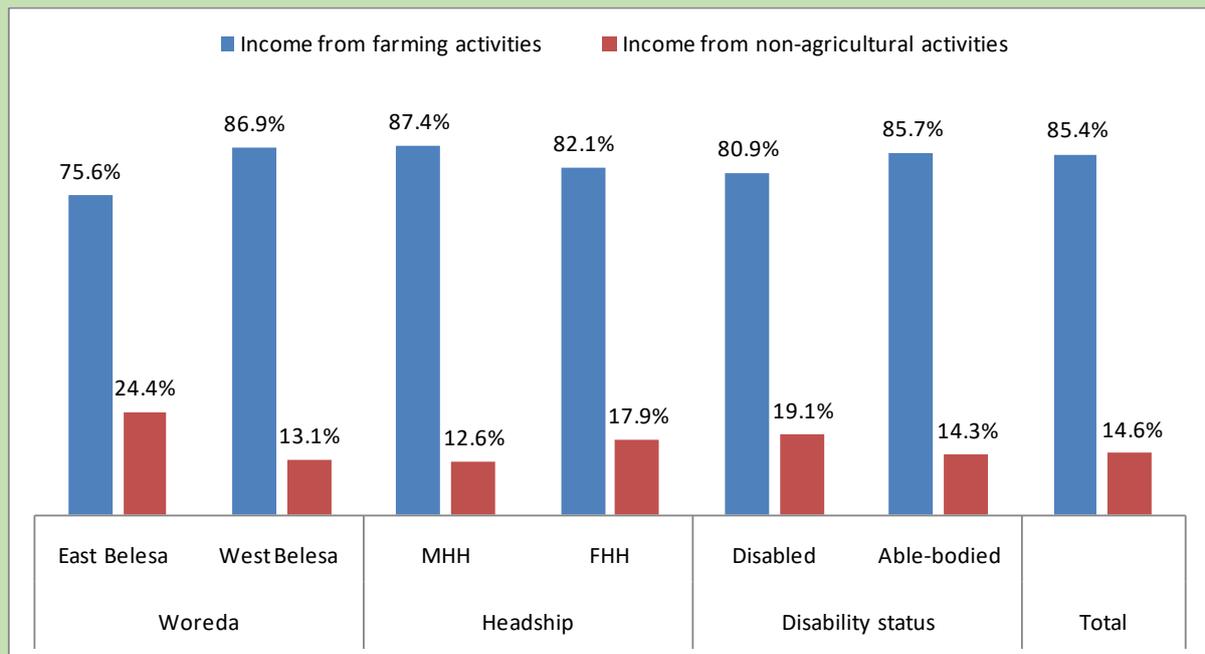
Learning Brief VI –Rural livelihood diversification

In developing countries, such as Ethiopia, where agriculture is highly marginalized to weather shocks, farm income diversification becomes inevitable to smooth income and consumption. Farm households in rural Ethiopia use different income diversification strategies primarily to ensure their livelihood security. Farm household livelihood diversification refers to the income strategies of rural households. They increase their number of activities, allied with both livelihood distress and survival under deteriorating conditions, and at times it also refers to livelihood improvement under improving economic conditions.

The SWEEP project in East and West Belesa Woredas of the Central Gondar Zone, Amhara Region, was designed to address limited livelihood opportunities and low productivity and address inadequate access to water supply, environmental degradation, social barriers and gender inequality. Therefore, the SWEEP project experience could be of interest as it attempts to improve its targets' livelihoods through the integration of livelihood diversification strategies and environmental management and social mobilisation.

Despite the presence of various agricultural policies, Ethiopia's agricultural productivity is generally considered low. These policies focus mainly on on-farm agricultural development to neglect rich opportunities for non-agricultural livelihood diversification activities. The lesson learned in the SWEEP project indicates that livelihood diversification could be a valuable strategy to boost farmers' income and promote sustainable land management practices.

The SWEEP final evaluation result revealed that farm households participate in non-agricultural income diversification activities in the project intervention areas with a significant share that accounts for about 15% of the surveyed households. In the project's intervention areas, FHH (18%) and families with disabilities (19%) were more likely to engage in non-agricultural economic activities.



The evaluation results revealed that households use positive coping strategies such as promoting savings (through VSLA) and diversify their income sources through IGAs. The income improvements through establishments of VSLA and the facilitation of access to finance to engage in viable IGAs have contributed positively to reducing community dependency on natural resources for their livelihood. Thus, it enabled rural households to practically develop capacities and employ positive coping strategies against potential shocks. It is learned that the livelihood diversification strategy can complement the small-scale on-farm productivity improvement as it allows farm households to efficiently utilise their labour hours throughout the year to earn more income. An increase in income can be used in return to buy farm inputs to enhance agricultural productivity.

B. CASE STORIES

Case story I

Mohamed Yibre is 26 years old who is currently residing in Arbaya town, the capital of the west Belesse woreda administration. He is one of the disabled project target beneficiaries. Mohamed has lost the vision of one of his eyes. He is married and has a child. Mohamed told us how he has come to the project and what he has achieved with the project's support. He said he was jobless before getting CARE Ethiopia, and his life before approaching CARE was desperate and challenging. Life was so difficult to feed his family, buy clothes, cover necessary household expenses. When life became more difficult, he decided to request support from the woreda job creation office to facilitate at least a working space and some start-up money or else connect him with other potential NGOs who can do these for him. After that, Mohamed got connected with SWEEP project in June 2020. CARE Ethiopia asked him first his preferences and also assessed his ability



Figure 7: One of the project's targeted PWDs during income generation operation.

in managing an income-generating business. Thus, based on his interest and prior experiences, the project facilitated an embroidery IGA. Following that, the project has provided him with start-up capital through in-kind supports such as sewing machine, adapter, and cloth (one rolled out cloth for one time only). Then Mohamed immediately started to operate the sewing activity. In addition to the income from his activities, he has also rented an extra working space for 500 Birr per month. Mohammed has expanded his business and created jobs for two youths employed as his assistances. He has about 15,000 Birr worth working capital (both in saving and in cash). He is thankful to CARE for creating the opportunity and changed his livelihood. Mohamed has planned to request loan from Micro Finance Institutions to open a supermarket.

Case story II

Aster Muchie is 40 years old women. She is a widow and head of household in Kali kebele of West Belesa. She is the mother of one child. Aster explains that she joined the VSLA group in 2018 and started saving money with her group members. According to her, there were fear and worries among the group members about the VSLA group's effectiveness in the first few months of its establishments. With the provision of awareness creation and capacity building training on group management, and saving and loan services, the group developed the confidence to participate in the VSLA. Aster was the first VSLA member to get an internal loan to buy a donkey for reselling. After keeping the donkey for some months, she sold the donkey and gained Birr 1,290 profits after returning the principal loan. Then, she bought two sheep with this 1,290 Birr; they became 4 in a few months. Aster is planning to sale the two shoats she has in the coming holiday; she expects 4,000 Birr income. Aster said, "I am so proud of the project support; I was hopeless and in a destitute life. But now, I am equal to the other people in the community". She also plans to start another business with the money that she is expecting from the sale of the shoats'.

She is committed to continuing with the saving and loan services to improve her income and livelihoods further.

Case story III

Enatnesh Mesafint is 24 years old. She has a 10th-grade education. She is widowed and a mother of a six years old boy. Her husband died four years ago. Life was extremely difficult for her after her husband's death as he was the household's primary sources of income. She was dependent on direct support from the government. It was during such a difficult time that she contacted the project. The project has selected those poor women like her and other marginalized community members to involve in the project. At the initial stage, they were told about the project's purpose and objective and then established a VSLA group, and she was elected to be a chairperson of the committee. She recalled that the project provided them with various training -saving and loan management, group management and bookkeeping. After the training, she took a loan and started IGA selling food, which she found unsuccessful. Then she changed her business into selling tea and coffee. The kebele administrators sometimes invited her to provide coffee and tea services during meetings and small events that earned her some profit. Currently, Enatnesh has Birr 20,000 saving in her account. She has also created a job for one woman to help her with the kitchen activities. Enatnesh is determined to continue the business. She acknowledges the role the project played to change her life. She states that she has enough food to eat and buy clothes and afford to cover the costs of other social issues. Enatnesh recommended the project to continue with the support of the project to reach marginalized women.

Case story IV

Alemitu Birhan is a 27-year-old woman who is currently living in Hamusit Kebele of East Belesa. According to her, gender equality issues were a critical problem in the community. According to her, VSLA and SAA training and awareness creation activities contributed to increased self-esteem and reducing the prevalence of GBVs and HTPs against women girls. Alemitu took a loan (Birr 500) and started her own business- retailing oil and corn grains and then involved in seed production as part of an expansion. Her husband has strongly supported her in terms of ideas and labour-power. Her business was profitable to fulfil household materials like a refrigerator and other utensils. With the IGAs, she has bought two oxen with Birr 14,000 and accumulated Birr 16,000 saving. Now, she has also started cattle fattening, and she bears the vision to be an investor in the future. She added *“thanks to CARE, for facilitating the change in my life. I have no words to explain; let God pay them for their good doings.”*

Case story V

Fantaye Degu is a 29-year-old married woman living in Tali Kebele of East Belesa. She said that there were chronic poverty and food insecurity problem in their family. As a result of such poverty, she could not continue living with her husband in marriage and got divorced. She went back to her family to live as a dependent. Later on, when CARE Ethiopia project was launched in the kebeles, she was one of the target beneficiaries for awareness creation training. Being a divorced woman, several locality people were isolating her, and she was not allowed to be involved in social events. However, after the training, the community's awareness has increased, and Fantaye started to participate in all the social events without restriction. She took a loan and engaged in petty trades (selling crop and vegetable). She has more than Birr 25,000 saving. Previously, some IGA types were not considered relevant for separated and divorced women.

Case story VI

My name is Tangut Wubet; I am 45 years old. I live in Kali Kebele of East Belesa. I stopped my education in grade 4 when I get married. Tangut is adamant when explaining the water shortage in their community. She said there is a huge difference in access to water before and after the project interventions. When CARE comes to us the first time, they told us their goal is to facilitate access to water for us through maintenances of the existing water schemes and construction of new water schemes. After some time, the project facilitated consultative discussion with the local government and us regarding the project activities, our contributions and the joint management. The discussions resulted in an agreement among all participants on all the issues raised at that time. The project then started its operation as promised. It has maintained the existing water schemes and built new schemes in different kebeles. However, the quantity of water supplied by the newly built schemes was not enough for the local people around us. As a result, additional extensive and participatory discussion about the problems of limited access to drinking water and its solution were made. Following the discussions, solutions were set to install solar pump water schemes as an additional water scheme to generate enough water. Accordingly, the project has installed the solar energy water pumping schemes that give us enough water. Before the project, my neighbours and I were critically suffering from a lack of clean water and forced to travel long distances up to 4 hours round trip. Fetching water was one of the most challenging tasks for my children and me during that time. I usually hesitate to send my children, especially girls, due to fear of violence against them. Before the project implementation, there were sever hygiene and sanitation problems in the family and the community. Some of my family members were exposed to diarrhoea and other health problems. After the project, my family has sufficient access to water for drinking and cleaning purposes.

C. RESULT TABLES

TABLE 18: AGE-SEX STRUCTURE OF THE STUDIED POPULATION BY WOREDA, DECEMBER 2020

		East Belesa		West Belesa		Total	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0-4	Male	88	49.2%	130	50.0%	218	49.7%
	Female	91	50.8%	130	50.0%	221	50.3%
	Total	179	100.0%	260	100.0%	439	100.0%
5-13	Male	268	55.7%	402	51.9%	670	53.3%
	Female	213	44.3%	373	48.1%	586	46.7%
	Total	481	100.0%	775	100.0%	1256	100.0%
14-29	Male	260	51.6%	409	49.5%	669	50.3%
	Female	244	48.4%	418	50.5%	662	49.7%
	Total	504	100.0%	827	100.0%	1331	100.0%
30-60	Male	171	48.3%	317	50.0%	488	49.4%
	Female	183	51.7%	317	50.0%	500	50.6%
	Total	354	100.0%	634	100.0%	988	100.0%
60+	Male	32	84.2%	22	64.7%	54	75.0%
	Female	6	15.8%	12	35.3%	18	25.0%
	Total	38	100.0%	34	100.0%	72	100.0%
Total	Male	819	52.6%	1280	50.6%	2099	51.4%
	Female	737	47.4%	1250	49.4%	1987	48.6%
	Total	1556	100.0%	2530	100.0%	4086	100.0%
Sex ratio		111.1		102.4		105.6	

TABLE 19: QUALITY MANAGEMENT OF DRINKING WATER BY WOREDA, HEADSHIP, AND DISABILITY STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, DECEMBER 2020

	East Belesa	West Belesa	Total
The most common jar type households use to fetch and store drinking water			
— Traditional clay pot with wide mouth suitable for washing using hands and detergents	7.0% _a	0.6% _b	3.2%
— Open mouth plastic jars suitable for washing using hands and detergents	19.6% _a	3.5% _b	10.1%
— Narrow mouth (yellow) jars difficult to wash using hands and detergents	73.5% _a	95.9% _b	86.7%
How households pour drinking water to glasses and other small containers for drinking/washing			
— Immersing the small can/glass directly to the water storage jar/pot	3.4% _a	3.5% _a	3.5%
— Bending the water storage jar/pot down and pouring to the small can/container	62.0% _a	95.3% _b	81.6%
— The water storage jar/pot has a kind of tape to open & pour the water to the small can/container	34.6% _a	1.2% _b	15.0%
Percent of households who believe that the water they use is safe for drinking	84.9% _a	68.9% _b	75.5%
Reasons that make the water unsafe for drinking			

	East Belesa	West Belesa	Total
— The water source often gets broken and not maintained soon	37.7% _a	60.8% _b	55.0%
— It is far and sometimes difficult to walk to the water point during a rainy time,	17.0% _a	3.8% _b	7.1%
— We use unprotected water source during the rainy season	22.6% _a	8.2% _b	11.8%
— Water supply is not sufficient to satisfy the community	22.6% _a	27.2% _a	26.1%
Percent of households who believe the importance of treating drinking water before use	90.8% _a	98.0% _b	95.1%
How frequent households treat drinking water before use			
— always	14.2% _a	9.4% _b	11.4%
— Rarely	44.4% _a	75.9% _b	62.9%
— Never	41.3% _a	14.7% _b	25.7%
Methods used most of the time to treat drinking water			
— Boiling and cooling before drinking	12.9% _a	9.4% _a	10.6%
— Using water treatment tablets/chemicals like aqua tabs	48.3% _a	83.9% _b	72.4%
— Using water filter materials/equipment	33.0% _a	6.2% _b	14.9%
— Pouring on clean clothes/straining on clean cloth	5.7% _a	0.5% _b	2.2%
Reasons for not treating the water used for drinking			
— Lack of skill on how to treat water	73.7% _a	43.6% _b	56.0%
— We do not know the importance of treating drinking water	18.4% _a	24.7% _b	22.1%
— We do not like the taste of treated water	7.5% _a	2.3% _b	4.5%
— The treatment method is not affordable	3.9% _a	23.5% _b	15.4%
— The treatment is time-consuming	1.7% _a	9.6% _b	6.3%

TABLE 20: KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE OF HOUSEHOLDS TOWARDS FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION, CHILD MARRIAGE, HTPS AND VIOLENCE BY WOREDA, HEADSHIP, AND DISABILITY STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, DECEMBER 2020

	Woreda		Headship		Disability status		End-line Total	Baseline Total
	East Beles a	West Beles a	MHH	FHH	Disabled	Able-bodied		
Households who believe that female circumcision is a common practice in their community	4.2% _a	5.1% _a	4.6% _a	4.9% _a	2.2% _a	5.0% _a	4.7%	
Households who believe that female genital mutilation is a harmful practice, and that it affects the lives of women/girls	89.1% _a	97.7% _b	96.0% _a	91.8% _b	95.6% _a	94.0% _a	94.1%	77%
Percentage of households who disagree continuation of the culture of female genital mutilation	91.3% _a	98.3% _b	94.4% _a	96.7% _b	95.6% _a	95.4% _b	95.4%	
Households whose youngest daughter is circumcised	8.8% _a	2.7% _b	5.9% _a	3.7% _a	9.8% _a	4.5% _a	5.0%	25%
Households who reported that early marriage (marriage under 18 years of age) a common practice in their community	28.5% _a	31.3% _a	29.5% _a	30.9% _a	40.0% _a	29.0% _b	30.1%	
Households who have heard an early marriage (marriage under 18 years of age) arranged in their community during the past year	19.6% _a	31.1% _b	23.9% _a	29.4% _a	31.1% _a	25.8% _a	26.4%	

	Woreda		Headship		Disability status		End-line Total	Baseline Total
	East Beles ^a	West Beles ^a	MHH	FHH	Disabled	Able-bodied		
Households who believe that early marriage (marriage under 18 years of age) is a harmful practice, and that it affects the lives of girl	92.5% ^a	99.2% ^b	96.9% ^a	95.9% ^a	95.6% ^a	96.5% ^a	96.4%	62%
Percentage of households who disagree continuation of the culture of early marriage (marriage under 18 years)	90.0% ^a	96.9% ^b	94.6% ^a	93.3% ^a	90.0% ^a	94.4% ^b	94.0%	
Households who facilitated (arranged) early marriage in their family during the past year	11.5% ^a	2.9% ^b	5.8% ^a	7.2% ^a	5.6% ^a	6.5% ^a	6.4%	20%
Weighted average of prevalence of CM and FGM	10.2%	2.8%	5.9%	5.5%	7.7%	5.5%	5.7%	
Percentage of households who reported prevalence of HTPs and GBVs in their community								
— Rape	7.3% ^a	2.2% ^b	6.0% ^a	2.1% ^b	4.4% ^a	4.2% ^a	4%	
— Abduction	3.6% ^a	1.6% ^a	2.5% ^a	2.3% ^a	4.4% ^a	2.2% ^a	2%	
— Sexual harassment/abuse	28.8% ^a	17.4% ^b	20.4% ^a	24.2% ^a	26.7% ^a	21.6% ^a	22%	67%
— Beating by a husband	34.1% ^a	32.3% ^a	32.8% ^a	33.2% ^a	30.0% ^a	33.4% ^a	33%	72%
— Beating by other men and boys	14.2% ^a	32.7% ^b	24.3% ^a	26.0% ^a	25.6% ^a	25.0% ^a	25%	
— Insult by a husband	28.5% ^a	47.2% ^b	38.7% ^a	40.5% ^a	33.3% ^a	40.2% ^a	40%	
— Insult by other men and boys	16.5% ^a	9.2% ^b	10.8% ^a	13.9% ^a	18.9% ^a	11.4% ^b	12%	
— Widow inheritance	1.7% ^a	1.4% ^a	1.0% ^a	2.1% ^a	2.2% ^a	1.4% ^a	2%	
— Having mistress	86.6% ^a	75.1% ^b	76.5% ^a	84.0% ^b	78.9% ^a	80.0% ^a	80%	
Weighted average of the prevalence of physical violence and sexual harassment in households	25.7%	27.5%	25.8%	27.8%	27.4%	26.7%	26.7%	69%
Percentage of households who consider the community effort to fight the HTPs and GBVs as satisfactory	74.9% ^a	67.9% ^b	76.3% ^a	63.9% ^b	67.8% ^a	71.1% ^a	71%	

TABLE 21: TIME SPEND ON DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES BY WOREDA, HEADSHIP, AND DISABILITY STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, DECEMBER 2020

	Woreda		Headship		Disability		Total
	East Belesa	West Belesa	MHH	FHH	Disabled	Able bodied	
Average hours per day women spend on domestic activities	8.9 ^a	12.3 ^b	10.8 ^a	11.0 ^a	9.3 ^a	11.1 ^b	10.9
Average hours per day girls spend on domestic activities	5.2 ^a	6.4 ^b	6.1 ^a	5.7 ^a	5.8 ^a	5.9 ^a	5.9
Women's engagement in household chore							
— Less than 8 hours	22.0% ^a	18.9% ^a	21.2% ^a	18.9% ^a	18.3% ^a	36.0% ^b	20.1%
— 8-10 hours	46.8% ^a	13.2% ^b	28.7% ^a	24.8% ^a	27.1% ^a	25.8% ^a	27.0%
— More than 10 hours	31.3% ^a	68.0% ^b	50.1% ^a	56.3% ^a	54.6% ^a	38.2% ^b	52.9%
— Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Girl's engagement in household chore							
— Less than 8 hours	73.4% ^a	61.0% ^b	64.5% ^a	68.1% ^a	65.1% ^a	74.2% ^a	66.1%
— 8-10 hours	18.4% ^a	22.8% ^a	24.1% ^a	17.1% ^b	21.8% ^a	13.5% ^a	21.0%

— More than 10 hours	8.2% ^a	16.2% ^b	11.4% ^a	14.8% ^a	13.0% ^a	12.4% ^a	12.9%
— Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Women engaged less than 8-10 hours in household chore	68.8%	32.1%	49.9%	43.7%	45.4%	61.8%	47.1%
Girls engaged less than 8-10 hours in household chore	91.8%	83.8%	88.6%	85.2%	86.9%	87.7%	87.1%
Weighted average of women and girls engaged less than 8-10 hours in household chore	80.3%	58.0%	69.3%	64.5%	66.2%	74.8%	67.1%

TABLE 22: WOMEN, GIRLS, MEN AND BOYS INVOLVMENT IN DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES BY WOREDA, DECEMBER 2020

		East Belesa	West Belesa	Total	Baseline
Fetching water	Women	98.6%	95.3%	96.6%	75%
	Girls	76.8%	75.4%	76.0%	
	Men	57.0%	30.0%	40.3%	25%
	Boys	63.6%	45.3%	52.3%	
Fire wood collection	Women	96.6%	85.3%	90.0%	67%
	Girls	73.8%	74.4%	74.2%	
	Men	65.3%	54.5%	58.8%	22%
	Boys	69.5%	64.6%	66.5%	
Meal preparation and washing dishes	Women	98.3%	96.3%	97.1%	100%
	Girls	73.5%	71.3%	72.2%	
	Men	29.0%	23.0%	25.3%	0%
	Boys	26.6%	27.4%	27.1%	
Cleaning the house and compound	Women	98.6%	95.9%	97.0%	-
	Girls	74.7%	73.3%	73.9%	
	Men	40.5%	42.4%	41.7%	-
	Boys	43.5%	47.5%	45.9%	
Cleaning animal barns Women	Women	91.8%	85.4%	88.0%	-
	Girls	72.7%	68.3%	70.1%	
	Men	44.3%	53.4%	49.9%	-
	Boys	49.2%	53.5%	51.8%	
Washing, drying, and mending clothes	Women	98.6%	95.7%	96.9%	80%
	Girls	73.7%	68.1%	70.4%	
	Men	66.1%	45.7%	53.9%	20%
	Boys	63.5%	46.8%	53.6%	
Child care	Women	88.5%	95.5%	92.6%	-
	Girls	68.9%	67.2%	67.9%	
	Men	51.6%	58.2%	55.5%	-
	Boys	47.7%	43.0%	44.9%	

D. CARE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION OF THE MID TERM REVIEW

Recommendation of the MTR	Level of acceptance by CARE management 1. Fully 2. Partially 3. Not accepted	organization/ department/ person responsible for the implementation of the recommendation	Current status of addressing the management response	Remarks
1. Irrigation scheme development- Some are in progress and sites are selected for the rest. PSC has accomplished its task	1	CARE	Fully addressed/achieved	From the progress report and observations made at field level, the rehabilitation work of four irrigation schemes is completed. From the total rehabilitated irrigation schemes, two of the schemes in East Belessa start providing services, and community members started working their farmlands. However, 2 of the rehabilitated irrigation schemes in West Belessa are not yet started work due to the completion of the rehabilitation works after rain harvesting time. Some activities are also ongoing in Hota irrigation scheme, i.e., cleaning the siltation from the canals in which the district government shared the role with the community through food for work aid approach of the government as per the agreement and will be completed by end of March 2021.
2. Focus on income of community groups- The lead player in alternative income generating activity is government. Identification of marginalized groups, provision of relevant business and entrepreneurship trainings, allowing trained marginalized groups to commence off-farm IGA that are linked with watershed areas, micro-credit institutions including saving and credit associations and formal micro finance institutions and work place are in the hands of the government while CARE can provide financial supports for the training, follow up and supervision/coaching. Government should also allow better land use policy and participatory forest management practices where the local community in general and marginalized community groups in particular become active participants in the NRM activities and take the lion share of the benefits accrued from NRM activities.	2	Government/ Woreda	Fully addressed/achieved	<p>The project addressed this management response in the following approaches.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In collaboration with government and project, the project enabled to organize women including female headed households, persons with disabilities, etc in village level saving and loan associations called VSLA with a total of 2,132 active members (516 are female headed households and 102 are persons with disabilities). We realized that the members were more before, but due to various reasons like change of residents (woreda, kebele), etc. these numbers reduced. These VSLAs able to mobilize and save more than ETB 1.2 million. Also all 2,132 including 516 female headed households and 102 persons with disabilities members took loans worth more than ETB 1.1 million. These VSLA members who took loans engaging in various income generating activities like petty trading, poultry and sheep fattening and rearing, etc, through which they could increase their income. 2. By learning from the project, the women and children affairs offices initiated and established 133 VSLA groups with 2,561 self-interested women, including female headed households and other marginalized groups. These self-initiated groups mobilized and saved more than ETB 450,000 (\$12,910). These group have the plan to start providing loans to its members, in turn enable them to engage in various income generating activities. 3. With the support and collaboration, the project also supported and enabled a total of 34 (22 female) persons with disabilities (pwds) to engage in various income generating activities. of them 6 (4 female) pwds trained on embroidering and engaging in individual business of embroidering; 2 PWD groups having 10 members (6 female) established, supported and engaging in group business-providing shower and toilet services to the public; 4 (all male) PWDs also supported and

Recommendation of the MTR	Level of acceptance by CARE management 1. Fully 2. Partially 3. Not accepted	organization/ department/ person responsible for the implementation of the recommendation	Current status of addressing the management response	Remarks
				<p>engaged in shoe shining; 3 groups with 13 members (12 female) PWDs engaged in promotion and sale of household water filtration kits; and 1 (female) PWDs in printing and photocopy services.</p> <p>4. Also, the project trained 33 unemployed female graduates on business and entrepreneurship skills, of them 17 start business by securing a workplace and license for their small enterprise from government. They formed 4 small enterprises, of them two business groups (1 per woreda) with 10 members opened small restaurant, 1 group with 4 members engaged in the supply of construction materials and spare parts; and the other group with 3 engaged in sheep fattening.; 3 of the trained graduates are currently employed in the government sector; and the remaining 7 trained female graduates have opened private business by taking loan from micro finance.</p> <p>5. A total of 15 female unemployed graduates were also enrolled in internships with the project support. After the internship, 6 of them have secured employment positions from various organizations both governmental and NGOs.</p> <p>6. With the support from the project ad government a total of 110 women are engaged in producing and selling energy-saving stoves and sanitation products like latrine slabs.</p>
<p>3. VSLA approach needs to have clear and shared direction – CARE needs to work with Woreda cooperative offices at local level. It shall also involve women in VSLAs in the consultative process because it is partly empowerment and partly the decision shall be left for them. This consultative processes will lead to a choice of VSLAs, all or part of them depending on their interest and local context, to become an independent women-led rural saving and credit cooperative, continue the VSLA as an informal women-managed socio-economic association or advance the VLSA members into a membership of existing rural saving and credit cooperatives that are legally registered at district levels. This choice gives a clear direction for investing on VSLA approach.</p>	2	CARE	Partially addressed	<p>In collaboration with the project steering committees, CARE organized and facilitated several forums with cooperative agency and other MFIs about the VSLAs to gain legal entity. Accordingly, consensus has been reached with the regional Cooperative promotion agency to help women VSLAS organize into rural saving and Credit Association (RUSACO). Also, CARE facilitated in collaboration with woreda women office & cooperative agency a training for 38 women VSLA management members on rural saving and Credit Association (RUSACO) legal frame work. As a result, 6 VSLAs are legally registered and legalized to a woman led RUSACOs. The district women affairs offices and cooperative offices are continuing organizing VSLA's in RUSACO.</p>

Recommendation of the MTR	Level of acceptance by CARE management 1. Fully 2. Partially 3. Not accepted	organization/ department/ person responsible for the implementation of the recommendation	Current status of addressing the management response	Remarks
4. Assisting the legalization of WASHCO and formal handover of water supplies to WASHCos - some are already registered, there is no problem of direction but a gap in empowering each WASHCO and facilitating their legalization processes	1	CARE	Fully addressed/achieved	The project provided capacity building training on the WASHCO legalization process and certification at Zone and woreda levels. As a result, the government in collaboration with CARE legalized a total of 337 (98.5% of the constructed/rehabilitated water supply schemes) WASHCos, and the government is on process to legalize the remaining 5 WASHCos (4 dams and 1 water supply schemes). By learning from the experiences of SWEEP project on the importance of legalizing water supply schemes, the government started scale up initiatives in legalizing WASHCOs, and they legalized 24 WASHCOs.
5. Ensure genuine citizens' participation, good governance and accountability, more efforts are needed – CARE would intensify government capacity building support component of the project. While doing so, it can systematically focus on agendas such as citizens' participation, engaging FHH and PWDs as marginalized groups that need attention, good governance and accountability. This approach gradually leads to government-community engagement in constructive dialogues, contract development (though would be informal) and accountability. East Belesa Woreda deserves priority.	2	CARE and government/woreda	Fully addressed/achieved	<p>Community score card approach is designed and implemented among five government offices in order to ensure accountability and transparency among duty bearers and users. In doing this, 26 woreda government staff trained on CSC facilitation and implementation. The trained woreda government staffs sensitized a total of 2,437 (759 female) people on CSC as accountability tool for duty bearers and rights holders. These sessions enhanced the understanding of the communities on the principles of accountability, on the obligations and mandates of duty bearers and service providers, and on the objectives of the action plans developed and agreed mutually. In each woreda, 5 government offices applied CSC such as offices of Water resource development; Women and child affairs; Health; Finance and economic corporation; Social Affairs, and Agriculture.</p> <p>30 SAA groups established with more than 800 members. The established 30 SAA groups (15 per woreda) conducted a total of 643 SAA sessions, with 3,993 (2,033 female; 162 female headed households and 133 persons with disabilities) participants.</p> <p>The Learning and Practice Alliance (LPA) established and functioned in collaboration with University of Gondar (UoG), member organizations from government offices and NGOs representatives. The LPA members conducted studies on women empowerment, integrated watershed management and irrigation system improvement and shared with relevant stake holders for further learning. In the process a total of 194 (66 female) persons participated.</p> <p>22 community review and reflection meeting sessions took place in, and hence large community meetings arranged and conducted with kebele representatives, beneficiaries of the various project activities and other community members with a total participants of 3,723 (2,029 female; 9 persons with disabilities). Also, 20 cluster level quarterly community representative review meetings were conducted with 185 (54 females; 3 persons with disabilities) people participated A total of 14 joint monitoring visits with 73 (17 females) Woreda steering committee members were conducted. Furthermore, 3 joint</p>

Recommendation of the MTR	Level of acceptance by CARE management 1. Fully 2. Partially 3. Not accepted	organization/ department/ person responsible for the implementation of the recommendation	Current status of addressing the management response	Remarks
				<p>monitoring visit with 16 (3 female) zone steering committee members was conducted. Besides, a total of 4 annual joint monitoring field visits and review meetings have been conducted by regional steering committee members and a total of 47 (8 female) and 38 (4 female) members participated. All these contributed and bring changes as clearly shown in the final evaluation report of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficiaries who have meaningfully participated in formal (government-led) and informal (civil society-led, private sector-led) decision-making spaces increased to 94% from 30% Beneficiaries whose level of satisfaction for government service provision improved to 45% from 6% Beneficiaries who report that government (Woreda) took their requests into consideration increased to 94% from 25%
<p>6. Women's representation in the leadership of local committees should gradually ensure their improved decision making power at community level. The remaining work is generating evidences on the issues raised and decision passed by sex (gender) and disability. CARE can systematically introduce recording such things in the minute books and proceedings of local committees. It is all about training and producing a model minute/proceeding</p>	1	CARE	Fully addressed/achieved	<p>The project critically addressed and documented this management responses perfectly. The final evaluation report clearly stipulated and showed that the decision making power and power relationships of women in resources, incomes and expenditures increased. The evaluation showed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> rural women holding a leadership position in local committees in targeted Kebeles increased to 52% from 0.002% Rural women who can equally participate in major income and expenditure decisions in the household increased to 51% from 11% Attitude/perception of communities towards women's ability to hold and play a leadership role in targeted Kebeles improved to 93% from 56%. <p>The process and achievements are well organized, documented and shared in case stories, lessons learnt, audio and videos.</p>
<p>7. Strengthen watershed management by appropriate land use rights to ensure ownership by the local community, participatory forest management techniques and integrated natural resource conservation strategies such as value chain development. – The government should ensure land ownership rights for communities to benefit from the various interventions including off-farm activities on the delineated and protected watershed areas.</p>	1	Government	Fully addressed/achieved	<p>In collaboration with government, CARE trained and capacitated 136 woreda and kebele cabinets and 144 watershed committees on participatory integrated watershed management. The project conducted performance assessment on previously intervened NRM works and generated corrective recommendation for future implementation. Pilot research being conducted in two watersheds in partnership with BD University and preliminary finding disclosed and documented.</p> <p>CARE informed the government to act against the findings and link developed watersheds with IGAs with standard value chain.</p> <p>CARE also started discussion with regional PSC and Agriculture bureau (NRM directorate) on the ownership and rights of the community on the established watersheds.</p>

Recommendation of the MTR	Level of acceptance by CARE management 1. Fully 2. Partially 3. Not accepted	organization/ department/ person responsible for the implementation of the recommendation	Current status of addressing the management response	Remarks
				We have observed that there is behavioural improvement by watershed users to use natural resources of the delineated watershed areas in accordance with the bylaws constructed by watershed committees.
8. Road development is not satisfactory in West Belesa- Road development and other basic service provision are not in the hands of CARE but Government	2	Government	Not Addressed	Using the CSC tools, the communities raised and discussed with district government officials and the government officials accepted the problem (need for the road), but beyond the capacity of the district government. Instead regional government authorities is responsible. The district government officials will continue advocating the problem.
9. Improve men's engagement in household chores-As many women empowerment and gender equality trainings disproportionately focus on women only, there is a tendency to further burden women by motivating them to engage in outdoor productive and community activities without equally empowering men to assist in household chores. Hence, CARE shall consider men's engagement for s true and sustainable women empowerment and gender equality in the area. Tailored gender equality trainings are necessary for men too.	2	CARE	Fully addressed/achieved	The project addressed those management responses in many ways. Using the established and ongoing SAA sessions, from the total 834 SAA participants, 414 (almost 50%) are males. Throughout the project period, the SAA groups conducted a total of 643 SAA sessions with 3,993 participants discussing identified issues. Among the many issues they discussed unequal division of labour between male and female which brought behavioural changes among male who started sharing household chores. This is clearly documented and shared in final evaluation report, audio and video, learning briefs, etc.
10. PWDs and FHH are relatively less considered in the government decision making process. – Through the focus and limit of the project is to increase the participation and engagement of groups in three committees such as WASHCos, watershed/NRM and irrigation scheme committees, the project can further advocate on such cross-cutting issues and ensure the participation and decision making power of community groups.	1	Government/woreda	Fully addressed/achieved	The project addressed this management response and showed clearly how inclusiveness is possible for other development actors. The project considered marginalized/ population like PWDs and female headed households as targets for the provided services. From the total people who benefited from the project, more than 3,038 (2% of the total beneficiaries) are persons with disabilities. A total of 16,775 (9% of the total beneficiaries) are FHHs. This clearly stipulated the inclusiveness of the project. PWDs and FHHs also participated and hold leadership positions in SAA facilitation, VSLA management, etc. All this will help or motivate governments to consider the inclusiveness of marginalized groups like PWDs and FHHs in every aspects including their participation and engagement in the decision making process.
11. Future project development needs to consider Woreda towns in the safe water supply and VSLA	1	CARE	Fully addressed/achieved	Considering the recommendations, though it was accepted to address in future projects, the project addressed this management response in its current and existing SWEEP project. In consultation with each Woreda PSC, the project enabled Arbaya town (capital of West Belesa), Woreahla (rural town in West Belesa), Chamakorach (rural town in East Belesa and Digib (rural town in East Belesa) access safe water supply with solar powered technology.

Recommendation of the MTR	Level of acceptance by CARE management 1. Fully 2. Partially 3. Not accepted	organization/ department/ person responsible for the implementation of the recommendation	Current status of addressing the management response	Remarks
12. Integrate hygiene and sanitation in the safe water supply projects like SWEEP in the future- Some VSLAs have proved the possibility of integrating hygiene and sanitation with VSLA. Furthermore, safe water supply projects like SWEEP can easily integrate hygiene and sanitation education, toilet development and basic sanitation principles like hand washing.	1	CARE	Fully addressed/achieved	The project tried to work hygiene and sanitation works at community and institution (schools) levels in ten SWEEP intervention kebeles with the funding from government/CSO. The project benefited the communities in this kebeles by providing capacity building training to community government workers (HEWs, DAs, etc), promoting hygiene and sanitation works. As a result many households constructed and use household latrines, constructed water supply schemes and sanitation facilities in schools benefiting school girls and boys.
13. Include livestock as livelihood segment in the project area- The project interventions Woredas have big livestock potentials. Supported by tangible evidence at design stage, projects should harness such potentials in the future	3	CARE		NA & yet to be considered in follow up project
14. Introduction of improved, drought resistance and short-reaping crop/fruit seeds- Considering the rainfall problems of the area, introducing such fruit and crop seeds will significantly assist the farmers to ensure their food security. As this is a new approach/thinking, CARE can introduce it and pilot the feasibility so that government and the local community will take over the system in due course.	3	CARE		NA and yet to be considered in follow up project

E. RESULTS-ASSESSMENT FORM

Title of project/programme (please, spell out): SWEEP-Water for Food Security, Women's Empowerment and Environmental Protection Project in East and West Belesa Woredas of Central Gondar Zone, Amhara Regional State			
Contract Period of project/programme: 01.10.2017-28.2.2021			
ADC number of project/programme: GZ: 2825-00/2017/GenPro/2-L&R/2017			
Name of the project/programme partner: CARE			
Country and Region of project/programme: Amhara, Ethiopia			
The budget for this project/programme: EUR 3.041,979.77			
Name of evaluation company (spell out) and names of evaluators: Company Name: ABAMELA Business PLC Names of evaluators: 1) Dr TilahunGirma 2) Mr. Asnake Shewangizaw 3) Mr Gashaw Kebede 4) Mrs Blen Adugnaw			
Date of completion of evaluation/review: March 05/2021			
Please tick the appropriate box:			
a) Evaluation/review managed by ADA/ADC Coordination Office			<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Evaluation managed by project partner:			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please tick the appropriate box:			
a) Mid-Term Evaluation	b) Final Evaluation	c) Mid-Term Review	d) Final Review
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others: please, specify:			
Project Outcome (Please, include as stated in the Logframe Matrix):			
Outcome 1: Improved access to water resources for domestic consumption and productive use and enhanced and sustainable productivity of land for varied uses			
Outcome 2: Marginalised groups empowered to contribute productively in the household and community			
Outcome 3: Local government capacitated and community empowered to initiate and lead community development and adaptive measures			
For Final Evaluation/Review²³: Project Outcome: To what extent has the project already achieved its outcome(s) according to the Logframe Matrix? Please, tick the appropriate box			
Outcome(s) was/were:			
Outcome 1: Improved access to water resources for domestic consumption and productive use and enhanced and sustainable land productivity for varied uses.			
Outcome 2: Marginalised groups empowered to contribute productively in the household and community.			
Outcome 3: Local government capacitated and community empowered to initiate and lead community development and adaptive measures.			
Fully achieved: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Almost achieved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Partially achieved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Not achieved: <input type="checkbox"/>
Please, also explain your assessment: What exactly was achieved and why? If not achieved, why not? (Please, consider a description of outcome and relevant indicators)			
<i>The final evaluation assessment result of the final evaluation indicates that all the above three desired outcome level results are achieved as intended as presented below the achievements with target indicators under each outcome.</i>			

²³ Please, only fill in in case this is a final project evaluation/review.

Outcome 1: Improved access to water resources for domestic consumption and productive use and enhanced and sustainable productivity of land for varied uses

- Access to safe water supply for domestic and productive uses in the targeted Woredas reached 55% compared to 46% of the target; access to safe water supply for domestic and productive uses in the intervention kebeles reached 75%²⁴ compared to 80% of the target, and women and girls who spend 8-10 hours/day or less on domestic work in targeted kebeles reached 67% compared to 44% of the target.

Outcome 2: Marginalised groups empowered to contribute productively in the household and community

- The income of marginalised beneficiaries in targeted Kebeles reached ETB 29,021 compared to ETB 4,420 of the target; marginalised rural women holding a leadership position in local committees in targeted Kebeles reached 52% compared to 50% of the target; rural women who can equally participate in major income and expenditure decisions in the household reached 51% compared to 41% of the target, and attitude/perception in communities towards women's ability to hold and play a leadership role in targeted Kebeles improved to 93% compared to 83% of the target.

Outcome 3: Local government capacitated and community empowered to initiate and lead community development and adaptive measures.

- Beneficiaries who have meaningfully participated in formal (government-led) and informal (civil society-led, private sector-led) decision-making spaces reached 94% compared to 55% of the target; beneficiaries whose level of satisfaction for government service provision improved to 45% compared to 26% of the target; and beneficiaries who report that government (Woreda) took their requests into consideration reached 94% compared to 50% of the target.

For Mid-Term Evaluation/Review²⁵: Project Outcome (s): To what extent do you think the project will most likely achieve its outcome(s) according to the Logframe Matrix Please, tick the appropriate box

Outcome(s) will most likely be:

Fully achieved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Almost achieved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Partially achieved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Not achieved: <input type="checkbox"/>
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Please, also explain your assessment: (Please, consider a description of outcome and relevant indicators)

Project Outputs: To what extent has the project already achieved its outputs²⁶ according to the Logframe Matrix? Please, tick appropriate boxes

Output 1 (Please, include as stated in the Logframe Matrix):

Output 1 was: Water supply schemes fully functional and accessible to the community

Fully achieved: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Almost achieved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Partially achieved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Not achieved: <input type="checkbox"/>
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Please, explain your assessment: (Please, consider the description of output and relevant indicators)

- A total of 134 new water points constructed with various technology options (solar power-driven, HDWs, SWs, SDDs, dams, etc.), constituted 142.6% of the target; a total of 108 non-functional water supply schemes with different technology types rehabilitated and made functional, constituted 113% of the plan; and a total of 2,469 household water filtration kits distributed to households, constituted 164.6% of the target. Under this output, a total of 119,794 (57,732 female) persons benefited, constituted 165% of the target.

Output 2 (Please, include as stated in the Logframe Matrix):

Output 2 was: Irrigation systems improved and fully-functional

Fully achieved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Almost achieved: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Partially achieved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Not achieved: <input type="checkbox"/>
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Please, explain your assessment: (Please, consider the description of output and relevant indicators)

- A total of 4 irrigation schemes constructed/rehabilitated by the project. The project complemented all activities as agreed with PSC; however, an activity, i.e., removing siltation from the canal in Hota irrigation, remain. For

²⁴Final water inventor result. As per the recommendations of the MTE, the project increased additional intervention kebeles, towns, which makes all the intervention kebeles 23. Accordingly water supply schemes with solar systems constructed/expanded to Arbaya (district town), Worehela (rural town) and Chamakorh (rural town). This contributed to the achievements a bit behind the target.

²⁵Please, only fill in in case this is a mid-term evaluation/review.

²⁶ In case there are more than three outputs, please, add them.

this, we ensured the District Administration office and Agriculture office shared and took the role of removing sediments in the canal by mobilising the community through work for food modality till the end of March 2021. The government ensured and planned to execute the activity as per the schedule, and the irrigation scheme will be ready for the upcoming harvesting season. A total of 133.7 hectares of land irrigated from two rehabilitated irrigation schemes in East Belessa, constituted 121.5% of the target. Two irrigation schemes didn't start work since the rehabilitation works are completed after the rainy season. When the remaining two irrigation schemes start work, the total irrigable lands will be 329.7 hectares, constituted 299.7% of the target. Under this output, a total of 5,935 (2,842 female) people will be benefited in the coming harvesting season since all four irrigations will start work/functional, constituted 148% of the target.

Output 3 (Please, include as stated in the Logframe Matrix):

Output 3 was: Natural environment around watersheds developed and protected

Fully achieved: ✓	Almost achieved:	Partially achieved:	Not achieved:
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Please, explain your assessment: (Please, consider the description of output and relevant indicators)

- A total of 12 new watersheds established, and development works such as physical conservation works, biological measures and protection measures from free grazing and firewood collection; and area in the watersheds initiated, of which two piloted watersheds are planned to work with Bahir Dar University, constituted 100% of the target. Supports were also provided to 8 existed watersheds. It was planned to protect a total of 1,200 hectares of land with the initiated development of subjected to physical conservation works, biological measures and protection measures from free grazing and firewood collection in 12 watersheds. However, the project protected 2,200.69 hectares of land, which constituted 183% of the target. Also, 280.3 hectares of land in previously constructed supported watersheds) were subjected to physical conservation works, biological measures and protection measures from free grazing and firewood collection, making protected land ✓2,481.08 hectares in total. Also, 12 watershed committee members established, and 144 (12 per watershed) committee members trained, and hence managing and protecting land around watersheds in the targeted kebeles, constituted 100% of the target. Under this output, a total of 55,990 (24,583 female) people benefited, constituted 112% of the target.

Output 4 (Please, include as stated in the Logframe Matrix):

Output 4 was: Capacity developed within the community to manage and operate water resource systems sustainably

Fully achieved:	Almost achieved: ✓	Partially achieved:	Not achieved:
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Please, explain your assessment: (Please, consider the description of output and relevant indicators)

- A total of 337 WASH Committees legalised who can manage and operate water resource systems in targeted kebeles, constituted 121% of the target; and 98.5% of the constructed and rehabilitated water supply schemes for domestic and productive use. By learning from the project, the government also initiated WASHCo legalisations for the water supply schemes constructed /rehabilitated schemes, and they legalised 24 WASHCOs. Also, 93 irrigation management committee members (constituted 93% of the target) were trained and capacitated to operate efficiently in targeted kebeles. Under this output, a total of 3,932 (1,813 female) persons benefited, constituted 189% of the target.

Output 5 (Please, include as stated in the Logframe Matrix):

Output 5 was: Marginalised groups engaged in income-generating activities

Fully achieved: ✓	Almost achieved:	Partially achieved:	Not achieved:
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Please, explain your assessment: (Please, consider description of output and relevant indicators)

- A total of 2, 3427 Village saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs) established and functioning in targeted Kebeles, constituted 468% of the target. From the total VSLAs, 101 VSLAs are established and functioning with full support from the project, constituted 202% of the target; and the remaining 133 VSLAs are government supported and self-initiated and functioning VSLAs with minimum support from the project. A total of 2,20828 marginalised individuals trained and have the relevant business skills and capacity to generate savings in the

²⁷From the total VSLAs, established and functioning in the targeted kebeles,101 VSLA with project support and 133 self-initiated/scaled-up VSLA groups with minimum support by the project

²⁸2132 VSLA groups, and 34 PWDs, 15 interns, and 27 female entrepreneurs

targeted kebeles, constituted 220% of the target. Under this output, a total of 2,685 (1,756 female) persons benefited, constituted 205% of the target.

Output 6 (Please, include as stated in the Logframe Matrix):

Output 6 was: Community engaged to challenge existing gender roles and expand the role of women and girls

Fully achieved: ✓	Almost achieved:	Partially achieved:	Not achieved:
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Please, explain your assessment: (Please, consider the description of output and relevant indicators)

- A total of 2,528 marginalised rural women and girls have the capacity to negotiate and communicate their needs and rights, constituted 252.8% of the target; 5 discriminatory social norms and practices addressed by SAA action plans, constituted 100% of the target; and 38 districts/woreda government female staff trained and have the capacity to identify discriminatory social norms and barriers, constituted 95% of the target. Under this output, a total of 3,993 (2,033 female) persons benefited, constituted 106% of the target.

Output 7 (Please, include as stated in the Logframe Matrix):

Output 7 was: Increased capacity for joint learning

Fully achieved: ✓	Almost achieved:	Partially achieved:	Not achieved:
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Please, explain your assessment: (Please, consider description of output and relevant indicators)

- A total of 3 regional peer learning workshop conducted, constituted 150% of the target. The purposes of the workshops were to validate and shared learnings of the various surveys and assessments conducted to stakeholders at all levels. The planned Learning and Practice Alliance (LPA) was established and functioned in collaboration with University of Gondar (UoG), member organisations from government offices (of water, energy and irrigation; women and children affairs; agriculture and food security; health; education and administration) at zone and woreda level, and NGO/ORDA representatives. The LPA members conducted studies on women empowerment, integrated watershed management and irrigation system improvement and shared with relevant stake holders for further learning. In the process a total of 194 persons participated and engaged in, constituted 388% of the target. Under this output, a total of 868 (380 female) persons benefited, constituted 384% of the target.

Output 8 (Please, include as stated in the Logframe Matrix):

Output 8 was: Increased capacity of local government to engage with community to address needs

Fully achieved: ✓	Almost achieved:	Partially achieved:	Not achieved:
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Please, explain your assessment: (Please, consider description of output and relevant indicators)

- A total of 10 woreda government offices (5 per woreda) applied the community score card (CSC), constituted 100% of the target. Throughout the project period, A total of 18 (9 per woreda) community action plans developed and implemented, constituted 120% of the target. Also, a total of 6 policy and communication materials on gender empowerment, water inventory, watersheds, inclusiveness, etc documented and disseminated for the wider stakeholders, constituted 100% of the target. Under this output, a total of 381 (141 female) persons benefited, constituted 136% of the target.

Impact/Beneficiaries:

How many women, men, girls, boys and people in total have already benefited from this project directly and indirectly? Please, explain

- A total of 193,578 people directly benefited from the project, constituted 144% of the target. More than 30,000 people are benefited indirectly from the capacity building and IGAs outputs of the project.

What exactly has already changed in the lives of women, men, girls, boys and/or institutions from this project?

Please, explain:

- Travel time to fetch water has greatly reduced, and thus women and girls are able to use their saved (extra) time for other productive household activities. The construction of the water facilities has also created easy access to water for persons with disabilities. Access to safe drinking water has also contributed to the prevention of water-borne disease and improvements in the local community's health. The income-generating activities through accessing internal lending have improved the income and livelihoods of the marginalised groups. Engaging the unemployed female university graduates in entrepreneur and intern, enabling persons with disability and women in the VSLA groups have socio-economically benefited from the project. The women

empowerment approach the project designed and implemented highly benefited women to participate and engage in local committees both in membership and leadership positions changed the perception and attitudes of the communities and among women themselves that 'women can't manage and lead development works. The project practically showed that women's can manage and lead like men do. The SAA approach the project implemented enabled practically women to decide mutually on household incomes and expenditure. The project also contributed in decreasing the practices of gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices through the SAA approach. The watershed interventions are undertaken by the project also contributed for the changes brought among communities on climate change adaptation. All these integrated outcomes enabled the marginalized households to secure food at least for 8 months, which was almost zero before the project.

Which positive and/or negative effects/impacts in terms of gender can be possibly be attributed to the project? Please, explain:

- The VSLA and SAA members and the leadership of their groups largely constitute women contributing to gender equality. The approaches have also contributed to the involvement of women in IGAs that improved marginalised women's livelihoods. The project has also improved the decision-making role of women at the household and local leader level.

If applicable, which institutions have benefitted from this project/programme and how?

- All the relevant sector offices in each district who have been involved in the project implementation, follow-up, and monitoring activities have taken lessons and experiences of project management systems. They learned appropriate ways of planning and addressing community concerns and issues through a participatory approach. The established project steering committees (PSC) at region, zone and woreda levels) from relevant sectors highly benefited government offices at all levels by showing the importance of coordination among development actors for efficiency and effectiveness of interventions and maximise impacts. From the review meetings and joint field monitoring visits conducted periodically, the PSC members learned the importance of reviewing the status of the planned activities and discuss with the beneficiaries at sits are crucial to improve performance, ensure transparency and accountability (good governance), etc, which they planned to use the learning in the respective sectors.
- The women and children affairs offices at all levels also highly benefited from the VSLA and SAA approaches the project employed in order to empower women economically and socially. From the VSLA approach, the offices leaned that the approach truly empowered women, mainly female headed households, economically, which is manifested by supporting and establishing additional 133 VSLA groups with a minimum support from the project. From the SAA approach, the offices are also learned and benefited that enabling the communities to discuss and sought solutions for a problem by themselves is important-they learned how the SAA approach contributed in addressing social norms and barriers affecting mainly women and girls socially, economically, psychologically, etc.
- Institutions working for persons with disability like social affairs office at all levels also highly benefited from the inclusiveness approach the project practically employed in each services of the project. The offices learned that, if there is commitments among service providers, nothing to do practically practice inclusiveness in any interventions. From the learning of the project CARE globally reviewed and adapted its Gender and Inclusive VSLA and SAA h guideline in 2021, and circulated globally for use in all CARE interventions (development and humanitarian) , also for other development actors.
- All development actors in the Region, mainly government offices at region, zone and woreda levels, like water offices, also learned and benefited from the technology the project introduced for safe water supply both for domestic and productive use-irrigations. The project introduced solar power driven water supply technology, which is the first in in its kind for the intervention woredas, and the government learned its benefits in providing sustainable water supply, ease of operation and management and costs, benefiting many people in one sources through pipelines, etc. as a result the government planned to expand the technology at all levels. From the introduced household water filtration kits to use treated water, for those communities don't have the option to access safe water from safe sources due to various reasons including geological formation or lack of underground water, etc, the communities and government offices (water, health, etc) learned and benefited on the availability of options.

Mainstreaming cross-cutting issues:**Gender: To what extent was gender mainstreaming included in the project? To what extent were the recommendations - if any- from the ADA internal gender-assessment considered and implemented?**

- *The project design, implementation and reporting have considered gender, disability and vulnerability status. Women representation as members of the VSLA were 100%, and their representation as members in the SAA groups and their involvements in leadership positions in both types of groups were above 50%. Gender equality-related problems, including sharing household chores among men and women and boys and girls, have reduced because of the SWEEP intervention. Informants told a limited drop out of girls from schools due to increased awareness about gender equality and hygiene and sanitation facilities in the project area. Despite these all positive and encouraging results, women and girls' tasks are still disproportionately allocated among men and women in the study areas' households. Thus, it has to be one of the local government's development agenda in the future to ensure that gender inequalities are substantially addressed and ensure access to, control and decision-making roles over resources at the household level, which leads them to better position and empowerments. Overall, the project activities on gender-related aspects as a crosscutting issue are numerous and deeply integrated with the entire project development interventions.*

Environment: To what extent was environmental mainstreaming included in the project? To what extent were the recommendations - if any- from the ADA internal environment-assessment considered and implemented?

- *Environmental and natural resource conservation are well mainstreamed in the project. The project had closely worked with the local government to establish and properly manage the watershed, raising nurseries and tree plantations campaigns. The project has conducted an environmental impact assessment (EIP) for the constructions, thereby environmental viability of its works before initiating constructions. Therefore, the project had mainstreamed environmental protection related activities sufficiently.*

Which positive and/or negative effects/impacts in terms of environment can be possibly be attributed to the project? Please, explain

- *Provision of trainings on soil and water conservation techniques and skills development on climate information had contributed to analyse of risks and mitigation of negative climate change impacts. Protection measures (physical, biological, etc) on more than 2,800 hectares of land on watershed areas were made that protected degraded land and improved the land use and plantation cover. The protection measures on watershed areas and plantation of seedlings over degraded lands have prevented the spread of gullies, protected the area from soil erosions, improved the restoration of the area and provided economic importance by involving people in fattening activities with the grass resources from the watershed developments. Furthermore, support for the community to produce and use more than 1,500 energy saving stoves highly contributed for decreasing deforestations and climate change. Also, the income improvements through establishments of VSLA and the facilitation of access to finance to engage in viable IGAs have contributed positively in reducing community dependency on natural resources for their livelihood.*

Social Standards:**To what extent were social inclusion / social impact considerations included in the project? To what extent were the recommendations – if any – from the ADA internal social standard assessment considered and implemented?**

- *The project had carefully considered all cross-cutting issues that it needs to address. Social inclusion as one of the cross-cutting issues were highly considered during the implementation and scaled up further. The project has purposely considered social inclusion of marginalized, PWD and FHH during planning and implementation activities.*

Which positive and/or negative effects / impacts in terms of social inclusion and equity can be possibly attributed to the project?

- *PWDs were involved and benefited from all the project development services. They are involved in VSLA and SAA groups, and engaged and economically benefited from IGAs. The participation of PWDs in SAA and VSLA groups and in other project activities have improved awareness on misperceptions of the local community towards PWDs. Because of the support of the project and regular group discussions, local communities are able to develop positive awareness and knowledge that, being PWD is not a curse, PWDs can do and support themselves economically and they can contribute to the development of the local community. In every services PWDs and FHHs are carefully targeted and benefited from the project. The project also provided supports for PWDs to engage in various IGAs, highly contributed in addressing the social and economic problems PWDs facing.*

Overall/Other Comments:

- *The project had implemented all planned activities and achieved desired results successfully and contributed to the realisation of aspired impacts. The management of the project were so participatory that involved all potential stakeholders closely and to the required level that contributed to ensure sustainability of the project. The project had achieved a remarkable result in terms of creating access to water, empowerments of marginalised women and local government and practices of environment and climate change mitigation measures. Overall, the project is assessed to be successful in delivering intended services and leading to the envisioned impacts in an effective, efficient and sustainable manner.*
- *The project tried to address the social and economic problems communities facing and brought changes on the lives of the communities in the intervention kebeles. However, the social, economic, political, etc problems in the intervention woredas are deep rooted and multifaceted. In the intervention woredas communities are found much marginalized d prone to and facing multifaceted problems, mainly marginalized groups like women, girls, female headed household, unemployed youths, persons with disabilities, etc. It is also learned that in the intervention woredas there is no other development actors/NGOs (there exist only one local NGo) and the capacity (financial, technical, etc) of the government in addressing these problems found weak. Therefore, it is highly suggested/recommended that impactful development projects like SWEEP project should be scale up and continue to serve the unserved communities in both intervention woredas, and beyond the woredas. To sustain the existing results of SWEEP project, it is recommend to extend the intervention for the next phase in SWEEP intervention kebeles in capacity building and system strengthening activities-WASH governance, Watershed management, irrigation schemes, VSLAs, SAA, institutions, etc.*
- *Interventions like water supply for both domestic and productive uses, women empowerment (social and economic), natural resource management, system strengthening of institutions through capacity building, and hygiene and sanitation are the suggested/recommended interventions for the next phase of SWEEP project (if any). It is also suggested to consider institutions (schools and health care facilities) for water supply and hygiene and sanitation activities, since the services are non-existent in almost all institutions.*

F. LIST OF PERSONS/ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED

Key Informants from E. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Office	Position in the organization	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Dilu Alebachew	M	Water (energy and irrigation) office	Coordinator	1 st Degree	34	No
2	Getnet lakew	M	Cooperative office	Saving and Loan Expert	1st Degree	32	No
3	Enaniye Nigatu	F	Women children and youth affairs office	Office Head	1st Degree	37	No
4	Birku Dejen	M	MSE/OSE (Job creation)	Job creation Team Leader	1st Degree	38	No
5	Misganaw Hailu	M	Agriculture and rural development office	Senior agricultural extension Expert	1st Degree	32	No

FGDs with Project Steering Committee in E. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	OFFICE	Level of Education	Position in the PSCs	Age	Disability
1	Azanaw Mesafint	M	Woreda Peace and Security Head	1 st Degree	Chairperson	29	No
2	Berihun Tadesse	M	Woreda Administration Had	1st Degree	Member	26	No
3	Fentahun Tadele	M	Education Office Head	1st Degree	Member	32	No
4	Tigist Abebaw	F	Communication Office Head	1st Degree	Member	40	No
5	Destaw Fentaw	M	Water Development Office Head	1st Degree	Member	34	No
6	Ayney Nigat	F	Women, Children and Youth Office head	1st Degree	Member	31	No

FGDs with SAA Chama Korach kebele in E. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Mesafint Abebe	M	Chairperson	10 th grade complete	25	No
2	Tedela Tesfaye	F	Facilitator	12 th grade complete	26	No
3	Yeshiwork Ashagre	F	Member	4 th grade complete	32	No
4	Tikuye Haile	F	Member	7 th grade complete	28	No
5	Marew Lekeyash	M	Facilitator	8 th grade complete	31	No
6	Yezig Asnakew	F	Member	5 th grade complete	28	No
7	Gashaye Kibire	M	Member	6 th grade complete	33	No

FGDs with VSLAs Chama Korach kebele in E. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Yeshiwork Genanaw	F	Chaiperson	9 TH grade complete	25	No
2	Gubaya Getaneh	F	Secretary	19 th grade complete	30	No
3	Belayneh Megbaru	F	casher	9 TH grade complete	21	No

4	Asefa Kassa	F	Keyholder	6 th grade complete	26	No
5	Tikuye Haile	F	Member	4 th grade complete	28	No
6	Enat Fekadu	F	Member	8 th grade complete	27	No
7	Mariye Addis	F	Member	6 th grade complete	23	No
8	Azmera Kerew	F	Member	6 th grade complete	29	No

FGDs with watershed management committee for Gabriel Watershed management Committee in E. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Ababu Gullat	M	Chairperson	10 th grade complete	28	No
2	Aregitu Tamire	F	Secretary	10 th grade complete	32	No
3	Mamo Hailu	M	Casher	6 th th grade complete	30	No
4	Aynalem Mere	F	keyholder	5 th grade complete	23	No
5	Adimo Desta	M	Member	12 th grade complete	26	Yes
6	Yenenet Abebe	F	Member	6 th grade complete	29	No
7	Tiwras Tefera	M	Member	6 th grade complete	35	No
8	Assefa Tsegaye	M	Member	10 th grade complete	40	No
9	Ale Zewdu	M	Member	6 th grade complete	31	No
10	Demeku Hulle	F	Member	6 th grade complete	26	No
11	Destaw Mola	M	□□□	12 th grade complete	24	No

FGDs with WASCHO in Dangora kebele in E. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Yirdaw Fantu	M	Chairperson	10 th grade complete	28	No
2	Sisay buziye	M	Secretary	10 th grade complete	32	No
3	Teshager Fenta	M	Casher	6 th th grade complete	30	No
4	Aregitu Baye	F	keyholder	5 th grade complete	23	No
5	Werkua Habite	F	Member	12 th grade complete	26	Yes
6	Dereje Adane	M	Member	6 th grade complete	29	No
7	Mulu Ayalew	F	Member	6 th grade complete	35	No

FGDs with watershed management committee Hamusit kebele in E. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Endalk Lijalem	M	Chairperson	9 th grade complete	25	No
2	Yalga Dereje	F	Secretary	10 th grade complete	30	No
3	Zeelaw Ayal	M	casher	9 th grade complete	21	No
4	Assefa Mamo	F	Keyholder	6 th grade complete	26	No
5	Fantaye Memire	F	Member	4 th grade complete	28	No
6	Habtam Desu	F	Member	8 th grade complete	27	No
7	Waga Nigatu	F	Member	6 th grade complete	23	No
8	Dereje Fente	M	Member	6 th grade complete	27	No
9	Tigabu Desu	M	Member	8 th grade complete	23	No
10	Getiye Mola	M	Member	4 th grade complete	24	No

11	Muhalef Akele	M	Member	4th grade complete	28	No
12	Lesse Tsega	F	Member	-----	27	No

FGDs with WASHCO in Tili Kebele in E. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Endayehu Kasse	F	Chairperson	10th grade complete	29	No
2	Mariye Tilahun	F	Deputy	10th grade complete	30	No
3	Destefe Menberu	M	Maintenance	8th grade complete	21	No
4	Mengiste Adege	M	member	6th grade complete	26	No
5	Mengesha Fantahun	M	member	4th grade complete	28	No
6	Yalemmebrat Weretaw	F	member	8th grade complete	23	No
7	Firke Desse	F	member	6th grade complete	23	No
8	Fentaw Mengistu	F	member	6th grade complete	26	No
9	Bayush Mola	F	member	8th grade complete	23	No
10	Tsehaynesh Lema	F	member	4th grade complete	24	no
11	Mekuanent Bayu	M	member	4TH grade complete	28	no

FGDs with women community members in Hamusit kebele in E. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Gbeya Mesele	F	Community Member	6th grade complete	36	no
2	Shewyu Kasse	F	Community Member	10th grade complete	30	no
3	Yeshimebet Genanaw	F	Community Member	8th grade complete	29	no
4	Sefer Adgo	F	Community Member	6th grade complete	26	no
5	Demis Asresse	F	Community Member	4th grade complete	28	no
6	Atenesh Mitiku	F	Community Member	8th grade complete	42	no
7	Tiringo Agmase	F	Community Member	6th grade complete	40	no
8	Chome Agegneu	F	Community Member	6th grade complete	26	no

FGD with men community members Bursan kebele in E. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Gedamu Agide	M	Community Member	4th grade complete	36	no
2	Mola Tegegn	M	Community Member	10th grade complete	30	no
3	Firew Fetene	M	Community Member	8th grade complete	29	no
4	Getu Agdew	M	Community Member	6th grade complete	26	no
5	Abiye Mekuria	M	Community Member	6th grade complete	28	no
6	Mitiku Fente	M	Community Member	8th grade complete	42	no
7	Tebeje Mengiste	M	Community Member	---	45	no

Key Informants from W. Belesa and Region

No	Name	Sex	Office	Position in the organization	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Getnet Mekuraw	M	Senior Water (energy and irrigation) expert	Coordinator	1st Degree	38	No
2	Derso Melkie	M	Cooperative office	Saving and Loan Expert	1st Degree	37	No
3	Senayit Abay	F	Women children and youth affairs office	Office Head	1st Degree	37	No
4	Betelhem Kassa	M	MSE/OSE(Job creation)	Job creation Team Leader	1st Degree	38	No
5	Abreham Dessie	M	Agriculture and rural development office	Senior agricultural extension Expert	1st Degree	38	No
6	Bahiru	M	CARE	Project Officer in CARE	1st Degree	36	No
7	Andualem Birhanu		Zone Agriculture	Head	1st Degree	37	No
8	Dr Tsegaw Teshome	M	BoFEC	Head	2nd Degree	41	No
9	Selamawit Abate	F	Women, children and youth Bureau	Deputy	1st Degree	39	No
10	Dr Mamaru Zewdie	M	Bureau of Water and irrigation	Head	1st Degree	40	No

FGDs with Men in Kali Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Legesse Meseret	M	Community Member	4th grade complete	40	no
2	Asmare Berhe	M	Community Member	8th grade complete	30	no
3	Eyew Sileshi	M	Community Member	6th grade complete	29	no
4	Minase Musie	M	Community Member	-----	41	no
5	Eyayew Adgo	M	Community Member	6th grade complete	28	no
6	Mulat Terefe	M	Community Member	-----	42	no
7	Belew Gobeze	M	Community Member	6th	27	no

FGDs with Men in Dequana Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Wasse Abay	M	Community Member	6th grade complete	29	no
2	Ezezew Tekle	M	Community Member	10th grade complete	30	no
3	Kssaye Desie	M	Community Member	6th grade complete	29	no
4	Getnet Tadesse	M	Community Member	6th grade complete	36	no
5	Mekuria Shimles	M	Community Member	6th grade complete	35	no
6	Taye Tirfe	M	Community Member	6th grade complete	40	no
7	Mohammed Hussien	M	Community Member	6th grade complete	27	no

FGDs with WSHACO in Dequana Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Tiget Mola	F	Chairperson	10th grade complete	35	no
2	Dege Ayalew	F	Member	10th grade complete	30	no
3	Shibabaw Asnake	M	Casher	6th grade complete	28	no
4	Weyzer Guadu	F	store	6th grade complete	34	no
5	Belayneh Reta	M	Secretary	10th grade complete	35	no
6	Yedagnu Berihun	M	Member	6th grade complete	42	no
7	Legesse Mamo	M	Member	6th grade complete	26	no

FGDs with women in Kali Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Huluager Mekonen	F	Chairperson	6th grade complete	32	no
2	Aster Melse	F	Member	4th grade complete	30	no
3	Atalay Tewabe	F	Casher	6th grade complete	28	no
4	Enaniye Asefe	F	store	6th grade complete	31	no
5	Mare Tafesse	F	Secretary	8th grade complete	33	no
6	Yirgu Tamire	F	Member	6th grade complete	25	no
7	Werkua Teshome	F	Member	6th grade complete	26	no

FGDs with WASHCO in Diquana Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Gashaw Belew	M	Chairperson	6th grade complete	31	no
2	Alemitu Muche	F	Member	4th grade complete	34	no
3	Mulualem Alene	F	Casher	6th grade complete	28	no
4	Tazebnew Belew	F	store	6th grade complete	24	Disable
5	Destaw Girmay	M	Secretary	8th grade complete	35	no
6	Mantegbosh Girma	F	Member	6th grade complete	26	no
7	Aster Bayu	F	Member	6th grade complete	28	no

FGDs with WASHCO in Kali Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Eteyi Demite	M	Chairperson	10th grade complete	28	no
2	Abeje Berihe	M	Control	6th grade complete	32	no
3	Tamrat Biyadgign	M	Casher	10th grade complete	29	no
4	Mebrat Mulugeta	F	store	8th grade complete	26	no
5	Belaynesh Amare	F	Secretary	10th grade complete	35	no
6	Desish Maru	F	Member	6th grade complete	26	no
7	Sewnet Fanta	F	Member	6 th grade complete	27	no

FGDs with Women in Addisalem Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Worknesh Tezeru	F	Community Member	8th grade complete	24	no
2	Shegu Muche	F	Community Member	6th grade complete	30	no
3	Addis Adugna	F	Community Member	4th grade complete	29	no
4	Habtamua Chekol	F	Community Member	---	29	Disable
5	Blaynesh Amare	F	Community Member	10th grade complete	34	no
6	Enanit Sisay	F	Community Member	4th grade complete	25	no
7	Seniet Moges	F	Community Member	6th grade complete	25	no

FGDs with men in Addisalem Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Wase Abay	M	Community Member	8th grade complete	26	no
2	Ezezew Takele	M	Community Member	5th grade complete	37	no
3	Kasiye Desse	M	Community Member	6th grade complete	29	no
4	Getnet Tadesse	M	Community Member	6th grade complete	24	no
5	Negash Menge	M	Community Member	10th grade complete	33	no
6	Abay Tilaye	M	Community Member	4th grade complete	27	no
7	Girma Fetene	M	Community Member	6th grade complete	29	no

FGDs with Watershed Members in Addis Alem Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Abay Terefe	M	Casher	9 th grade complete	29	no
2	Abiyu Miheret	M	Secretary	10 th grade complete	35	no
3	Enana Sharew	M	Member	6 th grade complete	29	no
4	Mebrat Amushe	F	Member	6 th grade complete	38	no
5	Emawayish Wudu	F	Member	10 th grade complete	30	no
6	Aselefech Eniyew	F	Member	8 th grade complete	23	no

FGDs with SAA Members in Addis Alem Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Fekadu begashaw	M	Facilitator	10 th grade complete	36	no
2	Abay Terefe	M	Member	8 th grade complete	40	no
3	Tuha Sheabdu	M	Member	6 th grade complete	35	no
4	Asnaku Asfaw	F	Member	6 th grade complete	50	no
5	Meseret Amashu	F	Member	8 th grade complete	40	PWD
6	Enanit Sisay	F	Member	8 th grade complete	23	no
7	Eniyish Melaku	F	Facilitator	5 th grade complete	32	no
8	Maru Eniyew	M	Member	6 th grade complete	35	no

FGDs with WASHCO in Addis Alem Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Abiyu Terefe	M	Control	10 th grade complete	32	no
2	Feqadu Begashaw	M	Casher	5 th grade complete	34	no
3	Asnaku Asfaw	F	Maintenance	6 th grade complete	31	no
4	Enanit Asfaw	F	Secretary	10 th grade complete	25	no
5	Eniyish Shimeles	F	Member	7 th grade complete	28	no
6	Tadlo Desita	M	Member	8 th grade complete	25	no
7	Dege Wudu	F	Member	5 th grade complete	31	no

FGDs with VSLA in Kali Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Yiyu G/Yohanes	F	Chairperson	10 th grade complete	35	no
2	Yidneku Adamneh	F	Casher	4 th grade complete	25	no
3	Agegnehu Nigus	F	Member	6 th grade complete	39	no
4	Emawayish Gebre	F	Secretary	10 th grade complete	25	no
5	Marshet Adame	F	Member	9 th grade complete	28	no
6	Ertib Tegegne	F	Member	4 th grade complete	26	no
7	Mare Biyadgilegn	F	Member	5 th grade complete	31	no
8	Tangut Yirga	f	Member	----	36	no

FGDs with SAA in Kali Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Mihret Assefa	F	Facilitator	10 th grade complete	35	no
2	Yegassie Mekonen	F	Member	4 th grade complete	25	no
3	Atnafu Merawi	M	Member	6 th grade complete	39	no
4	Ayanaw Assefa	M	facilitator	10 th grade complete	25	no
5	Kibru Birhanu	M	Member	6 th grade complete	28	no
6	Wegnaw Ayanaw	F	Member	3 rd grade complete	26	no

FGDs with SAA in Woreb Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Ayalu Mitike	F	Facilitator	10 th grade complete	32	no
2	Sisay Teklu	F	Member	4 th grade complete	26	no
3	Abebe mole	M	Member	6 th grade complete	34	no
4	Tariku meku	M	facilitator	10 th grade complete	25	no
5	Lema Taye	M	Member	6 th grade complete	26	no
6	Shibre Tasew	F	Member	3 rd grade complete	25	no

FGDs with VSLA in Woreb Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Mare Tesema	F	Chairperson	10 th grade complete	31	no
2	Tirsit Bayu	F	Casher	9 th grade complete	24	no
3	Belaynesh Ababu	F	Member	3 rd grade complete	33	no
4	Ajebush Feleke	F	Secretary	10 th grade complete	25	no
5	Weynetu Baye	F	Member	6 th grade complete	26	no
6	Kasu Genenew	F	Member	4 th grade complete	23	no
7	Abjesh Hailu	F	Member	4 th grade complete	31	no

FGDs with WASHCO in Woreb Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Reta Biru	M	Chairperson	10 th grade complete	32	no
2	Sisay Melese	M	Casher	5 th grade complete	34	no
3	Amele Taye	F	Maintenance	8 th grade complete	31	no
4	Hiwot Shiferaw	F	Secretary	10 th grade complete	25	no
5	Birtukan Kifle	F	Member	----	37	no
6	Ayalneh Tamene	M	Member	-----	39	no
7	Felekech Tasew	F	Member	5 th grade complete	33	no

FGDs with PSC in Kali Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Gedif Getnet	F	PSC Lead	1 st degree	45	no
2	Wasihun Kefyalew	F	Member	1 st degree	38	no
3	Mereko Astartew	M	Secretary	1 st degree	39	no
4	Betelhem Kassie	M	Member	1 st degree	34	no
5	Senait Abay	M	Member	1 st degree	37	no
6	Birhanu Mola	F	Member	1 st degree	44	no
7	Abebe Dereje	M	Member	1 st degree	43	no

FGDs with SAA in Tala Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Terefu Misganaw	F	Facilitator	8 th grade complete	32	no
2	Shitaye Minale	F	Member	4 th grade complete	28	no
3	Demisew Siyum	M	Member	6 th grade complete	36	no
4	Merawi Desta	M	Facilitator	10 th grade complete	25	no
5	Nebiyu Maru	M	Member	4 th grade complete	27	no
6	Sefinesh Reta	F	Member	4 th grade complete	24	no

FGDs with VSLA in Tala Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Selam Bayu	F	Chairperson	8 th grade complete	32	no
2	Misrak Tekuye	F	Casher	4 th grade complete	26	no
3	Yeshi Demlew	F	Member	6 th grade complete	33	no
4	Tirfe Zelekaw	F	Secretary	9 th grade complete	24	no
5	Wubalem Nigus	F	Member	9 th grade complete	28	no
6	Lemlem Biru	F	Member	4 th grade complete	26	no
7	Yeshi Wube	F	Member	6 th grade complete	32	no

FGDs with WASHCO in Tala Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Debe Birhanu	M	Control	8 th grade complete	31	no
2	Genet Meshesha	F	Casher	4 th grade complete	32	no
3	Daniel Fiseha	F	Maintenance	6 th grade complete	31	no
4	Abeba Yaregal	F	Secretary	9 th grade complete	25	no
5	Fire Mamushet	F	Member	7 th grade complete	25	no
6	Sisay Muche	M	Member	-----	38	no
7	Aberu Mebratu	F	Member	-----	33	no

FGDs with women in Woreb Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Sewnet Bire	F	Community Member	6 th grade complete	33	no
2	Tamir Meshesha	F	Community Member	4 th grade complete	25	no
3	Bayush Ahmed	F	Community Member	4 th grade complete	37	no
4	Halima Geremew	F	Community Member	6 th grade complete	25	no
5	Abonesh Wubshet	F	Community Member	6 th grade complete	24	no
6	Kelem Nigus	F	Community Member	2 nd grade complete	24	no

FGDs with men in Woreb Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Mesay Deresse	M	Community Member	10 th grade complete	35	no
2	Muluneh Feleke	M	Community Member	8 th grade complete	25	no
3	Emiru Yaye	M	Community Member	4 th grade complete	39	no
4	Teshale Zergaw	M	Community Member	5 th grade complete	25	no
5	Alemu Fente	M	Community Member	4 th grade complete	28	no
6	Demirew Akalu	M	Community Member	4 th grade complete	26	no
7	Yeshanew Haile	M	Member	3 rd grade complete	36	no

FGDs with women in Tala Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Tefera Melesse	F	Control	4 th grade complete	35	no
2	Tirunesh Takele	F	Casher	5 th grade complete	36	no
3	Kelmwork Girma	F	Maintenance	6 th grade complete	31	no
4	Fantu Abate	F	Secretary	6 th grade complete	25	no
5	Mebrate Fantaw	F	Member	4 th grade complete	28	no
6	Jebraa Kelelaw	F	Member	6 th grade complete	27	no
7	Embet Tayew	F	Member	5 th grade complete	32	no

FGDs with men in Tala Kebele of W. Belesa

No	Name	Sex	Position	Level of Education	Age	Disability
1	Abay Tamire	M	Community Member	-----	37	no
2	Facil Mekonen	M	Community Member	5 th grade complete	34	no
3	Yeshanw Kibret	M	Community Member	6 th grade complete	31	no
4	Mershaye Ababu	M	Community Member	-----	38	no
5	Solomon Tsegaye	M	Community Member	7 th grade complete	28	no
6	Tafesse Gurum	M	Community Member	6 th grade complete	25	no
7	Tayech Meshesha	F	Member	5 th grade complete	31	no

G. HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE



FINAL EVALUATION SURVEY FOR SWEEP PROJECT IN EAST AND W. BELESA WOREDAS OF CENTRAL GONDER ZONE, AMHARA REGIONAL STATE

November 2020

Instructions:

Hello! My name is _____. I came to collect data from Water for Food Security; Women Empowerment and Environmental Protection Project beneficiaries based on CARE's agreement entered with Abamela Business Plc, a development consulting firm to evaluate the SWEEP project in East and W. Belesa woredas of central Gonder zone, Amhara regional state. The general purpose of this project final evaluation is to assess relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and possible impacts and sustainability of the project. Ultimately, the objective of this evaluation is to identify project successes and challenges, thereby draw lessons that are helpful for future programming. The reason for coming here is to get your views related to the study subject. I request you to allow me to start asking you questions. The survey usually takes about 15 to 20 minutes. All of the answers you give will be confidential and will not be shared with anyone other than members of our research team, nor will your name be mentioned anywhere. Do you have any questions? May I begin the interview now?

Ask the respondent to sign the consent form if he/she agreed to be interviewed.

Questionnaire ID		
Woreda code		1. E. Belesa 2. W. Belesa
Kebele code	E. Belesa	1. Bursan 2. Chama-Korach 3. Tili 4. Tertawa 5. Achikan
	W. Belesa	6. Addisalem 7. Kalay 8. Talay 9. Shura 10. Diquana
Interviewer code		

Part A. General Information

A-1. Characteristics of the respondent

	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Religion</u>	<u>Marital status</u>	<u>Literacy status</u>	<u>If literate, the highest grade completed</u>	<u>Disability status</u> <i>(Multiple responses is allowed)</i>	<u>Selection of the respondent</u>
	1. Male 2. Female		1. Orthodox 2. Muslim 3. Protestant 4. Catholic 5. Other	1. Married 2. Divorced 3. Widowed 4. Never married	1. Illiterate 2. Literate	0. Non-formal 1. Grade 1-4 2. Grade 5-8 3. Grade 9-10 4. TVET certificate 5. Degree and above	1. No disability 2. Seeing difficulty 3. Hearing difficulty 4. Inability to hear and speak 5. Disability in hands 6. Disability in legs 7. Mental retardation 8. Mental problem 9. Other	1. Yes 2. No
Head of the household								
Spouse of the head of the household								
	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A7

A-2. Age and sex distribution of members of the household

	Total	0-4	5-13	14-29	30-60	60+
Male						
Female						

Total						
-------	--	--	--	--	--	--

Part B. Project Impact Related Questions

I) Livelihood, Food Security and Resilience

- B-1 Does your household have farmland?
 1) Yes
 2) No
- B-2 Size of farm: a) Total _____ ha b) Own _____ ha c) Rented _____
- B-3 How much of your farmland (owned/rented) is irrigated during the past 12 months?
 _____ ha
- B-4 Which of the following non-farming income-generating activities does your household operate during the past year?
(Multiple responses possible)
1. Collecting and selling firewood
 2. Petty/Retail trading
 3. Daily labour
 4. Local beverages and food preparation and selling
 5. Handcrafts (embroidery, knitting, making other materials)
 6. Service provision (washing cloth, working as a domestic maid, hairdressing)
 7. Food aids from the government and NGOs
 8. Begging and related activities
 9. Other specify -----
- B-5 What was the total income your household earned during the past 12 months?
1. Irrigation farm _____ Birr
 2. Non-irrigation farm _____ Birr
 3. Non-agricultural income generating activities _____ Birr
 4. Total income _____ Birr
- B-6 How much time is often used for economic and income generating activities (including both farming and non-farming economic activities) per day?
1. Men ----- hour
 2. Women ----- hour
 3. Boys ----- hour
 4. Girls ----- hour
- B-7 Did the income sources of the household increased during the past 12 months?
1. Yes
 2. No
- B-8 Comparing with the income level of your household before three years, to what extent did the income level of your household during the past 12 months increased?
1. Greatly increased
 2. Increased
 3. Same
 4. Decreased
 5. Greatly decreased
- B-9 Do you think that women's economic activity is sufficiently recognized by men, including husbands?
1. Yes
 2. Somehow recognized
 3. Not recognized at all
- B-10 For how many months were you able to provide food (at least two meals per day) for your household during the past harvest season? _____ Months
- B-11 On average, how many meals did your households eat per day during the past 12 months? _____ meals
- B-12 Did this household get severely affected by any of the following major shocks during the past 12 months?
(Multiple responses possible)
1. Crop loss due to weather changes

2. Crop loss due to crop disease and/or pests
3. Livestock death due to disease or drought
4. Shortage of food to feed the family
5. Other shocks like illness or death of working family member

B-13 Which of the following strategies have you done during the past 12 months in order to compensate for the food shortage?

(Multiple responses possible)

1. Sell livestock and buy food items
2. Sell/rent other productive assets like land and buy food items
3. Collect and sell firewood and charcoal
4. Migrate to other localities to find work and earn money/food
5. Migrate to urban areas and work as daily labourers
6. Send children to stay with relatives
7. Send children to work as daily labourers
8. Withdraw children from school
9. Harvest immature crops and feed the family
10. Consume seeds kept for the next season

B-14 During the past 7 days, was there a time that you did not have enough food or money to buy food for your household?

1. Yes
2. No

B-15 During the past 7 days, if there have been times when you did not have enough food or money to buy food, which of the following strategies did you use to deal with food shortage, and how many days?

	Relying on less preferred and less expensive foods	Borrowing food, or relying on help from a friend or relative	Limiting portion size at mealtimes	Restricting consumption by adults in order for young children to eat	Reducing number of meals eaten in a day
Did you use the strategy to deal with the food shortage?	1. Yes 2. No	1. Yes 2. No	1. Yes 2. No	1. Yes 2. No	1. Yes 2. No
Number of days during the past 7 days					

II) Environmental management

B-16) Is there a watershed (soil and water conservation) activity in your community/village?

1. Yes
2. No

B-17) Do you (the community) have a plant nursery site?

1. Yes
2. No

B-18) If no, where do you get the seedlings for tree plantation activity in the watersheds?

1. Government supplies
2. CARE project supplies
3. Private suppliers of seedlings

B-19) Do you (your family member) plant trees like conifer and other local trees on the land you possess?

1. Yes
2. No

B-20) Is there a tradition of planting trees in your community?

1. Yes
2. No

B-21) Do you build terraces and other physical structures on the land you possess to conserve soil/water?

1. Yes
2. No

B-22) What other measures do you take to prevent soil erosion and water run-off?

(Multiple responses possible)

1. Growing different crops at a time,

2. Short reaping crops,
3. Changing plowing type,
4. Changing crop planting dates,
5. Proper grazing including cut and carry and
6. Use small scale irrigation

- B-23) Do you believe that communal and individual natural resource conservation practices contribute to reduce the negative impacts of climate change and prevent natural resource depletion/degradation?
1. Yes
 2. No
- B-24) Do you believe that you have a better capacity to withstand environmental shocks now than before?
1. Yes
 2. No

III) GBV, FGM, CM, and HTPs

- B-25) Is female circumcision a common practice in your community?
1. Yes
 2. No
- B-26) Do you think that female genital mutilation is a harmful practice that affects the lives of women/girls?
1. Yes
 2. No
- B-27) Do you agree that female genital mutilation should continue as a community culture/norm?
1. Strongly agree
 2. Agree
 3. Neutral
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
- B-28) How old is your youngest daughter? _____ years
- B-29) Is your youngest daughter circumcised?
1. Yes
 2. No
- B-30) Is early marriage (marriage under 18 years of age) a common practice in your community?
1. Yes
 2. No
- B-31) Have you heard any early marriage (marriage under 18 years of age) arranged in your community during the past year?
1. Yes
 2. No
- B-32) Do you think that early marriage (marriage under 18 years of age) is a harmful practice that affects the lives of girl?
1. Yes
 2. No
- B-33) Do you agree that early marriage (marriage under 18 years of age) continue as a community culture/norm?
1. Strongly agree
 2. Agree
 3. Neutral
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
- B-34) Has your family facilitated (arranged) early marriage during the past year?
1. Yes
 2. No
- B-35) Which of the following traditional practices prevail in your community?

(Multiple responses possible)

1. Rape
2. Abduction
3. Sexual harassment/abuse
4. Beating by a husband
5. Beating by other men and boys
6. Insult by a husband
7. Insult by other men and boys
8. Widow inheritance
9. Mistress

B-36) Do you agree that the above traditional practices are harmful to girls and women?

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree

B-37) Which of the following practices are tolerable for you?

(Multiple responses possible)

1. Female genital mutilation
2. Early marriage
3. Rape/abduction
4. Insult and beating by a husband (and brothers)
5. Insult and beating by other men and boys (who are not family members)

B-38) Which of the following practices are not tolerable for you?

(Multiple responses possible)

1. Female genital mutilation
2. Early marriage
3. Rape/abduction
4. Insult and beating by a husband (and brothers)
5. Insult and beating by other men and boys (who are not family members)

B-39) Is the community effort to fight the above community practices satisfactory?

1. Yes
2. No

IV) Access to Water Resources

B-40) What is your primary source of water for domestic use (drinking, cooking and washing)?

		Dry season 1. Yes 2. No	Wet season 1. Yes 2. No
1	Protected hand-dug well fitted with a pump		
2	Unprotected hand-dug well		
3	Harvested roof water		
4	Pipe water		
5	Protected spring		
6	Unprotected spring		
7	Protected dam (or pond)		
8	Unprotected dam (or pond)		
9	Running water (river)		

B-41) How many minutes does the current water source take (round trip)? ____

B-42) How many litres of water, on average, is your household consuming for domestic use (drinking, washing and cooking) per day? ____ litre

B-43) What is the most common jar type you use to fetch and store drinking water?

1. Traditional clay pot with wide mouth suitable for washing using hands and detergents
2. Open mouth plastic jars suitable for washing using hands and detergents
3. Narrow mouth (yellow) jars difficult to wash using hands and detergents

- B-44 How do you pour your drinking water to glasses and other small containers for drinking/washing?
1. Immersing the small can/glass directly to the water storage jar/pot
 2. Bending the water storage jar/pot down and pouring to the small can/container
 3. The water storage jar/pot has a kind of tape to open & pour the water to the small can/container
- B-45 Do you believe that your water is safe for drinking?
1. Yes
 2. No
- B-46 If the water is not safe for drinking, what is the main reason?
1. The water source often gets broken and not maintained soon
 2. It is far and sometimes difficult to walk to the water point during a rainy time,
 3. We use unprotected water source during the rainy season
 4. Water supply is not sufficient to satisfy the community
- B-47 Do you believe the significance of treating drinking water before use?
1. Yes
 2. No
- B-48 Does your household treat drinking water before use?
1. Yes always
 2. Yes, sometimes
 3. No
- B-49 If yes, what methods are you using most of the time to treat drinking water?
1. Boiling and cooling before drinking
 2. Using water treatment tablets/chemicals like aqua tabs
 3. Using water filter materials/equipment
 4. Pouring on clean clothes/straining on clean cloth
- B-50 If you do not treat the water that you use for drinking, what is the main reason?
1. Lack of skill on how to treat water
 2. We do not know the importance of treating drinking water
 3. We do not like the taste of treated water
 4. The treatment method is not affordable
 5. The treatment is time-consuming
- B-51 participation of women and girls in household chores

	Household chores	Who participates in the household chores most often? 1. Yes, 2. No			
		Women	Girls	Men	Boys
1.	Water collection				
2.	Fuel collection				
3.	Looking after the animals/herding				
4.	Going to the market to buy and sell				
5.	Attend community work				
6.	Meal preparation & washing dishes				
7.	Cleaning the house, compound				
8.	Cleaning animal barns				
9.	Washing/drying/ironing/ mending clothes				
10.	Childcare				
11.	Elderly/disabled care				

- B-52 On average, how many hours per day do women in your household spend on domestic activities? _____ hour
- B-53 On average, how many hours per day do girls in your household spend on domestic activities? _____ hour

V) Empowerment of community and local government capacity

- B-54 Participation of men and women in household-level decision making

		1. Women only 2. Men only 3. Husband and wife together
1.	Purchasing of cattle, oxen, and other large livestock	
2.	Selling of cattle, oxen, and other large livestock	

3.	Purchase of sheep and goats	
4.	Selling sheep and goats	
5.	Selling/purchase of chicken and eggs	
6.	purchase/sell of production assets like agricultural inputs and tools	
7.	Renting out/in plots of land	
8.	How much of the income/product to save or to consume	
9.	Whether the household to take a loan and how much to borrow, and how to invest the money borrowed	
10.	Family planning (contraception use and decision on the number of children)	
11.	Schooling of children	
12.	Marriage of children	

B-55 Participation in community level decision making

		Do you regularly attend meetings of this group?	If yes: To what extent you are involved in making important decisions in the group?
		1. Yes 2. No	1. Actively involved 2. Moderately involved 3. Rarely involved 4. Not involved at all
1.	Women's association		
2.	Self-help group		
3.	Community development		
4.	Religious gathering		

B-56 Do you believe/recognize that women can hold leadership positions and serve their community?

1. Yes, women can lead the community better than men
2. Yes, women can lead the community as men do
3. No, I don't believe that women can lead the community like men

B-57 To what extent women in different committees and leadership position have self-confidence and convey their messages in public meetings?

1. Highly assertive, confident and self-expressive
2. They are good, clearly express their views and opinions and convey messages
3. They are weak, they don't have confidence and poorly convey their messages on a public meeting

B-58 Generally, to what extent do you believe that the CARE project has contributed to your social, economic and leadership participation, assertiveness in dialogues and decision making processes?

1. It has highly significant contributions
2. It has contributions; I developed confidence and experience
3. It contributed little to my knowledge, attitude and skill development
4. It has contributed nothing; it added nothing to my knowledge, attitude and skill

B-59 Does Kebele/Woreda government involve any member of your household in its planning, budgeting and monitoring for basic social services (like water supply, electricity supplies, road access, environmental protection, education and health, etc.)?

1. Yes always
2. Yes, sometimes
3. No, it does not involve us in the planning budgeting and monitoring works

B-60 If yes, does Woreda/kebele considered your opinions and development needs in its planning and budget making?

1. Yes, fully considered
2. Yes, partly considered
3. No, it does not consider our requests while planning and budgeting

B-61 Availability of basic services and the level of satisfaction of households with the service

No	Service	Is the service available?	How satisfied are you with the response of the local government?
		1. Yes 2. No	1. Highly satisfied 2. Satisfied 3. Less satisfied 4. Unsatisfied
1.	Drinking water supply/maintenance		
2.	Irrigation water supply/maintenance		
3.	Basic health services (such as reproductive health)		
4.	Animal health care		
5.	Access road		

B-62 How frequent do civil society organizations (like CARE-Ethiopia) involve the community while they identify local needs, plan and execute development/humanitarian activities?

1. Always
2. Rarely
3. Never

H. QUALITATIVE TOOLS

A) KII guide for water (energy and irrigation) office

General: Interviewer introduces her/himself and introduces the purpose of the interview as follows.

Introduction:

CARE-E, through the financial support of Austria Development Agency (ADA), has been implementing a “Water for Food Security, Women Empowerment and Environmental Protection” project in East and W. Belesa Woredas of Central Gondar zone of Amhara National Regional State. The ultimate purpose of the project was to improve the food security situation of the intervention communities. It gives special attention to the most marginalised community groups such as female-headed households, people with disability and unemployed youth. Currently, CARE-E is doing a planned final evaluation of this project to measure achievements regarding predefined results at the end of the project period. For this purpose, it has commissioned ABAMELA Consulting. Therefore, I am here to administer a short interview with you to collect relevant information useful for this final evaluation.

1. Name _____ Sex ____ disability _____ positions _____ Woreda _____
2. Kindly explain the relevance of the project to your development needs and plans
3. Tell me the main supports entrusted to your organization for the success of this project.
4. Would you please tell me information on the following issues.

Core project outputs	Unit	Plan	Actual
New drinking water supply schemes developed	No		
New drinking water supply schemes which are functional	No		
Existing drinking water schemes which are rehabilitated/maintained	No		
Rehabilitated drinking water supply schemes which are functional	No		
WASH committees established	No		
WASH committees which are formal	No		
Trained Government officials and experts from your office	No		
Water reservoirs planted/mounted	Reservoir		

5. What are the main results of the project in terms of
 - 4.1. Coverage of safe drinking water supply (and sanitation and hygiene) _____ %
 - 4.2. No of farmers benefited from new irrigation systems _____
 - 4.3. No of farmers who developed backyard vegetable gardening using wasted/excess water ____
 - 4.4. No of new jobs created for unemployed landless youth, women and other marginalised ____
 - 4.5. Improved awareness on SGBV, HTP and organized efforts in identifying such social ills and fighting them
 - 4.6. Community and government capacity development supports provided by the project
 - 4.7. Supporting PWDs
 - 4.8.
6. Do you believe the project had contributed to women empowerment, gender equality and women’s participation? Why and why not?
7. How are the drinking water supply schemes being managed and utilized?
8. How do you work with PSC and explain me your synergies?
9. What are the other main achieved results, strengths and limitations of this project?
10. What were the external threats the project has faced and mitigation measures it has taken?

- 7.1. Natural challenges such as extreme droughts/floods, human and animal health issues, feasibility and design of water sources (new schemes)
- 7.2. Instability (thereby reduced community and government participation)
- 7.3. Social norms and values
- 7.4. Limited government capacity such as feasibility study, design and drilling boreholes and supply of power for boreholes, supplying working capitals and land for unemployed, inability to protect public amenities such water schemes and watersheds and taking over functional water schemes
- 7.5. Limited community capacity/awareness to contribute its share, unwilling to allocate watershed sites (min 100 ha), unrealistic expectations and low management capacities to manage the technologies (boreholes, etc.)
- 11. What were gaps of the project in terms of using
 - 8.1. Drinking water schemes for multiple purposes like Water for drinking and cooking (domestic), economic activities (animal drinking including bees, fattening, vegetable gardening) and health such as sanitation and hygiene (shower rooms)
 - 8.2. Watershed sites for job creation, value chain development and food security
 - 8.3. VSLA for economic activities (saving and loan), women empowerment (leadership and decision making practices), child protection, gender equality and social justice (collective voicing)
 - 8.4. Existing (community and government) structures for the achievement of project objectives
 - 8.5. Community and public resources for the achievement of project objectives
 - 8.6. Reducing risks
- 12. To what extent does your office played its entrusted roles? How effective was the support of the project for your office? why and why not?
- 13. Who usually fetch water in this community? Probe girls/women and men/ boy and how many hours do they travel to fetch water
- 14. How do you evaluate the coordination, management and financing arrangements of the project? did the project contributed to institutional strengthening and local ownership?
- 15. Overall, do you notice any observable real difference and changes that the project activities made to the beneficiaries? Why?
- 16. How do you describe the project contribution to institutional and management capacity development? Have project partners been properly capacitated (technically, managerially, etc.) for continuing to deliver the project's benefits/services?
- 17. Do you believe that the project has addressed well gender issues in the implementation of activities and overall managements of the project? why and why not?
- 18. How do you explain integration of environmental aspects in the implemetation of the project? why and why not?
- 19. Do you believe the project was socially inclusive? Why and why not?
- 20. How do you explain the continuity of activities, results and effects after this project? why? Did the project establish processes and systems that are likely to support the continued impact of the project?

Thank you again for your time and input

B) KII guide for Women, Children(and Youth) Affairs Office

General: Interviewer introduces her/himself and introduces the purpose of the interview as follows.

Introduction:

CARE-E, through the financial support of Austria Development Agency (ADA), has been implementing a “Water for Food Security, Women Empowerment and Environmental Protection” project in East and W. Belesa Woredas of Central Gondar zone of Amhara National Regional State. The ultimate purpose of the project was to improve the food security situation of the intervention communities. It gives special attention for the most marginalised community groups such as female headed households, people with disability and unemployed youth. Currently, CARE-E is doing a planned final evaluation of this project in order to measure achievements in regard to predefined results at the end of the project period. For this purpose, it has commissioned ABAMELA Consulting. Therefore, I am here to administer a short interview with you to collect relevant information useful for the purpose of this final evaluation.

I thank you for your willingness, time and valuable inputs

Name _____ Sex _____ disability _____ positions _____ Woreda _____

- 1) Kindly explain the relevance, effectiveness and sustainability of the project.
- 2) Tell me the main supports entrusted to your office for the success of this project.
- 3) Explain me how you discharge your responsibilities (as PSC member, as an office, etc)
- 4) What are the main results of the project in terms of
 - 3.1. Reducing domestic chores of women and increasing their economic and social engagement
 - 3.2. Improving the health of women and girls
 - 3.3. Improving women’s, girls’ and communities’ awareness on HTPs and determination in fighting them
 - 3.4. Supporting and opening up new jobs for FHHs, PWD and unemployed youth
 - 3.5. Improved gender equality and women’s leadership and decision making powers
 - 3.6. Improved community and government capacities for a sustainable community development intervention (and management)
 - 3.7. Effects and impacts of irrigation interventions? estimated irrigated land size in hectares and? Who were primarily involved? What was the achieved results and challenges?
- 5) What are the strengths and limitations of this project?
 - 4.1. Design level
 - 4.2. Relevance and effectiveness of project management and implementation strategies
 - 4.3. Implementation
 - 4.4. Management related
 - 4.5. Monitoring and reporting (including compliance)
- 6) What are the gabs of the project in terms of using
 - 6.1. Drinking water schemes for multiple purposes like Water for drinking and cooking (domestic), economic activities (animal drinking including bees, fattening, vegetable gardening) and health such as sanitation and hygiene (shower rooms)
 - 6.2. Watershed sites for job creation, value chain development and food security
 - 6.3. VSLA for economic activities (saving and loan), women empowerment (leadership and decision making practices), child protection, gender equality and social justice (collective voicing)
 - 6.4. Existing (community and government) structures for the achievement of project objectives
 - 6.5. Community and public resources for the achievement of project objectives
 - 6.6. Reducing risks
- 7) To what extent does your office played its entrusted roles?
 - 7.1. Explain the reasons if you believe your support was below expected
- 8) How many staffs received various capacity building trainings from the project? _____
- 9) How do you evaluate the coordination, management and financing arrangements of the project? did the project contributed to institutional strengthening and local ownership?

- 10) Overall do you notice any observable real difference and changes that the project activities made to the beneficiaries? Why?
- 11) How do you describe the project contribution to institutional and management capacity development? Have project partners been properly capacitated (technically, managerially, etc.) for continuing to deliver the project's benefits/services?
- 12) Do you believe that the project has addressed well gender issues in the implementation of activities and overall managements of the project? why and why not?
- 13) How do you explain integration of environmental aspects in the implemetation of the project? why and why not?
- 14) Do you believe the project was socially inclusive? Why and why not?
- 15) How do you explain the continuity of activities, results and effects after this project? why? Did the project establish processes and systems that are likely to support the continued impact of the project?

Thank you again for your time and input

C) Woreda Cooperative Office

General: Interviewer introduces her/himself and introduces the purpose of the interview as follows.

Introduction:

CARE-E, through the financial support of Austria Development Agency (ADA), has been implementing a “Water for Food Security, Women Empowerment and Environmental Protection” project in East and W. Belesa Woredas of Central Gondar zone of Amhara National Regional State. The ultimate purpose of the project was to improve the food security situation of the intervention communities. It gives special attention for the most marginalised community groups such as female headed households, people with disability and unemployed youth. Currently, CARE-E is doing a planned final evaluation of this project in order to measure achievements in regard to predefined results at the end of the project period. For this purpose, it has commissioned ABAMELA Consulting. Therefore, I am here to administer a short interview with you to collect relevant information useful for the purpose of this final evaluation.

I thank you for your willingness, time and valuable inputs

Name _____ Sex ____ disability _____ positions _____ Woreda _____

- 1) Are you aware of CARE-Ethiopia is working on women empowerment through establishing village saving and loan associations among poor and marginalised women?
- 2) If yes
 - a. How many VSLAs exist in your Woreda (reported or visited)?
 - b. What is the relationship between your office and the associations?
 - c. What questions do they have to your office?
 - d. What supports has your office given to them?
- 3) Kindly explain me the relevance of the project to your development needs and plans
- 4) How do you explain the success, effects and impacts of the project in regard to VSLAs?
- 5) What was gabs and challenges of the project to properly manage and function VSLAs?
- 6) How do you evaluate the coordination, management and financing arrangements of the project? did the project contributed to institutional strengthening and local ownership?
- 7) Overall do you notice any observable real difference and changes that the project activities made to the beneficiaries? Why?
- 8) How do you describe the project contribution to institutional and management capacity development? Have project partners been properly capacitated (technically, managerially, etc.) for continuing to deliver the project’s benefits/services?
- 9) Do you believe that the project has addressed well gender issues in the implementation of activities and overall managements of the project? why and why not?
- 10) How do you explain integration of environmental aspects in the implementation of the project? why and why not?
- 11) Do you believe the project was socially inclusive? Why and why not?
- 12) How do you explain the continuity of activities, results and effects after this project? why? Did the project establish processes and systems that are likely to support the continued impact of the project?

Thank you again for your time and input

D) KII guide for MSE/OSC (job creation) office

General: Interviewer introduces her/himself and introduces the purpose of the interview as follows.

Introduction:

CARE-E, through the financial support of Austria Development Agency (ADA), has been implementing a “Water for Food Security, Women Empowerment and Environmental Protection” project in East and W. Belesa Woredas of Central Gondar zone of Amhara National Regional State. The ultimate purpose of the project was to improve the food security situation of the intervention communities. It gives special attention for the most marginalised community groups such as female headed households, people with disability and unemployed youth. Currently, CARE-E is doing a planned final evaluation of this project in order to measure achievements in regard to predefined results at the end of the project period. For this purpose, it has commissioned ABAMELA Consulting. Therefore, I am here to administer a short interview with you to collect relevant information useful for the purpose of this final evaluation.

I thank you for your willingness, time and valuable inputs

Name _____ Sex _____ disability _____ positions _____ Woreda _____

1. Do you know about CARE-Ethiopia?
 - 1.1. How do you know it?
 - 1.2. What do you know about it?
2. Kindly explain me the relevance and effects of the project
3. Tell me the main supports entrusted to your organization for the success of this project.
4. Would you please give information on the following issues?

Core project outputs	Unit	Plan	Result by sex	
			F	M
Village Saving and Loan Associations established	Asso.		-	-
Women and girls are organized in VSLAs	No		-	-
VSLAs are recognized as MSE	Asso.		-	-
Unemployed PWD who received business and entrepreneurship trainings	No			
Unemployed FHHs received business and entrepreneurship trainings				
Unemployed youth received business and entrepreneurship trainings				
Trained PWD received loan / linked with MFI are facilitated for them	No			
Trained FHHs received loan / linked with MFI are facilitated for them				
Trained youth received loan / linked with MFI are facilitated for them				
Trained youth are employed/opened their IGA	No			
Trained PWD are employed/opened their IGA	No			
Trained FHHs are employed/opened their IGA	No			
Government officials and staffs received trainings	No			

5. What are the overall success, effects and impacts of the project with regards to facilitation of finance and IGAs
6. What were the strengths and limitations of this project?
7. What were the external threats/bottlenecks of the project?
8. To what extent does your office played its entrusted roles?
9. How do you evaluate the coordination, management and financing arrangements of the project? did the project contributed to institutional strengthening and local ownership?
10. Overall do you notice any observable real difference and changes that the project activities made to the beneficiaries? Why?
11. How do you describe the project contribution to institutional and management capacity development? Have project partners been properly capacitated (technically, managerially, etc.) for continuing to deliver the project’s benefits/services?
12. Do you believe that the project has addressed well gender issues in the implementation of activities and overall managements of the project? why and why not?
13. How do you explain integration of environmental aspects in the implemetation of the project? why and why not?

14. Do you believe the project was socially inclusive? Why and why not?
15. How do you explain the continuity of activities, results and effects after this project? why? Did the project establish processes and systems that are likely to support the continued impact of the project?

Thank you again for your time and input

E) *KII guide for agriculture and rural development office*

General: Interviewer introduces her/himself and introduces the purpose of the interview as follows.

Introduction:

CARE-E, through the financial support of Austria Development Agency (ADA), has been implementing a “Water for Food Security, Women Empowerment and Environmental Protection” project in East and W. Belesa Woredas of Central Gondar zone of Amhara National Regional State. The ultimate purpose of the project was to improve the food security situation of the intervention communities. It gives special attention for the most marginalised community groups such as female headed households, people with disability and unemployed youth. Currently, CARE-E is doing a planned final evaluation of this project in order to measure achievements in regard to predefined results at the end of the project period. For this purpose, it has commissioned ABAMELA Consulting. Therefore, I am here to administer a short interview with you to collect relevant information useful for the purpose of this final evaluation.

I thank you for your willingness, time and valuable inputs

- 1) Name _____ Sex _____ disability _____ positions _____ Woreda _____
- 2) Are you aware of the "Water for Food Security, Women's Empowerment and Environmental Protection (SWEEP)" Project implemented in your woreda?
- 3) Kindly explain the relevance, effectiveness and impacts of the project
- 4) Tell me the main supports entrusted to your office for the success of this project.
- 5) Would you please give me information on the following areas?

Core project outputs	Unit	Plan	Result by Woreda
Irrigation schemes rehabilitated/established	No		
Irrigation schemes are functional	No		
Irrigation management committees are functional	No		
Watershed sites are rehabilitated through biological measures	Site		
Tree plants are planted in the watershed sites	Seedling		
Planted seedlings are survived	Trees		
Watershed/gulley areas are protected by terraces and other physical structures	km		
Watersheds are protected (not damaged)	Site		
Watershed management committees established	No		
Watershed committee are formal	No		
Private sector engagement in NRM (individuals or groups)	No		
Learning and Practice Alliance formed	Alliance		
Government officials and experts are trained	No		
Food grain banks established	Banks		
Seed banks established	Banks		

- 6) What are the main results of the project in terms of
 - 4.1. No of farmers benefited from rehabilitated/new irrigation schemes _____
 - 4.2. No of farmers using improved seeds, compost and sawing in raw _____
 - 4.3. No of farmers who developed backyard vegetable gardening using wasted/excess water ___
 - 4.4. No of new jobs created for unemployed landless youth, women and other marginalised_____
 - 4.5. Community and government capacities to manage and effectively utilize natural resources (drinking water, irrigation and watershed)
- 7) How are the following community resources (amenities) being managed and utilized?
 - 5.1. Watershed sites and
 - 5.2. Irrigation schemes
- 8) Is it protected, open for grazing and farming, fenced, or what? If there are problems, what the problems you are facing?

Probe: What physical and biological watershed managements were made? Why? What was the result achieved and why or why not?

- 9) What are the gabs and challenges of the project in terms of using?

- 9.1. Drinking water schemes for multiple purposes like Water for drinking and cooking (domestic), economic activities (animal drinking including bees, fattening, vegetable gardening) and health such as sanitation and hygiene (shower rooms)
- 9.2. Watershed sites for job creation, value chain development and food security
- 9.3. VSLA for economic activities (saving and loan)
- 9.4. Existing (community and government) structures for the achievement of project objectives
- 9.5. Community and public resources for the achievement of project objectives
- 9.6. Disaster-risk reduction approaches (chock resistance like cereal banks and water reservoirs)
- 10) To what extent does your office played its entrusted roles?
- 11) How do you work with the PSC and its added value to the project performance?
- 12) Explain the reasons if you believe your support was below expected
- 13) Shocks and Copping Mechanisms

Probe:

- a. Are there any experiences of food or income related shocks of Households in this locality/Kebele, what type shock experienced? Why?
- b. Were the shocks related to Weather, Disease and peat of crop, livestock and human disease or mortality?
 - a. Which shock(s) have had an acute impact on food security and livelihoods? Why? What impact these shocks had on your livelihoods? Probe: Crop Loss? Income loss? Livestock loss? (mortality & stress sales) Food Shortage, Livestock Feed Shortage, Labour Loss/shortage and other (specify)? Why and how these shocks have happened?
 - b. What are the key success of the project in addressing shocks if any related with current access water, pasture availability, livestock and crop conditions, etc why?
 - c. What strategies were supported for the households to employ to cope up with the impact of these shocks?

Probe: Reduce the number of meals, Collect/sell firewood/charcoal, eat less (smaller portions), and send children to stay with relatives, borrow food or money, withdraw children from school, Sale livestock or other productive assets, Send children to work? Engage in labour activities, household members migrated to find work?

- 14) How do you evaluate the coordination, management and financing arrangements of the project? didthe project contributed to institutional strengthening and local ownership?
- 15) Overall do you notice any observable real difference and changes that the project activities made to the beneficiaries? Why?
- 16) How do you describe the project contribution to institutional and management capacity development? Have project partners been properly capacitated (technically, managerially, etc.) for continuing to deliver the project's benefits/services?
- 17) Do you believe that the project has addressed well gender issues in the implementation of activities and overall managements of the project? why and why not?
- 18) How do you explain integration of environmental aspects in the implementation of the project? why and why not?
- 19) Do you believe the project was socially inclusive? Why and why not?
- 20) How do you explain the continuity of activities, results and effects after this project? why? Did the project establish processes and systems that are likely to support the continued impact of the project?

Thank you again for your time and input

F) KII/FGD Guide for (Project field staffs and head office)

General: Interviewer introduces her/himself and introduces the purpose of the interview as follows.

Introduction:

CARE-E, through the financial support of Austria Development Agency (ADA), has been implementing a “Water for Food Security, Women Empowerment and Environmental Protection” project in East and W. Belesa Woredas of Central Gondar zone of Amhara National Regional State. The ultimate purpose of the project was to improve the food security situation of the intervention communities. It gives special attention for the most marginalised community groups such as female headed households, people with disability and unemployed youth. Currently, CARE-E is undertaking final evaluation of this project in order to measure achievements in regard to predefined results and impacts. For this purpose, it has commissioned ABAMELA Consulting. Therefore, I am here to administer a short interview with you to collect relevant information useful for the purpose of this final evaluation.

1. Name _____ Sex _____ positions _____ Duty station _____
2. Kindly explain me the overall design process and management arrangement of the project.
3. Explain me how the project was managed and its human, material and financial resources.
4. What are the main results of the project in terms of
 - 4.9. Coverage of safe drinking water supply (and sanitation and hygiene) _____ %
 - 4.10. No of irrigation schemes rehabilitated/maintained _____
 - 4.11. No of watershed areas covered by vegetation and physical structures _____
 - 4.12. No of farmers benefited from new irrigation systems _____
 - 4.13. No of farmers using improved seeds, compost and sawing in raw _____
 - 4.14. No of farmers who developed backyard vegetable gardening using wasted/excess water ____
 - 4.15. No of unemployed Youth/women benefited from the watershed areas through value chain
 - 4.16. No of new jobs created for unemployed landless youth, women and other marginalised _____
 - 4.17. Improved women empowerment, gender equality and women’s participation
 - 4.18. Improved awareness on SGBV, HTP and organized efforts in identifying such social ills and fighting them
 - 4.19. Community/government capacity development supports for sustainable community development
5. How do you explain the achievements of the project in terms of the following community resources (amenities) managements and utilization?
 - 5.1. Drinking water supply schemes
 - 5.2. Watershed management sites and
 - 5.3. Irrigation schemes
6. How are SAA, LPA, VSLA, WASHCO, maintenance groups, spare part producers, functioned?
7. How has the government used the CSC in order to improve good governance and service provision?
8. Explain me the technical support systems, financial management and monitoring from CARE regional and AA offices.
9. What are the strengths and limitations of this project?
 - 9.1. Design level
 - 9.2. Strategic issues
 - 9.3. Implementation
 - 9.4. Management related including structure and staffing
 - 9.5. Monitoring and reporting (including compliance)
10. What are the overall success, effectiveness and impacts including challenges and gabs of the project in terms among other the following issues?
 - 10.1. Drinking water schemes for multiple purposes like Water for drinking and cooking (domestic), economic activities (animal drinking including bees, fattening, vegetable gardening) and health such as sanitation and hygiene (shower rooms)
 - 10.2. Watershed sites for job creation, value chain development and food security
 - 10.3. VSLA for economic activities (saving and loan), women empowerment (leadership and decision making practices), child protection, gender equality and social justice (collective voicing)

- 10.4. Existing (community and government) structures for the achievement of project objectives
- 10.5. Community and public resources for the achievement of project objectives
- 10.6. Using existing (government and community) disaster risks reduction systems
- 10.7. Relationship of the project with local government, communities and relevant other actors
- 11. Overall, do you notice any observable real difference and changes that the project activities made to the beneficiaries? Why?
- 12. Do you believe that the project has addressed well gender issues in the implementation of activities and overall managements of the project? why and why not?
- 13. How do you explain consideration of environmental aspects in the implementation of the project? why and why not?
- 14. Do you believe the project was socially inclusive? Why and why not?
- 15. How do you explain the continuity of activities, results and effects after this project? why? Did the project establish processes and systems that are likely to support the continued impact of the project?

Thank you again for your time and input

For the Social Analysis and Action Groups

General: Interviewer introduces her/himself and introduces the purpose of the interview as follows.

Introduction: CARE-E, through the financial support of Austria Development Agency (ADA), has been implementing a “Water for Food Security, Women Empowerment and Environmental Protection” project in East and W. Belesa Woredas of Central Gondar zone of Amhara National Regional State. While the ultimate purpose of the project is improving the food security situation of the intervention communities, it gives special attention for the most marginalised community groups such as female headed households, people with disability and unemployed youth. Currently, CARE-E is doing an final evaluation of this project in order to measure whether or not predefined and desired results and changes are attained. For this purpose, it has commissioned ABAMELA Consulting. Therefore, I am here to administer a short interview with you to collect relevant information useful for the purpose of this final evaluation.

Woreda _____, Kebele _____, name of the group _____ Established in __ (EC)

Name	Sex	Age	Disability	Position in the SAA	Position in other community and/or government office	Represented from

1. Does the group have permanent members? If yes, how many active members?
2. How was this SAA established?
3. What is the prime objective of the SAA?
4. What capacity building supports did you get from (CARE, Government)?
5. What did you done so far (since your establishment)?
 - 5.1. Number of sessions held (conducted)
 - 5.2. Number and composition of participants in each session
 - 5.3. What types of social and cultural barriers are identified by the group/session participants?
 - 5.4. Developing SAA action plans
 - 5.5. What were your plans and implementation status?
6. Explain me how it has identified and addressed the most prevalent HTPs like early marriage, FGM, abduction/rape and domestic violence.
7. Explain the individual, group, family and community level impacts of SAA.

Probe: women capacity empowered? How and why? Are they able to effectively negotiate and communicate their needs and rights? Why?

8. What are the successes, challenges and gabs of SAA?
9. Do you believe that you have **built active, effective and sustaining SAA?**
10. Explain me your relationship with the government and their contributions to ensure **effective community awareness with regard to major HTPs in the area**
 - a. How the project does facilitated constructive discussions between the community and government with regards to the identification and mitigation of HTPs and other negative social norms?
 - b. How responsive is the local government to your questions related to HTP fighting?
 - c. How satisfied is the community by the government response?
11. Would you please show me any evidences for your performance?
12. What challenges did you face since your establishment?
13. Do you believe that SAA is an **important and workable** group to be established and strengthened to identify and fight social ills like early marriage, FGM and SGBV?
 - a. Explain/justify your answers
14. What do you recommend to make SAA more effective and functional than they are now

Thank you for your valuable inputs and time

G) FGD guide for project steering committees

General: Interviewer introduces her/himself and introduces the purpose of the interview as follows.

Introduction:

CARE-E, through the financial support of Austria Development Agency (ADA), has been implementing a “Water for Food Security, Women Empowerment and Environmental Protection” project in East and W. Belesa Woredas of Central Gondar zone of Amhara National Regional State. The ultimate purpose of the project was to improve the food security situation of the intervention communities. It gives special attention for the most marginalised community groups such as female headed households, people with disability and unemployed youth. Currently, CARE-E is doing a planned final evaluation of this project in order to measure achievements in regard to predefined results at the end of the project period. For this purpose, it has commissioned ABAMELA Consulting. Therefore, I am here to administer a short interview with you to collect relevant information useful for the purpose of this final evaluation.

I thank you for your willingness, time and valuable inputs

- 1) Level: (Region/Zone/Woreda/Kebele) _____, specify when necessary
- 2) Profile

Name	Sex	Disability	Represented from	Position in the PSC

- 3) How does this PSC organized itself in terms of
 - 3.1. Structure/governance (chair, secretary, members, etc)
 - 3.2. Bylaw (meeting schedule, place, venue, date)
 - 3.3. Action plan
- 4) Tell me the main supports entrusted to this PSC for the success of this project.
- 5) How were the project designed and implementation arrangement & stakeholders’ engagement defined and Kebele and beneficiary selection was made?
- 6) What were the roles of this PSC in the implementation and monitoring of the project?
- 7) What did you do so far (sessions held and activities performed)?
- 8) What were the challenges you faced in terms of
 - 15.1. Getting organized
 - 15.2. Functioning as intended (conducting sessions, joint project visits and problem solving),
 - 15.3. Coordinating among PSCs (Region, zone, Woreda and Kebele)
 - 15.4. Communicating with CARE for intended amendments on project plans, implementation modalities and relevant issues
- 9) How does the steering committee work with sector offices and enforce the implementation of its recommendations/lessons?
- 10) What are the main strengths of the project in terms
 - 5.1. Project design processes
 - 5.2. Stakeholders’ engagement and decision making including communities
 - 5.3. Implementation arrangements
 - 5.4. Resource management arrangements
 - 5.5. Government and community empowerment, learning and sustainability strategies
- 11) What do you think are the limitation of the project against the above criteria?
- 12) What were the external threats the project has faced?
- 13) What are the missed opportunities of the project in terms of
 - 12.1. Designing drinking water schemes to serve multiple purposes like Water for drinking and cooking (domestic), economic activities (animal drinking including bees, fattening, vegetable gardening) and health such as sanitation and hygiene (shower rooms)

- 12.2. Planning watershed sites for job creation, value chain development and food security
- 12.3. Designing VSLA for economic activities (saving and loan), women empowerment (leadership and decision making practices), child protection, gender equality and social justice (collective voicing)
- 12.4. Using existing (community and government) structures for the achievement of project objectives
- 12.5. Using community and public resources for the achievement of project objectives
- 12.6. Planning disaster-risk reduction works including early warning systems
- 14) What opportunities and threats can the project experience in the remaining project period?
- 15) How do you evaluate the coordination, management and financing arrangements of the project? did the project contributed to institutional strengthening and local ownership?
- 16) Overall do you notice any observable real difference and changes that the project activities made to the beneficiaries? Why?
- 17) How do you describe the project contribution to institutional and management capacity development? Have project partners been properly capacitated (technically, managerially, etc.) for continuing to deliver the project's benefits/services?
- 18) Do you believe that the project has addressed well gender issues in the implementation of activities and overall managements of the project? why and why not?
- 19) How do you explain integration of environmental aspects in the implemetation of the project? why and why not?
- 20) Do you believe the project was socially inclusive? Why and why not?
- 21) How do you explain the continuity of activities, results and effects after this project? why? Did the project establish processes and systems that are likely to support the continued impact of the project?

Thank you again for your time and input

Focus Group Discussion Guide for VSLAs

1. Do you know about CARE-Ethiopia?
 - 1.1. How do you know it?
 - 1.2. What do you know about it?
2. Explain about your VSLA: inception year, process, membership criteria (inclusiveness by vulnerability status), number of members.
3. Who and how was the VSLA established (driving force, process)?
4. Why you establish this VSLA (purpose) and what are your regular activities?
5. How often do you meet, how are your leadership structured and what are your most common agendas of discussion during your regular meeting?
6. Tell me about your association's
 - a. Total capital (money)
 - b. Total saving
 - c. Currently active loan amount (not repaid)
7. Tell me about your savings (principles), loan management (principles) and purposes of loans.
 - a. Lending to all members at a time or turn by turn?
 - b. Lend same amount to all or different amounts based on demand and capital?
 - c. What are the purposes of the loan?
 - d. What are the loan processes (application, appraisal and collateral issues)?
 - e. How many times? _____ times
 - f. What is the minimum loan size?
 - g. What is the maximum loan size?
 - h. How long is the loan term?
 - i. How is the repayment arranged (one go or instalment)?
 - j. How is the interest rate determined (and by who)?
8. Would you please tell me your group and individual savings: fixed/optional, frequency (weekly, monthly)?
9. Explain me the number of members who took loan, rounds of loan, maximum amount of loan in one round (initial and current), purpose of loans, loan repayment rate and the significance of the loan for marginalised women
10. Can you explain me the performance of loans taken from the VSLA?
 - a. Proportion of loan over saving (total VSLA capital)
 - b. Repayment rate
 - c. Interests collected
 - d. Purpose of the loan (productive purpose) like business loan/to open/expand business
 - e. Number of members who opened new business, especially non-agricultural
 - f. Number of activities who used loans to improve the productivity of their farms
11. What are the financial sources of the association?
12. What internal (none (financial)) bylaws do you have and to what extent do you respect them?
13. What were the capacity building supports you have received from CARE project?
 - a. Soft skills: training and exposure visits on gender equality, water, hygiene and sanitation (health), business and entrepreneurship skill trainings, business, saving and credit management, credit linkages, market assessment, income generating activities,
 - b. How important were the capacity building trainings for you?
 - c. Material support (any kind including minute books and passbook)
 - d. Financial supports in the form of matching fund, Revolving loan fund, business startup capital, seed money
14. Tell me your current feeling and situation as compared to your feeling during VSLA formation.
15. Explain me the positive changes/impacts of CARE project on your (women's) lives
 - a. Access to various education and trainings (knowledge, attitude, skill)
 - b. Access to (consumption and business) loan and IGA thereby improving income and livelihoods
 - c. Being organized (get out of home, mix with other women and develop sense of belongingness)

- d. Leadership development (association leader, book writer, representative)
- e. Assertiveness (learn to speak, ask questions, answer, dialogue and participate)
16. To what extent has the VSLA approach supported members' economic empowerment?
 - ✓ In terms of diversifying IGA through opening new ventures and improving livelihoods
 - ✓ Scaling up existing businesses/agricultural activities
 - ✓ Creating new jobs for youth girls and boys in the VSLA family
 - ✓ Reducing the burdens of village money lenders
 - ✓ Reducing bureaucracy and long process of loan from formal MFIs like ACSI
17. Tell me the both the other positive and negative (unintended for you) impacts of being a VSLA member on your (family) life
18. Explain me the contribution of VSLA approach for (you) women's participation in the
 - a. Community roles (WASHCO, Watershed management, SAA/LPA, Idir and others)
 - b. Government leadership roles (Kebele and Woreda)
 - c. Leadership in civil society organizations, groups and associations and the private sector)
19. What is the status of the association (formal or informal)?
 - a. If formal, in what field and how
 - b. If not formal, why not?
 - c. If not formal, what was your original plan (why) and future direction (why)
20. Do you believe you have good relationship with ACSI/Woreda saving and credit cooperative office and ensured **effective and sustainable village saving and credit association led by women? Why and why not?**
 - a. How the project did facilitated constructive discussions between the associations and government with regards to your sustainability and legal performance?
 - b. How responsive was the local government to your questions?
 - c. How satisfied are you by the government response?
21. Do you discuss on social and environmental issues in your VSLA meeting like on
 - a. Child rights issues
 - b. Women's rights issues
 - c. Harmful traditional practices prevalent in your area (like early marriage, gender inequality, unsafe child migration, FGM, child labour exploitation)
 - d. Management of watersheds and linking them with women's livelihoods
22. Can you give me your records like Minute book, Ledger (loan ledger), Individual passbook, Bank account opened in the name of your association or joint account and other relevant documents?
23. What challenges and gaps did you observed about VSLA and its contributions for women empowerment?
24. Overall do you notice any observable real difference and changes that the project activities made to the beneficiaries? Why?
25. Do you believe that the project has addressed well gender issues in the implementation of activities and overall managements of the project? why and why not?
26. How do you explain consideration of environmental aspects in the implemetation of the project? Why? why not?
27. Do you believe the project was socially inclusive? Why and why not?
28. How do you explain the continuity of activities, results and effects after this project? why? Did the project establish processes and systems that are likely to support the continued impact of the project?

We thank you for your valuable inputs and time!

Focus Group Discussion Guide for Women in the Community

1. Do you know about CARE-Ethiopia?
 - 1.3. How do you know it?
 - 1.4. What do you know about it?
2. In which CARE project components are you benefiting from?
 - Safe drinking water supply
 - Environmental protection

- Irrigation
 - Women empowerment
 - Support to marginalised community groups
3. How did you participate in this project management process?
 - k. As a project beneficiary
 - l. As a committee member (WASHCO, irrigation and watershed management)
 - m. Member in SAA
 4. What were the capacity building supports you have received from CARE project?
 - a. Soft skills: training and exposure visits on gender equality, water, hygiene and sanitation (health), business and entrepreneurship skill trainings, business, saving and credit management, credit linkages, market assessment, income generating activities,
 - b. Material support (any kind including minute books and passbook)
 - c. Financial supports in the form of matching fund, Revolving loan fund, business start up capital, seed money
 5. Explain me the positive changes/impacts of CARE project on your (family) lives
 - a. Access to various education and trainings (knowledge, attitude, skill)
 - b. Access to (consumption and business) loan and IGA, improved income/livelihood
 - c. Access to safe drinking water and its health and associated benefits
 - d. Leadership development (association leader, book writer, representative)
 - e. Assertiveness (learn to speak, ask questions, answer, dialogue and participate)
 6. To what extent has the project supported your economic empowerment/livelihoods?
 - ✓ Business and entrepreneurship skills
 - ✓ In terms of diversifying IGA through opening new ventures
 - ✓ Scaling up existing businesses/agricultural activities
 - ✓ Creating new jobs
 - ✓ Improving land and labour productivity
 7. Shocks and Coping Mechanisms
 - a. Are there any experiences of food or income related shocks of Households in this locality/Kebele, what type shock experienced? Why?
 - b. Were the shocks related to Weather, Disease and pest of crop, livestock and human disease or mortality?
 - d. Which shock(s) have had an acute impact on food security and livelihoods? Why? What impact these shocks had on your livelihoods? Probe: Crop Loss? Income loss? Livestock loss? (mortality & stress sales) Food Shortage, Livestock Feed Shortage, Labour Loss/shortage and other (specify)? Why and how these shocks have happened?
 - e. What are the key success of the project in addressing shocks if any related with current access water, pasture availability, livestock and crop conditions, etc why?
 - f. What strategies were supported for the households to employ to cope with the impact of these shocks? **Probe:** Reduce the number of meals, Collect/sell firewood/charcoal, eat less (smaller portions), and send children to stay with relatives, borrow food or money, withdraw children from school, Sale livestock or other productive assets, Send children to work? Engage in labour activities, household members migrated to find work?
 8. Tell me the negative (unintended for you) impacts of the project
 9. Explain me the contribution of the project on (your) participation in the
 - a. Community roles (WASHCO, Watershed management, SAA/LPA, Idir and others)
 - b. Government leadership roles (Kebele and Woreda levels)
 - c. Leadership in civil society organizations, groups and associations and the private sector)
 10. Do you have regular forum to discuss on social and environmental issues like
 - a. Child rights issues
 - b. Gender equality (Women's rights) issues
 - c. Harmful traditional practices prevalent in your area (like early marriage, gender inequality, FGM)

11. Your opinion about CARE project (staffs) and Government structure
12. Overall do you notice any observable real difference and changes that the project activities made to the beneficiaries? Why?
13. Do you believe that the project has addressed well gender issues in the implementation of activities and overall managements of the project? why and why not?
14. How do you explain consideration of environmental aspects in the implemetation of the project? why and why not?
15. Do you believe the project was socially inclusive? Why and why not?
16. How do you explain the continuity of activities, results and effects after this project? why? Did the project establish processes and systems that are likely to support the continued impact of the project?

We thank you for your valuable inputs and time!

Focus Group Discussion Guide for men in the Community

1. Do you know about CARE-Ethiopia?
 - 1.5. How do you know it?
 - 1.6. What do you know about it?
2. In which CARE project components are you benefiting from?
 - Safe drinking water supply
 - Environmental protection
 - Irrigation
 - Women empowerment
 - Support to marginalised community groups
3. How did you participate in this project management process?
 - n. As a project beneficiary
 - o. As a committee member (WASHCO, irrigation and watershed management)
 - p. Member in SAA
4. What were the capacity building supports you have received from CARE project?
 - a. Soft skills: training and exposure visits on gender equality, water, hygiene and sanitation (health), business and entrepreneurship skill trainings, business, saving and credit management, credit linkages, market assessment, income generating activities,
 - b. Material support (any kind including minute books and passbook)
 - c. Financial supports in the form of matching fund, Revolving loan fund, business startup capital, seed money
5. Explain me the positive changes/impacts of CARE project on your (family) lives
 - a. Access to various education and trainings (knowledge, attitude, skill)
 - b. Access to (consumption and business) loan and IGA, improved income/livelihood
 - c. Access to safe drinking water and its health and associated benefits
 - d. Leadership development (association leader, book writer, representative)
 - e. Assertiveness (learn to speak, ask questions, answer, dialogue and participate)
6. To what extent has the project supported your economic empowerment/livelihoods?
 - ✓ Business and entrepreneurship skills
 - ✓ In terms of diversifying IGA through opening new ventures
 - ✓ Scaling up existing businesses/agricultural activities
 - ✓ Creating new jobs
 - ✓ Improving land and labour productivity
7. Tell me the negative (unintended for you) impacts of the project
8. Shocks and Copping Mechanisms:

Probe:

- c. Are there any experiences of food or income related shocks of Households in this locality/Kebele, what type shock experienced? Why?
- d. Were the shocks related to Weather, Disease and peat of crop, livestock and human disease or mortality?
- g. Which shock(s) have had an acute impact on food security and livelihoods? Why? What impact these shocks had on your livelihoods? Probe: Crop Loss? Income loss? Livestock loss? (mortality & stress sales) Food Shortage, Livestock Feed Shortage, Labour Loss/shortage and other (specify)? Why and how these shocks have happened?
- h. What are the key success of the project in addressing shocks if any related with current access water, pasture availability, livestock and crop conditions, etc why?
- i. What strategies were supported for the households to employ to cope with the impact of these shocks?

Probe: Reduce the number of meals, Collect/sell firewood/charcoal, eat less (smaller portions), and send children to stay with relatives, borrow food or money, withdraw children from school, Sale livestock or other productive assets, Send children to work? Engage in labour activities, household members migrated to find work?

9. Explain me the contribution of the project on (your) participation in the
 - a. Community roles (WASHCO, Watershed management, SAA/LPA, Idir and others)
 - b. Government leadership roles (Kebele and Woreda levels)
 - c. Leadership in civil society organizations, groups and associations and the private sector)
10. Do you have regular forum to discuss on social and environmental issues like
 - a. Child rights issues
 - b. Gender equality (Women's rights) issues
 - c. Harmful traditional practices prevalent in your area (like early marriage, gender inequality, FGM)
11. Your opinion about CARE project (staffs) and Government structure
12. Overall do you notice any observable real difference and changes that the project activities made to the beneficiaries? Why?
13. Do you believe that the project has addressed well gender issues in the implementation of activities and overall managements of the project? why and why not?
14. How do you explain consideration of environmental aspects in the implementation of the project? why and why not?
15. Do you believe the project was socially inclusive? Why and why not?
16. How do you explain the continuity of activities, results and effects after this project? why? Did the project establish processes and systems that are likely to support the continued impact of the project?

We thank you for your valuable inputs and time!

FGD Guide For the Watershed Management Committee Members

Woreda _____, Kebele _____, name of the Committee _____ Established in ___ (EC)

Name	Sex	Disability	Position in this committee	Position in other community and/or government office

1. What are the functions of the committee?
2. What was the primary role (objective) of this committee? Did you believe that the objective already met?
3. With which government office, if any, have you closely worked with?
4. What was expected and received from this partner office?
5. Is this responsibility written/agreed or not?
6. What activities did you done and what results achieved so far with regard to watershed management?
7. Did you have any action plan? If yes, please show me or give me a copy of it.
8. What internal (none (financial)) bylaws did you have and to what extent did you respected that?
9. What were the institutional, organizational and technical capacity building supports you have received from CARE project and/or government office?

Probe: Systems you have established for a sustainable watershed management and its impacts

- i. Institutional arrangements and structure
- ii. Leadership and management
- iii. Financial (sources like saving and management) including receipts
- iv. Material resource management
- v. Watershed resource management manual and administration (bylaw)

Probe: Technical and managerial capacities (and capacity building supports you received from CARE project) and its effects

- vi. Institutional development and management
- vii. Human resource development and management (trainings, exposure visits) and its
- viii. Financial resource mobilization and management manuals and trainings, its benefits
- ix. Material resources management manuals and trainings supports
10. What is the status of the watershed management site now?

Probe: Is it protected, open for grazing and farming, fenced, or what?If there are problems, what the problems you are facing?

11. What physical and biological watershed managements were made? Why? What was the result achieved and why or why not?
12. What are the problems associated with the watershed management practice as compared to its original plan/design/approach?
13. For what other purpose do you use the watershed than for soil and water conservation?
14. Explain me your relationship with the government to ensure effective and sustainable management of the watershed areas?

Probe:

- a. How the project does facilitated constructive discussions between the community and government with regards to sustainable watershed management in the area?

- b. How responsive is the local government to your watershed management questions?
 - c. How satisfied is the community by the government response and the project?
15. Do you believe the committee was effective? Why? Do you want to continue with the committee? Why?
 16. Overall, do you notice any observable real difference and changes that the project activities made to the beneficiaries? Why?
 17. Do you believe that the project has addressed well gender issues in the implementation of activities and overall managements of the project? why and why not?
 18. How do you explain integration of environmental aspects in the implementation of the project? why and why not?
 19. Do you believe the project was socially inclusive? Why and why not?
 20. How do you explain the continuity of activities, results and effects after this project? why? Did the project establish processes and systems that are likely to support the continued impact of the project?
 21. What do you recommend to future watershed management programming?

Thank you for your valuable inputs and time

For the water, sanitation and hygiene committee (WASHCO)

1. General profile

Woreda _____, Kebele _____, name of the Committee _____ Established in __ (EC)

Name of Members	Sex	Disability	Position in the WASHCO	Position in other community and/or government office

2. How was the committee members selected? (Selection criteria and processes adopted)
3. Tell me about the structure and subcommittees of WASHCO and their functions
4. How many are the total active water users? __
5. What type of water scheme do you have? For drinking and livestock consumptions?

Probe: Developed spring water source, Deep-dug water source, Diverted river water, Pond and related surface water scheme

6. Is your water scheme newly developed or renovated (upgraded)?
7. How many of them were built and renovated by the project? ----
8. How is the water system functioning?

Probe: Gravity driven (pipe line) Power driven pipe line, manual

9. How accessible is the water source for the majority of the users during dry and rainy seasons?

Probe: Highly accessible, individual pipeline installed, accessible, water point established at the centre (central place decided by the users), not accessible, water point established near the source, only few are benefiting

10. Who usually fetch water in this community?

Probe: girls/women and men/ boy and how many hours do they travel to fetch water

Probe: estimation of average hours in round trips that it takes for beneficiaries to fitch water from water points (in dry and wet seasons)

Probe: your estimation of the average distance in km in round trips that it takes for beneficiaries to fetch water from the water points? (in dry and wet seasons)

11. What is the primary objective of this WASHCO?
12. What are the primary objectives²⁹and other purposes of the water scheme you are administering?
13. What were the institutional and organizational capacity building supports you have received from CARE project?

Probe: Systems you have established for a sustainable management of the water system

- i. Institutional arrangements and structure
- ii. Leadership and management
- iii. Financial (sources like saving and management) including receipts

²⁹ The water can be used for human consumption and domestic use, sanitation such as shower, animal drinking and vegetable gardening (if the concept of multiple use of water is introduced)

iv. Material resource management

Probe: Technical and managerial capacities (and capacity building supports you received from CARE project)

- v. Institutional development and management
 - vi. Human resource development and management (trainings, exposure visits)
 - vii. Financial resource mobilization and management manuals and trainings
 - viii. Material resources management manuals and trainings supports
 - ix. Water scheme cleaning, maintenance and management manual and trainings
14. How do you assess the capacity of the committee members in self managing the water facilities effectively?
15. Is the committee legally registered by the Woreda Water resource office? If yes, please show me the registration certificate
16. Do you have legal cash receipt vouchers printed by the name of the committee? If yes, please show me sample receipts
17. What internal (none (financial)) bylaws do you have and to what extent do you respect them?
18. What is the status of the water supply scheme/service?
- a. Is it working, has a problem or totally stopped?
 - b. If there is a problem in the water scheme, what are the problems?
19. What are the problems associated with safe drinking water supply?
20. For what other purpose do your members use the water supply (sources) than drinking?

Probe: use for irrigation? Estimated irrigated land size in hectares and where? Who were primarily involved and how is their capacity of managing irrigation? What was the achieved results and challenges?

21. Explain me your relationship with the government water resource management office and their contributions to ensure **effective and sustainable management** of the water schemes.

Probe:

- a. How the project did facilitate constructive discussions between the community and government with regards to sustainable safe drinking water supply in the nearest possible area?
 - b. How responsive is the local government to your water supply and management questions?
 - c. How satisfied is the community by the government response?
22. How do you describe the time spent by girls and women on household chores?
- Probe:
- a. Is it increasing or decreasing trend?
 - b. Contribution of the project in the improvements of time spent by women and girls for household chores? Challenges and gabs?
23. Can you please give me your master list that contains the list of water users and other documents such as saving and minute book if available?
24. Overall do you notice any observable real difference and changes that the project activities made to the beneficiaries? Why?
25. Do you believe that the project has addressed well gender issues in the implementation of activities and overall managements of the project? why and why not?
26. How do you explain consideration of environmental aspects in the implementation of the project? Why and why not?
27. Do you believe the project was socially inclusive? Why and why not?
28. How do you explain the continuity of activities, results and effects after this project? why? Did the project establish processes and systems that are likely to support the continued impact of the project?

Thank you for your valuable inputs and time

