

LINKAGES Project Final Report

August 8 2012 to August 31, 2016



CARE Ethiopia



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Defending Dignity. Fighting Poverty.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
ACRONYMS	4
SECTION I – PROGRESS OVERVIEW	6
1. NARRATIVE SUMMARY	6
2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION	8
3. PROJECT CONTEXT	12
4. ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS	15
5. SIMPLE COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF ASSET TRANSFER	31
6. GENDER STRATEGY	32
7. OTHER CROSS-CUTTING THEMES	37
Environment	37
Governance considerations	39
8. MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL ISSUES	40
9. RISK REGISTER	40
10. BUDGET	51
SECTION II – PROJECT PERFORMANCE	52
11. IMMEDIATE AND INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES	52
SECTION III – SUCCESS FACTORS	62
12. RELEVANCE	62
13. PROJECT DESIGN APPROPRIATENESS	62
14. SUSTAINABILITY	62

15. IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	63
16. INNOVATION	65
17. RESOURCES UTILIZATION APPROPRIATENESS	65
SECTION III – LESSONS LEARNED	66
ANNEX A. FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT	69
ANNEX B. HISTORICAL CHANGES TO PMF	69
ANNEX C. PROJECT’S MILESTONES	69
ANNEX D. REPORTS	69
ANNEX E. CONSULTANTS	69
ANNEX F. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY	69
ANNEX G. CONFIRMATION OF DISPOSAL OF ASSETS	70

Acronyms

<i>BDS</i>	<i>Business Development Skills</i>
<i>BDSP</i>	<i>Business Development Service Providers</i>
<i>BKGs</i>	<i>Bee Keeping Groups</i>
<i>CBLA</i>	<i>Community Based Legal Advisors</i>
<i>CF</i>	<i>Community Facilitators</i>
<i>CFI</i>	<i>Chronically Food Insecure</i>
<i>CFIRW</i>	<i>Chronically Food Insecure Rural Women</i>
<i>CFIW</i>	<i>Chronically Food Insecure Women</i>
<i>CO</i>	<i>Country Office</i>
<i>CSI</i>	<i>Coping Strategy Index</i>
<i>CVCA</i>	<i>Climate Vulnerability Capacity Assessment</i>
<i>DA</i>	<i>Development Agents</i>
<i>DIP</i>	<i>Detail Implementation Plan</i>
<i>DRR</i>	<i>Disaster Risk Reduction</i>
<i>ETB</i>	<i>Ethiopian Birr</i>
<i>F2F</i>	<i>Father to Father</i>
<i>FGD</i>	<i>Focus Group Discussion</i>
<i>FSF</i>	<i>Food Sufficiency for Farmers</i>
<i>FSF LDMA</i>	<i>Food Sufficiency for Farmers Project Program Learning, Design and Monitoring</i>
<i>GAC</i>	<i>Global Affairs Canada</i>
<i>GBV</i>	<i>Gender Based Violence</i>
<i>GDP</i>	<i>Gross Domestic Product</i>
<i>GFDRE</i>	<i>Government of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia</i>
<i>GRAD</i>	<i>Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development</i>
<i>GTP</i>	<i>Growth and Transformation Plan</i>
<i>HABP</i>	<i>Household Asset Building Program</i>
<i>HDD</i>	<i>Household Dietary Diversity</i>
<i>HDI</i>	<i>Human Development Index</i>
<i>HEW</i>	<i>Health Extension Worker</i>
<i>HH</i>	<i>Households</i>
<i>IEE</i>	<i>Initial Environmental Assessment</i>
<i>M&E</i>	<i>Monitoring and Evaluation</i>
<i>M2M</i>	<i>Mother to Mother</i>
<i>MDG</i>	<i>Millennium Development Goal</i>
<i>MFI</i>	<i>Micro Finance Institution</i>
<i>MOFED</i>	<i>Ministry of Finance and Economic Development</i>
<i>MOU</i>	<i>Memorandum of Understanding</i>
<i>MSP</i>	<i>Multi Stakeholder Platform</i>
<i>NGOs</i>	<i>Non Governmental Organizations</i>
<i>OADB</i>	<i>Oromia Bureau of Agriculture</i>
<i>OCSSCO</i>	<i>Oromia Credit and Saving Share Company</i>
<i>OFED</i>	<i>Oromia Finance and Economic Development</i>
<i>OFGs</i>	<i>Oxen Fattening Groups</i>
<i>OFSP</i>	<i>Other Food Security Program</i>
<i>PASDEP</i>	<i>Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty</i>
<i>PIMS</i>	<i>Project Information Monitoring Sheet</i>

<i>PMA</i>	<i>Producer Marketing Association</i>
<i>POM</i>	<i>Project Outcome Monitoring Sheet</i>
<i>PQL</i>	<i>Program Quality and Learning</i>
<i>PSNP</i>	<i>Productive Safety Net Program</i>
<i>RUSACO</i>	<i>Rural Saving and Credit Cooperation</i>
<i>SAA</i>	<i>Social Action and Analysis</i>
<i>SEA</i>	<i>Strategic Environmental Assessment</i>
<i>SME</i>	<i>Small and Micro Enterprise</i>
<i>TOT</i>	<i>Training of Trainers</i>
<i>UNDP</i>	<i>United Nations Development Program</i>
<i>USAID</i>	<i>United States Agency for International Development</i>
<i>VC</i>	<i>Value Chain</i>
<i>VSLA</i>	<i>Village Saving and Lending Association</i>
<i>WAGs</i>	<i>Women Asset Groups</i>
<i>WHO</i>	<i>World Health Organization</i>

SECTION I – PROGRESS OVERVIEW

1. Narrative Summary

Abdishe (“hope for her” in local Oromifa language) Project was part of a multi country LINKAGES Program supported by Global Affairs Canada through CARE Canada. The project was specifically designed to provide alternative and accelerated pathways towards graduation from the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP). The project strategy followed market-driven approaches; with emphasis on assisting PSNP beneficiaries and other vulnerable households lacking access to income, food and capital that hinders poor to acquire assets and enter into viable markets. The project targeted chronically food insecure women living both in rural and urban areas. The project contributed to CARE’s strategic priority on rural-urban poverty linkage and opportunities programming.

Over the life of project different economic opportunities created for the target groups like Oxen Fattening Groups (OFGs), Women Asset Groups (WAGs), Bee Keeping Groups (BKGs). Formation of Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs) were entry points for the project to ensure financial inclusion. At the same time the project also facilitated Social Analysis and Action (SAA) groups, Mother to Mother (M2M) support groups, Father to Father (F2F) groups and Community Based Legal Advisor (CBLA) groups to address socio- cultural factors that were affecting women’s to actively participate in mainstream development activities. The endline evaluation conducted by the external evaluators revealed that the project made following significant results:

- number of food shortage months has shown a decline from 8 (baseline figures) to an average of 3.66 months;
- 65.9 % (against the target 60%) of the respondents stated that their household is not currently receiving any food support, implying that they moved out from PSNP in spite of the current El Niño induced drought that severely affected smallholders in many parts of the country including those in the project operational area;
- an increase in the number of food items consumed from four (baseline) to six types (end line) of food groups/items from the nine main food groups;
- the aggregated average income of households from all sources reached 3348 Birr/year, implying a 755 Birr increment and represents a 51.6 % increase in the income of households. This result attests that the project has met and even exceeded its overall target significantly;
- the beneficiaries have an average current savings of Birr 830.03, which is quite large compared to the baseline figure of 61.45 Birr;

- Abdsihe project has established a long lasting platform for mobilizing, coordinating, synergetic planning and gender sensitivity among different stakeholders, including governmental and non-governmental; formal and informal; local and higher levels; and
- The project had provided multiple benefits that range from capacity building, asset transfer, income generating activities, market linkages and value chains and more importantly addressed the issue of gender equality and women empowerment.

During project closeout phase, most of the project beneficiaries and government stake holders reflected that the project has brought good results with regards to improving saving culture of the community, enhancing asset ownership of women and men, improved social interaction, increased business skills of the beneficiaries'; increased food consumption at household level; improved women's leadership skills ; reducing gender based violence through different community levels women support groups (CBLA and SAA) and increased self-help mentality and readiness for change and graduation from the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP).

The project research team with the help of Haramaya University conducted a study to understand "How can women's engagement in economic activities be realized without being overburdened". The research findings show that women's involvement in IGAs has contributed to their involvement in household decision making. This enhances the women's power to negotiate with their husband and in some cases resulting decisions reduce the additional overall working hours the women face when involved in IGAs.

2. Project Description

Country context and rationale for the project

Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries of the world, ranked 157 out of 169 countries by the UNDP Human Development Index (HDI) in 2010. Eighty-four percent of all households are located in rural areas; a majority of these remain chronically food insecure and vulnerable to shocks and potential disasters. Approximately 87% of Ethiopian households rely on agriculture as their major livelihood strategy. Nearly three-quarters of the aggregate cropped area is devoted to cereal and 12% to pulses; permanent cash crops account for less than seven percent of cropped area. Per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for Agricultural and allied activities has been consistently declining since 2003, perpetuating rural poverty as food prices rise without a similar rise in rural incomes.

Facing annual risks of climatic shocks, rural farming households tend to produce low-value subsistence crops on small plots of land with few inputs. Small holder farmers, accounting for more than ninety percent of agricultural production in rural Ethiopia, face constraints including extreme shortage of land, land degradation and soil infertility, poor terms of trade and lack of investments, erratic and unpredictable rainfall patterns, poor access to markets, few off-farm employment opportunities, low agricultural productivity, and chronic illness.

In 2004, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GRDRE) and various donors launched the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP). The PSNP provides food and financial transfers to the chronically food insecure population in a way that prevents asset depletion at the household level and creates productive assets at the community level.

Households taking part in PSNP were typically the poorest of the poor and were vulnerable to external shocks; focusing on these individuals provides the greatest potential for reach and impact. Part of a larger scheme which includes other food security programs (OFSP), PSNP has been credited with providing millions of Ethiopians with the support needed to directly and indirectly build household and community assets to move out of the cycle of poverty.

Although great strides had been made in these social protection initiatives, the combination of PSNP and OFSP were insufficient to ensure graduation of households. The constraints to off-farm activities were well documented and suggest that rural off-farm activity in Ethiopia was driven by rural non-farm activities as a survival strategy, rather than by linkages to markets. Nonetheless, the non-farm sector offers independence for women and Women play crucial roles in ensuring food security and livelihoods in their communities.

Fedis Woreda is located in middle and low-lands area in the East part of the Oromi region and has a population of 210,000 people of whom 67% are poorest, 25% poor and 8% are better off. The population's livelihood mainly consists of agriculture, livestock and small-scale trade. The main objective of farming activities

was to satisfy households' consumption needs, although an increasing number of farmers were exerting efforts to produce more cash crops. Main crops cultivated include cereals, pulses, chat, oilseeds, maize, sorghum and coffee. The productivity of those crops was one of the lowest in the country. The land under cultivation was only 18% of total itable for any kind of cultivation or grazing. The agriculture is mainly rain-fed; only a few farmers irrigate their plots.

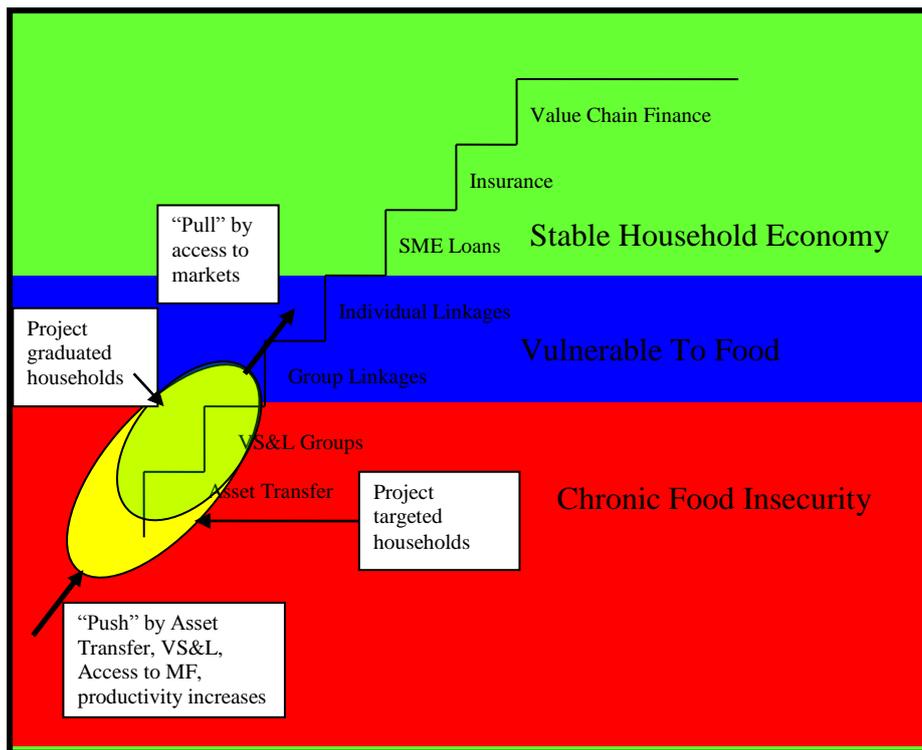
Fedis receives only 500 mm to 900 mm rain annually. Two rainy seasons characterize its climate: the first, named Belg, is the shortest one and takes place between March and May, while the second and most important, named Meher, is between July and October. During the lean period the risk of food insecurity becomes much higher and a majority of the rural population is under stressful conditions. The rate of undernourishment among children and women increases.

Under normal circumstances, Fedis' population was already vulnerable to food insecurity and that is why the GFDRE has included the Woreda in PNSP (the program provides 60 days' worth of labor employment each year for food insecure households). In times of drought, Fedis' vulnerability drastically increases since the agricultural sector was usually the first to be affected because of its heavy dependence on stored soil water and since most of its population relies on agriculture for its subsistence. (Such as sorghum) is a common phenomenon in the Woreda.

The increasing reach and severity of those factors necessitate innovative approaches and coordinated, multi-sectoral interventions, even though the PSNP had been provided invaluable assistance to food insecure households. Therefore, the interventions in ABDISE-project was designed to expand opportunities for women empowerment as well as capitalized on proven market interventions to increase food security and improve livelihoods security of men, women, boys and girls, with a view of enhancing women's capacities, thus positively impacting the greater community. The project proposal was submitted to CARE Canada in February, 2011. However the project implementation started in 2012.

Abdishe project was specifically designed to provide alternative and accelerated pathways towards graduation from the GFDRE Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP). The project was centered on market-driven approaches and had been contributing to improve the livelihoods of Chronically Food Insecure Women (CFIW) and concurrently assisted PSNP beneficiaries lacking access to other food security and microfinance programs to acquire assets through entry into viable markets and a range of contextually relevant microfinance services. The project was also targeted chronically food insecure women living in urban areas, which were not actually reached by PNSP.

Figure .2 - Abdishe Strategic Framework



Ultimate and Intermediate Outcomes of Abdishe Project

Ultimate outcome: Improved livelihood security for Chronically Food Insecure Women (CFIW) in Fedis, East Hararghe Zone of the Oromia Region in Ethiopia.

The project had three intermediate out comes and those were:-

Intermediate out comes#1. Increased quantity and quality of food production and consumption by women, girls, men and boys

Intermediate out comes#2. Women, men, boys and girls are better able to manage and control their economic enterprises.

Intermediate out comes#3. The policy and regulatory environment supports poor women’s and men’s more equal control of agricultural resources and market processes.

Stake holders involved in the project

CARE has sustained stable and productive long-term relationships with all levels of Government of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE). CARE has a Partnership and External Relation Advisor, whose role is to serve as a liaison with the GFDRE and ensure outreach to other stakeholders in Ethiopia. The Partnership and External Relation Advisor is supported by field office managers in each sub-office of CARE to ensure effective liaison and communications at all governmental levels (federal, regional, zonal and Woreda).

Accordingly, CARE and GFDRE submitted the proposal to the Oromia Agricultural and Development Bureau (OADB) and Oromia Finance and Economic Development bureau (OFED). The OADB and OFED were distributed the project agreement to lower level (Zone to Woreda level).

Following the project approval, CARE and its partners launched the project in March, 2013 and started implementing the planned intervention in April,2013 through inviting Zone, Woreda and Kebele Food Security Task Forces (FSTFs) to engage in the planning, beneficiary targeting, baseline, monitoring and evaluation of the Abdishe project. CARE Ethiopia was implemented the project in partnership with government sector offices at different levels among which Agriculture, Cooperative, Animal agency, Women and child affairs, Health, Justice and Admin offices are the major ones.

The project planned to reach 6,400 chronically food insecure women and their families from 9 rural and 2 urban kebeles of Fedis woreda however the total of 7,511HHs were addressed by the project which was over the proposed project target impacting more than 32,000 individuals.

3. Project Context

Ethiopia has adopted the Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (PASDEP), the second poverty reduction strategy, covering the period 2005/06 to 2009/10, and Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), the third poverty reduction and economic growth strategy, covering 2010/11 – 2014/15). Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan 2011-2015 has been designed to maintain the rapid and broad-based economic growth enjoyed by Ethiopia in the recent past, and eventually to end poverty (MOFED, 2010).

Fedis Woreda is located in middle and low-lands areas in the East part of the Oromia region and has a population of more than 210,000 people of whom 67% are poorest, 25% poor and 8% are better off. The population livelihood mainly consists of agriculture, livestock and small-scale trade.

The main objective of farming activities is to satisfy households' consumption needs, although an increasing number of farmers are exerting efforts to produce more cash crops. Main crops cultivated include cereals, pulses, chat, groundnut, maize, and sorghum. The productivity of these crops is one of the lowest in the country. The land under cultivation is only 18% of total landmass, and more than half of the available land was not suitable for any kind of cultivation or grazing. The agriculture is mainly rain-fed; only a few farmers irrigate their plots.

Livestock is another source of livelihood in Fedis, which serves not only as a source of food but also as draft power for crop production, organic fertilizer and a source of cash at times of extreme food deficiency. The livestock commonly raised in Fedis include cattle, goat, sheep, camel and poultry. Bee-keeping is also popular in the Woreda. However, as for agriculture, the productivity in livestock sector is low and the quality of livestock is poor. In 2004/2005 there were about 50,000 cattle and 47,000 small ruminants in the Woreda.

Fedis receives only 500 mm to 900 mm rain annually. Two rainy seasons characterize its climate: the first, named Belg, is the shortest one and takes place between March and May, while the second and most important, named Meher, is between July and October. During the lean period the risk of food insecurity becomes much higher and a majority of the rural population is under stressful conditions. The rate of undernourishment among children and women increases.

Under normal circumstances, Fedis' population is already vulnerable to food insecurity and that is why the GFDRE has included the Woreda in PNSP (the program provides 60 days' worth of labor employment each year for food insecure households). In times of drought, Fedis' vulnerability drastically increases since the agricultural sector is usually the first to be affected because of its heavy dependence on stored soil water and since most of its population relies on agriculture for its subsistence. Fedis has experienced several droughts over the last

30 years, and as a result, crop failure (such as sorghum) is a common phenomenon in the Woreda. Such events are having high negative impacts on agriculture production, food and water consumption, malnutrition rates, market stability, etc.

Recurrent acute needs and potential for business/market growth guided the selection of the Woreda for the Abdishe project. Another factor was the complementary project HIBRET II (Support for PNSP) that was implemented by CARE in this Woreda and that Abdishe was used as leverage. In addition, the most important factor was the willingness of the Woreda to participate in this type of initiative.

Following the willingness of the woreda authority, CARE Ethiopia conducted an in-depth livelihood assessment in Fedis Woreda in November 2010. The assessment included discussions with Woreda authorities and as well as with women groups, elders and officials at the Kebele level. The assessment highlighted the need at household level to reduce expenditure on chat and cigarettes and the necessity to promote a savings culture and improve management of the household economy. The assessment also highlighted the need for increased access to credit, vegetable gardening and petty trade.

In addition to that the assessment identified that women were more negatively impacted by the situation in Fedis, even though they were playing crucial roles in ensuring food security and livelihoods in their communities. This due to their inferior social position, disproportionate access and control over resources and traditional gender roles.

Therefore, Abdishe project was designed to improve the livelihoods of CFIW by deliberately and concurrently assisting PSNP and non-PSNP beneficiaries lacking access to other food security and microfinance programs to diversify livelihoods and build assets to alleviate poverty through market-driven approaches. The project used a holistic approach and had been implementing many activities that had been helping to improve the environment for CFIW to participate in the household and community decision making and engage in livelihoods activities.

Abdishe project was directly aligned with the GFDRE's Growth and Transformation Plan 2010/2011 – 2014/2015, Ethiopia's Government development plan. The project had been also contributing to achieve Millennium Development Goal #1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) and Goal # 3 (Promote gender equality and empower women). Government stakeholders and the community members highly recognize the efforts made by the project to increase food security, improve livelihoods of CFIW and enhancing women's capacities, thus appreciate the project, CARE and GAC.

Abdishe Project was part of a multi-country initiative lead by CARE Canada's Linking Initiatives, Stakeholders and Knowledge to Achieve Gender-Sensitive Livelihood Security (LINKAGES) program. This project directly contributed to two of the three objectives of GAC policy on Gender Equality: 1. Advance women's equal

participation with men as decision makers in shaping the sustainable development of their societies. 2. Reduce gender inequalities in access to and control over the resources and benefits of development.

A holistic and synergistic approach were used by CARE Ethiopia to link this project towards a long term development program supported by the government of Canada and many other development program lead by the government like HABP and PSNP supporting CFIWs to improve women's access to financial services, in raising awareness on equitable household workload and access to resources and in engaging women in profitable markets. In the same manner the project team and the country office LINKAGE team had been closely working together during the life of the project.

CARE Ethiopia engaged its local partners and the community members starting from the need assessment up to the project design. The local partners highly participated in collecting basic data and in collecting and reviewing M&E information. In addition to that the detail implementation plan (DIP) was also developed through the collaborative efforts of the woreda and Zonal partner each implementation years based on the project M&E plan and budget. The project also facilitated the local partners to participate in collecting the data used for project monitoring and decision making throughout the life of the project. Multi Stakeholders Platform (MSP) discussions were also regularly conducted with the lead of local partner's and reviewed the project progress on outputs, outcomes and impacts bases in addition to conducting the regular review meeting with specific sector offices and food security task forces at woreda and community levels. Thus the overall efforts made by the project and partners positively impacted the project implementation towards achieving the intended project out comes and impacts.

4. Activities and Outputs

Project Activity/Output(Please number the activities as per the PIMS)	Activity/Output Target (as per PIMS)		Result: qualitative and/or quantitative data (TOTAL and sex-disaggregated)	Variance: achieved, delayed, postponed or eliminated. Explain why.
	Unit	TARGET (#)		
Intermediate outcome #1. Increased quantity and quality food production and consumption by women and men				
1.1.1 Train 1300 HHs (50% Women) on improved agricultural technologies	# of trainees	1300	On job training and orientation were given to 2672 seed beneficiary of which 1327 of them were women	Strong partnership developed with office of agriculture.
1.1.1.2 TOT for woreda experts and DAs improved crop, livestock and beekeeping technologies	# of trainees	96	TOT training was provided to 104 DAs, Supervisors and woreda experts of which 9 of them were women. The training was cascaded to seed groups including seed multiplication groups.	Strong partnership developed with office of agriculture.
1.1.2.1 Establish Seed multiplying farmers' groups (groups formation, bylaws development,)	# of farmer groups	9	8 seed multiplication groups consisting of 784 members (365 men and 419 women) were formed. The group members took maize and wheat seed and cultivated by cluster. Farmers were able to produce seed on their farms which was certified by Haramaya University seed certification committee as a result of which they fetched good price.	
1.1.2.2 Support seed multiplying farmers groups to create sustainable supply of improved seeds (improved seed provision, extension support)	# of farmer groups	9	All seed multiplication groups were supported with improved seed and capacity building training.	
1.1.2.3 Train model farmers on seed multiplication techniques	# of trainees	200	314HHs participated in seed multiplication received training Of those, 173 of them were	As a result of increase number of

Project Activity/Output(Please number the activities as per the PIMS)	Activity/Output Target (as per PIMS)		Result: qualitative and/or quantitative data (TOTAL and sex-disaggregated)	Variance: achieved, delayed, postponed or eliminated. Explain why.
	Unit	TARGET (#)		
			women. The DAs, supervisors and woreda experts who received the ToT training cascaded the training to the model farmers selected for the seed multiplying groups.	households participated in seed multiplication.
1.1.3.1 Support community nursery sites (with equipments, seeds) to produce different fruit tree seedlings	# of sites supported	4	The project strengthened and supported 5 community nursery sites	
1.1.4.1 Promote the production of fruits at women and men level through seed provision	# of farmers	100	Grafted mango was provided to 540 HHs (375 women and 165 men). Besides, 872 HHs received Papaya, Guava and Gishta fruit seedlings with fair prices making the total supported HHs 1412 from Abdishe supported community nursery.	Due to increased demand of households in seedling, availability of seedling with fair price.
1.1.4.2 Providing vegetable seeds for backyard gardening to HHs who produce with irrigation	# of women	800	1173 women accessed vegetable seed distributed by the project.	
1.1.4.3 Provide seeds for women and men to produce food crops	#kg of grain	35,589	42,113 kg of improved seeds was distributed to the chronically food in secured HHs.	
1.1.4.4 Providing vegetable seeds for urban women for backyard gardening	# of women	270	340 women from two urban project intervention Kebeles were provided with different vegetable seeds and participated in experience sharing to non Abdishe sites. Following the experience sharing visit , the number of urban and rural poor HHs producing vegetable has significantly increased.	As the land size owned by urban women was low the number of beneficiaries was augmented.

Project Activity/Output(Please number the activities as per the PIMS)	Activity/Output Target (as per PIMS)		Result: qualitative and/or quantitative data (TOTAL and sex-disaggregated)	Variance: achieved, delayed, postponed or eliminated. Explain why.
	Unit	TARGET (#)		
1.1.5.1 Provision of modern beehives with complete set of accessories (veil, sprayer, smoker, protective equipment, etc) to enhance honey production	# of HHs provided	60	160 HHs (73 women and 87 men) were provided with modern bee hives and were able to produce better quality and quantity of honey.	Additional budget was utilized to meet the increased interest of farmers,
1.1.5.2 provision of honey processing equipment's (honey extraction, wax processor, etc) to honey producing groups	# of set provided	4	11 Complete set of Honey processing equipment's were distributed to the established beekeeping groups.	Additional budget was utilized to meet the increased interest of farmers,
1.2.1.1 TOT on diet diversity and nutrition for HEWs and woreda government staff	# of trainees	44	A total of 55 HEWs, DA, and woreda experts (35women and 20 men) were trained on Diet diversity and nutrition. Refreshment training was also organized for the second and third time with review of their performance.	
1.2.2.1 Train women and men including 5 M2M groups on nutrition, food diversity & appropriate feeding practices	# of participants	492	Diet diversity and nutrition training was provided to 84 M2M support group leaders and 33 F2F group leaders (478 women and 374 men) and thereby the trainees facilitated discussion with 340 discussion sessions at the community levels.	
1.2.3.1 Train school community members (students, teachers and parent committees) on nutrition including post-training/practical demonstration	# of trainees	340	617 school community members (375 women and 242 men) received training	Convinced to address increased number of school community members using available budget.
1.2.4.1 Train women and men on equitable food allocation (including practical demonstration) at HH	# of trainees	530	690 project participants (490 women and 200 men) were trained on equitable food allocation with practical demonstrations.	

Project Activity/Output(Please number the activities as per the PIMS)	Activity/Output Target (as per PIMS)		Result: qualitative and/or quantitative data (TOTAL and sex-disaggregated)	Variance: achieved, delayed, postponed or eliminated. Explain why.
	Unit	TARGET (#)		
level				
1.2.5.1 Conduct cooking demonstration sessions at community level	# of sessions	45	125 cooking demonstration sessions were conducted.	
1.3.1.1 Training women and men on equitable distribution of roles on use and decision making on agricultural inputs and produces	# of trainees	220	The project provided training to 322 project participants 1(82 women and 140 men) on equitable distribution of roles on use and decision making on agricultural inputs and produces.	
1.3.2.1 ToT on SAA for staff and woreda partners	# of trainees	48	8 project and partners staffs received training based on SAA manual adopted for food security. The training was cascaded to 45 SAA facilitators and core group members (23 women). The project staffs together with the SAA facilitators established SAA group at Kebele level.	
1.3.2.2 Training SAA facilitators and core group members to cascade discussion at community level	# of trainees	572	457 SAA core groups and woreda and kebeles FSTFs (216 women and 241 men) received refresher training. The project also provided training to the SAA facilitators and core group members to form SAA groups and conduct discussions. The trained core group members had been facilitating the promotion of the SAA group discussion action to the larger community members.	
1.3.2.3 Form SAA groups discussion session (SAA)	# of groups	35	56 SAA groups were organized and trained on SAA methodologies at different levels. Following the training, SAA facilitators and core group	

Project Activity/Output(Please number the activities as per the PIMS)	Activity/Output Target (as per PIMS)		Result: qualitative and/or quantitative data (TOTAL and sex-disaggregated)	Variance: achieved, delayed, postponed or eliminated. Explain why.
	Unit	TARGET (#)		
			members undertook SAA group formation and conducted discussion sessions at Kebele level.	
1.3.2.4 Conducting discussion session (SAA) using VSLAs as platform for wider community development	# of sessions	2376	1594 community conversation sessions were conducted by using VSLA as a platform to reach the wider community members. Most of the discussions were focussing on gender equality and harmful traditional practices.	This is one of the few activities that the project was facing difficulty to achieve 100%, due to long time taken to adopt SAA manual for food security projects and translation to Afaan Oromoo..
1.3.3.1 Providing gender sensitive extension services particularly women, on agri. Technologies	# of women provided	1300	Gender sensitive extension service was provided to 1,327 targeted women on improved agricultural technologies before cereal seed distribution along with other important topics.	
Intermediate outcome#2. Women and men are better able to manage and control their economic enterprises				
2.1.1.1 Establish VSLAs/PMA	# of groups established	320	The project established 365 VSLAs consisting 6,780 members with total saving of 1.3 million ETB.The saving was dispersed as loan for group members.	
2.1.1.2 Link VSLAs/PMA to BDSPs, markets and MFIs	# of VSLAs linked with MFIs	320	The signing of agreement with the Micro Finance Institutions (MFI) had taken long time. However, the linkage of VSLA with MFI started in the first quarter of the fourth year of project period and 214 VSLA members were able to get higher amount of	Due to delay in signing of MoU with MFI.

Project Activity/Output(Please number the activities as per the PIMS)	Activity/Output Target (as per PIMS)		Result: qualitative and/or quantitative data (TOTAL and sex-disaggregated)	Variance: achieved, delayed, postponed or eliminated. Explain why.
	Unit	TARGET (#)		
			loan, 645,000 ETB was taken by VSLA members	
2.1.1.3 Train VSLA promoters to cascade VSLA & MIS training	# of promoters	176	Selection and provision of the training to promoters goes along with the number of established VSLAs. Accordingly, 38 women and 64 men the total of 102 VSLA promoters were selected and trained on the VSLA methodology and facilitation skills	The number of trained promoters was optimal to handle the activity
2.1.2.1 Training on leadership and HH asset management for women	# of participants	1500	Leadership and HH asset management training was given for 1,405 women VSLA group leaders and most of them were exercising and improving their leadership skills and some of them came to the government leadership positions.	
2.1.3.1 Form & train Women Asset Groups	# of asset groups formed and trained	351	The project provided three goats each to 3,493 HHs and organized under 351 Women Asset Groups (WAGs), different capacity building training were also provided for these groups.	
2.1.3.2 Provide ruminants to WAGs members	# of beneficiaries	3510	3493 HHs were provided with small ruminants through a revolving mechanism. The project finalized the life of the project plan and is monitoring the transfer modality in transferring the off springs to the second level beneficiaries. So far 1,763 second level beneficiaries received 5,187 off springs from the first level beneficiaries'.	
2.1.4.1 Form and train Oxen Fattening Groups (OFGs) and	# of groups	27	Totally 544 HHs were targeted as members of the Ox Fattening Groups (OFG) as first and second	

Project Activity/Output(Please number the activities as per the PIMS)	Activity/Output Target (as per PIMS)		Result: qualitative and/or quantitative data (TOTAL and sex-disaggregated)	Variance: achieved, delayed, postponed or eliminated. Explain why.
	Unit	TARGET (#)		
members			level beneficiaries and organized as 27 Oxen fattening groups in nine rural project intervention kebeles.	
2.1.4.2 Provide Fattening oxen to OFGs	# of beneficiaries	272	The project provided fattening oxen for 272 women as of the first level beneficiaries and another 272 women were selected as second beneficiaries and 263 women received oxen from the first level beneficiaries.	
2.1.5.1 Provide guarantee fund to VSLAs through MFIs	# of beneficiaries	1920	The agreement with MFI was reached lately in the third year of the project implementation period and 214 VSLA group members with MFI conducted and thus 198 women and 16men VSLA group members accessed the big loan size 645, 000 birr from MFI.	The under achievement is mainly due to the delay in signing the MoU with the MFI.
2.1.6.1 Train men and boys on equitable household workload distribution and decision making	# of trainees	264	The project facilitated the provision of training for 264 (men and boys) on equitable HH workload distributions and decision making, As a result, model men demonstrated and conducted their engagement at community level that has in turn contributed to male engagement.	
2.1.7.1 Provide technical support to community institutions (VSLAs/PMA) to provide gender equitable services and activities	# of institutions	11	Different community groups were identified (VSLAs and PMAs) and were trained on provision of gender sensitive equitable services.. Besides, CBLAs trained in nine Kebeles started provision of equitable gender sensitive equitable services. Moreover, two fuel efficient stove producing	

Project Activity/Output(Please number the activities as per the PIMS)	Activity/Output Target (as per PIMS)		Result: qualitative and/or quantitative data (TOTAL and sex-disaggregated)	Variance: achieved, delayed, postponed or eliminated. Explain why.
	Unit	TARGET (#)		
			groups were supported and 10 ground nut groups were also supported with provision shelling machines.	
2.1.8.1 Train VSLA members on Market information system and VSLA	# of trainees	1600	This activity was started lately in the third year of project implementation periods and ToT training was provided to woreda experts that was cascaded to the members of VSLAs group leaders. The trained 188 VSLA group leaders cascaded the training for the rest of the VSLA group members.	The project reached many number of HHs through the VSLA leaders. It is a good strategy to reach larger number of community members.
2.1.9.1 Revise VSLA practices guideline considering recent developments	# of sessions	1	There is no as such pressing issue to revise the VSLA guide rather the project was focussing on provision of training to the woreda experts and VSLA promoters and staff.	
2.1.10.1 Train VSLAs/PMAs members on productivity and financial management	# of participants	3200	1825 leaders from 365 VSLAs were trained and they in turn cascaded the training to 6780 VSLA members.	
2.1.11.1 Conduct community conversations using VSLAs as platform for wider community interaction on the roles of women and men on access and control over processes in VCs	# of sessions	145	104 sessions were conducted at community level on roles of women and men on access and control over processes in VCs	The delay in the finalization of the value chain study and validation by the staff and partners delayed the implementation of this particular activity at wider community levels.

Project Activity/Output(Please number the activities as per the PIMS)	Activity/Output Target (as per PIMS)		Result: qualitative and/or quantitative data (TOTAL and sex-disaggregated)	Variance: achieved, delayed, postponed or eliminated. Explain why.
	Unit	TARGET (#)		
2.1.12.1 Organize events where role model HHs, who have more equitable workload distribution in their home, will be awarded	# of events	6	The project in collaboration with sector offices identified role model HHs and organized four events in the life of project period. The woreda administration with the office of the women and children affairs office provided certificate and prize for the selected role models.	
2.2.1.1 Provide technical support to VCs at community level	# of support	3	From the selected three value chain, technical support provided to women and men participated on the honey and fattening value chains. The project supported the ground nut value chain groups with provision of shelling machine and recommendation of the study results. It also supported Urban VSLA groups engaged in poultry production and construction of fuel efficient stoves.	
2.2.1.2 Value Chain Study (identification of commodities and analysis)	# of study	1	Except its delay, the value chain study and validation was completed by selecting the three value chains (honey, fattening and ground nut).	
2.2.1.3 VC cascading and training on VCs at community level	# of Lump Sum	3	Technical support with training to the members of the targeted HHs under the identified three value chain was provided at community level.	
2.2.2.1 Train women and men on VCs (Ground nut, oxen and honey) and market information system to engage them in selected VCs	# of women and men	1000	Apart from the technical trainings provided to the members of OFGs (342 HHs), BKGs (150) and Ground nut (280), training and orientation of the supplementary feed utilization, transfer of colony and overlaying of beehives ('suppering') for big	

Project Activity/Output(Please number the activities as per the PIMS)	Activity/Output Target (as per PIMS)		Result: qualitative and/or quantitative data (TOTAL and sex-disaggregated)	Variance: achieved, delayed, postponed or eliminated. Explain why.
	Unit	TARGET (#)		
			colony was practiced. Orientation on utilization of ground nut shelling machine was given to ground nut groups	
2.2.3.1 Identify feasible livelihood options to poor urban women	# of LS	1	The project staffs together with the government partners identified livelihood options to both rural and urban women's. Following the finalization of the identification process, the project started implementing by incorporating them in the project plan.	
2.2.4.1 Train and support poor urban women to engage in selected activities	# of urban women	240	The project provided training to the poor urban women to engage in selected activities on construction of fuel efficient stoves (100 HHs) and poultry (69 HHs) and women entrepreneurship training (74 HHs). Totally 243 HHs trained up to the end of the 3rd year project period from the planned 240 for the life of the project.	
2.2.4.2 Support poor urban women engage in selected activities	# of urban women	240	The project supported 100 HHs to engage in the construction of fuel efficient stoves, poultry, supplementary feed supply, ground nut trading and feed for poultry. Totally, 201 women were supported up to the end of project implementation period from the planned 240 HHs for the life of the project.	
2.2.5.1 Train model farmers on Value chains and market information system	# of participants	280	ToT training was provided centrally and 92 HHs were provided this training from the planned 280 for the life of the project.	

Project Activity/Output(Please number the activities as per the PIMS)	Activity/Output Target (as per PIMS)		Result: qualitative and/or quantitative data (TOTAL and sex-disaggregated)	Variance: achieved, delayed, postponed or eliminated. Explain why.
	Unit	TARGET (#)		
2.2.6.1 Provide inputs to targeted women and men necessary to inter into other VC activities	# of women and men	272	Input was provided to the targeted 845 women and 100 men engaged in three value chains (272 oxen for 272 HHs and 10 shelling machine for 526 HHs and honey processing equipment, beehive and accessories for 147 HHs).	
2.3.1.1 Identify community based collectives and BDS providers	Lump Sum	1	Three Business development service providers were identified along with the woreda cooperative promotion office for rural HHs and small scale enterprise office for the urban community members. And there by Capacity building training was provided to them on business skills and business plan was developed for each groups. Accordingly, they started to work based on their prepared business plan.	
2.3.1.2 Provide capacity building support to BDSPs on gender equitable and appropriate services	# of BDSPs	10	10 staffs of the woreda government partners were trained on business plan preparation and value chains.	
2.3.1.3 Provide capacity building support to BDSPs on gender equitable and appropriate services	# of BDSPs	10	The project established 365 VSLAs groups consisting of 6,780 during the life of the project with 6,469 women and saving the more than 1.3 million birr. And Dispersing as a loan for their group members	
2.3.2.1 Establish linkage b/n VSLAs, PMAs and Private sector	# of VSLAs, PMAs	600	320 WAG groups, 27 OFGs, 7 Bee Keeping groups, 10 Ground nut producing and selling groups were established and are operating with	

Project Activity/Output(Please number the activities as per the PIMS)	Activity/Output Target (as per PIMS)		Result: qualitative and/or quantitative data (TOTAL and sex-disaggregated)	Variance: achieved, delayed, postponed or eliminated. Explain why.
	Unit	TARGET (#)		
			the members of 6,986 for WAG, 544 for OFGs, 147 for BKGs and 526 for Ground nut. Linkage among each other created and the linkage with the private actors started through the three urban VSLAs selected for the linkage purpose with the private actors. So far 3 VSLAs actively involved in the established linkages with the private actors (Harar ground nut traders, Hamaressa feed suppliers, private ox traders.	
2.3.2.2 Establish linkage b/n VSLAs, PMAs and Private sector	# of VSLAs, PMAs	600	The signing of agreement with the MFI was taken much time and in the first quarter of the fourth year project period the linkage of VSLA with MFI was started during this reporting period. The signing of agreement was finalized at the end of the third year project period and transfer of guarantee fund was made and provision of loan to 214 VSLA members in total were made. Totally, 645,000 birr was provided as loan to VSLA members.	
Inter mediate outcome# 3. The policy and regulatory environment supports poor women's and men's more equal control of agricultural resources and market processes.				
3.1.1.1 Train women, men and community leaders on climate resilience and adaptive strategies.	# of participants	210	ToT training was provided to government counterparts and the trained partners cascaded the training to 125 community leaders, women and men members. Among the trained 125 community members 48 of them were women.	

Project Activity/Output(Please number the activities as per the PIMS)	Activity/Output Target (as per PIMS)		Result: qualitative and/or quantitative data (TOTAL and sex-disaggregated)	Variance: achieved, delayed, postponed or eliminated. Explain why.
	Unit	TARGET (#)		
3.1.2.1 Train community FSTFs on gender sensitive planning and monitoring of food security programs	# of trainees	100	The trained woreda partners provided training to 92 community food security task forces (33 women and 59men) on planning and monitoring of food security programs.	
3.1.3.1 Train women to provide paralegal supports to improve equal decision making and to reduce GBV	# of trainees	165	Additional community based legal advisors were identified and trained to make the total trained CBLAs 127. Besides, 55 CBLAs were selected from the trained 127, and took review meeting with refresher training during the fourth years of project period.	
3.1.4 .1 Train community institutions members on women empowerment and gender sensitive programming	# of on women	600	252 women from the community institutions were trained on women empowerment and gender sensitive programming.	
3.1.5.1 Provide capacity building support to Community based institutions to address gender gaps.	LS	3	To address the gender gaps, capacity limitation of trained CBLAs were identified during the review meeting. It was decided then to open offices in all the nine rural Kebeles. Based on this, woreda women affairs office took lead to negotiate with KFSTF to assign one class in each Kebele. Then Abdishe project supported the CBLA offices with tables and chair in addition to establishing relationship of CBLAs with the woreda and Kebele structures.	
3.1.6.1 Provide training to target women on women empowerment	# of participant	140	The project facilitated training to 158 women on women empowerment from nine rural project	

Project Activity/Output(Please number the activities as per the PIMS)	Activity/Output Target (as per PIMS)		Result: qualitative and/or quantitative data (TOTAL and sex-disaggregated)	Variance: achieved, delayed, postponed or eliminated. Explain why.
	Unit	TARGET (#)		
(through woreda women affairs offices)	s		intervention kebeles.	
3.1.7.1 Establish and strengthen community based multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) on women empowerments and gender issues (with 50 % women representation)	# of MSPs meetings	8	The project organized five MSP meetings. The Conducted MSP discussions at zone level were crucial in laying fertile ground to link the established PMAs with private actors and the sector offices.	
3.1.8.1 Support community based MSPs to organize bi-annual discussions at village level and to gather evidences on women empowerment, VC financing, BDS and related activities to inform and influence policies and systems	# of MSPs	3	Three MSP discussions sessions were organized at community levels to share experience and get their view and generate evidence in many aspects.	
3.1.9.1 Organize experience sharing/ learning visit to other CARE operational areas for selected women and Men	# of participants	1400	Experience sharing and learning visit were conducted in all rural project operational areas with the participants of 2503 (1643 women and 860 men) experience sharing event was also organized with the Haramaya University-Integrated Seed Support Development program and government partners on seed multiplication where 1000 people from farmers, zonal and woreda partners, staff from Haramaya University, Unions and research centres participated.	
3.1.10.1 Assess the level of control	# of	1	The project was not able to conduct assessment	

Project Activity/Output(Please number the activities as per the PIMS)	Activity/Output Target (as per PIMS)		Result: qualitative and/or quantitative data (TOTAL and sex-disaggregated)	Variance: achieved, delayed, postponed or eliminated. Explain why.
	Unit	TARGET (#)		
women have over HH resources and finance	assessment		separately on this. However, the Mid Term Evaluation, the final evaluation, universal gender indicator and the rolling profiles may provide the same info.	
3.1.11.1 Provide capacity building supports to HEW to enable them assess the social determinants of FP	# of training sessions	1	The SAA training provided to SAA facilitators and core group members and while they lead the SAA discussion, they will identify the social determinants as one of the step in SAA methodology is to identify the social determinants.	
3.2.1.1 Organize bi-annual community discussion forums on policies, guidelines, practices and learning related to gender and/or women empowerment	# of sessions	6	One session was conducted to discuss the issue with community and stakeholders. Haramaya University Gender and rural development department facilitated this session.. Besides, in all of the five MSP conducted at zonal level, one of the major activity was to discuss on policy issues that relate with gender.	
3.2.2.1 Train DAs and HEWs on key analysis tools: Gender, CVCA & DRR	# of participants	60	One training sessions was organized where 30 participants participated.	
3.2.3.1 Organize community level joint learning forums (bi-annual review & reflection sessions) to foster mutual learning and scale up of good practices that support women empowerment actions and to evaluate progresses	# of events	6	Four community level joint learning forums were organized together with the woreda and zonal partners from the planned 6 for the life of the project.	

Project Activity/Output(Please number the activities as per the PIMS)	Activity/Output Target (as per PIMS)		Result: qualitative and/or quantitative data (TOTAL and sex-disaggregated)	Variance: achieved, delayed, postponed or eliminated. Explain why.
	Unit	TARGET (#)		
3.2.4.1 Assessment of the impact of productive engagement of women on children's malnutrition and engaging men on HH Chores	# of assessment	1	ToT training was provided to government counterparts and the trained partners cascaded the training to 125 community leaders, women and men members. Among the trained 125 community members 48 of them were women	
3.2.5.1 Assessment of the situation of men's income generating ability as women engage in productive activities and bring more income for the HH	# of assessment	1	The trained woreda partners provided training to 92 community food security task forces (33 women and 59men) on planning and monitoring of food security programs.	
3.2.6.1 Conducting bi-annual monitoring and annual impact tracking assessments	# of assessment	6	Additional community based legal advisors were identified and trained to make the total trained CBLAs 127 from the planned 165 for the life of the project. 13 CBLAs trained from each of the 9 rural Kebeles and 5 from each of the two urban. Besides, 55 CBLAs were selected from the trained 127, and took review meeting with refresher training during the fourth years of project period.	

5. Simple Cost-Benefit Analysis of Asset Transfer

Abdishe Project transferred various assets to the poorest of poor women farmers to build their assets. The assets such as goats, oxen and seed for multiplication were provided to the farmers with proper agricultural extension methods. The farmers got trainings on improved ox fattening techniques, goat husbandry, feeding and medicament and training on agronomic practices for seed multiplication. Moreover, close technical follow up was done to ensure productivity and production.

Simple assessment was carried out by project staff to analyse the benefits of asset transfer to poor women farmers. A total of 60 farmers were randomly selected from three asset groups, goat rearing, oxen fattening and seed multiplication groups (20 from each group) for the analysis. Asset transfer to women farmers was done. Data on estimated value of assets provided to the farmers and the benefits were collected.

According to the analysis, 20 farmers who were selected for goat rearing and were given goats with total value of 34,710 Birr (CAD2100) have been undertaking goat husbandry and the value of goats currently at their hand is roughly estimated to be 91,005 Birr (CAD5505). To analyse the benefits of ox fattening group, 20 farmers were randomly selected for the analysis. Oxen with a total value of 150,850 Birr (CAD9125) were given to 20 randomly selected farmers and at the end of the project period the value of oxen sold and oxen at hand became 337,850 Birr (CAD20438). Improved seeds of wheat and maize with a value of 5,400 Birr (CAD327) were provided to 20 randomly selected farmers and these farmers increased production and productivity and obtained a produce with an estimated value of 195,250 Birr (CAD11811). The gross margin between the cost and benefit for three of the assets is found to be significant.

The analysis shows that poor women farmers can be economically empowered if their access to services and assets is enhanced. These women farmers got recognition from experts, family members, community members, and politicians and are being considered exemplary in alleviating poverty.

6. Gender Strategy

Ethiopia is a largely rural, agrarian country whose lack of educational and economic opportunities means that traditional gender roles have persisted for centuries, resulting in low levels of schooling for girls, high fertility rates, perpetuation of harmful traditional practices, and disproportionate access and control over resources which affect food security and economic development. Cyclical shocks such as, drought have reinforced the status quo, resulting in food insecurity and hindering long-term efforts at gender equality.

Rural women are particularly exposed to this problem and suffer from discrimination in terms of land allocation by local government and from exploitive share-cropping arrangements. Because of illiteracy, high fertility and maternal mortality rates, exacerbated by their inferior social position, their productive potential starts at a much lower level than men. While the whole family is challenged by acute land degradation, deforestation, erratic rainfall and climate change, women are also confronted with the additional workload expectations, unequal division of labor, increased vulnerability due to early marriage and pregnancy, the risk of divorce, all reinforced by the patriarchal cultural, religious and social norms that drive gender discrimination, and act as a barrier to women exercising their rights. Women's limited mobility also hinders their access to social services. Although improving, the quality of available services (health, education, infrastructure and financial services) is seldom adapted to women's needs and declines as communities are more distant from Woreda, zonal and regional centers.

CARE Ethiopia's gender analysis of the project identified, women in Fedis woreda work from 14-17 hours a day. The HH work division was more of rigid where men only do what 'men were supposed to do' in the community like Farming (ploughing, weeding, harvesting.). Fattening, buying & selling cattle, selling 'chat' and, brokerage (cattle & shoats). The major women's activities were cooking, child care, HH management, chicken keeping, selling 'chat', feeding animals, transporting harvest from farm to processing area and to the home, milking or sale of milk & milk products, vegetable gardening and selling/keeping small ruminants, selling toasted ground nuts.

The gender study report highlighted as the men tend to decide on 'bigger' issues while women decide on 'smaller' issues. Decisions that affect the household's nutrition and food security were primarily the man's while one component (family planning) was a woman's decision. Land was considered a 'male' property. Though some women in Fedis woreda use their back yard for vegetables it produced in small amount. Women cannot inherit land because of cultural taboos and not directly addressed by the agricultural extension service except the health extension package (which addresses women only). Men were visible in the high profit markets while women were largely in the petty trades. Women's access/role in bigger markets was further hindered by their lack of business skills and illiteracy/numeracy. These limited their bargaining skills and reduce profitability.

Generally, gender inequity was identified as one of the barriers for food security in particular woreda and Improvement in women economic and social situation was crucial in the total economic and social improvement of the targeted communities.

The project was entirely developed and to be implemented to empower women and girls of the woreda, through improving the livelihood of the households, communities and the woreda. Therefore, all the project activities were designed to positively contribute in achieving gender issues. Thus all the project objectives were supportive of addressing gender issues, and put as expected results as follows:-

1. Increased quantity and quality of food production and consumption equally by women and men:

- ✚ Decreased gap between men's and women's control over resources necessary to ensure sustainable food production.
- ✚ Intra HH responsibilities and decision making on agricultural production and access to inputs improved.
- ✚ Women and Men equally consume nutritious food
- ✚ Women such as mother-to-mother groups increased their knowledge of appropriate nutrition and diet diversity
- ✚ Government and community institutions acquainted with nutrition and appropriate feeding practices.

2. Women and men are better able to manage and control their economic enterprises.

- ✚ Women and Men have increased and more equal access to the knowledge, skills and services needed to strengthen and diversify their economic activities.
- ✚ Feasible economic activities identified and business skills and financial literacy improved
- ✚ CFs and DAs facilitated transfer of knowledge and skills on different economic activities through VSALs and Women Asset Groups.
- ✚ Coops/SME's provided BDS for gender equitable access and control over process in VCs
- ✚ PMAs formed and linked to markets
- ✚ Decreased gap between men's and women's access to and control over a variety of processes in selected value chains
- ✚ Formation of collectives and groups (VSLAs, WAGs, PMSs) facilitated BDS
- ✚ Women and men equally accessed services such as loan, and capacity building activities to run their livelihoods
- ✚ Training on genders sensitive programming given to community institutions
- ✚ Participation of women in different community based intuitions/associations and decision making increased

- ✿ Collectives and Business Development Service Providers (BDSP) provide more equally relevant support to male and female owned enterprises
- 3. The policy and regulatory environment supports poor women's and men's more equal control of agricultural resources and market processes.**
- ✿ Local value chain (VC) actors (women's groups, collectives, suppliers) have increased role in the formulation of policies and regulations that enhance men's and women's food, nutrition & income security.
 - ✿ The role of VC actors in the formulation of policies and regulations enhanced
 - ✿ Local government structures have increased capacity to effectively and transparently engage different stakeholders in development planning and implementation processes.
 - ✿ Capacities of Food Security Task Forces (FSTF) members and other experts improved to plan and monitor food security programs
 - ✿ Capacities of Women Affairs offices built to influence gender equal planning and implementation including collection of sex disaggregated data
 - ✿ Joint learning forum formed and strengthened to foster mutual learning and scale up of good practices to support gender equality

In the entire project a priority was placed on understanding the implications and impacts gender empowerment had on attaining food security and ensured that all activities advance gender equality and avoid over-burdening women. Abdishe also recognize the need to systematically analyse gender dynamics within the household and ensuring the interventions promote gender equality at all levels and adopted different lessons acquired by other CARE projects like FSF and GRAD.

The project gave priority for women starting from beneficiary targeting and throughout the project implementation. Accordingly amongst 7,511 HHs participated in the project 4,597 of them were women, 1327 and 821 Females and male respectively were provided with agricultural extension systems adopted to support HHs produce food crops, different types of improved seed varieties were provided for those women in addition to capacity building training on equitable distribution of roles on use

and decision making on agricultural inputs and produce, different fruit seedling like Papaya, Guava and Gishta were provided for 1247 women and 165 men making the total HHs provided with fruit seedling 1,412, in addition to that 540 HHs were provided

"Abdishe project has made our husbands return back to home". In explaining this she kept on to say, "as we women began to be recognized and got access to resources from Abdishe, their heart could not be as cruel as before. Their attitude towards wives has changed and began to treat us in a respectful manner. Those husbands who were counting their wives useless began to recognize their importance. As the project was providing the productive resources in the name of women in the household, husbands usually have to ask the willingness of their wives to use those resources. This was a huge victory for most women in our Kebele. There was only one household head before the project, i.e. my husband. But today, there are two heads including me- the wife, thanks to Abdishe."

Source: Abdishe Endline Evaluation

grafted mango seedlings. The project also addressed 1173 women with different vegetable seeds vegetable seeds, As a result currently women and men agricultural production and productivity were improved and an encouraging and promising changes were also observed in the areas of diversified food groups produced in the HHs at the community levels in . The feedback received from women and men and the community leaders at different period of time also confirmed these result.

The project also facilitated the formation of informal community institution's such mother to mother support groups, father to father support groups, SAA groups and Seed multiplication groups and enhanced the community awareness and practices of equitable HH food allocations and consumptions, diet diversity at the HH levels.

Many asset creation activities were conducted by the project, thus 272 fattening oxen 272and 3493 goat were provided for women as a revolving mechanism for the first level beneficiaries, 160 modern bee hives were also provided for bee keeping groups where majority of them were women, thus rural women and men were diversified their HH incomes, the community perceptions towards women access and control over resource is improved and many rural women are able to own an asset and their decision making power over HH resource is improved due the effort made by the project with in the last four years. Below table demonstrate evidence of women's enhanced decision making ability:

Average score of women's decision making in their home (out of four points) Type of decision	Baseline Score	End line Score
Buying small food items, groceries, toiletries	3.16	3.39
Buying clothing for yourself and your children	2.83	3.33
Spending money that you yourself have earned	2.72	3.24
Buying or selling major household assets (land, livestock, crops)	2.65	3.07
Buying or selling jewelry	2.74	3.41
Use of loans and savings	2.88	3.41
Expenses for your children's education	2.70	3.27
Expenses for your children's marriage	2.59	3.04
Medical expenses for yourself or your children	2.66	3.08
Family planning (contraceptives) service	2.72	3.13
To move to shelter during time of disaster	2.75	2.84
Average score	2.76	3.20

The project applied Gender Universal Indicators (GUI) to measure access and control gp between women and men. Over the life of project four rounds of data collections carried out (December 2013, July 2014, July 2015 and April 2016). The data shows significant progress of women's access to and control over major resource (details can be seen in the (Annex –III)). Below tables demonstrates gradual progresses of participating women's access to and control over major resources over last four years:

Item	Access				Control			
	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
Oxen	22.9%	22.9%	47.1%	51.8%	5.3%	5.3%	45.9%	48.2%
Fertilizer	21.8%	21.8%	51.8%	60.6%	10.6%	10.6%	47.1%	51.2%

Seeds	35.9%	35.9%	58.8%	67.6%	12.4%	12.4%	54.7%	60.0%
Land	27.6%	27.6%	50.0%	56.5%	11.8%	11.8%	41.2%	47.1%
Extention	50.6%	56.5%	68.2%	71.8%	21.2%	26.5%	60.0%	60.0%
Sheep	7.1%	7.1%	32.9%	20.0%	2.9%	2.9%	30.6%	36.5%
Goat	24.7%	51.2%	90.0%	91.8%	12.4%	27.6%	88.8%	89.4%
Cow	32.4%	32.4%	50.6%	50.0%	11.2%	11.2%	44.7%	49.4%
Camel	1.2%	1.2%	1.8%	2.4%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.8%
Chat	20.0%	20.6%	54.7%	68.2%	10.6%	10.6%	51.8%	54.1%

Source: Data from four rounds Gender Universal Indicator

Different economic groups such as women asset groups, Oxen fattening groups ground nut trading groups and honey groups were organized as PMA using VSLA as a platform and linked to BDS and other private actors like Hamaressa edible oil share company. Training were also provided for PMAs, BDS and other private actors on the equitable access and control over process in VCs at different levels including TOT training for the government experts cascaded the training to the community levels. Therefore, many women participated in the project were engaged in the various VC activities and improved their livelihoods and decreased the gaps between men's and women's access to and control over a variety of processes in selected value chains activities which were previously dominated by men.

The project was facing some challenges; however they were not at the extent of hampering the project outcomes and impacts. Among those challenges the existed social norms, values and attitude towards gender equality was one a barrier for interventions. The project used different mitigation strategies of the challenges; provision of asset for women, strengthening partnership with women and child affairs, engaging religious leaders and community influential and provide training on SAA and gender equality using them as an advocators at the community levels, organizing community levels women's self-support groups like M2M, VSLA, CBLA and SAA groups and conducting different level discussion forums at the community levels on gender equality and diversity and many other gender related issues. The organized SAA core groups, F2F support, male SAA and VSLA groups were playing crucial roles in changing the community perceptions on gender equalities and enhanced male engagement in the HH chores and changed the community perceptions towards women asset ownership and control overs resource.

Thus currently there is a supportive environment for women and many women became owner of a big asset like oxen and had been engaged in different income generating activities which was not a case such before. We received many feedback from community influential, women support groups and woreda officials at different period of time as those strategies were effective and will be incorporate in their regular work plan for the futures.

For example, According to one respondent, it is "Thanks to the Abdishe project that my husband has understood my burden in household activities. Besides, he helped me in fetching water, collecting firewood and taking care of kids. Above all he realized that my

involvement in IGAs is important for the family's well-being. He allows me to stay late outside for the activity and sometimes I go to Harar and stay the night there. As a result, I am more satisfied with my activities and happier in my marriage than before. In addition, as my husband used to decide everything, we used to argue and had conflicts. Besides, he used to insult and beat me. But after the trainings from the Abdishe project such as gender equality discussions conducted in SAA sessions, we do not have those conflicts, and my husband has stopped beating and insulting me.”(Abdishe Research report).

“My wife has got many benefits from ABDISHE project. Her sense and feeling has dramatically changed, as she is not shy of expressing her self that she has an ownership over our common resources. Her ability and participation on decision making, managing and controlling over resources was increased. She does not simply submit in matters that she felt were against her right. She challenges me when I do something wrong. She has got good knowledge and became sensible which I liked because it has benefits in changing our family. Because of her active participation in the project, my family has got loan for further asset building. She has acquired a new knowledge and skills about use of technology and agricultural extension. Overall, I am very happy and my entire family, too”. (one male FGD members)

Source: Abdishe Endline Evaluation

LINKAGES projects specifically Abdishe-LINKAGES has many things to be learned from and of the those the project was primarily understood the cause of house hold food insecurities, the most vulnerable groups and mitigation strategies based on the local context.

Thereby the Abdishe-LINKAGES project activities were designed in a holistic and packaged manners to improve HH food securities and all of the project activities were supportive of one an others, so that they were highly contributed to others food security program like PSNP, HAPB, GTP, MDG and others lead by the government, confirming its synergy with the government policy and strategies.

In general the LINKAGES project was very interesting, inclusive, participatory and allowed the door opening for learning and knowledge sharing at different levels, we received many feedback so many times in a formal and informal way as many of the government officials were accustomed with many lessons from the Abdishe project and will incorporate in the regular government plan and projects, in addition to that they also recommend the CARE to design others project in that manners.

7. Other Cross-cutting Themes

Environment

Abdishe-LINKAGES project was implemented in Fedis, East Hararghie zone of the Oromiya region. Fedis was one of the PSNP areas, program to which CIDA contributed up to CAD \$140 million dollars through the World Bank, the World Food Program and other contracted entities.

It was indicated on CIDA's webiste, “[i]n accordance with the Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals, a detailed strategic environmental assessment (SEA) was conducted for the project.” The SEA concluded that “[t]he PSNP would has to produce positive environmental impacts since its activities

were focus on environmental regeneration and infrastructure to promote more sustainable agricultural practices such as terracing and binding for soil conservation.

The website further mentioned that “Consultations on this initiative were conducted primarily with the donor community and the Ethiopian government partners at the federal, regional and district levels. The concerns identified in the SEA for this initiative were discussed with relevant stakeholders to ensure that CIDA's requirements were consistent with the common framework for program planning and environmental management.”

The PNSP project, on which this project was built on, was compliant with CIDA’s environment requirements. The project was also build on the USAID funded PNSP-Plus project. In accordance with USAID’s environmental regulations, an Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) was conducted at the design phase of the project in 2008. The IEE was focused on pest management practices in Ethiopia, since pests play an important negative role in agricultural development in the country and recommended deferring the use of pesticides.

Other than pesticides, CARE was also identified specific environmental factors that might negatively affect through our engagement in the project and most of them were relevant with the factors that we were encountered with in the last four years of project implementation periods. All the mitigation strategies CARE Identified were working in solving those identified environmental issues. The environmental issues encountered and used mitigation strategies are summarized on the following table.

Table - Encountered Environmental issues and Mitigation measures of Abdishe project

Activities Related with Environmental issues	Impact on the environment	Risk Level	Engaged Mitigation Measures in the project
A number of Organized VSLA group participants were using business skills and participated on income-generating activities to improve their HH income	Income-earning activities might include those that impact negatively on the environment. For example, collection and utilization of forest products	Medium	-The training on natural resource management and sustainable utilization of forest products provided for the Project participants. -Fuel efficient stove was introduced at the community levels using VSLA as a platform Both these actions significantly reduced use of wood for cooking purposes as well as reduced carbon emission,
The project transferred asset (Oxen, goat and modern beehives) for the project participants	Increased number of livestock might result in over grazing and increased soil erosion	Medium	-The training provided on effective and sustainable supply of feed for fattening and rearing -Concentrated feed was provided for both 1 st and 2 nd oxen fattening beneficiaries’ Both action facilitated beneficiaries access to low cost high quality animal feed that helps quick growth of their animals and provided higher value.

Governance considerations

The main objective of Abdishe project was a women empowerment in Fedis Ethiopia. Throughout one of the major power imbalances occurred at household level between men and women, particularly in regard to household decision making, equitable distribution of reproductive tasks and the ability of women to engage in the community, political and institutional activities. Therefore, Abdishe initiative was developed and utilized VSLA approach as one of the major strategies and addressed this power imbalance at the community levels. Currently, many results achieved by VSLA participants in addition to improving their access to savings and credit, women's standing and decision-making roles within the household and community were increased, Gender roles with in the HH were improved and many men became participating in the HH chores. Thus, women's participation in different income generating activities enhanced and improved earning food and income for their household.

SAA methodology was also utilized by the project complementing VSLA in changing the gender roles to achieve the intended project objectives. Hence a number of benefits are resulting from changing in gender roles including reducing women's work load, improving women's participations in household decision making and more equitable balance in workloads results in increased cohesiveness within the family.

The project had been implemented in Fedis Ethiopia, where at a community level a number of organizational structures existed that could provide opportunities for increasing participation of marginalized members of the community, including women. Accordingly, the Food Security Task Force (FSTF) was a Government forum at Kebele and Woreda level to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the Government Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and other Food security projects.

One of the major tasks of the FSTF was to identify and monitor targeting of beneficiaries for the PSNP.

Many of the beneficiaries of the Abdishe initiative would PSNP beneficiaries which were targeted by the woreda and kebeles level FSTF. The initiative targeted the most vulnerable and marginalized members of the community, many of whom had limited voice or power to address issues of injustice that they might face in their daily lives and many whom due to illiteracy or lack access to information regarding service provision and their rights as citizens. Thereby the CARE- Ethiopia Abdishe project had been supported the government program in accelerating graduation from PSNP.

CARE Ethiopia had developed a mechanism to provide an avenue of expression regarding services provided by Abdishe project. Among the tools developed and utilized by the project for that purpose Multi stake holder platform, Panel monitoring and regular monthly base discussions with woreda and Kebele level FSTF were some of them that had been effectively worked in facilitating the discussions between the project participants and Woreda-level government managers to discuss the problems and opportunities towards making the project more effective.

8. Management and Operational Issues

- a. Did the project/CO encounter any management issues during the reporting period within CARE and among the project partners? If so, please briefly describe the issues and responses taken to address them.
- b. Did the project/CO encounter any main operational challenges (related to CARE or to external conditions) that affected project implementation? If so, please briefly describe including remedial actions taken.

Note: Management issues and operational challenges can be related to, for example:

- Work planning
- Scheduling
- Logistics
- Finance
- Monitoring
- Reporting
- Public relations issues

9. Risk Register

CARE- Ethiopia was conducted the risk assessment for Abdishe project Initiative at the beginning of project design and incorporated the risk response strategies. Most of the risks that were identified and registered were relevant and encountered during the course of the project implementation, though it was not to the extent affecting project out comes. The project started implementing the planned intervention in April 2013, though it was planned to be started in August, 2012 and that risk was primarily identified by the CARE and that risk was minimized through sustained, constructive, stable and productive long-term relationships CARE Ethiopia had with all levels of GFRDE.

Prolonged drought was another identified operational risk experienced within the last four years of the project implementation periods, however it was minimized through the collaborative efforts made by the project and woreda government sector offices starting from the beginning of the project implementations. Of those as Fedis Ethiopia was experienced redundant drought, an improved strategies and drought resistant seed varieties were selected based on the local context and distributed for the project participants, in addition to income diversification strategies incorporated in the project through organizing different women and men support groups specifically VSLA, PMA, seed multiplication groups and linking them with the market. On top of that different capacity building training helping the community members to develop their own disaster

“If the project was not implemented before the current drought, you would not get me here or we all would have died. My family members and I have survived because of the support and intervention of this project. We used our livelihood assets both in kind and cash that we have gained from the project and saved our lives during this difficult period in life. It is also a pity that the drought has affected the success of our vision as we could register further results if there were no droughts.” (one male FGD members)

Source: Abdishe endline evaluation

preparedness plan and recovery strategies, Disaster risk reduction and management, Climate change adaptation and resilience were provided at different level including TOT training for the woreda experts and FSTF members at different period of time and cascaded the training for the project beneficiaries and other community members.

As a result, though Ethiopia was faced prolonged drought due to E-lino effect which was a similar case for the project intervention sites, the project participants were adopted and resist the effect and even produce improved seed and sharing for another community members and these were recognized by the government and taken as a lessons and shared for many woreda's in East and West Hararghe zone of Oromia regions through organizing farmers field day at the CARE –Abdishe project intervention kebeles.

Major risks that were initially identified by the project and encountered/added/modified and their response are summarized as follows:-

Description of Risks (Risk Register)

Risk Definition		Risk Response	Residual Risk Level – Low/Very Low/High/Very High		
			Entire project period		
Operational Risks					
	Delay in bureaucratic procedures to start project after approval had been obtained.	This was initially identified by the project and risk was minimized as the CARE had sustained, stable constructive and productive long-term relationships with all levels of GFRDE and the project launched in April, 2013.	L = Low		
	Ethiopia experienced a prolonged drought due to the –E-lino effect, which was similar for project intervention site.	-The project were incorporated many activities that increase resilience and reduce vulnerability to sudden shocks to food security. -Different business groups like VSLA, PMA and others were organized and had been engaged in the selected VC subsectors identified by the project -Market linkage and price assessment of crops and livestock was conducted and using the coping strategy index. -To respond to the occurred emergency condition CARE was developed an emergency and drought recovery project and responding to the major emergency situations with in all rural project intervention sites	I = High		
Financial Risks					
	Inflation levels exceed those anticipated in the budget.	This was another encountered threat that was encountered during the project implementation and solved through the discussion made by CARE and CIDA , thus did not impacting the project	L = Medium		
Development Risks					
	Increased in women’s workload due to VSLA involvement and livelihood activities. Daughters/young females must undertake more household chores as a consequence.	The project developed different tools like SAA, CBLA, M2M and F2F groups and Stimulated community conversations on discriminatory gender roles and responsibilities and include gender training at community-level. Also community influential, religious leaders and community leaders provided specific training gender equity and diversity, SAA methodologies and gender sensitive planning and monitoring of Food security	L = High		

		<p>projects and program. Labor and time saving technologies such as fuel efficient stove and ground nut shelling machine were introduced by the project</p>	I =High		
Reputation Risks					
	<p>The project might be misunderstood by certain members of the communities or by the authorities, indirectly affecting CARE's reputation.</p>	<p>-CARE implemented the project after the inception workshop was organized at the beginning of the project with all stakeholders. -CARE's approach was based on transparency, accountability and good governance and different forum like MSP and panel discussions were organized, so as the project participants and government officials were actively participating in the project implementation and had been providing feedback and raise concerns regularly. Therefore, this was not a case in the a last four years of project implementation periods</p>	<p>L = Very Low I =High</p>		

GLOBAL Risk Register for LINKAGES

		LINKAGES		No.	S065426	Team Leader
Country/Region/Institution		Bolivia, Ethiopia, Ghana and Mali		Budget	CAD6,204,000	Duration: 2012-2016
Risk Definition	Risk Level (Initial rating)	From Program Risk Profile? (Y/N)	Indicate Investment LM Result Level	Risk Response	Has this risk occurred during your project? (Y/N)	If you have answered "Y" to the question in left column, then explain: 1) HOW and WHEN it has occurred 2) WHICH outcome result(s) (intermediate or immediate) it has affected and HOW 3) HOW it was mitigated and BY WHO
Operational Risks						
Op 1	Natural disasters (erratic & heavy rains, disease outbreaks) may affect CARE's and partners' ability to reach target groups and implement activities	Low (2)	Yes	Intermediate outcome	Capacity-building and exposure to disaster risk reduction programming techniques will be available to all staff. In addition, specific training is planned on adapting to climate change.	Yes In the last 4 th years of Abdishe project implementation period Ethiopia was Affected by E-lino climate change and experienced erratic rain fall which was the same for the LINKAGE initiative intervention sites. Though the prolonged drought backslides the struggle that project participants were making in insuring Their HH food security and resilience ,there were no more significant effect on the project activities as most of the activities were finalized in the third years and in the first quarter of 4 th years before the condition was worsened
Op 2	Delay caused by bureaucratic procedures required to start implementing activities after project approval has been obtained.	Very low (1)	Yes	Intermediate outcome	Timely notification of funding approval and transfer of funds will allow project to source materials and necessary inputs and ensure activities start on time. CARE sustains stable and productive long-term relationships with its government counterparts. Although the likelihood of this risk is low CARE will continue to pursue constructive relations	Yes This was initially identified by the project and risk was minimized as the CARE had sustained, stable constructive and productive long-term relationships with all levels of GFRDE and the project launched in April,2013. Therefore, this was not affected the project activities.

					with counterparts and monitor any new developments, notifying the donor if necessary.		
Op 3	Insecurity and conflict in northern Mali including the presence of several armed groups in the north. Insecurity increased in central and southern Mali as a result of on-going northern issue and the preparation of a UN backed military intervention.	High (3)	Yes	Intermediate outcome	CARE has developed a contingency plan for its operations (emergency and development programs) and updated and put in place appropriate security measures for the CO (including regional / field offices) to ensure the safety and security of its personnel. For example, monitoring mechanisms of movements in the IFONS project area and communication mechanisms are in place for regular updates on the context—including with the local populations. Evacuation plans are in place in the event of deterioration of the security context.	No	
Op 4	CARE may be unable to attract and retain the required skills and competencies required for the program.	Very low (1)	Yes	Immediate outcome	The country team has named key male and female staff involved in the planning of the grant, who will continue to lead implementation as the program gets funded; Provision of competitive compensation package.		
Op 5	Land conflicts and conflicts	Low (2)	Yes	Intermediate outcome	CARE has set up transparent and	No	

	around natural resources				exclusive management mechanisms		
Financial Risks							
Fin 1	Inflation levels exceed those anticipated in the budget.	Very low (1)	Yes	Immediate outcome	CARE will assess if the anticipated impact can be maintained by reallocating resources. Any proposed changes will be discussed with CIDA immediately. If additional funds are required, options will be discussed with CIDA.	Yes	This was encountered risks and the effect on the activities were solved/ minimized through the timely discussion made with GAC.
Fin 2	The exchange rates fluctuate up or down and dramatically affects the budget.	Very low (1)	Yes	Immediate outcome	CARE will discuss this matter with CIDA if and when the situation arises. If the rate changes up or down, the effect on the budget as a whole and the project activities will need to be reassessed and a readjustment of the budget agreed upon.	Yes	The same to the above cases
Fin 3	Risks associated with financial and contractual compliance with partners who participate in the project	Low (2)	Yes	Immediate outcome	Working primarily with existing partners who are familiar with procedures; use self-selection of members in groups to screen viable micro-enterprise investments.	No	
Fin 4	As autonomous organizations, POs could misappropriate	Very low (1)	Yes	Immediate outcome	Funding is released in trznches. Further release of funding is contingent on proof that previous release has	No	

	project funds.				been used as expected. CAREs financial administration conducts its own financial monitoring.		
Developmental Risks							
Dev 1	Activities intended to be implemented by groups overburden them, and crowd out their own evolutionary process	High (3)	Yes	Immediate outcome	Given the reliance on strategies involving different kinds of groups, monitoring tools will include analytical methodologies to enable teams to track the evolutionary stage of groups and their activity load. The tool for feedback from program participants will also include their input into these issues. The learning themes on collectives will also include attention to this risk		
Dev2	Food and nutrition emergency in Mali	High (3)	Yes	Intermediate outcome	Food response and development programs (incl. IFONS) integrated as much as possible to ensure strong synergy, mitigate potential negative impacts and improve expected results.	No	
Dev 3	The will and availability of decision makers to promote transparent and	Low (2)	Yes	Immediate outcome	CARE has built respect and trust in the area and has set up coordination mechanisms with the local authorities and other actors to enable	No	

	management inclusive management				accountability and transparent management of the local authorities		
Dev 4	The marginalization of women, their lack of self-confidence and the burden of housework do not enable them to fully participate in the process of community decision-making	Low (2)	Yes	Intermediate outcome	VSLA is a powerful tool to increase economic, social and political capital. The groups also provide a setting to practice good governance and to increase trust among women.	Yes	These issues were encountered at the beginning of the project implementation periods though it was solved using the tools developed by the project like SAA , CBLA and community discussion forums by using VSLA as a plat form. So that not affected the project activities.
Dev 5	Gendered patterns of access to and control over agricultural inputs and produce and over economic resources limit the extent to which women are able to participate in and benefit from project activities.	Low (2)	Yes	Intermediate outcome	A series of activities are geared towards mitigating this risk. VSL groups increase women's access to financial and business development services. Community mobilisation, awareness raising and community scorecard activities change attitudes and behaviours around farm management and agricultural production. Men are engaged in joint planning with women to increase awareness, and to promote transparency and decision making that benefits all family	Yes	Initially there were a confusion at the community level to wards women focused strategies used by the project, however it was moderated through effort made by the projects and in mean time most of the community members were understood and liked the strategies in improving HH food security and resilience at the HH levels. Currently, it was taken as a lesson by the government an d they had been advocating the importance of the strategies for another NGOs working in the Zone and Woredas

					members. Participatory gender sensitive value chain analysis allows for male and female community members to identify the ways in which gender biases create bottlenecks and inefficiencies in value chains, and to strategise how these biases will be mitigated as part of the business plan.		
Dev 6	Gender biases around intra-household food distribution restrict the extent to which women and girls are able to access nutritious food.	Low (2)	Yes	Intermediate outcome	CARE will run variously targeted awareness raising campaigns with community leaders, different types of household members and with women and men to increase understanding around women's health and to change control and decision making patterns.	Yes	This was the case before the project implementation and the project facilitated different capacity building training and awareness raising activities at the community level through developing tools helping for that purpose and organizing different groups like M2M, F2F, SAA and male engagement, community leaders and influential were played a grate role and advocating its importance, so that, there not significantly project activities.
Reputation Risks							
Rep1	The project might be misunderstood by certain members of the communities or by the authorities, indirectly affecting CARE or	Very low (1)	Yes	Immediate outcome	CARE will implement inception workshop at the beginning of the project with all stakeholders. CARE`s approach is based on transparency, accountability and good governance. CARE will put a complaint mechanism in place so participants can provide	No	

	partner`s reputations.				feedback and raise concerns.		
Rep 2	Partnership reduces CARE visibility and therefore its reputation in the area	Low (2)	Yes	Immediate outcome	CARE Mali and its local partners are designing a communication strategy to enable better visibility of each of its partners, including the donor.	No	
Rep 3	Government adopts a critical position against international cooperation and international NGOs in the country.	Low (2)	Yes	Immediate outcome	Share information with key entities of the local, regional and national government, in order to motivate transparency and demonstrate progress through working with different actors. Include this element in the accountability and M&E system.	No	

10. Budget

- a. Include here a brief analysis of initial budget forecasts and actual disbursements:
 - For the project as a whole
 - For each major sets of activities and for each intermediate outcome

SECTION II – PROJECT PERFORMANCE

11. Immediate and Intermediate Outcomes

TABLE 2. LINKAGES Results at Outcome Level

Indicators <i>Program Bolivia Ethiopia Ghana Mali</i>	Targets	Baseline Data	FINAL Result	Variance explanation
Ultimate Outcome Improved livelihood security and resilience for vulnerable women, girls, men and boys in Bolivia, Ethiopia, Ghana and Mali				
Proportion of women to men with access to those assets (physical, social, economic) that are key to resiliency.				
Increased and more equal control over livelihood assets by direct beneficiary women and men.				
Enabling organizations exhibit at least two characteristics of a gender sensitive organization (from a standard international best practice list)				
Ghana: % of HHs consuming different types of the food groups (carbohydrate, protein, and micro-nutrients) weekly	45%	0%		
Mali: Rate of acute malnutrition among children (boys/girls) under age of 5.	9.54% (reduction of 10%)	10.6%		
Mali: Rate of chronic malnutrition prevalence among children (boys/girls) under the age of 5.	38.97% (reduction of 10%)	43.3%		
Ethiopia: # of CFI beneficiaries who moved out of food support. (%)	(60%) # 3,840	(0%) # is 6,400	65.9	5.9% variance
Ethiopia: # of positive coping strategies adopted	CSI score= 38 (M); 39 (W)	CSI score =36.9 (M); 37.9 (W)	CSI= 38.6 using the “reduced” CSI. 40.1 for women and 38.7 for men beneficiaries	Increased CSI score by Women = 2.2 Men =1.8
Bolivia: # of women and men who have increased access to secure income sources.	774 W 774 M			
Ghana: # and type of assets (physical, financial and social) acquired by women	2 assets (farm produce and livelihood asset such as cell phones, bicycles, motorbikes, or livestock)			
Intermediate outcome 1 increased quantity and quality food production and consumption by women, girls, men and boys				
Ghana: % of processed soya and cowpea consumed by women and girls.	60%	30%		

Indicators <i>Program Bolivia Ethiopia Ghana Mali</i>	Targets	Baseline Data	FINAL Result	Variance explanation
Ghana: % of male HH heads encouraging their women and girls to consume processed soy and cowpea products.	70%	50%		
Ghana: % of women (groups and individuals) increasing production of soy and cowpea for household consumption	45% CP; 55% SB	0		
Ethiopia: Quantity & diversity of food produced by women and men community members.	At least 4 types of crops & 25% increase in kg/ha for each crop type		HHs reported consuming at least 6 types of the 9 food crops. The overall HDDS score is 3.38	
	25% increase in production of field crops			
Ethiopia: Frequency and diversity of food groups consumed by women and men community members.	30% increase in target HH 3 meals per day	3 food groups 2 meals/day	2.31 meals/day with minimum of 1 and maximum of 3 41% of households eat 3 meals, while 50% of them eat 2 meals	
Ethiopia: % of HH accumulating productive assets that will lead to graduation from the safety net program.	Decreased length of food shortage by 3 months (5 months) 25% increase in production of field crops	8 months 0	64.21 % of respondents reported recalling a period of food shortage in the 12 months prior to the end line survey 3.66 months of food shortage months	

Indicators <i>Program Bolivia Ethiopia Ghana Mali</i>	Targets	Baseline Data	FINAL Result	Variance explanation
Ethiopia: % of farm areas planted with recommended varieties of seeds	20% increase in ha of land planted with improved crop seeds	0		
Mali: % boys / girls aged 0-5 months exclusively breastfed. (compared)	32.5%	10.5%		
Mali: % households having acceptable or good food consumption profile	77.8%	57.8%		
Mali: % pregnant and lactating women having a good diet diversity score	76%	55.9%		
Mali : % women/men having a good diet diversity score (compared)	80%	59.8%		
Intermediate outcome 2 Women, men, and male and female youth are better able to manage and control their economic enterprises				
Ghana: % of net profit accruing to women and girls at every level of the soya and CP value chain.	40% for production 60% for marketing	10%		
Ghana: Ratio of women and men controlling the different levels of the VCs.	Production: 6:4 Processing: 1:9 Marketing: 3:7	0		
Ghana: # of out-of-school girls participating in and benefitting from soy and CP VCs.	200 (100 girls in each district)	0		
Ethiopia: % of women and men engaged on economic enterprises.	20%	0	63.66 % of women respondents and 71.43 % of male respondents reported to have engaged in off-farm activities	
Ethiopia: % HHs accumulated increased assets from economic enterprises. (indicator changed to HH average savings) Average income of households	20%(73.74Birr) 40% increase or 2593 Birr/year	0 (61.45Birr) 1851.88 Birr/year	830.03 (including VSLA and own saving) 3348.15 birr from all assets	
Ethiopia: Proportion of women and men who control HH's economic enterprise.	20%	0		

Indicators <i>Program Bolivia Ethiopia Ghana Mali</i>	Targets	Baseline Data	FINAL Result	Variance explanation
Mali : % of increased income for women	20%	0		
Mali : % of increased income for men	20%	0		
Mali : % of increased income for men compared to women	50%	0		
Mali: % of VSLA women with daily income of => \$1.25	60%	38,9%		
Bolivia: % increase in profitability of SMEs	No target set	0		
Bolivia: % of men and women who have increased their income.	50% W 50% M	0		
Bolivia: # SMEs that have a mechanism for equitable distribution of profits.	18	0		
Intermediate outcome 3. The policy and regulatory environment supports poor women's and men's more equal control of agricultural resources and market processes.				
Ghana:# of women led platforms that are influencing A/C and D/A decision-making processes.	3	0		
Ghana: # types of A/C decisions and actions that respond to and support community-driven women-led platforms in CP and soy production and processing.	3	0		
Ethiopia: The proportion of target women and men who report supportive and gender relevant policy and regulatory environment for more equal control of agricultural resources and market processes	20%	0		
Ethiopia: The proportion of target women and men who report improved level of government and community institution's responsiveness to gender inequalities Reduced barriers to equal control of agricultural resources and market processes among women and men.	20%	0		
Mali: % of women and men (compared) who participated in elaboration of village's food security conventions.	60%	0		
Bolivia: # of public policies implemented that promote local economic development.	4	0		
Bolivia: # of municipal strategies that promote local economic development / support competitiveness of SMEs.	8	0		
Immediate Outcomes 1.1 Decreased gap between men's and women's control over resources necessary to ensure sustainable food production				
Ghana: # of extension services provided to women-led groups at each level of the soy and CP VC.	7	0		
Ghana: % of women in SB/CP value chains reached with extension services	50% across the board	EM/MHH 61%(M) 39 (W)		
Ethiopia: Proportion of women and men who have control	20% Disaggregated as	Crops 19%	66.67 % of survey	

Indicators <i>Program Bolivia Ethiopia Ghana Mali</i>	Targets	Baseline Data	FINAL Result	Variance explanation
<p>over core agricultural resources of the HH.</p>	<p>follows: Crops 50% Livestock 70% Fruit/veg 80%</p>	<p>Livestock 45.5% Fruit/veg 0%</p>	<p>respondents indicated that they make joint/equal decisions on grain trading (buying and selling). With regards to livestock, there is much diversity that goes with the type of livestock. 75 % of respondents indicated that both male and female make decisions regarding livestock trading</p>	
Immediate Outcomes 1.2 W/M/B/G more equally consume nutritious food				
<p>Ghana:# of new recipes.</p>	<p>5 (3 SB/2CP)</p>	<p>0</p>		
<p>Ethiopia: Proportion of women and men who reported more equal consumption of nutritious and adequate food among men and women.</p>	<p>30%</p>	<p>52% of women reported equal consumption as men</p>	<p>• 60.48 of the respondents indicated that there is no difference between male and female adults and children in terms of consumption.</p>	

Indicators <i>Program Bolivia Ethiopia Ghana Mali</i>	Targets	Baseline Data	FINAL Result	Variance explanation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48.24 % of respondents reported that there is no difference in the amount of food served to members of the HH <p>Women beneficiaries reported eating more than males during food sufficient months (2.9) vs.(2.4). Women also reported eating slightly more meals/day than their male counterparts (2.39) vs. (2.3)</p>	
Immediate Outcomes 2.1 W/M/B/G have increased and more equal access to the knowledge, skills and services needed to strengthen and diversify their economic activities				
<i>Ethiopia: Proportion of women who have access to the knowledge, skills and services needed to strengthen and diversify their economic activities</i>	30%	<i>W 25.8% M: 45.1%</i>	Overall, 44 % of surveyed households have received training and technical support.	

Indicators <i>Program Bolivia Ethiopia Ghana Mali</i>	Targets	Baseline Data	FINAL Result	Variance explanation
			Respondents reported that 51.47 women received price information. 10.8 % reported to have received FTC demonstration 16.9 % reported receiving extension advise on improved input use	
Mali: % men/women (compared) having knowledge in nutrition for pregnant/breastfeeding women	50%	33%		
Mali: % women/men (compared) having knowledge in good nutritional practices	50%	0		
Bolivia: # of women and men that have increased their management capacity and competitiveness	45 W, 45 M	0		
Immediate Outcomes 2.2 Decreased gap between men’s and women’s access to and control over a variety of processes in select value chains				
Ghana: % of women owning key stages and assets of VC.	20% in production stage and assets 80% in rural markets and assets 10% in larger markets and assets	5%		
Ghana: % of women equally making decision on the use of HH income.	50%	47.2%		
Ethiopia: Proportion of men and women reporting equal access to and control over a variety processes in selected value chains.	20%	7%	69.74 % respondents reported improvements in	

Indicators <i>Program Bolivia Ethiopia Ghana Mali</i>	Targets	Baseline Data	FINAL Result	Variance explanation
			the value additions of their products. 78.95 % of the respondents reported that women play the major role in the value addition of livestock products	
Ethiopia: Proportion of men and women engaged in controlling a variety processes in selected value chains.	30% sold with value added 25% sold by sorting based on quality 25% sold as primary product	11.6% sold after value added 36% sold by sorting based on quality; 51% sold as primary product		
Mali: % of women compared to men having access to productive assets: land, technology, information.	50%			
Mali: % increase in yield per hectare for basic crops on women/men land (compared).	25% increase	0		
Mali: % increase in yield per hectare for basic crops on women/men land (compared). detailed by basic crop	25% increase millet	W: 584,6 g/ha M:841,7kg/ha		
	25% increase sorghum	W:818,5 g/ha M:663,2kg/ha		
	25% increase cow pea	W:472,56kg/ha M:324,47kg/ha		
	25% increase groundnut	W:462,6kg/ha M:539,8kg/ha		
	25% increase sesame	F=283kg/ha H=495,9kg/ha		

Indicators <i>Program Bolivia Ethiopia Ghana Mali</i>	Targets	Baseline Data	FINAL Result	Variance explanation
Bolivia: # of men and women who have increased their participation in the value chain	380 W, 380 M	101 W, 36 M		
Bolivia: # of women and men who have increased their capacity to access key spaces for decision-making.	380 W 380 M	0		
Bolivia: # of women and men who have improved their position and skills in SMEs.	160 W 160 M	0		
Bolivia: % of women and men who recognize the contribution of women's roles in the value chain.	60%W 60% M	0		
Immediate Outcomes 2.3 Collectives and Business Development Service Providers (BDSP) provide more equally relevant support to male and female owned enterprises				
Ghana: % of individual women and # of groups making the appropriate decisions in VC	30% women	0		
Ghana: # of contracts successfully negotiated / implemented between district, Producer Orgs and VSLAs	3 groups (2 producers/1 marketing)	0		
Ghana: Presence of gender-disaggregated data in each D/A (database)	Yes	No data		
Ethiopia: # of Coop/SMEs by type of support to clients disaggregated and compared by sex.	At least 4 types of support to clients 7 types of interventions provided to coop/SME clients 75% women receive equal services from coop/SMEs			
Immediate Outcomes 3.1 Local value chain (VC) actors (women's groups, collectives, suppliers) have increased role in the formulation of policies and regulations that enhance men's and women's food, nutrition & income security				
Ghana: # of projects in the 2 D/As that demonstrate / reflect specific needs of women and men	2 (in each district)			

Indicators <i>Program Bolivia Ethiopia Ghana Mali</i>	Targets	Baseline Data	FINAL Result	Variance explanation
Ghana: # of operational guidelines for soy and CP VCs	3 (producers, marketing and processing)	0		
Ethiopia: # of VC actors reporting increased role in formulation of relevant policies and regulations disaggregated and compared by sex	At least 7 VC actors	0		
Ethiopia: Types of roles assumed /contributions in the formulation of relevant policies and regulations by VC actors disaggregated and compared by sex	At least 2 types of new roles	0		
Bolivia: % of municipal gender-sensitive budget assigned to local economic development	20%	N/A		
Immediate Outcomes 3.2 Local government structures have increased capacity to effectively and transparently engage different stakeholders in development planning and implementation processes.				
Ghana: # of functional linkages among VC actors linked to District and Regional Committees	2 (1 between producers & SPs ; 1 between marketers & SPs)	0		
Ethiopia: # and type of relevant participatory events organized by the local government	6 planning & monitoring events	no baseline data		
Ethiopia: % of beneficiaries reporting satisfactory /meaningful engagement/participation in development planning and implementation.	40%	no baseline data		
Mali: # Local government can identify key gender issues in nutrition and food security	4	0		
Mali: # Local government plans that include activities to address gender issues on F&N.S	4	0		
Mali: % women/men (compared) participating in community food security planning processes.	50%	0		
Bolivia: # of private/public negotiation / social learning spaces promoting local economic development.	4	0		
Bolivia: # of women and men participating and proposing concerted action in these key decision-making spaces.	16 W / 16 M	0		
Bolivia: # of public policy projects on local economic development that promote SME innovation that rely on public resources and co-investment.	4	0		

SECTION III – SUCCESS FACTORS

12. Relevance

- a. How was this project relevant in the local context, for the beneficiaries it was targeting and the results it aimed at achieving?

The project was assessed on the basis of its significance to improve the livelihood of the target communities and its adequacy in responding to the livelihood problems of chronically food insecure women and men. Moreover, its consistency with the broader policies and local level implementation capacities was explored. To this end, the study has shown that the project components have suited the needs of the target communities providing them with opportunities of owning productive assets, which helped them to be resilient in a drought situation of the current period. Its relevance to the government's policy of gender equality and economic empowerment of women were found to be undisputed so were its goals and strategies.

13. Project Design Appropriateness

- a. Was the project designed in an appropriate way for it to be effectively implemented and integrated at the local level? Explain why it was or was not. Recommendations can be added here as well.

14. Sustainability

- a. How has working on gender issues increased project sustainability?

Agency: There are changes in terms of changing role at household work assignment, in the pattern of decision making over household resources and management issues, and equitable access to resources. There was a significant change of culture in workload assignment at household level. Husbands began to share the household chores with their wives. Women have begun to exercise equal right of making sensible decisions over their common properties. Hence, they have got access to a pool of resources and endowed with control over these resources. Because of the joint decision making over the resources and other household matters, women have developed assertiveness and, more importantly, independence. Hence, the change in agency, as one of the project's philosophy, has been achieved.

Structure: The support from the Wereda institutions has been very good while the initial apathy to restrict gender issues to the women affair's sector has been changed. Synergetic planning and implementation of gender related issues have been evident among government offices. Hence, there was an enabling and supportive structure due to the project. There has been a change in the behavior of local formal and informal institutions in responding to women's issues. Women's voices are heard in these institutions more than ever. There is a growing recognition of women's role and

decisiveness in local development and hence the role and representation of women in those institutions has improved due to the project.

Relations: The socio-economic relations in terms of gender have undergone significant change. At household level, because of joint decision making that has been exercised with mutual consent between the husband and wife, the usual household dispute and row over resource use has significantly reduced contributing to the tranquility and stability of the entire family. This has also helped the family to take proper care of their offspring, sending them to school, especially girls, and feed them properly. Relationships between the man and woman have improved with increased love and affection. With the growing status of women within the household and community, husbands became respectful, caring and affectionate to their wives, and so do the women. At community level, 'the old culture' of discrimination against women has been improved. Women's opinions were taken as important inputs for community decisions while the extension services have given special attention to women and encouraged them to be brave in combating the double faces of poverty being manifested by gender imbalance and food insecurity.

- b. What other achievements or project implementation activities are contributing to sustainability?

Preconditions for project sustainability are already in place. Through a series of capacity building measures, the level of local capacity to maintain the project benefits has significantly improved. The beneficiary communities have developed skills as to how they could discuss, monitor the progress, evaluate the outcomes. Above all, they benefited from the new culture of egalitarianism that embraces and puts women in the center of their development endeavor. The local communities and their leaders have developed a strong sense of ownership. The Wereda government institutions have also developed a strong sense of ownership through coordinated planning, supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the project activities and have got extra motivation because of the success of the project within a couple of years. Capacity development trainings provided to beneficiaries in the areas such as beekeeping, improved seed multiplication, market linkages and value chain, VSLA, animal fattening, IGA, etc., have enhanced the local capacity which will be an asset to sustain and run their economic enterprises. Communities are confident enough that they can sustain those economic enterprises in the absence of the donor agency. However, there are fears that the recurrent droughts may affect their capacity.

15. Implementing Partners

- a. List the project's partners.
Haramaya University integrated seed sector development program, Hamaressa edible oil factory, Fadis research center, Oromia credit and saving share company, zonal and woreda government sector offices like the office of agriculture and rural development, office of finance and economic development, office of women and children affairs, office of cooperative promotion, livestock agency and small scale enterprise office.
- b. Describe the positive aspects of the project's relationships with its key partners. Give concrete examples on how these partnerships have directly contributed to the implementation process and project results.

The key partners that the project identified and working with are the government sector offices of Fedis woreda (agriculture, women affairs, justice and police, health), the Fedis agricultural research Center, and Haramaya University. The government sector offices are the lead implementing partners, engaged from the very beginning stages of beneficiary targeting, delivering project activities, provision of technical support and monitoring exercise. The project staffs are mainly playing facilitation and capacity building roles.

The Fedis Agricultural research Center is one of the big institutions found in the operational area and they are providing improved and adaptable cereal seeds to the project operational area. The sources of improved seeds are research centers, unions and Haramaya University. The type of seeds that provided to the community members are drought tolerant and short matured/cycle crop type. These improved types of seeds provide good yield during the bad season compared to the local one. It is also promoting some technologies that can reduce women work load like the fuel efficient stoves and ground nut shelling machine. The project is getting these technologies from this research centre by signing agreement in addition to the technical and capacity building support to the woreda experts and selected community members.

The Haramaya University, through the integrated seed sector for development (ISSD) program entered an agreement with the project to scale up and support the seed multiplication activity at community' level. They provided technical support, capacity building training and improved seed variety that can adapt to the operational area. The ISSD program is also facilitating the provision of seed quality certification. The project beneficiaries are benefiting from seed certification.

The Abdishe project has tremendously gained from excellent partnership with government at all levels and community structure. The project promotes participatory approach and transparency which help to gain trust and confidence from its partners. The local counterparts of signatory offices; Agricultural Development, Economic and Finance Development, Women and Children Affairs have been participating in all stages of the project. Moreover, Action and Technical committees (the focal persons from different sector offices) are organized at Woreda that facilitated smooth implementation of the project. Members of technical committee are focal persons assigned by the respective offices.

- c. Describe any challenges faced in establishing and/or managing relationships with partners, and how these were/will be mitigated.

Lack of strong and interested MFIs. There is only one MFI, a branch of OCSCo, in the woreda, which also has limited capacity to provide financial services to CFI women. As a result, the project was not able to find the right MFI partner to transfer the guarantee fund so that beneficiaries could have access to loan and other financial services in the last reporting period. Besides, although VSLAs can be an entry point for CARE, they may not be able to provide access to full financial services demanded by CFI households. Nevertheless, the project was not able to establish the necessary linkages between MFIs and VSLAs needed to have access to a range of financial services as timely as possible. However, during this reporting period, agreement was

signed, the guarantee money transferred and linkage of the VSLA members with the MFI were successfully established.

- d. Report how the partners contributed to – or hindered – gender equality and women’s empowerment results for this project during the reporting period. Give concrete examples.

The project has not faced any major challenges from its partners. Rather, benefited and enjoyed from their commitment, ownership and leadership. The overall achievement of many of the project targets during this fiscal year is exemplary indicator for having excellent partnership with community and project partners.

16. Innovation

- a. Did the project allowed for learning and/or development of innovative approaches and technologies? If yes, which ones? Explain with concrete examples.

17. Resources Utilization Appropriateness

- a. Were the project’s resources utilized in an appropriate way for the project to be effectively implemented and integrated at the local level? Explain why it was or was not. Recommendations can be added here as well.

The project was implemented within the limits of planned financial, human and material resources. Moreover, its implementation was as per the time plan in which the project targets were attained within the proposed timeline. The resources allocated for the project have been efficiently utilized in the way that promotes saving culture and economic use of resources. The special approach and strategies of mobilizing local human resources, institutions and/or creating strong partnership among implementing agencies have been the particular contributing aspects of the project for its efficiency.

SECTION III – LESSONS LEARNED

a. Lessons learned

Some of the major lessons that the project acquainted with from our experience while implementing LINKGAE-Abdishe project activities aimed to strengthening women's livelihoods through markets in Fedis woreda of East Hararghie zone of Oromia region, Ethiopia in the last three and half years are summarized as follows:-

- The community based institutions evolved as a result of Abdishe project interventions such as Community Based Legal Advisors (CBLA), Village Saving and Lending Association (VSLA), Women Asset Building Group (WAG) and the Oxen fattening Group (OFG) are exemplary initiative addressing key socio-economic concerns of the community.
- Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) promoted by the project have proven to be an excellent foundation to increase awareness of savings, financial literacy, and capacity for income generation and asset accumulation. In addition to providing economic benefit at the individual and household levels, VSLAs are contributing to enhance social capital and cohesion.
- Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) initiated through the Project have proven to be an innovative and effective means of enhancing direct participation by a diverse range of interests including private processors /traders, micro-finance institutions, government officials, research institutions, and project beneficiaries.
- Through establishment of savings, accessing credit, creation of income generating opportunities, and assumption of leadership roles in VSLAS and Producer Marketing Groups (WAGs and OFGs, BKGs), female beneficiaries have clearly become empowered and able to manage enterprise.
- It is important to engage local partners from the very beginning and in all stages of the project, from project design, implementation to monitoring and evaluation to facilitate smooth implementation of the project and ensure sustainability.
- Designing and developing guiding manual on the implementation modalities of new interventions from the early stage of the project is so important to facilitate smooth and timely implementation of project activities.
- Community based asset transfer mechanism is well accepted, enhanced accountability, ensured transparency and ownership by the community.
- Livestock insurance system minimized risks of repayment default, and strengthened sustainability of transfer modalities
- The role of improved seed multiplication at the community level by organizing seed producer groups as a means of climate change adaptations

- The importance of linking VSLA groups to higher micro finance institutions' like RUSACO and OCSSCo makes the VSLA members to access big size loan to engage the VSLA members in income generating activities and contributed for the sustainability of the VSLAs
 - The early provision of modern bee hives accelerated the transferring of colony from traditional to modern beehives and makes the landless groups to start harvesting and selling of their products, thereby enhanced their income and market linkages
- b. Recommendations for the future projects/programs

The synergy of the project activities and women empowerment strategies used by the project were multiplied the project impact. Based on this, the following were the major areas that can be recommended for future programs.

- VSLAs are not fully linked with MFIs and RUSACCOs. Sustainable financial access can be ensured if the project establishes strong meaningful linkages between VSLAs and other rural financial institutions such as MFIs and RUSACCOs.
- OCSSCo is currently working with CFI households. It also provides women focused financial products targeting individuals and groups. Considering its limited organizational and financial capacity, the project can strengthen the MFI's capacity and provide revolving fund to increase its poverty outreach. In doing so, there is also a need that the MFI has designed and provided financial products that are appropriate to the target CFI women. Besides, the regional and zonal government partners needs to engage more in facilitating the provision of loan to the VSLA members by OCSSCO.
- The result that have seen from the CBLAs and the SAA intervention is immense in addressing the gender inequality and harmful traditional practices, such projects and programs needs to design the capacity building intervention related with office furniture and opening of office at Kebele level besides linking them with the woreda key sector offices.
- VSLAs are still weak and are being led by illiterate people. The project may need to capacitate these VSLAs so as to help them maintain adequate records, manage their resources and to support their future demand. Improving the writing and reading skill, integrating with the education office in creating and accessing the adult education at community level is mandatory.
- Such project needs to have its own M and E staff as the project has many M and E tools and much information collected to see the result and impact that the project brought regularly using the rolling profiles, universal gender indicators, case stories, the PIM and POM and others. The M and E staff will help the regularization of the joint monitoring conduction with periodic on-site visits involving government and other key stakeholders at different levels to facilitate information sharing, promote ownership, identify challenges, sharing of lessons and so on.

- Considering the informal nature of VSLAs as well as their limited capacity, sustainable financial access could be ensured if the project establishes meaningful linkages between VSLAs and other rural financial institutions such as MFIs and RUSACCOs. As business oriented solution to poverty is important to address sustainability issues, there is also a need to engage the private sector such as privately owned MFIs in the project implementation as the business interest could help sustainability of project outcomes
- Considering the fact that VSLA members are illiterate with no or poor education to manage the association's financial services, the provision of adult education may be worth considering by the project to ensure their continued presence and availability of basic financial services over the long term. Moreover, the VSLA groups may need to be more empowered in terms of training and finance.
- Linking beneficiaries with central markets is vital to help beneficiaries get better prices for their produces and to ensure their profitable engagement in their economic enterprises and enhance sustainability of project outcomes.
- Activities related with the seed multiplication by the farmers and group of farmers are very effective in increasing the productivity and availing locally the adapted improved seed. Such project needs to allocate enough budgets to such intervention in addition to supporting in the construction of the mini seed store.
- Integrating activities related with equitable HH food allocation and demonstration of cooking demonstration by male counterparts helped the uptake of knowledge and dissemination of the knowledge to the whole community members easily.
- The project learned the importance and integration of family planning activity for such kind of project. Similar project in the future needs to allocate few activities and budget as they had significant role in improving HH food security and women empowerment.
- To further involve men in household activities and reduce women workload, creating access to safe drinking water in the village as well as promoting additional energy saving technology is vital.
- To further change the traditional gender based attitude in the community and enhance men's involvement in household task, future SAA sessions of such project should increase the frequency of discussions to its target group and also expand its outreach to non project participants.
- To sustain the men's involvement in household activities, mother in laws and community elders should be targeted and engaged more.

- Developing the capacity of staffs and updating them on regular bases on the LINKAGE and other existing tools is very crucial to timely respond and properly monitor the project and program.

ANNEX A. FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Final financial report to be sent at the same time as the final report: **May 20, 2016**.

Attached

ANNEX B. HISTORICAL CHANGES TO PMF

You should be explaining in this annex:

- a. Any change in outcome description (for example: anemia in Mali that was removed from project)
- b. Any change in baseline data (for example: retrospective baseline analysis)
- c. Any change in targets

Not applicable as there were no changes to the PMF

ANNEX C. PROJECT'S MILESTONES

Provide a timeline of key milestones in the project's implementation. This can include, but is not restricted to, project start-up, relevant review processes, significant changes in implementation plans, and other significant points in achieving project results. This can be in the form of a chronogram or narrative.

Attached

ANNEX D. REPORTS

Include the list of ALL the project's reports that were submitted: including technical reports. Note: all project reports listed here should be sent to CARE Canada and will be provided to the donor as requested.

Attached

ANNEX E. CONSULTANTS

Include the list of all the consultants that were hired to carry out activities' implementation during the life of the project AND the kind of activities/support they have provided.

Attached

ANNEX F. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Include and describe any intellectual property rights subject-matters created under the project (all pertinent details are required here; please get in touch with Evelyne (evelyne.morin@care.ca) if you have anything to report in Annex F and are not sure how to report it).

The learning research report produced by the project.

ANNEX G. CONFIRMATION OF DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

Include all documentations confirming the transfer of assets to the organizations previously identified in the Disposal of Assets Plan submitted in January 2016. Also, please include as much as you can on the location information (addresses) of the asset after transfer.

Attached.