

FEASIBILITY STUDY

ON **CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE**

PROGRAMMING IN THE BORENA ZONE,
OROMIA AND ZONE ONE, AFAR REGIONS IN
ETHIOPIA

FEASIBILITY STUDY ON CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMING IN THE BORENA ZONE, OROMIA, AND ZONE ONE, AFAR REGIONS IN ETHIOPIA

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OCHA reports close to seven million people living in the lowlands of Oromia, Somali, SNNP and Southwest regions continue to experience the effects of drought (including 3 million people in Somali Region, 2.4 million in eastern Oromia and 1 million people in southern Oromia).

Following three consecutive poor rainy seasons, Ethiopia is experiencing one of the most severe drought events in recent history. Drought conditions are predominantly affecting south, south-east and north eastern parts of the country, where the crisis is already having a devastating impact on the lives and livelihood of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities. The impacts include deteriorating livestock body conditions (including deaths in several parts), significant harvest losses, declining household purchasing power especially as the prices of food has significantly raised while the price of livestock are depressed due low demand for the emaciated animals, and widespread water and food shortages.

With an aim of supporting the most vulnerable households affected by drought and conflict (particularly Gender Based Violence survivors) through community infrastructures on child protection, promoting inclusive and adapted educational opportunities and contributing to meet the basic needs; Plan International Ethiopia is implementing and also in the design phase of several project proposals with context specific Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) modalities to support the target beneficiaries.

A rapid feasibility study was conducted in the Borena zone of Oromia and Zone One of Afar regions evaluating the different enabling parameters (preconditions) as to understand the suitability of CVA in relation to protection, education, MHH (Menstrual Health and Hygiene) and livelihood outcomes.

The study adopted a mix of both quantitative and qualitative methodologies to gather data across two regions in Ethiopia especially the Oromia and Afar affected by the drought and food insecurity. Primary data were collected through Focus Group Discussions; individual interviews with traders; Key Informant Interviews (KII) with local authorities and community leaders including transect walk along the markets. The study was led by Plan International's global lead on Cash and Voucher Assistance and CVA Specialist and food security focal point from Plan Ethiopia. Inputs were received from global food security lead and information technology focal points from the country team.

The following key determinants, which guide whether the cash and /or voucher modalities in particular areas are feasible or not were carefully assessed, analyzed and thereby reached to a conclusion.

- ◆ General CVA environment in the country and acceptance of cash and voucher by the government and the communities
- ◆ Functional and integrated market with adequate stock to absorb increased demand, robust supply chain, relatively stable price of the commodities.
- ◆ Willingness of the traders to participate in the CVA intervention.
- ◆ Availability of financial service providers and their willingness to collaborate with the program.
- ◆ Coordination with peer agencies to harmonize CVA approaches and avoid potential duplication.
- ◆ Programme implementation capacity of the country team and implementing partners.
- ◆ Favourable security situation in the target areas with appropriate risk assessment in place.

The feasibility study found cash and/or voucher to be highly feasible for the project interventions to achieve the protection, education and livelihoods outcomes in Ethiopia. Humanitarian agencies have been undertaking CVA covering multiple needs of the affected population. There is an increased positive appetite for CVA by all stakeholder including the communities, humanitarian agencies, donors, financial service providers and authorities. The use of Cash /Voucher modality differs with the context such as Cash/voucher is feasible in both regions and also preferred by the host government. The extent to which CVA has already been used in past and current humanitarian response is a strong indicator of the feasibility of using the modality in future emergencies.

The study also explored existing and potential livelihood activities, opportunities with an aim of linking relief, rehabilitation and development and nexus approach and made a set of recommendations. It is clear that the approach to use cash/voucher in humanitarian response in Ethiopia is evolving towards a "reference" modality of response. However, there are large rooms for improvement where the approach can be strengthened, harmonised in terms of transfer value in accordance with Minimum Expenditure Baskets (MEBs) of different sectors and made uniform through larger coordination among the humanitarian agencies or a cash coordination mechanism at both national and regional levels.



ABBREVIATIONS

CaLP	Cash Learning Partnership network
CFW	Cash for Work
CVA	Cash and Voucher Assistance
CWG	Cash Working Group
DRMC	Disaster Risk Management Committee
IDP	Internal Displaced Person
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FSP	Financial Service Provider
KII	Key Informant Interviews
KYC	Know Your Customer
MEB	Minimum Expenditure Basket
MPCG	Multi-Purpose Cash Grant
PDM	Post Distribution Monitoring
UCT	Unconditional Cash Transfer
WCD	Women and Child Department
VSLA	Village Savings and Lending Association

CONTEXT

OCHA report indicates close to seven million people living in the lowlands of Oromia, Somali, SNNP and Southwest regions continue to experience the effects of drought (including 3 million people in Somali Region, 2.4 million in eastern Oromia and 1 million people in southern Oromia). The humanitarian situation is expected to deteriorate rapidly and will require a continuous engagement over the next months to come. More than 1 million livestock have died eroding the communities' livelihood and more than 2,000 schools (1,800 schools in Somali and 334 in East/West Hararge zones of Oromia) are closed, affecting more than 682,000 students.

Increasing cases of malnutrition have been recorded in Southern Oromia where 68 severely affected Woredas urgently require nutrition interventions. The regional Disaster Risk Management Office (DRMO) is working with humanitarian partners to scale-up the Therapeutic Feeding Program to ad-

dress rising malnutrition rates. Supply chain problems and increasing market prices are worsening conditions of the affected population. Meanwhile, the Regional Oromia Drought Response Plan calls for \$201 million to respond to the drought impact, out of which \$23.8 million is already available from the Government and partners, leaving a funding gap of \$177 million. The IDPs/returnees need continued lifesaving responses while efforts to initiate and step-up early recovery and durable solutions are in place to help support rebuild livelihoods.

The Famine Early Warning Systems (FEWSNET) predicts widespread Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes, with worst-drought affected areas likely to face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes starting late February 2022.

The impacts of drought are already visible, with diminishing pasture and water. Atypical livestock deaths increase water stress and looming hunger

in the Borana Zone of Oromia region and six zones of the Somali region. The most recent effect of the drought is migration and displacement of both humans and livestock northwards due to reduced pasture and water scarcity resulting an additional pressure on host community's livelihood.

Besides the drought, the food security situation of affected populations is further compounded by the COVID19 pandemic and persisting locust pests. Drought is one of the key factors of the food crisis in the country while the North conflict has worsened the situation which is impacting other regions already affected by the drought such as Afar and Oromia as an example.

Following three consecutive poor rainy seasons, Ethiopia is experiencing one of the most severe drought events in recent history. Drought conditions are predominantly affecting south, south-east and north eastern parts of the country, where the crisis is already having a devastating impact on the lives and livelihood of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities. The impacts include deteriorating livestock body conditions (including deaths in several parts), significant harvest losses, declining household purchasing power especially as the prices of food has significantly raised while the price of livestock are depressed due low demand for the emaciated animals, and widespread water and food shortages.

The affected population is facing a critical lack of potable water, with 95 per cent of water sources running dry in some areas. Woman are reported to be walking upwards of 15km in search of water. This is against a backdrop of skyrocketing food costs, coupled with an 80 per cent decrease in milk production, and a failure of 70 per cent of crops.

The nutrition situation is also highly concerning with estimates of some 3.5 million children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in drought-affected areas needing support to tackle moderate

acute malnutrition (MAM).

The government of Ethiopia has led scaled up humanitarian responses to avert starvation and famine – like condition, supported by Donors and humanitarian partners. Plan international Ethiopia has joined these efforts through food security, nutrition and child protection interventions in several regions. Plan International Ethiopia (PIE) has been working in Ethiopia since 1994 and has responded to a wide variety of rapid and slow onset emergencies across different sectors including food security and livelihoods, nutrition, education in emergencies, WASH and child protection in emergencies as well as development activities. PIE has been operational since 1974 and is currently operating in 8 regional states, namely, Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR (Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region), Benshangule Gumuz, Afar, Gambella, Addis Ababa and Tigray.

The feasibility assessment addresses the needs of the following groups, directly affected by the conflict as target beneficiaries in the two regions namely Oromia and Afar in Ethiopia.

- Girls and boys of pre-school and primary school age
- Pregnant and lactating women, children under 5 years old.
- Youth, Women, survivors of GBV
- Community protection and education structures
- Public authorities responsible for education and child protection.
- IDPs and host communities

A rapid feasibility study, has thus been conducted to appreciate enabling parameters (preconditions) to ascertain suitability of CVA interventions for achieving intended sectoral outcomes/impact, and this report is the outcome of the exercise.



OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To assess the feasibility of the use of CVA modality to meet the emergency needs with respect to Food security, Protection, Education and Livelihoods of the affected communities in in the Borena zone of Oromia and Zone One of Afar regions of Ethiopia.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

 Analyse the acceptability of cash and voucher assistance by the communities.



Assess the functionality of markets in two regions, physical and financial access to the market.



Analyse current and possible livelihood strategies and options for the local people; recommend suitable interventions linking them with cash and voucher assistance.



Analyse the risks associated with CVA and identification of Financial Service Providers.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The study adopted a mix of quantitative and qualitative methodologies to gather data across 4 communities across two regions. Primary data were collected through Focus Group Discussions (limited to one FGD per community); individual interviews with traders (sample size 20 percent); Key Informant Interviews (KII) with local authorities, market committee and community leaders including transect walk along the markets. The study was led by Plan International's global lead on CVA with support from Plan International Ethiopia staff. Inputs were received from operations, thematic team, livelihood, food security and nutrition, cash and information technology focal points from the country team.

FGD was undertaken with adolescent girls and boys; women and men above 35 years to understand their priority needs and preferences. Individual interviews were conducted with traders/entrepreneurs (at least one with each of the occupation) to understand the scope of particular occupation and scope of their training. Interactions were held with existing and potential FSPs including Commercial Bank, Awash Bank, Ethio-Telecom, micro finance agency called ACSI, local vendors and agents to understand their possible engagement in cash and/or voucher distributions.

The cash focal point of PIE was inducted on the different tools before venturing into field.

Meetings were held with peer agencies such as Cash Working Group (CWG), DGECHO, BPRM and other peer humanitarian agencies to understand their role and strategies for scaling up CVA. The CWG had developed a Minimum Expenditure Basket for Tigray but it remains to be endorsed by stakeholders



(highlighting the essential/priority items and the corresponding minimum value of support), while the MEB for other regions remains to be designed in future. ECWG also plans to design MEB for the national level.

LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The study, initially planned for 6 communities of Oromia and Afar regions while the the market assessment for Kori was not undertaken due to time constraints. Meeting with some peer agencies was undertaken virtually due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Meeting with donor DGECHO and BPRM and ECWG was organised face to face while other donors were unavailable in the country at the time of the study.



KEY FINDINGS

GENERAL CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE ENVIRONMENT IN THE COUNTRY

The CVA environment in Ethiopia is generally favourable as many humanitarian agencies including the UN are already pursuing this approach. There is an active CWG at national (Addis Ababa) and regional (Amhara) level led/co-led by CashCap/UNICEF. CWG meet every month/ at regular intervals to discuss the technical issues and to harmonize good practices. To quote Country Director of Plan International Ethiopia, *“I want to see CVA as a space for expansion and innovation that makes the right holders masters of their destiny and choice”*. The CWG has developed some tools including Market Assessment, FGD, KII and MEB which are being used by different agencies and CWG jointly. ECWG has developed MEB for Tigray in March 2021 and it remains to be endorsed by the key stakeholders. Interactions with key stakeholders including ECWG, peer agencies, communities in the IDP camps and refugee camps of Gambella indicate a strong appetite for CVA intervention as a modality to achieve protection, education, livelihood, food security and other sectoral outcomes.

The following key determinants, were used to arrive at a conclusion if the CVA modality will be feasible to achieve the set outcomes to provide in-

“I WANT TO SEE CVA AS A SPACE FOR EXPANSION AND INNOVATION THAT MAKES THE RIGHT HOLDERS MASTERS OF THEIR DESTINY AND CHOICE”

tegrated humanitarian assistance to the conflict affected communities in the project area.

- ◆ General CVA environment in the country and acceptance of cash and voucher by the government and the communities
- ◆ Functional market with adequate stock to absorb increased demand, robust supply chain, relatively stable price of the commodities.
- ◆ Willingness of the traders to participate in the CVA intervention
- ◆ Availability of FSPs and their willingness to collaborate with the program.
- ◆ Coordination with peer agencies to harmonize CVA approaches and avoid potential duplication.
- ◆ Project implementation capacity of the Plan International and the implementing partners.
- ◆ Favourable security situation in the project areas with appropriate risk assessment in place.

VALIDATION OF NEEDS

The needs-validation exercise revealed the following priority needs, which are in conformity with different project documents in the designing and implementation phase

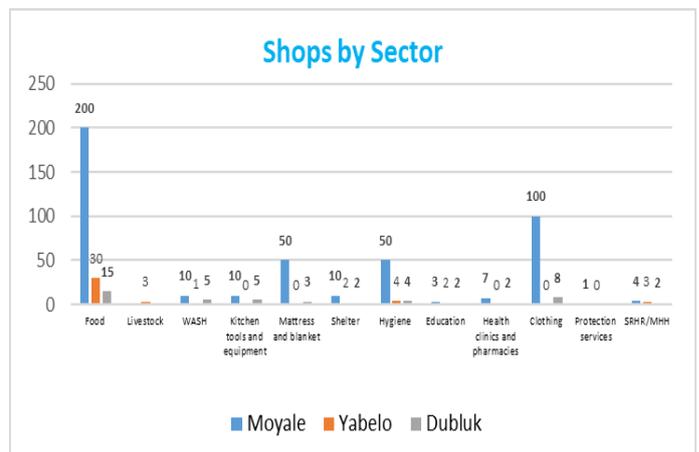
1. Food Security and livelihoods
 2. Child protection, education and Menstrual Health Hygiene
- All these sectors can be delivered through CVA modality

MARKET ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS – OROMIA (BORENA DROUGHT AREA)

CHARTS AND FIGURES

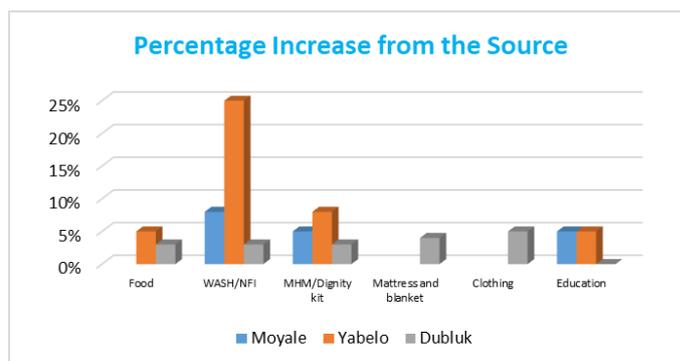
Number of shops by sector

In the 3 markets assessed in Oromia region, Moyale was by far the largest market compared to Haro Bake, Yabelo and Dubluk. Shops with food items were the maximum with more than 200 stalls/shops followed by non-food items such as clothing, mattresses, blankets and hygiene products. Haro Bake, Yabelo is a secondary market and operate only on a weekly basis though the market structures are mostly permanent. Similarly,



PERCENTAGE INCREASE FROM THE SOURCE

The high increase in prices of commodities was noted for WASH materials with at least 10 Birr per product this is quite high and would require validation in the field why this is so. Haro Bake, Yabelo market also recorded high mark up prices compared with the other 2 markets assessed. For instance, food mark up prices in Yabelo is around 5 percent or 2 to 3 Birr per kilo of rice while for WASH with 10 Birr per %. Prices in Haro Bake, Yabelo was generally set by the shop owner compared to Dubluk. The latter was regulated by the government through the trade and industry office.



SOURCE OF PRODUCT

For Moyale and Haro Bake, Yabelo markets, sources of most of their products were from Addis Ababa and Kenya. For food products, Kenya has been the source of products sold in these market centres. While Dubluk sources most of its products from Moyale and food and shelter materials

from Dila and Sashamane. Some of its MHH products were also sourced out from Addis Ababa on top of the products from Moyale market. For Haro Bake, Yabelo's livestock market, all of them came from the local producers of ox, goat, sheep and camel.

Sector/Items	Moyale	Haro Bake, Yabelo	Dublik
Food	Kenya	Kenya	Dila, Sashamane
WASH	Addis Ababa	Hager Mariyam	Moyale
Kitchen equipment and tools	Addis Ababa	No information	Moyale
Mattress and blanket	Addis Ababa	No information	Moyale
Shelters	Addis Ababa	Addis Ababa	Dila, Sashamane
Hygiene	Addis /kenya	Addis /Kenya	Moyale
Education	Addis Ababa	Addis Ababa	No information
Health clinics and pharmacies	HAWASA	No information	No information
Clothing	Addis Ababa /Kenya	No information	Moyale
Protection services	No information	No information	No information
SRHR/MHH	Addis Ababa /kenya	Addis Ababa /kenya	Addis Ababa /Moyale
Livestock		Local	

STORAGE FACILITIES

In terms of capacity of the traders to supply an increase in demand, only Haro Bake, Yabelo and Moyale have storage facilities for specific products. Moyale have storage facilities for Hygiene materials and health products while Haro Bake, Yabelo has storage facilities for food, shelter materials, education supplies, and MHH products. Dubluk does not have storage facilities for any of its products sold in the market.

When asked about their capacity to re-stock in case of an increase in demand due to cash/voucher distribution, most of them said "yes". In addition, they can also access credit in case they decide to increase the volume to anticipate demand due to cash transfer.

Sector/Items	Moyale	Haro Bake, Yabelo	Dubluk
Food	No	Yes	No
WASH	No	No	No
Kitchen equipment and tools	No	No	No
Mattress and blanket	No	No	No
Shelters	No	Yes	No
Hygiene	Yes	Yes	No
Education	No	Yes	No
Health clinics and pharmacies	Yes	No	No
Clothing	No	No	No
Protection services	No	No	No
SRHR/MHH	No	Yes	No

WHO SETS THE PRICE?

Majority of the traders in Moyale and Haro Bake, Yabelo set their own prices while for Dubluk, prices are set by owners but regulated by the trade and industry office. Protection services are provided for free while the medical services as well as medicines are largely regulated by the government.



Sector/items	Moyale	Haro Bake, Yabelo	Dubluk
Food	Owner	Owner	Owner and Govt
WASH	Owner	Owner	No information
Kitchen equipment and tools	Owner	No information	Owner and Govt
Mattress and blanket	Owner	No information	Owner and Govt
Shelters	Owner	Owner	No information
Hygiene	Owner	Owner	Owner and Govt
Education	Owner	Owner	No information
Health clinics and pharmacies	Govt	No information	No information
Clothing	Owner	No information	Owner and Govt
Protection services	Free	No information	No information
SRHR/MHH	Owner	Owner	Owner and Govt

Display prices?	Moyale	Haro Bake, Yabelo	Dubluk
Food	no	no	Yes
WASH	no	no	yes
Kitchen equipment and tools	no	no	yes
Mattress and blanket	no	no	yes
Shelters	no	no	yes
Hygiene	no	no	yes
Education	no	no	No information
Health clinics and pharma-	no	no	No infor-
Clothing	no	no	Yes
Protection services	no	no	N/A
SRHR/MHH	no	no	No

DISPLAY OF PRICES / LABELS

All the traders in Moyale and Haro Bake, Yabelo don't bother displaying prices in their commodities while for Dubluk market which was also regulated by the government displays price tags in their products. It is inconsistent across the one region in different zones and the reason for the same was unknown.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Based on the result of the market assessment, all of the markets were accessible to the affected population and no issues or barriers were noted in terms of access, security and safety for the population including young adolescent girls, boys, women and men of the households.

WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE

All traders and shop owners are willing to participate in the cash and voucher assistance. Some of them have experience participating in cash and voucher programs in their previous engagement with humanitarian organizations. However, some of the traders in Moyale and Haro Bake, Yabelo only accept cash for WASH and some non-food items like mattresses and blanket while traders in Dubluk are happy to participate for all the items mentioned in the survey.

EXISTING CVA PROGRAM IN THE LOCALITY AND CAPACITY TO RESPOND FOR INCREASED DEMAND

At the time of study, no CVA programming had been noted in any of the 3 market centres assessment. However, during the key informant interview, the researcher observed that CARITAS, UNICEF and OPA implemented cash programming in the pro-

gram areas.

Almost all of the traders mentioned that they have the capacity to re-stock with anticipated increase in demand. In Dubluk they can prepare at least 2 to 3 days via phone call to increase their supplies while for Moyale and Haro Bake, Yabelo, average response time would be 3 to 5 days.

FINANCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS AVAILABILITY

CBE (Commercial bank of Ethiopia), owned and operated by the government have presence in the all 3 markets assessed. It was also coverage by mobile phone network operating in the program areas and are willing to participate in the CVA program. There are also other commercial banks operated privately that expressed their interest to participate but most of them are located in Moyale. Oromia bank on the other hand operate in both Moyale and Dubluk areas.

Program Areas	Service provider	Type	Requirements
Bank			
Logiya and Asayita	CBE	Commercial government bank	
Logiya and Asayita	Dashen Bank	Private	
Asayita	Anbesa Bank	Private	
Logiya	Buna Bank	Private	
Logiya	Awash	Private	
Logiya	Awash Int Bank	Private	
Logiya	Oromia cooperative	Private	
Logiya	Nib Bank	Private	
Logiya	Hibrate bank	Private	
Logiya	Abay bank	Private	
Logiya	Absinya bank	Private	
Logiya	Wugagen bank	Private	
Mobile network			
Logiya and Asayita	Ethio Telecom	Mobile money	ID card

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION, BORENA ZONE, OROMIA REGION

FGD was undertaken with women and men above 35 years; adolescent girls and boys to understand their priority needs and preferences in Kebele Erbata, Kebele of Asayita Woreda and Tirsu/Guya IDP settlement in a school of Kori Woreda respectively.

The choice of two communities was based on having a sample of local population affected by drought, floods and the IDPs (Internal Displaced Persons) due to the impact of Northern crisis

KEY FINDINGS:

Lafta and Melbana

- ◆ The key problem was Food shortage due to drought and there is high food gap and food insecurity for the entire household members and community. All community members were highly affected while children, PLWs (Pregnant and Lactating women) and PwD (Persons with Disabilities) were the most vulnerable and highly affected
- ◆ They have been facing the severe drought and almost lost all of their livestock due to lack of fodder. One Durette Jaldesse from Dubluk Woreda had come to Melbana with his herd of cattle in search of green pasture and water. He lost all his 108 cattle in one day and the carcass of livestock were crowded in the whole Kebele with Vultures fighting for the best piece accompanied by foul stink of smell spread in the environment.
- ◆ It was extremely disturbing site for the team to see and walk in the Kebele with fear of stepping on some of the remains of the decayed carcasses.
- ◆ Food intake by the community was reduced to one or maximum two times a day occasionally. Due to the current drought, massive soil degradation and the resulting pasture depletion are a typical feature of all places. This appears to have driven migration, forcing pastoralists to take their livestock to far-flung locations (out of the zone) in search of pasture and water. There were hardly any water supply and WASH facilities (SPHERE standard is a distant dream).
- ◆ Social Safety programmes have been stopped long back and one of the government representative accompanying the team said “government is planning to commence the Productive Safety Net Program soon”. While the community said “It is better it doesn’t start otherwise some of us, who are enrolled as beneficiaries under PSNP will be debarred from potential humanitarian aid”. Menstrual Health and Hygiene conditions are miserable due to lack of access to clean water, sanitary pads and above all cash.
- ◆ People had no access to cash due to non-availability of work opportunities either in their own farms or others farm. There was no support from government and the social protection programme PSNP had stopped since 6 months which provided 3 months of food and cash each.
- ◆ There were signs of mental health manifestations and the youth especially were exhibiting strange behaviours indicating “as if nothing has happened to them”. This was one of their coping mechanism exercised in Borena zone community.
- ◆ The assessments revealed some interesting findings on current and possible livelihood activities in the areas. Men have been pursuing and interested in on-farm activities (e.g. maize, livestock rearing such as cattle and goat rearing and wage labour at private lands). While the adolescent girls and boys are interested for off-farm livelihood such as petty trade, animal husbandry etc. But there was no access to cash or capital thereby leaving them with no work opportunities.
- ◆ Child protection issues were overall observed. Child labour was not exercised in the community. Culturally child marriage was generally acceptable by the community while there was limited sensitisation observed about the practice.
- ◆ For MHH (Menstrual Health Hygiene), girls used both cloth at home and no disposable sanitary pads since they had no knowledge about the same. Also they had no access to cash to buy the disposable pads.
- ◆ The primary and secondary schools were at a distance in between 3-5 kilometres and the school going children were dropouts due to lack of awareness on importance of education, school

lacked education materials, no school feeding and also lack of cash to afford education for children.

- ◆ It was observed a lack of integration between the implemented interventions and Government of Ethiopia programmes such as the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP). For example, cash transfers to affected people could be linked through cash for work and cash for community asset building that PSNP programme advances. In Dubluk Woreda the community members ex-

pressed concern that PSNP support had ceased about a 6 months ago, meaning there is a big gap in climate change adaptation support the communities were receiving to cope with recurrent drought. In areas where food security and livelihoods programming are implemented, special efforts should be made to link to and collaborate with ongoing government programs on climate change adaptation to build the foundation for community resilience to increasing climate shocks.

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS, BORENA ZONE OF OROMIA REGION

The team interviewed government officials in the Borena zone and following are the key points:

- ◆ The whole zone and the region was severely affected by the recent drought due to failure of three consecutive rainfall and thus affected severely on the production and productivity of livestock and agriculture.
- ◆ Zonal authorities in their presentation report more than 1.2 Million people affected and 6.8 Million livestock. A total of 482,952 people is in need immediate food assistance.
- ◆ Social Safety programmes have been stopped long back and one of the government representatives accompanying the team said *“government is planning to commence the Productive Safety Net Program soon”*.
- ◆ Government has done a rough estimate of 4.3 Billion Eth Birr or approximately 84.7 Million USD for the livestock loss so far. There is a gap of more than 90 percent in terms of response to the drought impact.
- ◆ There was drought in 2021 but with low intensity and people had access to some food while 2022 drought was very intense. It impacted both in the loss of almost 90-100% of livestock per household and the households had no access to food nor cash to survive.
- ◆ Authorities had intention to re-initiate the social protection programme PSNP and they have been working with national disaster risk management commission to support the community as a lifesaving tool.

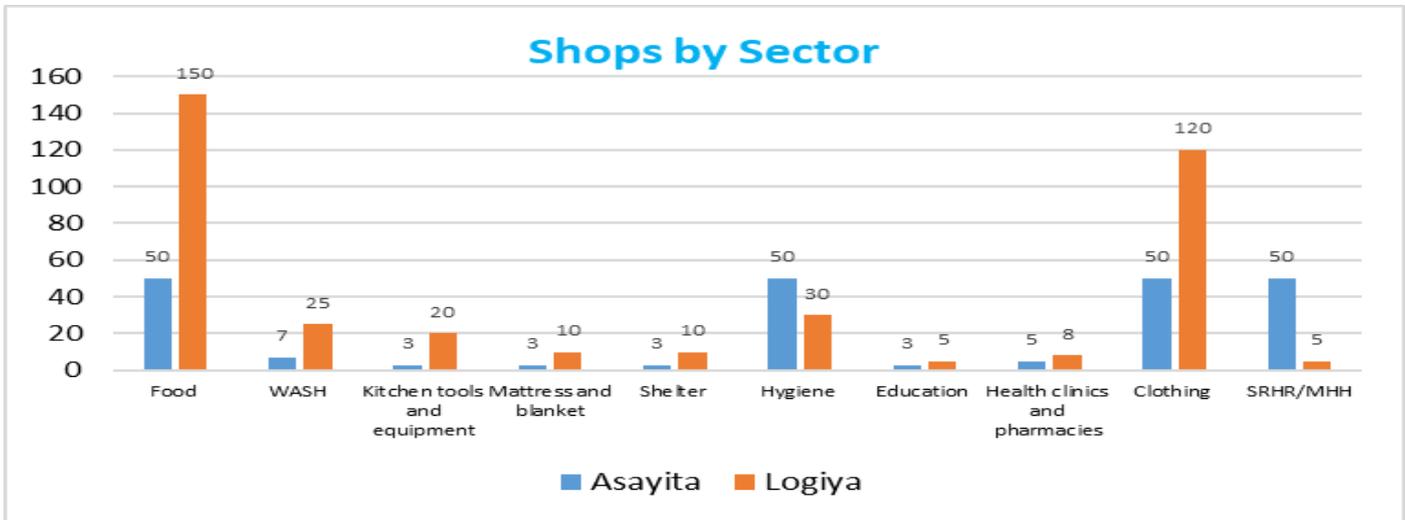
MARKET ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS – AFAR REGION (FOOD INSECURITY AREA)

CHARTS AND FIGURES

Number of shops by sector

The two markets assessed in Afar region were Asayita and Logiya. These market centres were critical in supplying the basic needs of the drought and conflict affected communities in the region. Based on the assessment, Logiya registered higher number of food and non-food items with more

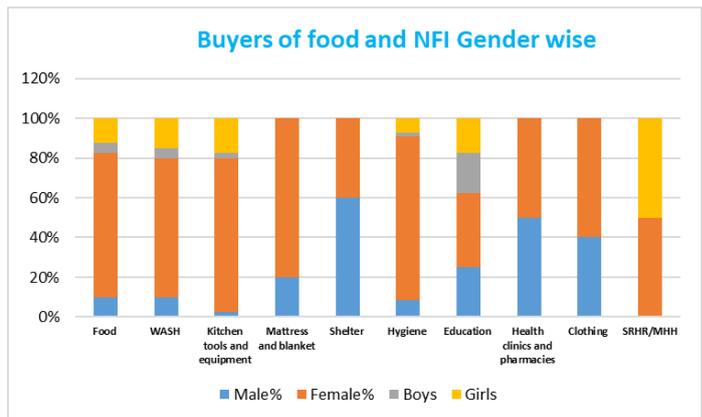
than 150 food stalls/shops and around 120 for dry goods such as clothing. Asayita on the other hand, has a greater number of MHH materials. Both are primary markets with permanent structures and operate daily. Asayita caters to the needs of the entire Kebele and the catchment is up to 10 kilometres.



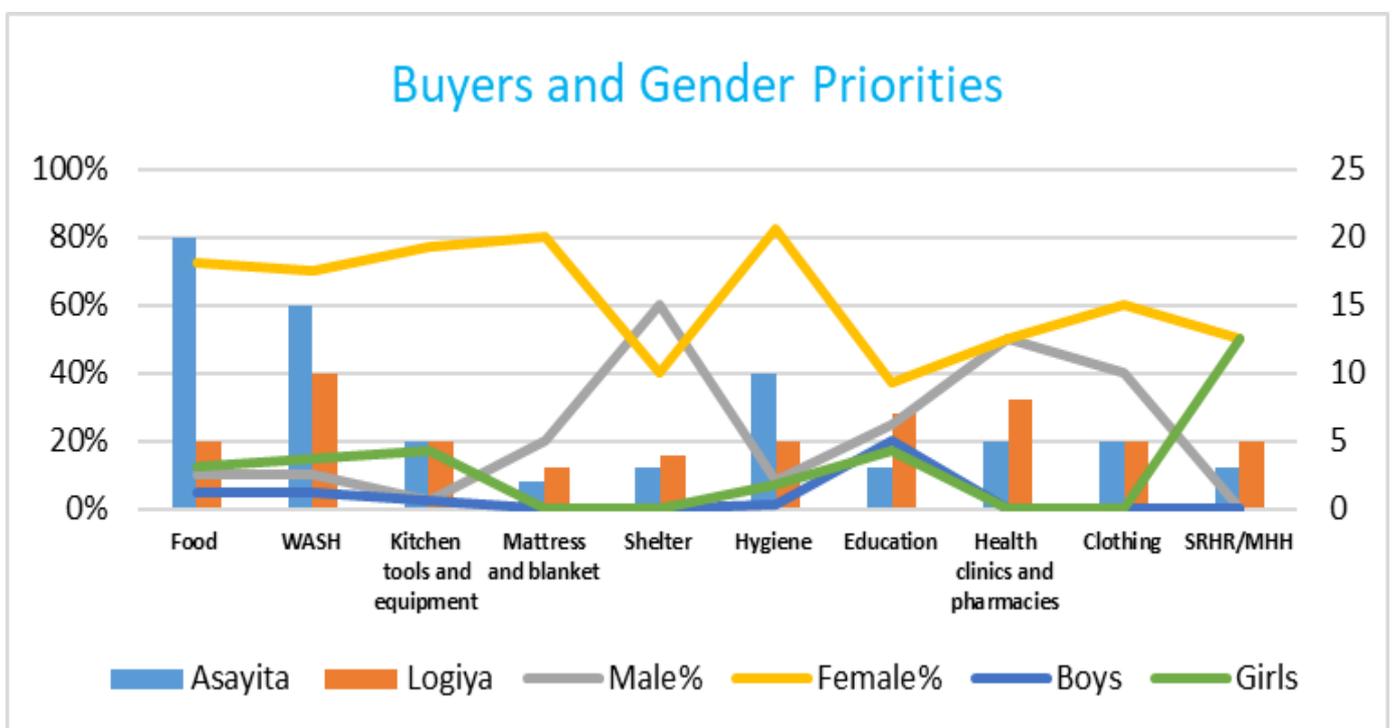
BUYERS BASED ON GENDER AND PRIORITIES

The assessment indicated higher traffic for food and WASH stalls/shops with an average daily visit of 15 to 20. Buyers for food and WASH items were normally women followed by young women/girls while men buy shelter materials. In terms of education, both men and women prioritize clothing and medicine. Women prioritize MHH materials with 50 percent of the traffic and the remaining 50 percent were young women. Women were also observed to prioritize other household needs such as blanket and mattresses, laundry soap, kitchen utensils and cookware. Boys had the least participation in the market with only few percentage in terms of traffic to buy education materials, some food, and WASH materials.

Priorities according to age and gender were reflected in the chart above on how men, women,



boys and girls engaged in the 2 market centres. Women have the highest participation for food, WASH, household materials, hygiene and clothing, followed by men for shelter, education, medicines and clothing. Girls priorities are education and MHH materials while boys have low participation rate and only buying education materials and some household supplies.



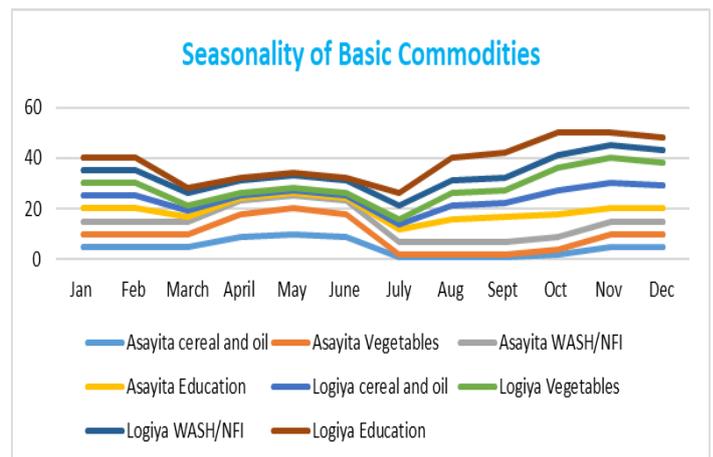
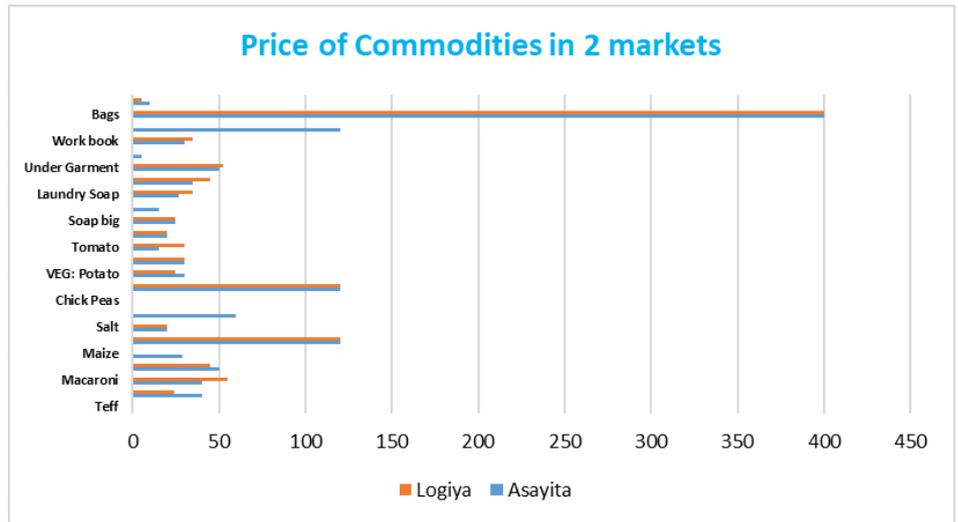
PRICE OF COMMODITIES IN THE 2 MARKET CENTRES

There was slight difference between prices of commodities noted especially on food items except for rice/Teff and macaroni with substantial price difference. Also noted price difference were for the WASH materials in Logiya market tends to be higher compared with the Asayita market. The price of education materials such as bag, work book remained high in both markets since those items were procured once year.

The MHH materials remained same within 50 Birr in both the market centres. Traders confirmed the awareness of adolescent girls largely to access sanitary pads while access to procure such items was less due to lack of cash.

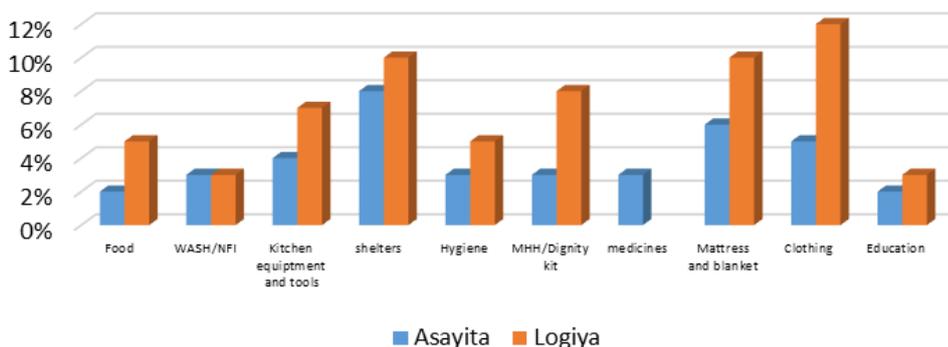
SEASONALITY OF BASIC COMMODITIES

In Logiya market, most of the food and non-food items peak during October to December as the households try to cover household food and NFI demand through procurement of market commodity. The lean season was from April to June where most of the households utilise or consumed live-stock products that they produce. For Asayita market, peak season was from April to June due to Ramadan holiday season. Low season was from July to September since most of the households relocate due to the dry / hot season and thus affects the dynamics of the market. Both markets on the other hand have peak season for education materials during the opening of session in August to September. There were also items with demands remain constant, but prices may vary from month to month. Some of these products were WASH, MHH and salt.



Higher mark-up was noted in Logiya market from 2 percent to almost 12 percent. Among the items with higher mark-up rate were food, clothing, shelter materials, mattresses and blanket, and other non-food items. The market in Asayita showed lower mark-up rate especially on food with only 2 percent from the source. Most of the food sold in Asayita were imported from Addis Ababa and Adama. However, Logiya have better capability in terms of restocking with the presence of at least 10 warehouses within the market center. Logiya happens to be one of the vibrant and dynamic markets and strategically located on a national highway and the market is operational almost 24X7.

Percentage Increase from the Source



SOURCE OF PRODUCT

Asayita and Logiya sourced most of their stocks from Addis Ababa. Asayita market though relatively closer to Logiya on the other hand have alternative sources of stocks from Adama, Semera and Djibouti. Logiya market largely sourced food,

WASH materials from Logiya and this was largely due to the local produce around. There were no issues noted in terms of accessibility of the market center in the catchment areas.

Sector/Items	Asayita	Logiya
Food	Addis Ababa/Adama	Logiya
WASH	Addis Ababa/Adama	Logiya
Kitchen equipment and tools	Semera	Addis Ababa/Logiya
Mattress and blanket	Semera	Addis Ababa
Shelters	Semera	Addis Ababa
Hygiene	Addis Ababa/Semera	Addis Ababa/Logiya
Education	Addis Ababa/Semera	Addis Ababa/Logiya
Medicine	Addis Ababa	Addis Ababa
Clothing	Djibouti / Addis Ababa	Addis Ababa
SRHR/MHH	Addis Ababa/Adama	Addis Ababa/Logiya

STORAGE FACILITIES

Storage facilities were noted in Logiya market for both food and WASH materials. There were 10 warehouses identified in the market sites which can resupply should there be an increase in demand. This could be triggered due to cash and voucher assistance. Asayita on the other hand, do not have any warehouses. However, when asked whether they have the capacity for an increased demand, some of them said yes especially those who have access to credit. Other vendors with no access to credit were not confident.

WHO SETS THE PRICE?

In terms of setting the price, both traders in Asayita and Logiya set their own prices except for items such as food, education and medical supplies which were regulated by the government. Prices were set in consultation with the trading and industry office.

Sector/Items	Asayita	Logiya
Food	No	Yes
WASH	No	No
Kitchen equipment and tools	No	No
Mattress and blanket	No	No
Shelters	No	No
Hygiene	Yes	No
Education	No	No
Health clinics and pharmacies	Yes	Yes
Clothing	No	No
Protection services	No	No
SRHR/MHH	No	No

Sector/items	Asayita	Logiya
Food	Govt and Owner. Buyers know price	Trading and Industry office and owner
WASH	Owner buyers know the prices	Owner
Kitchen equipment and tools	Owner	Owner
Mattress and blanket	Owner	Owner
Shelters	Owner	Owner
Hygiene	Owner buyers know the prices	Owner
Education	Owner and govt	Trading and Industry office and owner
Health clinics and pharmacies	Owner and health sector	Trading and Industry office and owner
Clothing	owner	Owner
SRHR/MHH	Owner	Owner

DISPLAY OF PRICES / LABELS

All of the traders in Asayita and Logiya largely displayed prices for their commodities. Some of the traders who didn't display mentioned that most of the buyers were aware of the price. It was interesting to note that in Asayita the price list was displayed almost on all the shops.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

In terms of access, there were no recorded issues or security concern for both gender and ages of buyers. They can freely enter the market anytime they want and there were no cultural or traditions that prohibit boys and girls in visiting the market. However, during conflict incidence, most of them were forced to close their shops as previously experienced. Logiya market was operational almost 24X7 as mentioned above.

WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE

For Asayita, some of the vendors for food and hygiene agreed to participate, the remaining of the traders cited difficulty to access credit from major suppliers. Other reason was the issue of capitalization, most of the traders in Asayita were small business owners and expected challenges in raising fund to meet the demand. However, they were open to discussion and sensitisation on CVA. For Logiya all of the traders expressed their willingness to support especially those with access to credit and had sufficient capital to anticipate an increase

Display prices?	Asayita	Logiya
Food	Yes	Yes
WASH	Yes	Yes
Kitchen equipment and tools	Yes	Yes
Mattress and blanket	Yes	Yes
Shelters	Yes	Yes
Hygiene	Yes	Yes
Education	Yes	Yes
Clothing	Yes	Yes
SRHR/MHH	No	Yes

in demand. Some of the traders also had experience participating in CVA for food with federal DRMC (Disaster Risk management Committee).

EXISTING CVA PROGRAM IN THE LOCALITY AND CAPACITY TO RESPOND FOR INCREASED DEMAND

On-going CVA were noted in Logiya with the federal DRMC and some of the traders had significant experience participating in the program. For Asayita, there was no on-going CVA programming

recorded. Most of the traders in Logiya can participate anytime in CVA program and will need at least 2 days' notice for them to restock to anticipate an increase in demand. However, for Asayita traders, they can only participate with selected goods such as food, education materials, and hygiene products. They need at least 3 days to buy stocks to anticipate an increase in demand.

FINANCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS AVAILABILITY

CBE government bank and Dashen bank were present in both Logiya and Asayita markets. Asayita market have limited FSPs with only 2 banks and 1 mobile money. Logiya on the other hand have several private banks operating in the program area and are willing to provide credits to suppliers when needed. They can also be potential service provider to transfer cash to project participants. Ethio telecom on the other hand have pres-

Program Areas	Service provider	Type	Requirements
Bank			
Logiya and Asayita	CBE	Commercial government bank	
Logiya and Asayita	Dashen Bank	Private	
Asayita	Anbesa Bank	Private	
Logiya	Buna Bank	Private	
Logiya	Awash	Private	
Logiya	Awash Int Bank	Private	
Logiya	Oromia cooperative	Private	
Logiya	Nib Bank	Private	
Logiya	Hibrate bank	Private	
Logiya	Abay bank	Private	
Logiya	Absinya bank	Private	
Logiya	Wugagen bank	Private	
Mobile network			
Logiya and Asayita	Ethio Telecom	Mobile money	ID card

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (FGD) – ZONE ONE, AFAR REGION

FGD was undertaken with women and men above 35 years; adolescent girls and boys to understand their priority needs and preferences in Kebele Erbata, Kebele of Asayita Woreda and Tirsu/ Guya IDP settlement in a school of Kori Woreda respectively.

The choice of two communities was based on having a sample of local population affected by drought, floods and the IDPs (Internal Displaced Persons) due to the impact of Northern crisis

KEY FINDINGS:

Asayita:

- ◆ The key problems and needs were food insecurity, health and education and this was largely due to the poverty which was exacerbated by the recent floods and chronic drought in the non-flooded areas.
- ◆ The community indicated they engaged in agricultural activities to tackle existing problems such as food insecurity but the key challenge highlighted was lack of irrigation

facilities. While it was interesting to note that the Awash river, a perennial river was flowing at full capacity but the community were ignorant and had no knowledge to access that water facility.

- ◆ Other challenges faced by community access to education facilities for their children and it was very expensive. Health also posed as a priority next to food insecurity.
- ◆ People had no access to cash due to non-availability of work opportunities either in their own farms or others farm. There was no support from government and the social protection programme PSNP had stopped since a year ago which provided 3 months of food and cash each.
- ◆ The cohesion among community was high and they shared the food among themselves equally whatever the source they received from. This is the well-known coping mechanism exercised in Afar community.
- ◆ The assessments revealed some interesting findings on current and possible livelihood activities in the areas. Men have been pursuing and interested in on-farm activities (e.g. maize, Pisciculture, livestock such as cattle and goat rearing and wage labour at private lands). While the adolescent girls and boys are interested for off-farm livelihood such as petty trade, animal husbandry etc. But there was no access to cash or capital thereby leaving them with no work opportunities.
- ◆ Child protection issues were overall observed to be limited. Child labour is exercised in the community but the trend is decreasing due to increased awareness. Culturally child marriage is generally acceptable by the community while there was limited sensitisation observed about the practice.
- ◆ For MHH (Menstrual Health Hygiene), girls used both cloth at home and disposable sanitary pads at school. There were two concerns about its use. One they had a myth/misinformation that use of disposable will have side effect and second they had limited access to cash to buy the disposable pads.
- ◆ The primary and secondary schools were at a distance in between 3-5 kilometres and the school going children were dropouts due to lack of awareness on importance of education, school lacked education materials and also lack of cash to afford education for children.
- ◆ It was observed a lack of integration between the implemented interventions and Government of Ethiopia programmes such as the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP). For example, cash transfers to affected people could be linked through cash for work and cash for community asset building that PSNP programme advances. In Dubti woreda the community members expressed concern that PSNP support had ceased about a

year ago, meaning there is a big gap in climate change adaptation support the communities were receiving to cope with recurrent drought. In areas where food security and livelihoods programming are implemented, special efforts should be made to link to and collaborate with ongoing government programs on climate change adaptation to build the foundation for community resilience to increasing climate shocks.

RECOMMENDATION

- ◆ **There were several varieties of Prosopis species planted in Afar and Oromia arid regions. These plants are become invasive, displace native vegetation, reduce biodiversity and negatively affecting rural livelihoods. These plants can be replaced by drought adaptable plantations through cash for work. Further there are plenty of plastic wastes observed in Afar region. This can be cleaned through cash for work coupled with sensitisation on climate risk. With this the people will clean the environment, receive employment and the climate will be conserved. The waste products can also be used to make construction materials with plastic wastes such as bricks/briquette.**

KORI IDP CAMP

- ◆ These people were displaced since 28 days due to the conflict in Northern crisis and in the initial days the community support was prominent but they had to leave their place of origin to save their lives and of course without their assets. Their donkeys, means of transport were killed by a side of the conflict to prevent them fleeing their land. The humanitarian situation was deteriorating in the camp with key problems and needs on food insecurity, health and WASH
- ◆ The community were in a desperate situation without any income, no scope of livelihood, minimal support from authorities and aid agencies through food assistance, water trucking, biscuits and tents.
- ◆ Their food consumption had been significantly reduced to one or maximum two times a day which is alarming. They were pastoralists by nature and used to consume milk products from their livestock but having displaced from their place of origin without assets had made them dependant on external support including government and aid agencies.
- ◆ Water and WASH facilities had been a major problem. Though water was trucked by some agencies but there was no storage facilities such as jerry cans to store water. Further the lack of segregated toilets for female vs males

was a challenge leading to protection issues especially for girls and women.

- ◆ People had no access to cash due to non-availability of work opportunities considering their status as “IDPs”. There was no cash support from government and the social protection programme PSNP to the IDPs.
- ◆ The assessments revealed some interesting findings on current and possible livelihood activities in the areas. Men have been pursuing and interested in on-farm activities (e.g. wheat, livestock such as cattle and goat rearing). While the adolescent girls and boys are interested for off-farm livelihood such as petty trade, animal husbandry etc. But there was no access to cash or capital thereby leaving them with no work opportunities.
- ◆ Overall there were protection issues observed with limited privacy between the families in the

camp and also among the girls, boys, women and men in an extended family. Child protection issues were overall observed but not clearly spelled out. Child labour was not observed while culturally child marriage was practised without force and this was largely due to limited sensitisation on the hazards.

- ◆ For MHH (Menstrual Health Hygiene), girls used both cloth in the IDP camp and disposable sanitary pads prior to the conflict. This was due to had lack of access to cash in the IDP setting to buy disposable pads.
- ◆ They had no access to education. The primary and secondary schools were at a distance in between 3-5 kilometres and the school going children were dropouts due to lack of awareness on importance of education, school lacked education materials and also lack of cash to afford education for children.

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS, ZONE ONE, AFAR REGION

The team interviewed government officials in the Afar region and following are the key points:

- ◆ The whole region was affected by the recent drought due to failure of three consecutive rainfall and conflict, and COVID-19. Zone 4, Zone 2, and Zone 1. From zone 1 Adar and Chifera Woredas were highly affected by drought.
- ◆ The authorities were providing some food assistance and water trucking

in the IDP camps while there was very limited response for food insecure community due to drought.

- ◆ Social Safety programmes have been stopped a year ago and authorities had intention to re-initiate the social protection programme PSNP. They have been working with national disaster risk management commission to support the community as a lifesaving tool.

FINANCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS (FSP)

There are several of FSPs available in Ethiopia such as Awash Bank, Commercial Bank, Oromo Bank, Abyssinia Bank, Ethio Telecom and ACSI (Amhara Credit and Savings Institution). The assessment team had meetings with the above FSPs in the previous feasibility assessment in December 2021 (please refer to my previous [Feasibility Assessment report De-](#)

[cember 2021](#)) and the series of meetings and correspondence were made by Plan International Ethiopia team. As I write this report some of the agreements with some FSPs were in the advance stage of signature.

HUMANITARIAN DONOR/PEER AGENCIES AND THEIR CVA IN THE AREA

- ◆ DGECHO recommends strongly the CVA modality wherever feasible with an integrated and innovative approach.
- ◆ BPRM recommends to undertake voucher modality to start in Gambella supported by evidence feasibility assessments in the funding proposals.
- ◆ Peer agencies including Action Against Hunger, Red Cross, DCA have been undertaking activities both through cash /voucher wherever appropriate.
- ◆ Ethiopia Cash Working Group (ECWG): recommend strongly to adopt CVA wherever feasible and appropriate. The MEB transfer value has been drafted for Tigray for different sectors but it is yet to be endorsed by stakeholders. ECWG encourages agencies to lead

MEB exercise in different regions and help different agencies in adopting it for their responses. ECWG is organising joint feasibility assessments in Oromia and other food insecure regions. Partners/members are encouraged to join this initiative. ECWG has also recommended to form Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) to support the ECWG and its activities in a strategic manner. Several members agencies with CVA expertise and experience have been invited to nominate this initiative in a meaningful manner

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended Plan International Ethiopia aligns its cash transfer value for MPCTs to 800 Birr (€ 14.5) per capita and 4000 Birr /HH (€ 72.5) maximum per HH until the revised MEB is established.

CVA RISK AND MITIGATION

The study team identified the following risks and possible mitigation measures:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact on program	Mitigation Measures
Targeting might be difficult as IDPs, refugees and host population will be willing to receive assistance	High	Medium	Develop thorough selection criteria. Pursue participatory and transparent approach Set community-led complaint & feedback mechanisms
Traders might spike the price of the commodities during implementation	Medium	High	Reassess the price in the market and negotiate accordingly Advocate with regional/national government to ensure regulation in the price of commodities
Drop out by the trainee if not compensated by the apprentice support	Medium	High	Close and frequent monitoring of the trainees Develop contingency plan in case of a drop out

Security situation might deteriorate	High	High	Maintain close coordination with Security Manager and follow his advice Maintain low profile in the community Plan International staff should not carry the cash and distribute by themselves There might be a need to adapt the programming
Current recommended MPCGs to 800 Birr (€ 14.5) per capita and 4000 Birr /HH (€ 72.5) maximum per HH until the revised MEB is established.	Medium	High	Plan needs to put a contingency plan in place for increasing the transfer value in accordance with the foreseen MEB and keep donors informed in the respective proposals. Should the MEB be not revised during the implementation phase of a programme then the same amount can be used to reach out to more beneficiaries or top-up cash transfer to the same beneficiaries.
Distribution of cash by Plan staff	High	High	High life risk for staff to handle liquid cash. It should be the last option in the absence of any FSP with appropriate insurance of cash and staff. PIE to transfer the risk to the FSP and avoid handling of liquid cash.
CVA documentation (if weak)	High	High	Mention the key details in terms of receipt and statements of disbursement of cash in the contract. The hard copies of disbursements to be signed by the FSP with annexed beneficiaries. The beneficiaries should have beneficiary card with photograph and details of cash/ voucher distribution with receipt data. Save Photocopies of the original set of all statement for record for at least 5 years (as per FPA, DGECHO while it may vary for other donors).

PLAN INTERNATIONAL'S CVA IMPLEMENTATION CAPABILITY

Plan International started CVA as a preferred modality of response by 2011. Over the period, its portfolio grew rapidly. By December 2021, its global cumulative portfolio reached to 150 million USD with over 250 trained human resources across different country offices.

The journey of cash and voucher programming since 2013 in Plan Ethiopia has been impressive and PIE has reached close to 400,000 beneficiaries with a portfolio of 2.5 Million Euros. Of this 50 percent of beneficiaries are girls and women.

PIE has invested strategically in nurturing and recruiting in-house capacity on cash and voucher programming. Over the period of 1 year, CVA has evolved as one of the “reference modality of re-

sponse” by PIE. The recent visit of Global Hub’s CVA lead was the second in 3 months and the growth in cash programming is on the rise; which is commendable. It is expected to have an exponential rise in next 12-18 months.

Plan International Ethiopia is now the emerging CVA player in Plan international MEESA region of Plan International. It has now the good program design and implementation capacity as well as have a strong interest to grow its CVA portfolio. PIE has also recruited a dedicated female CVA Specialist- a strong indicator of gender equity and importance of CVA as a reference modality in all response.

FEASIBILITY OF CASH/VOUCHER PROGRAMMING - CASH/VOUCHER/IN-KIND? WHY?

Understanding whether or not CVA is feasible and appropriate means by which to respond to needs in a given context relies on a number of critical factors. For example, if cash transfers are to be an effective way of meeting the needs of people affected by crisis:

- ◆ It is critical that markets are able to supply the goods and services that people need, that people can afford them and people are able to access those markets. In this scenario, markets are fully functional and integrated.
- ◆ To ensure that programmes are efficient, safe and accountable, it is important that an appropriate means of delivery can be identified. Here there are multiple options such as Mobile, Banks, Post Office and Micro Finance delivery mechanism. The best possible option to be considered based on the context and situation.
- ◆ Given the increasing use of CVA globally and multiple benefits cash can provide over commodity-based transfers (under the right condi-

tions), this study sought to consider the feasibility and appropriateness of cash/voucher transfers in emergencies due to crisis in the northern region and its impact in different parts of Ethiopia. The study considered contextual factors, including the levels of acceptance by stakeholders, and pre-existing or crisis-related socio-economic vulnerability.

To understand concerns about feasibility in the region, markets and financial services were explored in some depth.

Thorough discussions with adolescent girls, boys, women and men from refugees and host communities indicate the strong preference for cash/voucher programming as the modality of response.

Discussion with humanitarian agencies including CWG, FSPs, WCD, Government agencies and key humanitarian agencies are of the strong opinion to go ahead with CVA as the preferred modality of response.

CONCLUSION

- ◆ The feasibility study found cash and/or voucher or even mix modality to be highly feasible in the areas.
- ◆ Humanitarian agencies have been undertaking CVA covering multiple needs of the affected population.
- ◆ There is a strong appetite for CVA by all stakeholders including communities, humanitarian agencies, donors, FSPs and authorities.
- ◆ The extent to which CVA has already been used in past and current humanitarian response is a strong indicator of the feasibility of using the modality in future emergencies.
- ◆ It is clear that the approach to using cash in humanitarian response in Ethiopia is now enroute a “reference” modality of response. However, there are large rooms for improvement where the approach can be uniform through larger coordination among the humanitarian agencies or a cash coordination mechanism.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, Plan International Ethiopia is recommended to implement the project with CVA modality in the proposed locations. Here below are some specific recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE (CVA) MODALITIES

- ◆ It is recommended Plan International Ethiopia (PIE) aligns its cash transfer value for MPCGs to 800 Birr (€ 14.5) per capita and 4000 Birr /HH (€ 72.5) maximum per HH until the revised MEB is established. Also PIE should put a contingency plan in place for increasing the cash/voucher transfer value in accordance with the foreseen revised MEB value and keep donors informed in the respective proposals. Should the MEB be not revised during the implementation phase of a programme then the same amount can be used to reach out to more beneficiaries or top-up cash transfer to the same beneficiaries.
- ◆ Cash for livelihoods- Projects should prioritise providing cash as start-up grants to establish enterprise, workshop and also to purchase the livelihood kits.
- ◆ Commodity voucher- Commodity voucher is recommended for activities when the cash transfer doesn't work or not permitted by authorities or there is a speculation that the particular deliverable will not be achieved with cash transfer.
- ◆ Cash for Work CFW: should be undertaken for rehabilitation of public assets such as in schools for cleaning and levelling the ground, the classrooms and toilets, construction of Child Friendly Space and Education Centres.
- ◆ Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) should be conducted within two weeks of cash or voucher distribution.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROTECTION, MHH AND EDUCATION OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Plan International Ethiopia is highly encouraged and recommended to undertake CVA modality for activities under Protection, MHH and Education objectives. There are several avenues such as the project can provide cash/voucher support instead of "material support" to help beneficiaries meet the quality requirements associated with caring for survivors of GBV (Gender Based Violence) and child protection cases; providing cash to teachers, providing scholastic materials through vouchers in the camp settings, providing MHH materials such as under garments, sanitary pads, hygiene materials through CVA and many more. The team has been briefed on this and they are most welcome to consult Global Hub CVA team for any technical support.

RECOMMENDATION ON LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES

- ◆ There were several varieties of Prosopis species planted in Afar and Oromia arid regions. These plants with their growth become invasive, displace native vegetation, reduce biodiversity and negatively affect rural livelihoods. These plants can be replaced by drought resistant plantations through cash for work especially by youth. This will provide both cash and food security, provide employment and conserve the climate.
- ◆ There are plenty of plastic wastes observed in Afar region. This can be cleaned through cash for work coupled with sensitisation on climate risk. With this, the environment will be cleaned, community will receive employment and the climate will be conserved. The waste products can also be used to make construction materials with plastic wastes such as bricks/briquette.
- ◆ On farm activities if promoted well will not only be a source of income for the poor people but will also help to address food insecurity and under nutrition issues. Thus, on-farm activities should be encouraged.
- ◆ There will be different types of potential livelihood activities with corresponding training duration, costs and start-up grants. Identified potential trainings for On/Off farm livelihoods should follow the prescribed training modules of corresponding ministry or other authorised institutes. Also courses should be adapted and contextualised in consultation with the potential beneficiaries. The trade/vocation selected should fit with the available value chain to ensure consistent income.
- ◆ There are capable suppliers for the livelihood kits (as start-up support) in most of the markets assessed in Afar and Oromia. The wholesalers/suppliers have sufficient capacity and commitment to supply at any location in the assessed areas to the beneficiaries through cash or vouchers. The project team should coordinate with them well in advance for their necessary preparation.
- ◆ Communities in the drought areas have lost their cattle. It was observed the drought survivors were goat, sheep and camels. Communities should be encouraged to opt for sheep and goats (shots) and if possible camels (who can manage). Grants should be planned for such restocking of livestock on priority.
- ◆ Improved quality seeds (such as vegetable seeds) are not available in all markets. When there is an interest for vegetable production, seeds should be distributed in-kind or through voucher modality to ensure quality.

- ◆ Usually there are savings group in all communities and these groups can be sensitised and capacitated as per the principles VSLA and some projects can be designed to implement different activities through community level VSLAs. The livelihood beneficiaries should be linked with the existing VSLAs to promote saving credit activities to further promote their enterprises.

RECOMMENDATION ON FINANCIAL SERVICE PROVIDER

- ◆ Commercial Bank, Awash Bank have the maximum outreach in the country. The security and control system seems good and the service charge is very less.
- ◆ ACSI is the micro finance organisation which has discrete access in some communities and UN agencies such as FAO have been working with them.
- ◆ Considering the above options, PIE is recommended to expedite the signing of agreements with them. This will better prepare PIE and also create a multiple option for transfer of cash for Plan Ethiopia either of the FSPs whichever works in the area better.
- ◆ PIE can also consider using these FSPs to undertake Anticipatory Actions for the predictable emergencies including drought, floods and conflicts.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GENDER / CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

- ◆ In some contexts, women reported cases of domestic violence when they resist to the attempt of their male relatives to control the cash given to them. In order to mitigate such risks and ensure we “Do No Harm” through our intervention.

PIE should:

- ◆ Conduct gender and risk analysis to understand the power dynamics potential risks of GBV induced by the cash/voucher programming. Engaging the affected communities’ males and females in the identification of the beneficiaries, pre-distribution sensitization of all genders will hence be necessary as also setting up of robust feedback response mechanism for addressing safeguarding, protection and quality concerns
- ◆ Ensure CVA distribution mechanisms take gender considerations on location, time and safety issues, ease of access and minimise overburdening beneficiaries.
- ◆ Establish safeguarding and accountability mechanisms including complaints procedures. Ensure that both women and men staff represent the complaints/grievance section so that different members of the community feel comfortable in reporting.
- ◆ Ensure women beneficiaries as much as possible but not less than 50% of the total participants
- ◆ The CVA Specialist of PIE should remain in close coordination with the Global CVA team and request for technical support as and when required.

ANNEXES



Market Assessment (Observation and Traders' Survey)

Date	
Name of the Market	
Name of the District	

Geographic location of the market:

	Code
1=Primary, 2=Secondary	
Frequency: 1.Daily, 2.Weekly, 3. Monthly	
Type of market infrastructure: <i>[tick all that apply]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary make shift structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permanent open structures <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adjoined individual shops Other _____

Number of stalls/shops	
Food	
WASH/NFI	
MHM/Dignity kit	
Mattress and blanket	
Protection (NFI)	
Education	

Approximate buyers for food (daily)			
	Total	Male%	Female%
Food			
WASH/NFI			
MHM/Dignity kit			
Mattress and blanket			
Protection (NFI)			
Education			

No of people with disability access critical market systems in crisis and non-crisis time?

- ◆ How do people with disability access critical market systems in crisis and non-crisis time?
- ◆ Catchment areas of the market including distances (km)
- ◆ Peak and Low commodity marketing months/ seasons

Major items (food, WASH, Shelter, NFI/ MHM etc)	3 Peak marketing months			3 Low marketing months		
	Month 1	Month 2	Reason	Month 1	Month 2	Reason
Food :						
Teff						
Wheat						
Maize						
Oil						
Salt						
Cereals :Beans						
Chick Peas						
Lentil						
VEG: Potato						
Onion						
Tomato						
Cabbage						
NFI/MHM/WASH						
Soap Bath/ laundry						
Sanitary Pad						
Under Garment						
Jerry Can						
Education						
Scholastic Mate- rials						
Notebooks						
Bags						
Pencil/Eraser/ Sharpner						

Current price levels

Commodity	Local unit of measure	Price of local unit of measure
Food :		
Teff		
Wheat		
Maize		
Oil		
Salt		
Cereals :Beans		
Chick Peas		
Lentil		
VEG: Potato		
Onion		
Tomato		
Cabbage		
NFI/MHM/WASH		
Soap Bath/laundry		
Sanitary Pad		
Under Garment		
Jerry Can		
Education		
Scholastic Materials		
Notebooks		
Bags		
Pencil/Eraser/Sharpner		

Supply chain system (across different themes)-spatial and temporal both. Any challenges

Name and Place	Remarks
Food	
WASH/NFI	
MHM/Dignity kit	
Mattress and	
Protection (NFI)	
Education	

- ◆ What percentage in terms of price is different compared the source?

Items	%
Food	
WASH/NFI	
MHM/Dignity kit	
Mattress and blanket	
Protection (NFI)	
Education	

- ◆ Who sets the prices at which traders in the markets (gov, big traders, each trader etc?)

Food	
WASH/NFI	
MHM/Dignity kit	
Mattress and blanket	
Protection (NFI)	
Education	

- ◆ Storage facilities in the market

Food	
WASH/NFI	
MHM/Dignity kit	
Mattress and blanket	
Protection (NFI)	
Education	

- ◆ Do traders display the prices in markets?

Food	
WASH/NFI	
MHM/Dignity kit	
Mattress and blanket	
Protection (NFI)	
Education	

- ◆ Are the displayed market prices easily readable by girls, boys, women and men?
- ◆ Do traders price-discriminate by charging different prices to consumers?
- ◆ Are there any traders associations in the markets?

- ◆ What are the likely barriers to entry and exit (challenges) in the markets?
- ◆ General or specific risks and uncertainties observed in the market related to security, environment, political, civil strife and other risks/uncertainties
- ◆ Are traders willing to participate in voucher programming? Give details

Food	
WASH/NFI	
MHM/Dignity kit	
Mattress and blanket	
Protection (NFI)	
Education	

- ◆ Are they able to meet increased demand? How?
- ◆ Time needed for meeting increased demand

Food	
WASH/NFI	
MHM/Dignity kit	
Mattress and blanket	
Protection (NFI)	
Education	

- ◆ Are you able to get credit for stock from your supplier? If not, can you manage increase demand? How?
- ◆ Other cash transfer programs in which the market is situated? by whom, challenges, experiences, address of the challenges..
- ◆ Existing banking and financial services infrastructure (List all banks, microfinance, post office, cooperatives, VSLA, mobile platform, security company). Give details of interaction
- ◆ Requirements and challenges for use of banks by participants
- ◆ Mobile network coverage infrastructure (list operators, requirement and challenges)

List of name and contacts of all people interviewed in the market

SN	Name	Age	Sex	Market role	Telephone num-
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					



PLAN INTERNATIONAL RAPID ASSESSMENT Focus Group Discussion (FGD) GUIDE

ADULTS

COUNTY	VILLAGE	SETTLEMENT	GENDER OF GROUP	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	NAME OF FACILITATOR
<p>Instructions Convene a group of between 8-12 adult people for ease of managing the group and effective participation. Adult people to participate in this group discussion will be grouped according to the following age groups: 18-24 years, 25-45 years, 46-60 years and Above 60 years. A male moderator and male note taker should facilitate male FGDs while Female moderator and female note taker talks to female participants. Introduce yourselves and explain the purpose of the group discussions. Encourage all participants to freely participate. Moderator to ensure active participation of all people by encouraging the quite ones while respectfully controlling the dominating ones. Capture what they are saying verbatim or correct summary. Leave your views outside the discussion, just facilitate and capture their responses. Reassure people on confidentiality and know how to handle sensitive information.</p>					
GENERAL QUESTIONS					
1	What are the main problems currently facing your community? What are the specific problems facing by female, male, old people and people with disabilities?				
2	Out of these problems you raised, which one is the biggest problem that concerns you most? (Only 1)?				
3	What are you doing to address this problem as a community?				
4	Who is helping you to address this main problem (Someone outside your community e.g. NGOs).				
SECTION A: FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS					
A1	What are the main types foods normally consumed by households in this community? Rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important				
Name of food			Importance (1 being the most important)		
Sorghum					
Maize					
Millet					
Rice					
Cassava					
Sweet potato					
Potato					

Beans	
Fish	
Meat	
Oil	
Vegetable and fruits	
Other (please specify)	

A2: On average what are the households' main source of each of the following food items? –Select only one main source used by most households.

Food	Own production	Market	Gathering / collecting / hunting / fishing	No Access
Sorghum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maize	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Millet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cassava	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sweet potato	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potato	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oil	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vegetable and fruits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A3	Has the main food sources changed between November last year and now? If Yes How?	
A4	On average how much cereal food stock do you have in your households for consumption? Who has access and who controls the food stock in your household?	
A5	On average how long will the current food stocks in your households going to last? Probe for average time in months.	
A6	Has the amount of food that people in your households are eating since November last year changed? If Yes, how has the amounts changed?	Amount consumed has decreased Amount consumed has increased Amount consumed is about the same
A7	Why has the amounts changed?	
A8	If you do not have enough food or money to buy food in your households, how do you cope with the situation?	
Type of coping mechanism		Frequency (Number of days practiced per week)
Rely on less preferred and less expensive food		
Borrow food, or rely on help from friends or relatives		

<input type="checkbox"/>	Limit portion size at meals	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restrict consumption by adults in order for small children to eat	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduce number of meals eaten per day	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do not eat the whole day	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Collect more wild foods than usual for the season	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sell more animals than usual	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consume seed stocks held for the next season	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify)	
A9	Currently what are the main sources of income or other means that support your household's daily living?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Livestock	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fishery	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Petty Trade	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remittance	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regular salaried employment	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Small business	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Casual wage labour	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Selling of natural resources (charcoal, grass, firewood.)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bee keeping	
	Others	
A10	Has there been any change in these main sources of income or means of living between November last year and now? If Yes, what changed?	
SECTION B: WASH		
B1	What is the current water source for drinking for people in this location	
B2	What is the current source of water for bathing, washing clothes and other domestic use?	
B3	How much water is available per person per day in households generally?	
B4	What is the distance of the water point from your house? Who is responsible for the water supply? What are the safety and security issues linked to the water supply?	
B5	Do households have water containers with lid available for water storage?	
B6	Has there been any change to water access in this community now compared to November last year?	

B7	How are you currently defecating? Separated for female and male? Adapted to people with disabilities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Pit latrine (with concrete slab) <input type="checkbox"/> Open defecation <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency/temporary latrine <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
B8	Where are you currently defecating? Separated for female and male? Adapted to people with disabilities?	
B9	Are you comfortable to use the latrine or designated defecation area at night? If NO Why?	
B10	Ask participants using different methods as selected above to raise their hands and count the number of participants using each methods.	Number using pit latrine _____ Number using Open defecation _____ Number using Temporary latrines _____ Number using dig & bury method _____ Other (Specify) _____
B11	What type of support do people here need to maintain clean environments and excreta disposal?	
B12	When do you wash your hands at your house?	

SECTION C: CHILD PROTECTION

C1	How are boys and girls affected by the current food insecurity/drought situation?	Boys	
		Girls	
C2	Are there children in your community who have been separated from their parents or usual caregivers during the period from November Last year to date?		
C3	If Yes. What were the main causes of these separations?		
C4	If Yes, How many girls and boys have been separated from their usual caregivers in this community?	Boys	Girls
C5	How are separated/ unaccompanied girls and boys cared for in your community?		
C6	Has there been any change in your ability to provide basic services (Food, education, clothes etc) to your girls and boy now compared to last November? What about adolescent girls?		
C7	IF Yes, How has it changed?	<input type="checkbox"/> More able to provide children's basic needs <input type="checkbox"/> Less able to provide children's basic needs	
C8	What are the reasons for such changes?		
C9	Are there specific groups of girls and boys who have less access to basic services like food, play, clothes than others in this community?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

C10	IF Yes, Which groups of children are these? WHICH services are they not accessing WHY are they not accessing services?		
C11	Have there been any noticeable changes in children's behaviour since last November? What about adolescent girls?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
C12	IF Yes, What kind of behavior changes have you noticed in girls and boys? What about adolescent girls?	Girls	
		Boys	
C13	IF Yes, What do you think are the causes of these changes in behaviours?		
C14	Are there any girls and boys in this community who are involved in hard labor or child marriage? Hard labour Child marriage		
C15	IF YES, What types of work are these children involved in? Probe for more options.		
C16	Has there been an increase in children being involved in this type of work from November last year to now? If YES, WHY?		
C17	Which groups of children are more involved in that type of work? What is the estimate number of children involved in that work in your community?		
C18	Are there any other forms of child abuse including child marriage, neglect, exploitation or violence against children happening in this community? IF Yes, Give details. Who violated		
C19	What are the causes for such violations of children's rights?		
SECTION D: EDUCATION			
D1	How many of the following groups of schools are in this village?	ECD centres	
		Primary school	
		Secondary school	
		Vocational training	
D2	Are there school-age children within this community who are currently not attending school? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
D3	If YES How many boys and girls?	Number of girls	Number of boys
D4	IF Yes, What are the reasons why they are not attending	Girls	
		Boys	
D5	Have households faced any challenges to send girls and boys to school between November last year and now? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
D6	IF YES, What are the reasons for the challenges? What did you do to manage those challenges? –probe for prioritization of children to send to school.		
END			