AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

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BASELINE SURVEY REPORT On

SWEEP-Water for Food Security, Women's Empowerment and Environmental Protection in East and West Belesa Project

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Acknowledgments

CARE Ethiopia has commissioned Li'elena Research and Development Consultancy PLC (LRDC) to carry out this baseline survey for the project entitled ''Water for Food Security, Women's Empowerment and Environmental Protection (SWEEP)'' to be Implemented in East and West Belesa Woredas of Central Gonder Zone, Amhara Regional State.

LRDC would like to thank CARE Ethiopia technical personnel at country office as well as at field office level for investing their time and expertise throughout the entire process of this survey starting from inception, field work planning, field data collection and giving feedback and comments on the draft report.

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Li'elena Research and Development Consultancy PLC (LRDC)

List of Tables

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
CM	Child Marriage
CGIAR	Strategy and Result Framework, Global Hunger Index, Global Nutrition Report
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GHI	Global Hunger Index
HTP	Harmful Traditional Practice
IFPRI	International Food Price Measurement Index
KII	Key Informant Interview
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PWD	People with Disability
RUSACO	Rural Saving and Credit Cooperatives
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SWEEP	Water for Food Security, Women's Empowerment and Environmental Protection
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Operational Definitions

Adaptive measure: relates to any measure/s to be taken as a last resort for survival by each and every household member during shocks and crisis.

Idir: is a social funeral institution whereby a group of people comes together on the basis of location, occupation, friendship or family ties. Members contribute a certain amount of membership fee on a regular basis and the money is deposited in banks or kept at one of the member's house.

Female headed household: In this particular survey, a female headed household is defined as a female who head the household for losing the male head from death, divorce or that the husband has left to find work for long time or remains single, but becomes the sole bread winner of the household.

Food insecure household: a household having not enough food to feed all family members throughout the year. In terms of frequency, a household which feeds family members less than three meals per day with small amount.

Food sufficient household: a household having enough food to feed all family members throughout the year. In terms of frequency, a household which feeds family members three meals per day with adequate amount in each meal.

Major household expenditures relate to expenditure of relatively expensive items as household level. This includes, but not limited to, buying clothes, furniture, equipment, electronic items, etc

Minor household expenditures relate to expenditure of relatively less expensive/cheap items at household level. This includes buying food for daily consumption.

Person with disability: a person who has long term physical or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers will hinder the full and effective participation in society in an equal basis with others.

Formal (government led) decision-making spaces: includes participation of women in Kebele and woreda level participation

Informal (civil society led, private sector led) decision-making spaces: relates to participation in Idir, Iqub, committee and others

Safe water supply: indicates a water supply where the source will be protected hand-dug well with fitted pump

Marginalized beneficiary group: relates to the deprived segment of the community who are highly vulnerable to social, economic and environmental shocks and disasters, but with little/no support from the government or other stakeholders to cope with shocks.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary

Background: CARE Ethiopia, with the financial support from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), will implement a three years' project entitled "Water for Food Security, Women's Empowerment and Environmental Protection (SWEEP)" Project in East and West Belesa Woredas of Central Gonder Zone, Amhara Regional State. The SWEEP project will address the socio-economic and environmental problems causing food insecurity in East and West Belesa, including poor access to water supply and environmental degradation; social barriers and gender inequality; as well as limited livelihood opportunities and low productivity. As part of the inception phase of the project, this particular baseline survey has been carried out with the ultimate aim of gathering evidence from different sources and set benchmarks and baseline values for each project outcome indicator.

Objective: This particular baseline study aimed to assess the existing situation of the study woredas - paying emphasis on food security and resilience; water supply; and participation and income of marginalized rural women and girls, people with disabilities and unemployed youth - to inform project planning and establish bassline value of project outcome level indicator.

Methods: A community based cross sectional study design with quantitative and qualitative data collection methods were employed. A multistage cluster sampling method was employed to select study subjects where a total of 845 (with 99.9 % response rate) households were included in the study. Additionally, study populations were reached through FGDs and KIIs qualitative research methods. The field study took place for ten days commencing from 29 April to 08 May 2018. The quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS Version 20 for windows, while content/thematic analysis for the qualitative data was used.

Results

- The results indicate that neither of surveyed households met food needs of their households in all the 12 months of the past production year. They reported that they were in shortage of food [food insecure] for five months [June to October] of the past production year. It means that all surveyed households had food gaps for five months in the last production year. However, the food gap span for vulnerable households (female headed households and persons with disability) has been extended to seven months (April to October) in the last production year.
- Results of this survey showed that despite having perceived changes in environmental changes/shocks, a large share of respondents in both woredas did not take any adaptive measures. Overall, only 7% of households/respondents undertook any adaptation measures. The overwhelming majority (93%) of respondents did not adapt to the perceived changes/shocks in environment.
- The results indicate that all surveyed households, 845 (100%) experienced multiple types of economic shocks last year. The two most common ones as reflected by all household survey respondents included increase in food prices (100%) in the local market and decreased amount of cash (100%).
- Results of the survey indicated that in all the past four years household respondents experienced some shocks, but the year 2014/15 was the year that was most remembered by the overwhelming majority of the respondents who experienced severe food and income related shocks. This is especially true to 100% of households who reported shocks including crop loss (drought, rain failure, flood etc), livestock disease or mortality as well as other unexpected shock (human illness, death etc.). Both FGD participants and key informants identified women in general and female headed

households, landless and unemployed women and girls in particular, children, older persons and people with disabilities as most vulnerable to disaster risks in both woredas.

- The results of this survey indicate that there is a good knowledge and understanding of respondents towards identifying the common types of GBV perpetuated in the areas. Close to 53 % of respondents reported that abduction, sexual harassment, rape, polygamy, domestic violence (insulting and beating) and widow inheritance are the common GBVs affecting girls and women in the areas. Around 46% of respondents reported that rape and polygamy are common forms of GBV practiced in their areas. As far as the practice of GBV in the study woredas is concerned, significant proportion of respondents (72%) reported that there has been physical violence perpetrated on girls and women in the areas.
- The results of this particular baseline survey indicated that the overwhelming majority of study households demonstrated knowledge and awareness on the pervasive effects of HTPs on the wellbeing of young girls and women. Close to 77% and 62 % of household respondents respectively reported that FGM and Child Marriage (CM) are harmful to young girls and women. In contrary to this, a significant proportion of the respondents 23 % and 38 % respectively reported that FGM and CM do hardly bring any harm to young girls' and women's wellbeing.

- The results of this survey indicate that 24.9% of respondents reported that FGM had been performed in their households in the past five years, while 19.9% reported of a daughter being given away to marriage in the past years. In a similar vein, 37.6 % and 60.5% of respondents respectively had come across their neighbors practicing FGM and child marriage neighbors in the previous years.
- The results of the survey revealed that the main source of water supply for domestic use were protected hand-dug well fitted with pump (48%), surface water (31%) and unprotected hand-dug well (18%). Roof water harvesting became the main source of water for the remaining 4% of respondents. None of the households' had access to water within 1 Kilometer radius or less than 30 minutes, which is not at the standard set to rural communities. Systematic analysis of the data suggested water consumption per household/day among the surveyed households is below 10 liters which is below the minimum standard set to rural community of 25 liters/day.
- A significant proportion of respondents (86%) reported that women and girls spent more than 8 hours a day for household chores while men and boys spent only 2-4 hours a day for similar activities. Reflections of FGD and KII participants also give affirmation that women and girls shoulder almost all of the household activities including time consuming chores, which were fetching water and wood. In possible explanation, this survey concludes that women do close to 100% of the household chores, but men and boys share some of these activities.

- The results of this survey indicate selling crops, domestic animals, animal products and labor works are the most common source of income by an overwhelming majority of respondents in the past year. As far as earing amount in birr is concerned, a significant proportion of households (31%) had an earning income of less than 4000 birr in the past year. Close to 29% and 22% of respondents reported earning an amount of Birr 4000 and 5500 on average respectively in the past year. Only 17% of respondents had an earning amount of birr 6000 in the past year. Systematic data analysis indicates that among those 31% of respondents having less than 4000 birr earning income in last year, the overwhelming majority (96%) were female headed households.
- This particular survey documented that women were grossly under represented at the woreda and kebele level, with very low percentages of women in political positions across the board.

- The results of this particular baseline survey indicate that the role of women in making decisions of major household expenditures and income is very low. Only 12% and 9% of respondents respectively reported that women participated in decision making of major expenditure and income related issues. All major issues related to expenditure (88%) and income (91%) are entirely dominated by men/husbands. The involvement of women in minor household expenditure and income issues is rather high. The data indicates that close to 75% and 91% of respondents reported that women equally/jointly decide on minor household expenditure and income related issues respectively.
- The results of this survey indicate that only 30% of household respondents did participate in decision making in formal (government-led) and informal (civil society led, private sector-led) sectors.
- The results of the survey indicate that more than half (56%) of respondents agreed with the view that women are able to hold and play leadership roles at community level if they are given opportunities, while around 14% of the respondents did not agree with this view. The remaining 30% of respondents were neutral. Among those 14% of respondents who disagree with women's key leadership positions, the overwhelming majority (76%) did believe that women are not socially accepted to assume key leadership positions. Around 58% of the respondents believed that the culture and tradition do not allow women to assume key leadership positions.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The result of the survey documented the dire situation of the overwhelming majority of the study populations who were unable to feed their households throughout the 12 months of the year. Household respondents faced critical challenges of food shortage for 5-7 months in a year time. Respondent households experienced frequent shocks and adopted their own positive and negative coping mechanisms. The overwhelming majority of household respondents earned meager daily income of birr 2.33 per person/day. The earning income of female headed households was worse by far, less than 2 birr a day.

The results of the survey, pertaining to the existing social norms and practices, documented a good progress in demonstrating knowledge and awareness of respondents on pervasive effects of HTP and GBVs on the wellbeing of women and girls in the study woredas, but the practice is still there. There is also a pervasive practice of gender roles that favor men and boys to the productive sphere while women and girls shoulder the burden of household chores that consume significant amount of their energy and time (more than 8 hours a day).

Access to safe water is far below the standard. The significant proportion of respondents used unprotected water sources during rainy and dry seasons. Equally important, water consumption per household/day among the surveyed households was far below the minimum standard set to rural communities.

The survey, so far as participation and decision making practices of women is concerned, documented that the involvement of women in leadership positions were quite minimal. Equally important, women had no decisive role in production and livelihood making as well as financial decision making activities- but are substantially involved in decision making in areas of minor household expenditure and income.

To sum up – based on the critical findings and conclusions of the baseline survey, the following recommendations are drawn.

- In order to improve livelihoods and resilience usually caused by drought, expansion of irrigation farming is advisable, enhance the financial support services-saving and credit and facilitate jobs creation for unemployed and vulnerable community members mainly the poor women and girls;

- Intervention to improve access to water for the local community- access to water reduces crises especially during drought seasons, the critical shortage of water for human, livestock and farming activities. Rehabilitation and maintenance of the dysfunctional existing water schemes are also important;
- The problems with the local people in regards to disability are lack of public understanding, lack of information on number and status of disabilities, lack of access to basic needs such as vocational training placement, health facilities, education. Thus addressing these challenges through creation of access to safe water supply, since people with disabilities are the most affected and vulnerable to the problem of accessing safe water supply and facilitation of inclusive intervention-both in WASH services and livelihood interventions are required;
- Women empowerment related interventions are highly required (promotion, advocacy and practice of policies and laws that favor women).
- With regards to improving decision of women; women empowerment interventions; familiarization of policies and legislative issues allowing access and control of resources are required for communities, religious leaders, elders; including capacity building activities for law enforcement bodies;
- Facilitate access to finance (loan and credit services) for poor women, unemployed youth and other vulnerable community members to engage in IGAs.
- Capacity building interventions for key and relevant local government offices to help fill gaps related to knowledge, skills, understanding and practices on design and implementation of integrated development initiatives particularly for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized groups.
- Support and encourage vulnerable community groups to undertake appropriate and suitable environmental and economic shock coping mechanisms.

I. Introduction: The SWEEP Project in a Nutshell

CARE Ethiopia, with the financial support from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), will implement a three years' project entitled "Water for Food Security, Women's Empowerment and Environmental Protection (SWEEP)" Project in East and West Belesa Woredas of Central Gonder Zone, Amhara Regional State. The SWEEP project will address the socio-economic and environmental problems causing food insecurity in East and West Belesa, including poor access to water supply and environmental degradation; social barriers and gender inequality; as well as limited livelihood opportunities and low productivity. According to the intervention logic of the project, this will be possible through three interrelated and interconnected efforts: (1) improving access to water resources for domestic consumption and productive use and enhanced and sustainable productivity of land for varied uses; (2) empowering marginalized groups to contribute productively in the household and community; and (3) capacitating local government and communities to initiate and lead community development and adaptive measures.

Within the anticipated three years' timeframe, the project aims to address around 131,834 chronically food insecure and drought affected people including marginalized rural women and girls (14-17 years), people with disabilities and unemployed youth (15-29 years). The project will also attempt to benefit an additional 2,365 government political appointees and woreda experts through capacity building schemes. The project will be implemented in 20 selected kebeles of East and West Belesa woredas that will be selected on the basis of the given criteria and with active participation and involvement of local government structures including the two woreda steering committees.

As part of the inception phase of the project, this particular baseline survey has been carried out with the ultimate aim of gathering evidence from different sources and set benchmarks and baseline values for each project outcome indicator.

II. Objectives of the Baseline Survey

2.1. General Objective

The main objective of the assignment was to assess the existing situation of the study woredas - paying emphasis on food security and resilience; water supply; and participation and income of marginalized rural women and girls (14-17), people with disabilities and unemployed youth (15-29) - to inform project planning and establish bassline value of project outcome level indicator.

2.2. Specific Objectives

Most importantly this particular baseline study aimed to:

- Assess food security (including livelihood bases) and resilience situations among food insecure households;
- Assess vulnerability and adapting capacity/coping mechanisms of households to environmental and economic shocks/hazards;
- Assess access and coverage of safe water supply for domestic and productive use at woreda and kebele levels;
- Assess the prevailing discriminatory gender based social norms, barriers and power relations affecting the socio-economic, physical and psychological wellbeing of women and girls and vulnerable people;
- Assess access to and control (including decision making) of resources (including economic and natural resources) at household and community levels in the surveyed communities;
- Assess inclusiveness of persons with disabilities (PWDs) and other marginalized groups in socio-economic interventions;
- Assess the practice of social accountability ensuring mechanisms by duty bearers and holders in the surveyed Woredas; and
- Undertake synthesis of basic indicators in relation to CARE International and Country Office level indicators

III. Methodology and Approach

3.1. General Approach

The baseline study utilized a mixed-method, cross-sectional design that included quantitative (household survey using representative sampling) and qualitative (using purposive sampling) data collection methods and tools for the collection and analysis of primary data. Also, extensive review of documents was undertaken to augment the quantitative and qualitative results. The field study took place for ten days commencing from 29 April to 08 May 2018.

3.2. Quantitative Survey

3.2.1 Study Coverage

This particular baseline study has been undertaken in 10 randomly selected Kebeles (five Kebeles for each study Woreda) using the following inclusion criteria:

- All sampled kebeles in the baseline study, but accessible to data collection;
- Marginalized rural women and men in chronically food insecure and drought affected households;
- Marginalized rural girls and boys (14-17 years) in chronically food insecure and drought affected households;
- Rural people with disabilities in chronically food insecure and drought affected households; and
- Rural unemployed youth (15-29 years).

3.2.2. Sample size determination

Given that the estimated total population of the study woredas, which was 333,430 (195,750 for west Belesa and 137,680 for East Belesa woreda) during the time of the survey, the sample size had been determined by using the following formula:

$$n = D\frac{\left[\sqrt{2P(1-P)}Z_{1-\alpha} + \sqrt{P_1(1-P_1)+P_2(1-P_2)}Z_{1-\beta}\right]^2}{\Delta^2}$$

Where:

- D = design effect, which is 2
- P1= the estimated proportion total population at the time of the baseline survey.
- P2 = is the size of the magnitude of change desired to be able to detect or the percentage change that the project envisaged, in this case population that the project wants to reach, perhaps some years (end of the project) from now.
- P = (P1 + P2)/2
- 2 = (P2-P1)2
- Z1-α = the z-score corresponding to the probability with which it is desired to be able to conclude that an observed change of size (P2-P1) would not have occurred by chance; and
- Z1-β = the z-score corresponding to the degree of confidence with which it is desired to be certain of detecting a change of size (P2-P1) if one actually occurred.
- α = 0.05 (Z1-a = 1.65) and β = 0.20 (Z1-b = 0.84)
- $\Delta^2 = 0.05^2$

Therefore, the total sample size has become **845** for both study Woredas of East and West Belesa. Sample size has been distributed based on Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) for each study Woreda so that around **499** households have been surveyed in West Belesa while **346** households have been consulted in East Belesa Woreda.

3.2.3. Sampling procedure

A two-stage cluster random sampling method has been employed. The two intervention Woredas (East and West Belesa Woredas) have already been known where the intended project will be implemented.

Kebele selection: Given the maximum sample size of 845 households to this particular baseline survey, we sampled 10 kebeles among the 20 project intervention kebeles – 5 kebeles from each study woreda have been drawn. The proposed 10 kebeles[1] have been selected randomly based on Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) from West Belesa and East Belesa Woredas.

Household selection: In the second stage, simple random sampling method has been applied to select households within the selected clusters/kebeles for interviews that fulfilled the inclusion criteria. Following the completion of the training, the survey team prepared lists of all households in the randomly selected kebeles/clusters in collaboration with the kebele administration/leaders and representative of CARE Ethiopia. Then, using a random number table, the team selected the required households for each selected cluster between 1 and the last number which corresponded to the listed households. Once the households were selected, the survey team has carried out collecting the required information through face to face interview from the nearest randomly selected household.

3.2.4. Survey Questionnaire and Procedures

The quantitative data collection method and tools depended on household survey and a structured questionnaire was designed to facilitate data collection, electronic data entry and analysis with pre-coded responses. The questionnaire was administered to the household heads or representative household members in the sample kebeles. A multiple response questions were utilized to simplify field level data collection. A master copy of the questionnaire was prepared in two languages (English and a translated version of Amharic) to make communication between the data collectors and the respondents simple and clear. The questions were very direct and simple to be understood by enumerators and supervisors.

3.2.5. Selection of Enumerators and Training

Ten data collectors were identified and selected based on their proficiency in communication, educational background and prior experience in similar works. The data collectors were from the study woredas so as to maximize the advantage of local knowledge and experience and to minimize communication gaps and other complications. CARE Ethiopia Project field office supported the evaluators in the identification and deployment of competent, responsible and experienced enumerators and supervisors. Data collectors were provided with training on the overall objective of the assessment, the contents of the questionnaire and some important interview procedures, skills and techniques of household survey.

3.2.6. Data verification and cleaning

Rigorous data validity and consistency checks were made as part of the data cleaning exercises before starting the analytical work. For more in-depth cleaning, the SPSS data "EXPLORE procedure" was employed for data

[1] Study Kebeles in East Belesa: Bursan, Chama-Korach, Tili, Tertawa and Achikan. Study Kebeles in West Belesa Woreda: Addisalem, Kalay, Talay,Shura and Diquana.

screening. Outlier identification and description and evaluation of differences among sub-populations (groups of cases) and also check for an internal consistency of the data were done as part of the data cleaning exercise.

3.3. Qualitative Data Collection

The required qualitative data have been gathered through focus group discussions (FGDs), key informant Interviews (KIIs), case stories, and observations. Accordingly, 14 FGDs each discussion involving 8 to 12 discussants on average 12 KIIs and 2 case stories were conducted. Women and men groups, unemployed youth, people with disabilities, sector offices and government officials (Woreda and Kebele Administrations, Water Resource Development Office Micro and Small Enterprises Development Office, Social Affairs Office, WASCHO Committee members etc) were engaged in the FGD, KII and case stories.

3.4. Document Review

Internal documents related to the project were reviewed and analysed in detail. This included similar studies and assessments conducted in the zone, the region and at national level, national, regional and local development policy, strategy, guidelines, statistical reports, and other government directives, development plans, technical guidelines, the GTP, MDG and other relevant documents. Furthermore, available documents of both internal and external development experiences, lessons, practices, opportunities and challenges related to specific objectives of the baseline study were reviewed and analysed.

3.5. Data management and analysis

The consulting team has started checking, validating and correcting data at field level with strict supervision and cross-checking the information generated by questionnaire. The evaluators played the supervisory role by making day-to-day follow-up on data collectors, mentoring them and reviewing information generated on a daily basis to identify corrections to be made. This has allowed correction of inconsistent information at field level before departing from the project area and making of timely correction of data gaps. Qualified and experienced data coding and editing statistician was employed to speed up the study design and data entry processes and to maintain the required data quality. The quantitative data was processed using SPSS. The quantitative information was presented in bi-variant tables, frequency distribution, rates and ratios as well as cross-tabulation.

The document review results were grouped, categorized and analysed based on their similarities and reinforcement of each other. Therefore, facts, figures and similar experience and lessons collected from different source documents were grouped and assembled according to similarities and have become facts and evidences for triangulation of the quantitative and qualitative information. The team has developed appropriate note taking template for organizing and analysing the reviewed documents.

The qualitative information collected through the different discussion session were transcribed, coded, reduced/expanded and summarized as deemed necessary. The qualitative data were analysed by drawing inferences from the views expressed in each FGD and KIIs. To substantiate points, direct quotes were provided whenever appropriate.

Synergy among the different methods and tools used to collect the information was maintained by cross-checking information across all methods. More specifically, the interview facilitators were instructed to go through the notes and recordings taken and summarize key points and identify quotations and compress long narratives into summary points. Key points were identified and organized into topical areas and commonly occurring topics and issues were systematically listed. These key points built up as part of the assessment process. Codes describing separate categories of similar responses were developed with description (labels) for each of them. The coding has helped the team in making comparisons between groups and individuals during analysis. Figures, pictures and relevant opinions from different groups were labelled to help identify associations with similar results from other narrative discussions.

3.6. Ethical Considerations

As a general rule, and as this baseline survey involved people (especially children and women), the study team approached the assignment in careful and responsible ways to avoid any forms of unethical contacts and approaches. Approaches and practices that could possibly inflict any physical, emotional, psychological and mental harm on the respondents were not used under any circumstances. While conducting the field works, the evaluation team and data collectors were instructed to protect the study participants from any harm. The qualitative discussions were moderated by qualified and experienced evaluation team members.

Accordingly, ethical principles and guidelines were well addressed by using informed consent, allowing the participants to withdraw any time from the study and by approaching and treating the respondents in a culturally appropriate manner. Hence, data collectors were provided with special guidance during the data collection process. Moreover, they were informed about the need for confidentiality, personal safety and dignity of respondents. As a result, there was no single incident of dissatisfaction or complaints from the study respondents at all of the study sites resulting from unethical procedures or ill-treatment perpetrated by any of the facilitators or data collectors.

IV. Results and Discussion

4.1. Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

A total of 845 study subjects responded to the interview with a 100% response rate from both study Woredas to assess the current situation of food security and resilience; water supply; participation and income of marginalized rural women and other disadvantaged segments of the population. From the total respondents 499 (59%) were from West Belesa and the remaining 346 (41%) of the respondents were from East Belesa Woreda. The median age of respondents was 33 years. The average family size was 5.6 persons per household. The majority of the respondents (73%) were married while 19% and 8% of the households were divorced/separated and widowed women respectively. With regards to the vulnerability status of respondent households, 30% of the respondents were female headed households, while 1% of respondents were persons with disability.

As far as the educational status of respondents is concerned, 25% of respondents were illiterate while 33% of the respondents were able to read and write only. Around 31% and 11% of the respondents respectively completed primary and secondary schooling. In conclusion, the educational status of the significant proportion of the respondents (59%) was very low.

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents in West and East Belesa Woredas (N=845), May 2018

Socio-demographic variables		Woreda				Total	
		East Belesa		West B elesa			
		#	%	#	%	#	%
Sex	Male	91	29	159	30	250	30
	Female	255	71	340	70	595	70
Age	14-29 years	34	10	50	10	84	10
	30-45 years	243	70	319	64	562	67
	46-65 years	69	20	130	26	199	24
Religion	Orthodox	319	92	479	96	798	94
	Muslim	27	8	20	4	47	6
Educational status	Illiterate	83	24	130	26	213	25
	Able to read and write	111	32	170	34	281	33
	Grade 1-4	70	20	99	20	169	20
	Grade 5-8	41	12	50	10	91	11
	Grade 9 10	41	12	50	10	91	11
Marital status	Married	242	70	379	76	621	73
	Widowed	77	22	80	16	157	19
	Divorced	27	8	40	8	67	8
Head of household	Male headed	272	70	351	76	623	70
	Female headed	104	30	148	24	252	30
Persons with disability		5	1	5	1	10	1
Total		**346**	**100**	**499**	**100**	**845**	**100**

4.2. Impact: Chronically food insecure households in Belesa woredas, Central Gondar Zone of Amhara regional state have improved food security and resiliency

4.2.1. Food Security of Surveyed Households

Food security is a difficult concept to measure and it is accordingly difficult to communicate food security results[2]. One important reason for this will be the different approaches to measure food security by international organizations such as the UN (SDGs), FAO (State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World) and CGIAR (Strategy and Result Framework, Global Hunger Index, Global Nutrition Report)[3]. The FAO operationalizes food security into food availability, physical and economic access, utilization and stability. The SDGs demand new sets of food security indicators to measure results according to the targets defined under SDG2 (no hunger). Another frequently used food security measure is the Global Hunger Index (GHI), where IFPRI et al. combine the four indicators: undernourished people, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality[4].

For this baseline survey, the following definition of the FAO which defines food security as ''a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life'' was used. Accordingly, as indicated in table 2 below, the baseline survey finding shows that none of the households were food secure irrespective of any socio-demographic variables and vulnerability status. In other words, the finding reveals that all 845 (100%) surveyed households in both woredas were food insecure.

Despite using this broader definition, this particular baseline survey also used two categories [Not enough food (households having meals below three times a day and with small amount of each meal) and enough food (households having at least three meals a day with adequate food portion in each meal). The assessment has been made using a calendar as visual aid for the respondents to tell the number of meals that their household members were served per day in each of the 12 months of the past year. The result indicates that all 845 [100%] households were unable to feed their household members enough food for 5 months (June – October) of last year. It means that all surveyed households had food gaps for five months in the last production year. However, systematic analysis of the data indicates that the food gap span for vulnerable households (female headed households and persons with disability) was even greater and extended to seven months (April to October) in the last production year. The following table (table 2 and 3) present the food security status of surveyed households by gender in the last year.

Table 2: Number of Months food needs in West and East Belesa Woredas (N=845), May 2018

Months	Food security status	Gender					
		Male		*Female*		*Total*	
		#	*%*	*#*	*%*	*#*	*%*
September -August	Enough food throughout the year	0	0	0	0	0	0
June-October	Not enough food (5 months)	246	97	352	60	598	71
April-October	Not enough food (7 months)	8	3	239	40	247	29
Total		**254**	**30**	**591**	**70**	**845**	**100**

[2] Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Food security indicators: How to measure and communicate results, 2018. ISSN: 1892-8102

[3] CGIAR. 2017. Strategy and Result Framework. https://cgspace.cgiar.org/bitstream/handle/10947/3866/2pager.pdf?sequence=6

[4] WFP and WHO. 2017. The State of Food Security and Nutrition www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs1314/rai/CFS_Principles_Oct_2014_EN.pdf.

Table 3: Number of Months food needs met by vulnerability status (N=845), May 2018

Months	Food security status	Vulnerability status						Aggregate Total					
		Head of Household		Persons with Disability		Other Respondents							
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M		F		T	
		#	#	#	#	#	#	#	%	#	%	#	%
September-August	Enough food throughout the year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
June-October	Not enough food (5 months)	0	15	0	0	246	337	246	29	352	42	598	71
April-October	Not enough food (7 months)	0	237	8	2	0	0	8	1	239	28	247	29

Reflections of FGD and KII participants give evidence for contributing factors that increase the food insecurity of households in the study woredas. According to the reflections, low agricultural productivity (very low crop yields), very small household arable landholdings (0.5 ha) for an average household size of 5.6 persons, as well as inadequate/unavailability of improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides in the study woredas were major contributing factors for low productivity, thereby increasing the vulnerability of a number of households. The interviews with experts in the East Belesa Woreda Agriculture office show that last year 23,081 (3,924 female-headed) households were registered as food insecure households with ***critical food shortage***. ***People with disability, landless communities, and households with no/limited assets*** were highly affected by the crisis. Similarly, as explained by the woreda expert from West Belesa Agriculture office, last year there were 29,501 (5,700 female) households registered as food insecure. About 500 persons with disabilities from both woredas were targeted and supported by aid agencies and government. Information obtained from FGDs and key informants reveals that the situation of food security in the different kebeles of the woreda (Chama Korach, Bursa, Achken, Tili and Tartarowa) is more or less similar. In all these kebeles food security is a critical problem for the local people, especially for those with low income, and for vulnerable people, including persons with disabilities. The problem is more prevalent during summer seasons starting from the month of mid-June till mid-October every year. Informants confirm that some of the relatively low income community and highly vulnerable households have experienced deaths because of the severe hunger of the summer season.

Available secondary sources reviewed also documented similar results pertaining to factors contributing to low agricultural production in a country/Ethiopia where 77% of the population make a living from farming. Land issues lies at the centre of the multiple factors that contribute to low production in Ethiopia. With an average size of 1.2 ha, or as low as 0.5 ha in more vulnerable areas, farm plots are too small and fragmented to reap economies of scale or even to feed the average family of five[5]. Production is also reduced by several other factors related to material and know-how. Inputs such as improved seeds, fertilizer and pesticides can dramatically boost crop yields, but these are all in short supply on Ethiopian farms[6]. For most crops, national supplies of improved seeds (drought or pest resistant, higher-yielding, nutrient-rich) cover less than 10% of demand. Likewise, fertilizer use in Ethiopia is far below optimum levels and far behind average kilograms per

[5] European Union: Assessing the root causes of recurring food insecurity in Ethiopia, 2018.
[6] http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/

hectare used in other fast-growing African countries. Chemical and biological pest controls are also parsimoniously applied; pre-harvest cereal losses due to insects are estimated at 31% to 61%[7].

4.2.2. Capacity to Adapt to Environmental and Economic Shocks

Adaptation to environmental changes/shocks

In order to adapt to environmental changes/shocks, the respondent households must first perceive that changes/shocks are taking place on the environment. In relation to this, the survey data shows that in both woredas, a large share of households perceived that the environment has been changing dramatically in many ways. A total of 82% (85% in East and 80% in West Belesa; no significant difference between female and male respondent) observed changes in the environment. Respondents responded that temperature has increased, and households noted both a decrease in rainfall and seasonal changes in rainfall patterns (i.e. changes in the timing of rainfall) (5%) and others reported both decreased rainfall and seasonal changes. According to respondents, all these changes resulted in high soil erosion, high runoff, a decrease in production and productivity of crops and animals, land degradation, deforestation, animal disease, crop pests, diminishing of natural resources, among others.

The respondents who perceived environmental changes/shocks were asked about the adaptation measures they practice at household level. The survey result shows a disconnect between the households' perceptions of environmental changes/shocks and the actual adaptation measures they practiced. The survey shows that despite having perceived changes in environmental changes/shocks, a large share of respondents in both woredas did not take any adaptive measures by their own initiative on their own resources. Overall, only 7% (9% in East and 5% in West Belesa; 5% male and 7% female)) of households/respondents undertake some adaptation measures.

A very insignificant proportion of households (1%) reported that they employed a positive range of adaptation options/measures to the changes/shocks of environment in the surveyed woredas at an individual level on their own plots of land. The most common adaptation strategies include soil conservation in their farmlands, planting trees, use of different crops or crop varieties (short period growing crops), changing farming type, changing crop planting dates, migrating to towns and large (state and private) farms to engage in daily labours, and irrigation (household level). Other responses reported less frequently, such as seeking off-farm activities, using new technologies (seedlings), and water conservation, are included in the ''other'' category. The FGD participants also asserted that there is a high perception to environmental changes/shocks, but households are not in the position to take adaptation measures, except for some/very few community members. According to the discussants (FGD and KII participants), collective adaptation measures such as soil and water conservation measures are taken, for instance once in a year as a campaign in communal lands, instead of individual/private actions.

[7] Ibid.

Table 4: Environmental Changes/Adaptation Measures at Household Level by Gender and Location, (N=845), East and West Belesa Woreda, May 2018

Variables	*Gender*	*Response*	*Woreda*				Total	
			East Belesa		West Belesa			
			#	%	#	%	#	%
Perceived environmental changes/shocks	Male	Yes	74	81	130	82	204	82
	Female	Yes	221	87	270	79	491	83
	Total		**295**	**85**	**400**	**80**	**695**	**82**
Practicing adaptation measures at household level	Male	Yes	7	10	4	3	11	5
	Female	Yes	19	9	16	6	35	7
	Total		**26**	**9**	**20**	**5**	**46**	**7**
Positive Adaptation Practicing measures at household level	Male	Yes	1	1	2	2	3	2
	Female	Yes	3	1	3	1	6	1
	Total		**4**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**9**	**1**
Negative Adaptation Practicing measures at household level	Male	Yes	6	8	3	2	9	4
	Female	Yes	16	7	12	4	28	6
	Total		**22**	**8**	**15**	**4**	**37**	**5**

Adaptation to Economic Shocks

Similar to the environment shocks, household respondents were asked to reflect their experience related to economic shocks. The results indicate that all surveyed households, 845 (100%) experienced multiple types of economic shocks last year. The two most common ones as reflected by all household survey respondents included increase in food prices (100%) in the local market and decreased amount of cash (100%).

As far as adaptation measures are concerned, the majority of households use relatively negative coping mechanisms such as selling livestock (88%), having reduced meals per day for the family members (100%) and withdrawing children from school (10%- 11% female and 6% male respondent). On the other hand, only few households have used coping mechanisms which seem somehow appropriate against economic shocks. As indicated in the table below, about 23% of respondents reported that they migrate to urban areas and work as daily laborer (for both men & women), 24% (4% male and 33% female) of respondents reported they collected and sold firewood, and 14% (17% male and 13% female) of respondents diversified their income through engaging in cash for work and small scale petty trade. Overall, about 19% of the respondents have taken adaptive measures to cope with the economic shocks they faced last year while the remaining 81% of the respondents had hardly taken any adaptive measures to cope with the economic shocks last year.

It is important to understand that some of the adaptation measures taken by a majority of surveyed households have their own multifarious consequences. For example, having reduced meals per day has negative effect at least on the health of family members and normal growth of children. Equally important, selling livestock leads to depletion of assets, and withdrawal of children from school in one way or another leads to multiple negative effect on the social, economic and personnel capitals of households and the society in the study areas.

Table 5: Adaptation to Economic Shocks at Household Level by Gender and Location, (N=845,250 male and 595 female), East and West Belesa Woreda, May 2018

Mechanisms	Perceptions on environment change and adaptive measures	Gender	Response	Woreda				Total	
				East Belesa		West Belesa			
				#	%	#	%	#	%
	Households who perceived existence of economic shocks	Male	Yes	91	100	159	100	250	100
		Female	Yes	255	100	340	100	595	100
	Total			**346**	**100**	**499**	**100**	**845**	**100**
Negative Copping Mechanisms	Ate less (smaller portion) or < 2 times	Male	Yes	91	100	159	100	250	100
		Female	Yes	255	100	340	100	595	100
	Total			**346**	**41**	**499**	**59**	**845**	**100**
	Sold livestock	Male	Yes	77	85	139	87	216	86
		Female	Yes	227	89	300	88	527	87
	Total			**304**	**87**	**439**	**88.**	**743**	**87**
	Withdrew children from school	Male	Yes	7	78	10	6	17	7
		Female	Yes	27	11	40	12	67	11
	Total			**34**	**9**	**50**	**9**	**84**	**9**
Positive Copping Mechanisms	Migrate to urban areas and work as a daily laborer	Male	Yes	14	15	20	13	34	14
		Female	Yes	62	24	100	29.	162	27
	Total			**76**	**18**	**120**	**21**	**196**	**21**
	Collected/sold firewood of charcoal	Male	Yes	9	10	1	1	10	4
		Female	Yes	69	27	126	37	195	33
	Total			**78**	**26**	**127**	**19**	**205**	**19**
	Diversified their income through engaging in cash for work and small scale petty trade	Male	Yes	10	11	32	20	42	17
		Female	Yes	29	11	49	15	78	13
	Total			**39**	**11**	**81**	**17**	**120**	**15**
Types of economic shocks experienced by households									
Increased food prices		Male	91	100	159	100	250	100	
		Female	255	100	340	100	595	100	
Decreased quantity of agricultural production due to drought and flooding		Male	70	77	129	81	199	80	
		Female	206	81	270	79	476	80	
Epidemics (crop, livestock, human)		Male	77	85	139	87	216	86	
		Female	227	89	300	88	527	89	
Decreased amount of cash		Male	91	100	159	100	250	100	
		Female	255	100	340	100	595	100	

4.2.3. Household Hunger Scale, Shocks and Coping Mechanisms

Measurements of household hunger scale have been applied to understand the intensity of shocks as well as coping mechanisms surveyed households employed as a mitigation measure to absorb the crises. The measurement centered on gaining insight and understanding of the surveyed household's experience pertaining to food or income related shocks, the impact of shocks on their livelihoods and strategies being employed to cope with the shocks. Respondents were asked to reflect all the issues referring back to the last four years commencing from 2013/14 to 2016/17.

Results of the survey indicated that in all the years' households experienced some shocks, but the year 2014/15 was the year that was most remembered by the overwhelming majority of the respondents who experienced severe food and income related shocks. This is especially true to 100% of households who reported their experience of food and income related shocks including crop loss (drought, rain failure, flood, etc), livestock disease or mortality as well as other unexpected shock (human illness, death etc.)

Table 6: Household Experience of Shocks from 2013/14 – 2016/17 in West and East Belesa Woredas (N=845), May 2018

Types of Shocks	Response	2013/14						2014/15						2015/16						2016/17				Total	
		East Belesa		West Belesa		Total		East Belesa		West Belesa		Total		East Belesa		West Belesa		Total		East Belesa		West Belesa			
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Weather related crop loss (drought, rain failure)	yes	145	42	229	46	374	44	346	100	499	100	845	100	160	46	229	46	389	46	167	48	214	43	381	45
	no	201	58	270	54	471	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	186	54	270	54	456	54	179	52	285	57	464	55
Disease or pest related crop loss	yes	128	37	229	46	357	42	346	100	499	100	845	100	117	34	229	46	346	41	346	100	499	100	845	100
	no	216	62	270	54	486	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	229	66	270	54	499	59	0	0	0	0	0	0
Livestock disease or mortality	ye s	304	88	459	92	763	90	245	71	270	54	443	52	121	35	270	54	391	46	173	50	270	54	443	52
	no	42	12	40	8	82	10	101	29	229	46	402	48	225	65	229	46	454	54	173	50	229	46	402	48
Other unexpected shock (human illness, death)	Ye s	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	8	39	8	67	8	14	4	20	4	34	4	346	100	499	100	845	100
	no	346	100	499	100	845	100	318	92	460	92	778	92	332	96	479	96	811	96	0	0	0	0	0	0

As far as coping strategies is concerned, the overwhelming majority of households (100%) reported that they used different methods to cope with the shocks. This included eating less (smaller portion) or < 2 times (100% of households) per day, borrowing food or money (80% of households), selling livestock (88% of households), selling other productive assets (52% of households), migrating to urban areas and working as daily laborer (for both men & women) (23% of households), withdrawing children from school (10% of households), sending children to work (daily labor) (17% of households) and household members migrating to find work (25% households).

Table 7: Household Coping Strategies in West and East Belesa Woredas (N=845), East and West Belesa Woreda, May 2018

Coping mechanisms /strategies	Woreda				Total	%
	East Belesa		West Belesa			
	#	%	#	%		
Ate less (smaller portion) or < 2 times	346	100	499	100	845	100
Sold livestock	304	88	439	88	743	88
Borrowed food or money	276	80	399	80	675	80
Sold other productive assets	173	50	270	54	443	52
Collected/sold firewood and charcoal	173	50	270	54	443	52
Household members migrated to find work	70	20	150	30	220	25
Migrate to urban areas and work as a daily laborer (for both men & women)	76	22	120	24	196	23
Sent children to stay with relatives	73	51	70	49	143	17
Sent children to work (daily labor)	62	18	60	12	122	15
Withdrew children from school	34	10	50	10	84	10

Reflections of FGD and KII participants indicate different alternative strategies have been applied among the communities during times of severe droughts. This included, but is not limited to, selling labor and assets (cattle, ruminants and donkeys), migration to urban areas for men and boys to work as daily labor and for women and girls engage in daily labor works and petty trading. As far as major risks of disasters in both study woredas are concerned, FGD and KII participants identified drought, flooding, crop pests/diseases and livestock diseases as the major problems. In the real words of one KII from East Belesa Woreda Administration “drought has been causing critical shortages of water for humans, cattle and farming. This in turn has resulted in crop failure, limited grazing land, crop disease, and increased the workloads of women to search for water.” Both FGD participants and key informants identified women in general and female headed households, landless and unemployed women and girls in particular, children, older persons and people with disabilities as most vulnerable to disaster risks in both woredas.

4.2.4. Gender based violence and HTPs

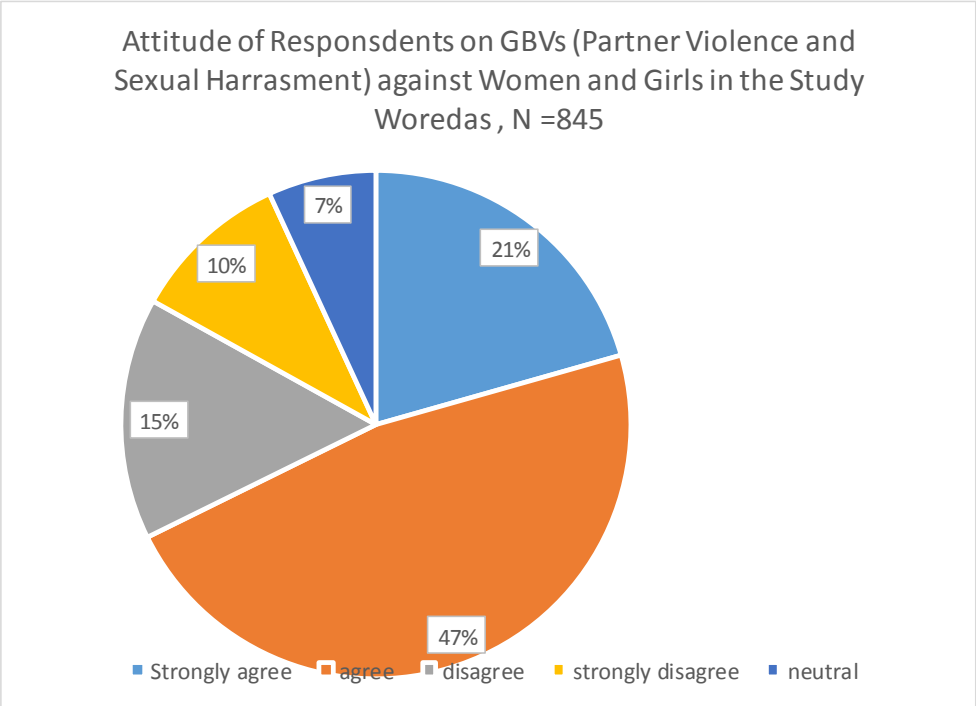
4.2.5. Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of Respondents on GBV (Intimate Partners Violence/physical violence and sexual harassment)

This particular baseline survey has examined knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP)-level indicators in the area of GBV in the study woredas. As far as knowledge-level indicator on GBV is concerned, respondents were asked to tell the types of GBVs they know affect children, young girls and women in their areas. The responses indicated that there is a good knowledge and understanding of respondents towards identifying the common types of GBV perpetuated in the areas. Close to 53 % of respondents reported that abduction, sexual harassment, rape, mistress, domestic violence (insulting and beating) and widow inheritance are the common forms of GBV affecting girls and women in the areas. Around 80% (69% male and 85% female) of respondents reported that rape and mistress are common form of GBV practiced in their areas.

Table 8: Knowledge of Respondent Households on GBV by Gender and Location, (N=845), East and West Belesa Woreda, May 2018

	Gender	Type of GBV	Woreda				Total	
			East Belesa		West Belesa			
			#	%	#	%	#	%
Would you tell us at least three GBV that affect children, young girls and women in your area? (Responded as Yes)	Male	Rape and mistress	14	15	30	19	44	18
		All (abduction, sexual harassment, rape, mistress, domestic violence and widow inheritance	49	54	79	50	128	51
	Total		**63**	**69**	**109**	**69**	**172**	**69**
	Female	Sexual harassment	7	3	0	0	7	1
		Rape and mistress	97	38	170	50	267	45
		All (abduction, sexual harassment, rape, mistress, domestic violence and widow inheritance	110	43	120	35	230	39
	Total		**214**	**84**	**290**	**85**	**504**	**85**
	Total (M+F)	Sexual harassment	7	1	0	0	7	1
		Rape and mistress	111	32	200	24	311	37
		All (abduction, sexual harassment, rape, mistress, domestic violence and widow inheritance)	159	46	199	24	358	42
	Total		**277**	**80**	**399**	**80**	**676**	**80**

In a Likert Scale model, attempts have been made to understand the attitude of respondents on GBVs (partner violence and sexual harassment) on girls and women in the study woredas. The responses indicated close to 21% and 47% of the respondents strongly agree and agree respectively with denunciations of GBVs on girls and women. Around 25% of the respondents did not agree with the denunciations of GBVs on girls and women. Close to 7% of the respondents remained neutral with this view.



As far as the practice of GBV in the study woreda is concerned, a significant proportion of respondents (72%-39%M and 86%F) reported that there has been physical violence perpetrated on girls and women in the areas (confirmed presence of the practice, not the intensity). In support of this, we found qualitative evidence that gives affirmation for practice of GBV (beating, insulting and rape) in the study areas. As reflected by FGD and KII participants, despite a decreasing trend, women and girls are still highly affected by domestic and sexual violence such as beating, insulting and rape. Wife beating is still a common practice in both study woredas. Women are usually beaten by their husbands for every reasons they have. This is partly explained as a culturally acceptable practice in the communities and as such in another study it was found out that physical violence against women became less socially acceptable during the decade, but the rates of women and men that believe physical violence is justified remains high. Between 2000 and 2011, the share of women who found wife beating acceptable under specific circumstances decreased from 85% to 68%[8].

Attempt of rape is not also uncommon practice in the study woredas. As reflected by FGD participants, girls are usually exposed to rape on their way to fetch water, collect fuel wood or upon returning home from market and school and perform other tasks in the field. For example, as reported by the discussants from the woreda justice office in East Belesa, there were 3 reported cases of rape from the woreda recently and this shows that the level of knowledge and awareness that community members have developed on the issues have increased.

As also indicated in the table below, a substantial proportion of respondents (67%) reported that there has been sexual harassment perpetrated on girls and women in the study areas- confirmed presence of the practice in the study area but not intensity of existence.

[8] The World Bank: Gender, Time Use, and Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa, Working Paper No 3. Washington DC, 2015

Table 9: Experience of Respondents on Physical Violence and Sexual Harassment by Gender in West and East Belesa Woredas (N=845), May 2018

	Gender	Response	Woreda				Total	
			East Belesa		West Belesa			
			#	%	#	%	#	%
Is there any physical violence perpetrated on girls and women in your area?	Male	Yes	34	37	63	40	97	39
		No	57	63	96	60	153	61
		Total	91	100	159	100	250	100
	Female	Yes	194	76	317	93	511	86
		No	61	24	23	7	84	14
		Total	255	100	340	100	595	100
	Total	Yes	228	66	380	76	608	72
		No	118	34	119	24	237	28
		Total	**346**	**100**	**499**	**100**	**845**	**100**
Is there sexual harassment perpetrated on girls and women in your area?	Male	Yes	60	66	96	60	156	62
		No	31	34	63	40	94	38
		Total	91	100	159	100	250	100
	Female	Yes	162	64	249	73	411	69
		No	93	36	91	27	184	31
		Total	255	100	340	100	595	100
	Total	Yes	222	64	345	69	567	67
		No	124	36	154	31	278	33
		Total	**346**	**100**	**499**	**100**	**845**	**100**

4.2.5.1. KAP on Female genital mutilation (FGM) and Child marriage (CM)

Questions related to HTPs focused on knowledge and attitude of study populations on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Child Marriage (CM) in the study woredas. Before examining the key findings therefore, it is essential to explore the main drivers of FGM and CM in Ethiopia in general and in Amhara region at large.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

In 2005, 68.5% of women living in the Amhara region had undergone FGM, compared to 79.7% in 2000[9]. This compares to 81.1% in 1997 and 62.9% in 2007[10]. In 2012, 47.2% of girls living in the Amhara region between the age of 0-14 had undergone FGM[11]. This is compared to the proportion of women with one or more daughters under 15 years old with FGM of 78.5% in 2000 and 56.8% in 2005[12]. In 2012 only 39% of

[9] Ethiopia Demographic Health Survey, 2011. Central Statistical Agency Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and ICF International, Calverton, Maryland, USA: www.measuredhs.com/publications/publication-FR179-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm
[10] EGLDAM. 2008. Old Beyond Imaginings, Ethiopia, Harmful Traditional Practices (2nd edition). www.egldam-fgm.net
[11] 28 Too Many. Country Profile: FGM in Ethiopia, October 2013.
[12] Ibid.

Amhara women thought that FGM should continue[13]. The most common type of FGM amongst the Amhara is Type I [14] and it is carried out as early as the 8th day after birth. For the Amhara, there is a strong belief that FGM is a protective feature of childbirth[15].

Child Marriage (CM)

One recent interregional study on Child Marriage[16] in Amhara, Oromoyia and SNNPR documented interesting findings of the main drivers of early marriage. According to the study, gendered social norms are the major drivers of child marriage among the study communities of which the major ones include the following. First, stigma directed at unmarried girls: in Amhara social norms that cause both families and girls to fear the prospect of remaining unmarried (qomo-qar) and the stigma directed at unmarried girls. Likewise, in Diksis, Oromia, girls who remained unmarried soon after puberty are locally stigmatized as haftuu (unmarried girls until the age of 17 who are considered as 'a curse for the family'). Among study communities in SNNPR, there is also a strong social stigma attached to girls who remain unmarried after the socially appropriate age of marriage that is 15 years locally known as elima (unmarriageable). Linked to these gendered social norms in Diksis, Oromia is the custom of Irra Dhaaba (customary marriage practiced in a hurry). Second, securing family honor by ensuring a girl's virginity at marriage and thereby avoiding premarital pregnancy were found to reinforce the practice of early marriage. Because girls are generally expected to be virgin at marriage, parents prefer to marry off their daughters early in order to protect them from re-marital sex and pregnancy. If a girl is not married before 18, it is considered a shame for the family. Furthermore, at least half of the survey respondents singled out four benefits of marrying off girls early: parents can see their children married before they die (63.6%); parents can see grand children before they die (62.1%); parents can help their daughters to avoid pre-marital sex (50.5%); and parents can help their daughters to maintain virginity until marriage (49.1%).

The results of this particular baseline survey indicated that the overwhelming majority of study households demonstrated knowledge and awareness on the pervasive effects of HTPs on the wellbeing of young girls and women. Close to 77% (82%F and 66%M) and 62% (60%F & 69%M) of household respondents respectively reported that FGM and CM are harmful to young girls and women. Among those respondents who reported of FGM as harmful to young girls and women, 88 % of respondents explained FGM can cause fistula, cause problems during delivery, increase maternal mortality, infections after the cut and decrease women's sexual pleasure. Similarly, among those respondents who reported of CM as harmful, 28% respondents said it can cause fistula while 61 % explained it causes problems during pregnancy and increase maternal mortality. The remaining 11 % respondents affirmed psychological distress and low-self-esteem as main causes of CM.

In contrary to this, a significant proportion of the respondents 23 % and 38 % respectively reported that FGM and CM do hardly bring any harm of young girls and women wellbeing. According to the respondents, both practices are considered necessary in society, because FGM restrains girls' sexual desires and makes girls behave normal (67%), makes girls submissive in marriage (18%), and is our tradition that we should keep (5%).

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[13] Ibid

[14] The WHO classifies FGM into four types. Type I is classified as partial or total removal of the clitoris and/or the prepuce (clitoridectomy).

[15] EGLDAM. 2008. Old Beyond Imaginings, Ethiopia, Harmful Traditional Practices (2nd edition). www.egldam-fgm.net

[16] Plan International Ethiopia: Ending Traditional Practices of Early Marriage, East Gojam Zone, Amhara Region, 2017, Addis Ababa

Table 10: Respondents View towards CM and FGM by Gender in West and East Belesa Woredas (N=845), May 2018

	Gender	Response	Woreda				Total	
			East Belesa		West Belesa			
			#	%	#	%	#	%
Do you think FGM is harmful to children and young girls?	Male	Yes	57	63	108	68	165	66
		No	34	37	51	32	85	34
		Total	91	100	159	100	250	100
	Female	Yes	203	80	282	83	485	82
		No	52	20	58	17	110	18
		Total	255	100	340	100	595	100
	Total	Yes	260	75	390	78	650	77
		No	86	25	109	22	195	23
		Total	**346**	**100**	**499**	**100**	**845**	**100**
Do you think Child Marriage (CM) is harmful to children and young girls?	Male	Yes	63	69	109	69	172	69
		No	28	31	50	31	78	31
		Total	91	100	159	100	250	100
	Female	Yes	145	57	210	62	355	60
		No	110	43	130	38	240	40
		Total	255	100	340	100	595	100
	Total	Yes	208	60	319	64	527	62
		No	138	40	180	36	318	38
		Total	**346**	**100**	**499**	**100**	**845**	**100**

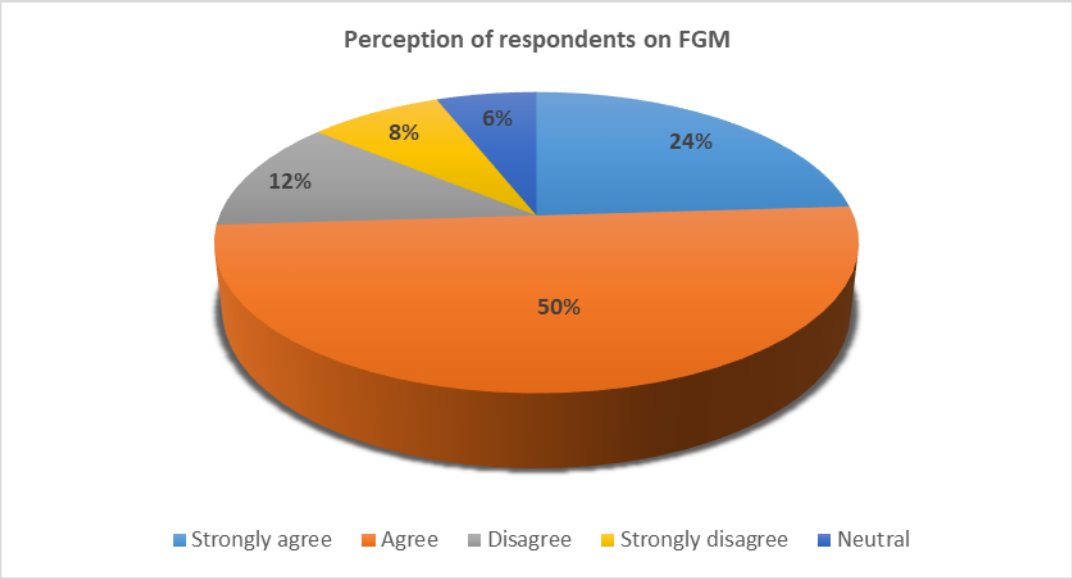
On top of analyzing level of awareness of the communities on the adverse effects of HTPs, attitude and practice of FGM and CM in the study woredas were also examined. In connection to this, respondents were asked to share whether their household had practiced FGM as well as had given away any daughter under 18 years of age to a marriage in the past years. Additionally, respondents were asked to reflect whether they had come across a household/s in their neighborhoods, which practiced FGM and/or had given away a daughter to a marriage in any years they remembered.

The results indicated that 24.9% of respondents reported that FGM had been performed in their households in the past years they remembered, while 19.9% reported of a daughter being given away to marriage in the past years. In a similar vein, 37.6 % and 60.5% of respondents respectively had come across the practice of FGM and child marriage in their neighbors in the previous years they remembered.

Table 11: Practice of FGM and CM among Respondent Households by Gender in West and East Belesa Woredas (N=845), May 2018

	Gender	Response	Woreda				Total	
			East Belesa		*West Belesa*			
			#	%	#	%	#	%
Has your household practiced FGM in any past years you remembered?	Male	Yes	14	15	20	13	34	14
		No	77	85	139	87	216	86
		Total	91	100	159	100	250	100
	Female	Yes	76	30	100	29	176	30
		No	179	70	240	71	419	80
		Total	255	100	340	100	595	100
	Total	Yes	90	26	120	24	210	25
		No	256	74	379	76	635	75
		Total	**346**	**100**	**499**	**100**	**845**	**100**
Has your household given away any daughter under 18 years of age to a marriage in any previous years?	Male	Yes	7	8	40	25	47	19
		No	84	92	119	75	203	81
		Total	91	100	159	100	250	100
	Female	Yes	41	16	80	24	121	20
		No	214	84	260	76	474	80
		Total	255	100	340	100	595	100
	Total	Yes	48	14	120	24	168	20
		No	298	86	379	76	677	80
		Total	**346**	**100**	**499**	**100**	**845**	**100**

In a Likert Scale model, the attitude and practice of HTPs in the study woredas has been measured by simply asking respondents if they think uncircumcised girls are normal and better off than those circumcised. The responses indicated that 24% and 50% of respondents strongly agree and agree with `this view while the remaining 12% and 8% of respondents disagree and strongly disagree respectively.



Systematic analysis of qualitative data on attitude and practice of HTPs in the study Woredas shows similar results of the quantitative data analyzed and depicted above. It gives highlights on good knowledge and understanding of the communities on the adverse effects of common HTPs on women and young girls. Most FGD and KII participants emphasized that the number of girls who get circumcised in the months of June and July when schools closed was high in the past. However, circumcision is no more performed in public due to different activities and efforts made by Woreda and Kebele administrative bodies. Police stations, schools and health centers are proactively educating local community about the health problems of the HTPs and CMs. FGD and KII participants have noticed that male circumcision should be managed at health institutions. Probably very few practices of FGM can take place in an underground manner. Some parents may take their daughters to neighboring woredas.

The FGDs with community representatives and KII discussions with government stakeholders also revealed the steady decrease of CM and other HTPs in the study woredas. For example, there were a number of reported cases of child marriage cancellation in both woredas last year through the close follow up of Woredas Women and Children Affairs Office together with low-enforcement bodies. In fact, there is still some practice in both woredas where girls (as early as 10 – 15 years) are forced to marry in a very systematic manner, including through arranged marriage between both families as well as persuading girls not to disclose their real ages and to say that they are above 18 years of age. In this scenario, the wedding ceremony is made in the form of other activities such as 'Yetsiwa Mahiber' or 'Teskar'.

Women's Affairs Offices in both study woredas play a significant role in organizing and coordinating the different community structures for the prevention and control of HTPs and GBVs. This increases the efforts of individuals and groups to report on actual or potential cases of HTPs. Community members and Community Monitoring Groups and other facilitators are playing the role of change agents and are active in monitoring any suspicious activities that might be perpetrated by individuals. There is a good practice by some community groups in some Kebeles in adopting denunciation as one of the key instruments of prevention and control of HTPs. Most of the established kebele-level Community Monitoring Groups have incorporated abandonment of FGM and CM in their internal code of conduct and are actively carrying out monitoring and reporting on the cases of the girls at risk of FGM and CM. The capacities of women and young girls have improved to lead actions towards abandonment of FGM, CM and other forms of HTPs.

Given the current commitment and enthusiasm as well as with subsequent strengthening the capacity of the current community structures, and with the necessary follow-up from the relevant stakeholders, the current trend in the reduction of FGM, CM and other common HTPs will continue and grow and expand to zero tolerance. This is a good platform to this particular project in supporting, strengthening and keeping this momentum to its level best.

4.3. Outcome 1: Improved access to water resources for domestic consumption and productive use and increased productivity of land for varied uses

4.3.1. Access to Water Service

4.3.1.1. Access to Safe Water Supply

According to WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation, unimproved water sources that are considered "poor quality" are unprotected hand dug wells, rivers, ponds and surface water. The results of the survey revealed that the main source of water supply for domestic use were protected hand-dug well fitted with pump (48%), surface water (31%) and un protected hand-dug well (18%). Roof water harvesting became the main source of water for the remaining 4% of respondents.

Table 12: Access to Safe Water Supply among Surveyed Population by Gender (N 845), East and West Belesa Woredas, North Gondar Zone, May 2018

	Gender	Main water sources	Woreda				Total	
			East Belesa		West Belesa			
			#	%	#	%	#	%
What is your most commonly used water sources for domestic use (drinking and washing services)?	Male	Protected hand dug well fitted with pump	35	38	89	56	124	50
		Unprotected hand dug well	3	3	0	0	3	1
		Roof water harvesting	3	3	10	6	13	5
		Surface water(river/stream/pond)	50	55	60	38	110	44
		Total	91	100	159	100	250	100
	Female	Protected hand dug well fitted with pump	111	44	168	49	279	47
		Unprotected hand dug well	58	23	89	26	147	25
		Roof water harvesting	11	4	7	2	18	3
		Surface water(river/stream/pond)	75	29	76	22	151	25
		Total	255	100	340	100	595	100
	Total	Protected hand dug well fitted with pump	146	42	257	52	403	48
		Unprotected hand dug well	61	18	89	18	150	18
		Roof water harvesting	14	4	17	3	31	4
		Surface water(river/stream/pond)	125	36	136	27	261	31
		Total	**346**	**100**	**499**	**100**	**845**	**100**

Availability of water, time taken to fetch water, and distance to the source affect the quality of access to household to drinking-water. Distance refers to the time duration needed to reach to the water source, obtain water, and bring it to the house. Distance to the water point and the time taken at the water point are two major factors that determine access to potable water. Water points should be sufficiently close to households to enable minimum water requirement. The national WASH program guideline recommended 25 liters per capita per day within 1 Km radius for rural community within 30 minutes[17]. The SPHERE Standards recommend average water use for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene in any household is at least 15 liters per person per day, with the maximum distance from any household to the nearest water point being 500 metres and where queueing time at a water source is no more than 30 minutes[18]. According

[17] FDRE, Second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP-2) covering the period from 2016-2020

[18] The Sphere Project: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response, 2011 Edition, Belmont Press Ltd, Northampton, United Kingdom

to the WHO, water sources should also be located at a walking distance of 15 minutes (approximately 1km)[19].

As far as distance to the water source is concerned, the result of this survey indicated that only 22% of households travelled 30 minutes to 60 minutes' time to fetch water during wet season. The remaining 78% of the respondents travelled more than an hour and above during the same season. Travel time to fetch water in the wet season is almost the same to the travel time in the dry season. Only 28% of households travelled 30 minutes to an hour time for fetching water in the dry season and the remaining 72% of the respondents traveled more than an hour and above. In conclusion, none of the households' had access to water within 1 Kilometer radius or less than 30 minutes, which is not with in the standard set for rural communities. The following consecutive tables provide detail evidence on distance to fetch water among surveyed population in both wet and dry seasons by gender and study woredas.

Table 13: Distance to Fetch Water among Surveyed Population in Wet Season by Gender (N 845), East and West Belesa, May 2018

Gender	Time taken to fetch water (round trip)	Woreda				Total	
		East Belesa		West Belesa			
		#	%	#	%	#	%
Male	30-60 minutes	12	13	5	3	17	7
	≥60 minute	79	87	154	97	233	91
	Total	91	100	159	100	250	100
Female	30-60 minutes	71	29	100	29	171	29
	≥60 minute	184	71	240	71	424	71
	Total	255	100	340	100	595	100
Total	30-60 minutes	83	24	105	21	188	22
	≥60 minute	263	76	394	79	657	78
	Total	**346**	**100**	**499**	**100**	**845**	**100**

Table 14: Distance to Fetch Water among Surveyed Population in Dry Season by Gender (N 845), East and West Belesa, May 2018

Gender	Time taken to fetch water (round trip)	Woreda				Total	
		East Belesa		West Belesa			
		#	%	#	%	#	%
Male	30-60 minutes	26	29	13	8	39	16
	≥60 minute	65	71	146	92	211	84
	Total	91	100	159	100	250	100
Female	30-60 minutes	92	36	106	31	198	33

[19] WHO /UNICEF (2000). Water supply and sanitation global assessment 2000 report. Geneva: World Health Organization

	≥60 minute	163	64	234	69	397	67
	Total	255	100	340	100	595	100
Total	30-60 minutes	118	34	119	24	237	28
	≥60 minute	228	66	380	76	608	72
	Total	**346**	**100**	**499**	**100**	**845**	**100**

As far as average water collection and consumption per household per day is concerned, the result of this survey showed that 48% of households each collected 35 liters/ day while 43% of households each collected 40 liters/day. The remaining 9% of households each collected between 45 to 50 liters of water per day. Systematic analysis of the data suggested water consumption per household/day among the surveyed households is below 10 liters which is much below the minimum standard set for rural community of 25 liters/day.

Table 15: Water Collection and Consumption of Water/day among Surveyed Population by Gender (N 845), East and West Belesa, May 2018

	Gender	Qty in Liters	Woreda				Total		Average Water Consumption/ individual/day[20]
			East Belesa		*West Belesa*				
			#	%	#	%	#	%	
How many liters of water does the household use per day?	Male	35	77	84	129	81	206	82	
		40	7	8	20	13	27	11	
		45	7	8	10	6	17	7	
	Total		91	100	159	100	250	100	
	Female	35	96	38	100	29	196	33	
		40	131	52	210	62	341	57	
		45	14	5	20	6	34	6	
		50	14	5	10	3	24	4	
	Total		255	100	340	100	595	100	
	Total	35	173	50	229	46	402	48	**6.3**
		40	138	40	230	46	368	43	**7.1**
		45	21	6	30	6	51	6	**8.0**
		50	14	4	10	2	24	3	**8.9**
	Total		**346**	**100**	**499**	**100**	**845**	**100**	

The qualitative findings from this survey also showed that there is a critical shortage of drinking water in the two baseline woredas. The key informants and focus group discussants from East Belesa woreda, for example, reported that there is critical shortage of potable water near their living area, as a result the majority of the households fetch water by traveling long distance and some others also use river water as it is difficult for them to get safe water near their locality. A key-informant shared the following testimony on this:

[20] The calculation has been made considering household average size of 5.6 persons

'' There is spring water developed in one kebele in the woreda which is located very far, it takes more than an hour to collect water from this source …. The amount of water from this source always decreases during dry season and we do not get enough water during this time……due to that the majority of households from this woreda collects water from other sources of water such as from river and unprotected springs'' (KII from East Belesa Water Bureau).

On top of this, the key-informant from government office in West Belesa woreda reported that in the last few years, the woreda has observed and identified problems associated with the existing water facilities and majority of the hand pump which are the common sources of water for local community in most of the kebeles have stopped functioning soon after installation.

Almost all KII and FGD participants acknowledge that the quality of construction of water facilities are not to the required standard and because of such poor quality construction of the facilities, a majority of the facilities became non-functional, some of them even stopped providing services within a few days or months of establishment. According to the FGD and KIIs respondents, there are no active institutions to follow up and maintain the nonfunctional facilities.

The other major reason for the dysfunctionality of these water schemes was related with poor quality of construction and low production of water from the available hand dug wells. In order to have ample water production from the ground where the water table is deep, it is imperative to drill deep wells, which requires huge money. However, as per the informants from both East and West Belesa Woredas it was difficult to establish such kind of water facility in the Woredas by its own capacity due to resource limitation. Available secondary sources[21] consulted indicated that Water coverage of East and West Belesa was around 48% and 39% % respectively, which is less than the regional coverage of 53.5%. The same source also indicated that around 68% of water facilities were not properly functioning due to inadequate spare parts and other related reasons.

A closer look to the data indicated that fetching water has become the typical role of women and girls in the study woredas. Around 75% of respondents reported that women and girls are in charge of fetching water in the household, a common practice in patriarchal society where women/girls shoulder the burden of household chores. One KII explains the situation as "in the highland areas of the Woredas, water sources of any kind are extremely inadequate. This is especially true in the dry season where women and girls spend much of their time in search of water, usually travelling more than four hours a day over challenging terrain to fetch water".

4.3.2. Water Storage and Management

Household perceptions about practices in safe water provide some insights on the level of awareness and knowledge on safe water and are a valuable input for possible interventions in the community. Various factors, such as the container used to fetch water and the storage and handling of water, determine water quality at the household level. Studies have shown that uses of narrow mouthed containers (vessels) are less liable for microbial contamination during storage and household use if it is properly covered[22]. The result of this baseline survey revealed that all (100%) of the respondents used narrow mouthed plastic Jeri cans to store water from the source. It seems that Jerri cans are the predominant containers used for water storage

[21] Ibid.

[22] Thompson T, Sobsey M, Bartam J (2003). Providing clean water, keeping water clean: an integrated approach. Int J Environ Health Res 13: S89-94.

and less liable for microbial contamination during storage for household use if it is properly covered as well as the water source is protected and safe.

4.3.3. Water Treatment

Safe drinking water is highly affected on how water is handled at the household level. As far as knowledge and awareness of the surveyed populations on treatment of water at home is concerned, a total of 52% of the respondents acknowledged the importance of treating water at home before consumption. However, only 13% of the respondents treated water at home before consumption of those 52% of respondents who acknowledged the importance of water treatment at home. Straining a water through a cloth (55%) followed by sanding (45%) were the most common method of water treatment reported by surveyed households who practiced water treatment at household level.

With regard to those respondents (48%) who reported that they did not practice water treatment before consumption at home, three major reasons were stated: a significant proportion (55.1%) of the respondents believed that the water is pure while 37.6% of the respondents due to lack of knowledge on the importance of water treatment before drinking for health. The remaining 7.3% of the respondents did not practice because of other reasons.

Table 16: Practice of Water Treatment at Household Level among Surveyed Populations by Gender, (N 845), East and West Belesa Woredas, May 2018

	Gender	Response	Woreda				Total	
			East Belesa		West Belesa			
			#	%	#	%	#	%
Is it necessary to treat drinking water at home before consumption?	Male	Yes	14	15	31	19	45	17
		No	77	85	128	81	205	83
		Total	91	100	159	100	250	100
	Female	Yes	159	62	239	70	398	66
		No	96	38	31	30	197	34
		Total	255	100	270	100	595	100
	Total	Yes	173	50	270	54	443	52
		No	173	50	159	46	402	48
		Total	**346**	**100**	**499**	**100**	**845**	**100**
If yes, do you treat your water in any way to make it safe to drink?	Male	Yes	2	14	7	23	9	20
		No	12	86	24	77	36	80
		Total	14	100	31	100	45	100
	Female	Yes	18	11	30	13	48	12
		No	141	89	209	87	350	88
		Total	159	100	239	100	398	100
	Total	Yes	20	12	37	14	57	13
		No	153	88	233	86	386	87
		Total	**173**	**100**	**270**	**100**	**443**	**100**
	Male	Strain it through cloth	1	50	3	43	4	44
		strain it with sand	1	50	4	57	5	56

If yes, what type of treatment do you use?		Total	2	100	7	100	9	100
	Female	Boil it	4	22	7	23	11	23
		Strain it through cloth	9	50	14	47	23	48
		Strain it with sand	5	28	9	30	14	29
		Total	18	100	30	100	48	100
	Total	Boil it	4	20	7	19	11	19
		Strain it through cloth	10	50	17	46	27	48
		Strain it with sand	6	30	13	35	19	33
		Total	**20**	**100**	**37**	**100**	**57**	**100**

4.3.4. Irrigated Land Size, Intensity and Productivity of the Study Woredas

Cross-country studies reveal that over 85% of the land in Ethiopia is moderately to very severely degraded, and about 75% is affected by elements leading to desertification[23]. Soil erosion, with its associated loss of fertility and rooting depth, water resource degradation and loss of bio-diversity[24] are critical problems that undermine land productivity in the high and low potential crop highland zones. In some areas such as Wag Himra, North and South Wolo, North Gondar, Tigray and Hararghe, 50% of the agricultural lands have soils with depths less than 10 cm, which make them unsuitable for crop farming[25]. The annual rate of soil loss in the country is higher than the annual rate of soil formation, as the country annually loses over 1.5 billion tons of topsoil from the highlands due to soil erosion, which could have added about 1.5 million tons of grain to the country's harvest[26]. The steady growth of population and livestock numbers is continuing without commensurate changes in agricultural practices and technological uptake. The situation prevents the country from supporting its growing human and livestock population with its own production, despite Ethiopia's recent economic progress.

Available secondary sources consulted[27] indicated that in both study woredas, there was an irrigated land of around 12,555 ha last year to produce various agricultural productions (crops, cereals, vegetables, fruits and species). With regards to intensity of production, there is usually a practice of production of variety of crops, cereals and vegetables twice a year through irrigation. Productivity of land per hectare for the different types of products vary, the productivity of land for fruits is highest (8 quintals per ha.) and followed by cereals and crops which is found to be 6 quintals per hectares each. The average land productivity for all the types of agricultural products assessed to be 14.5 quintals/hectare.

[23] Aklilu Nigussie, Dana H. and Tigist A. Women's workload and role in livestock production in pastoral and agro-pastoral communities of Ethiopia: The case of Afar, African Journal of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development ISSN: 2141-5091 Vol. 2 (4), pp. 138-146, June, 2014. Available online at www.internationalscholarsjournals.org © International Scholars Journals

[24] Ibid.

[25] European Union: Assessing the root causes of recurring food insecurity in Ethiopia, 2018.

[26] East and West Belesa Annual Woreada Reports, Unpublished.

[27] Ibid.

Table 17: Irrigated Land Size, Quantity of Production/Quintals and Intensity of Production in Last Harvesting Year, East and West Belesa Woredas, May 2018

Irrigated Land Size		Total Hectare of land irrigated	Quantity of Production/ quintals		Total Production in quintal	Productivity of products per ha.(quintals/ha.)	Intensity of production/season
East Belesa	West Belesa		East Belesa	West Belesa			
3,589	8,966	12,555	52,877	132,194	185,071	14.5	2

Available sources consulted[28] indicate that both study woredas are highly affected by continuous land degradation. This has its own implication towards decreasing the infiltration of rainwater as well as accelerates surface run water and sedimentation of watersheds. As a result, most of the constructed dams in the area are filled by the sediment which comes from the degraded upland areas. According to available sources[29], factors contributing to land degradation and damage to watersheds are deforestation, steep slope, long term cultivation without rehabilitation and conservation measures and overgrazing.

There are in fact some efforts made in the study areas to conserve the soil and water through construction of dams and ponds as well as irrigation schemes to improve access to water for productive use for livestock and crop production. However, most of the dams and irrigation schemes are not in use and work at full capacity. Contributing factors to this include high level of sedimentation and poor community scheme management practices.

As far as productivity in the study areas is concerned, there is now a declining trend due to the decreasing soil fertility. This comes for various reasons. According to a KII participant from West Belesa Agriculture Bureau " ------- the decreasing soil fertility in this woreda [Belesa Woreda] is partly as a result of crop cultivation for many years, lack of shifting cultivation because of land scarcity, and expansion of agricultural lands in the steep slope areas that are exposed to an area of high soil erosion and other associated factors".

Another KII participant from East Belesa Agriculture Bureau gives evidence as to climatic variability and its associated effects in the environment. According to his explanation "this area [East Belesa] is critically affected by climatic variability such as rainfall timing, duration, distribution, intensity and variability; decreasing of groundwater potential; flooding and increase temperature overtime. All these contribute to the extremely low productivity of the Woredas for many years to come". FGD and key informants agree that factors such as drought, pests and snows also affect quantity and quality of production

In spite of having all these problems and contributing factors to low productivity, the study Woredas are endowed with natural potentials. This includes, for example, in West Belesa there are a number of streams and perennial rivers; in East Belesa there is a stream and a river. There is also a groundwater potential in both woredas. For the construction of large and medium water supply schemes, the area has a potential for local materials such as sand and stone[30].

[28] Ibid
[29] Ibid
[30] Ibid

4.3.5. Women and Girls Workload at Household Level

This study looked at how labor is allocated between genders (women and girls vis a vis men and boys) at household level. We divide labor into two categories, household and agricultural and livestock activities. This division is meant to sort out those activities that are necessary to maintain household survival (eating, drinking, heat, etc.) from the act of running an income generating enterprise (agriculture and livestock).

Household Activities

Household activities include bread baking, Injera baking, preparing wet, grain grinding, water fetching, fuel-wood collecting, washing clothes, and house making. The ones that are performed daily are baking, making wet and fetching water. Fuel wood collection is performed daily or once every two days depending on livestock owned and availability of fuel wood. As shown in Table 18, baking bread or Injera, cooking wet, grain grinding and house cleaning were done entirely by women and girls, while the other activities were shared between the two sexes.

Table 18: Types and shares of household chores (%) men/boys and women/girls engaging in

Types of activities	Share (%) by gender	
	Women/girls	Men/boys
Bread/Injera baking	100	0
Preparing wate	100	0
Grain grinding	100	0
Fetching water	75	25
Collecting fire wood	67	22
Washing clothes	80	20
House cleaning	100	0

Since women/girls shoulder almost all of the household activities, we further examined how much time was used to the most time consuming chores on daily basis on average. As indicated in the consecutive tables below, only 19% (20%F & 15%M) of respondents reported that girls spent 8 to 10 hours a day for household chores while 25% (26%F & 22%M) of respondents confirmed that girls spent 11 to 12 hours a day. The remaining 33% (35%F & 28%M) and 23% (19%F & 35%M) respectively reported that girls spent 13 to 14 hours and > 14 hours a day to household chores. In general, about 81% of female respondent and 65% of male respondent rated girls' workload on household chores from 8 to 14 hours a day and where as 35% of the male respondent and 19% of female respondent rated the girls workload above 14 hours per day.

Table 19: Average Hours Girls Spent in Household Chores by Gender (N= 845), East and West Belesa Woredas, May 2018

	Gender	Hours Spent/day	Woreda				Total	
			East Belesa		West Belesa			
			#	%	#	%	#	%
How much time do girls spend in Household chores	Male	8-10 hours	18	20	20	13	38	15
		11-12 hours	20	22	34	21	54	22
		13 -14 hours	25	27	45	28	70	28
		> 14 hours	28	31	60	38	88	35
		Total	91	100	159	100	250	100
	Female	8-10 hours	44	17	77	23	121	20
		11-12 hours	70	27	86	25	156	26
		13 -14 hours	107	42	103	30	210	35
		> 14 hours	34	14	74	22	108	19
		Total	255	100	340	100	595	100
	Total	8-10 hours	62	18	97	19	159	19
		11-12 hours	90	26	120	24	210	25
		13 -14 hours	132	38	148	30	280	33
		> 14 hours	62	18	134	27	196	23
		Total	**346**	**100**	**499**	**100**	**845**	**100**

Similarly, the average hours that women spent for household chores were assessed. The finding shows that similar to girls, women spent more than 8 hours a day to household chores. Around 28% of respondents reported that women spent 8 to 10 hours while 28% of respondents reported women spent 11 to 12 hours for household chores. Regarding to sex of respondents, 86% of female and 71% of male respondents put women time on household chores between 8-14 hours per day whereas the remaining from both category suggested the time above 14 hours per day.

Table 20: Average Hours Women Spent in Household Chores by Gender (N= 845), East and West Belesa Woredas, May 2018

	Gender	Hours Spent/day	Woreda					
			East Belesa		West Belesa		Total	
			#	%	#	%	#	%
How much time do women spend in household	Male	8-10 hours	27	30	30	19	57	23
		11-12 hours	28	31	41	26	69	28
		13 -14 hours	20	22	32	20	52	20
		> 14 hours	16	18	56	35	72	29
		Total	91	100	159	100	250	100
	Female	8-10 hours	77	30	105	31	182	31
		11-12 hours	75	29	94	28	169	28
		13 -14 hours	85	34	77	23	162	27
		> 14 hours	18	7	64	19	82	14
		Total	255	100	340	100	595	100
	Total	8-10 hours	104	30	135	27	239	28

chores?		11-12 hours	103	30	135	27	238	28
		13 -14 hours	105	30	109	22	214	25
		> 14 hours	34	10	120	24	154	18
		Total	**346**	**100**	**499**	**100**	**845**	**100**

Agricultural and livestock Activities

As far as agricultural and livestock activities are concerned, the data indicates that women and girls participated actively in sowing, weeding, transporting and storing cereals and pulses. Whereas males were very active in land preparation, plowing, weeding, harvesting and threshing in crop production. With respect to livestock production, women and girls were active in barn cleaning, herding small ruminants, milking (cow) and preparing manure dung. Women and girls also did most of the processing. In production and marketing, men had control over the majority of the decisions, although women had input especially about when to sell livestock products like milk.

Reflections of FGD and KII participants also give affirmation that women and girls shoulder almost all of the household activities including time-consuming chores, which were fetching water and wood. The reflections indicate that water in the selected households is used for drinking, cooking, washing clothes, and sometimes taking baths. Many households fetched water from rivers and streams that were far away in dry season. Similarly, woods were commonly used for baking, cooking, house and barn making etc. The households grind different woods for baking injera and bread, making wet and other purposes. Participants reflected that women and girls carry the wood frequently in small amounts from the areas which are very far away in their residents. In both cases, women and girls are vulnerable to rape and other forms of sexual harassment as they travel to long distances.

Evidence from various time use surveys suggests that there are marked differences in how men and women allocate their time between market and non-market work. Although some of these differences in time allocation can be explained through economic factors such as wages, non-wage income, and the functioning of labor and goods markets, in many societies economic factors are only secondary to non-economic factors in determining time use patterns[31]. In many settings, social and cultural norms underpin what is often a fairly rigid gender division of labor, where some tasks are strictly viewed as “men’s work” and others as “women’s work”[32]. The gender division of labor is most apparent in comparing men’s and women’s productive and reproductive work responsibilities. Societal norms tend to assign reproductive labor, such as looking after children, caring for the sick and the elderly, as well as preparing food, cleaning and housework, and collection of fuel and water to women, while men are viewed as working primarily outside the domestic sphere as the main breadwinners of their households.

In possible explanation, this survey concludes that women do close to 100% of the household chores, but men and boys share some of these activities.

[31] The World Bank: Gender, Time Use, and Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa, Working Paper No 3. Washington DC, 2015
[32] Ibid.

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

4.4.1. Income of Marginalized Beneficiaries

This particular baseline survey examined two important variables pertaining to income of marginalized beneficiaries: *household source of income and access to saving and credit service*. The former deals with amount of income household respondents earned from selling crops, domestic animals, animal products, petty trading, selling from charcoal, labor works and other sources. The latter gives emphasis on understanding of surveyed households on access to credit services from existing institutions. This includes microfinance institution (RUSACO), banks, Saving Groups (VSLA), money lender and others. It also gives emphasis on the practice of household savings among study household respondents.

The results of this survey indicate selling crops, domestic animals, animal products and labor works are the most common source of income by an overwhelming majority of respondents in the past year. As far as the earning amount in birr is concerned, 31% (of which 99% are women) of the respondent earned less than 4000 birr in the past year, of them 96% are marginalized people (female headed households and persons with disabilities). Close to 29% and 22% of respondents (of which 90% and 61% are women respectively), each reported of an earning amount of Birr 4000 and 5500 on average respectively in the past year. Only 17% of respondents (all are men) had an earning amount of birr 6000 each in the past year.

Table 21: Average Earning Amount in Birr among Surveyed Households in the Past Year, (N= 845), East and West Belesa Woredas

Average amount in ETB	Vulnerability status						Total	
	Female Headed Households		Persons with Disability		Other Household Respondents			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	#	%
<4000	0	**242**	**8**	**2**	**0**	**11**	**263**	**31% with 99% female**
4000	0	0	0	0	25	224	249	30% with 90% female
5500	0	0	0	0	73	116	189	22% with 61% female
6000	0	0	0	0	144	0	144	17% with 0% female

In a simple mathematical calculation[33], considering the total earning amount of all households income per annum, which is around 4,037,637.00 birr with an average household size of 5.6 persons, daily earning amount at individual level is birr 2.33. This implies that all household survey respondents in this particular baseline survey earned below the international poverty line in the past year. The international poverty line is currently set at $1.90 a day at 2011 international prices[34].

With regard to access to credit and savings, respondents were asked to reflect whether they had access to loan service from any government or private owned micro-financial institutions. Surprisingly enough, neither of the respondent had any access to loan service from these institutions in the past year. The main reason

[33] The calculation has been made considering the total earning amount of 845 households which is 4,037,637 divided by 4732 people (taking average household size of 5.6 persons), the total amount becomes 853.26 per individual per year. When this amount is converted in 365 days, the average daily individual income is 2.33 birr.

[34] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-01-01-01a.pdf
https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.DDAY?locations=ET&view=chart

for this is that micro-finance institutions refrain from giving loans to the Woredas due to very low or zero loan repayment experience they have had in the past few years. According to the East Belesa Woreda Economic and Finance Bureau, some years ago there was an initiative of giving both group-based and individual based loan service by Rural Saving and Credit Cooperatives (RUSACO) and a lot of individuals had access to this service, however there was bad experience of repaying the loan back according to the schedule and agreement set. This makes the loan process pending at this moment.

4.4.2. Rural Women Involvement in Leadership Positions

The number of rural women participating in committees and represented in leadership positions in various areas were assessed. As shown in table 22 below, women had grossly under represented at the woreda and kebele level, with very low percentages of women in political positions across the board. For example, only 16% and 14% of women respectively assumed leadership positions at woreda cabinet/leadership positions (head and vice head of offices/sectors and Kebele leadership positions (kebele chairperson and manager positions) levels.

Table 22: of Women in Political Leadership Positions, East and West Belesa Woredas, May 2018

Areas of Rural Women Participation	Woreda						Total		
	East Belesa			West Belesa					
Leadership positions	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Woreda cabinet members/leadership	28 (93)	2 (7%)	30	42 (79%)	11(21%)	53	70	13 (16%)	83
Kebele level leaders	119 (91%)	12 (9%)	131	185 (83%)	37(17%)	222	304	49 (14%)	353
Woreda council members	39 (84%)	7 (15%)	46	37 (84%)	9(20%)	46	76	16 (17%)	92
Kebele Council members	117 (87%)	18 (13%)	135	113 (84%)	22(16%)	135	230	40 (15%)	270

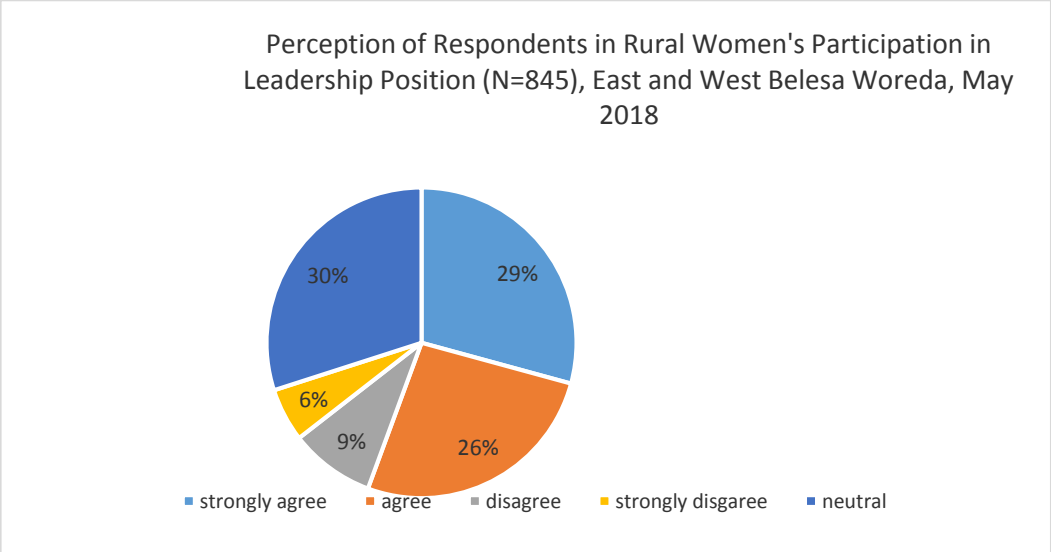
The representation of women in leadership positions at different committee level is also very low or almost non-existent. As shown in table 23 below, for example, only 0.003% and 0.3% of women respectively assumed leadership positions at natural resource management (NRM) and Irrigation committees respectively. A relatively higher representation of women (7%) was observed in WASH Committees.

Table 23: Women in Leadership Positions at Different Committees, East and West Belesa Woredas, May 2018

Type of committee	Woreda								Total # of members in committee	Total # of women members in committee	# of women leaders in committee	% of women leaders
	East Belesa				West Belesa							
	# of members in committee	# of women members in committee	# of women leaders in committee	% of women leaders	# of members in committee	# of women members in committee	# of women leaders in committee	% of women leaders				
Cooperative	115	23	1	1	170	42	2	1	285	65	3	1
NRM	738,359	3,956	26	0	950,400	4,590	28	0.003	1,688,759	8,546	54	0.003
WASHCO	2,882	1,159	230	8	1,659	663	95	6	4,541	1,822	325	7
Irrigation	1,650	12	12	1	2,965	14	2	0.7	4,615	26	14	0.3
Total	**743,006**	**5,150**	**269**	**0.04**	**955,194**	**5,309**	**127**	**0.01**	**1,698,200**	**10,459**	**396**	**0.02**

4.4.3. Attitude and Perception of Communities in Women's Key Leadership Position

Household respondents were asked to reflect their views on women's ability to hold and play a leadership role in different activities. The responses indicate that more than half (56%) of respondents agreed with this view, while around 14% of the respondents did not agree. The remaining 30% of respondents were neutral. Among the 14% respondents who disagree with women's key leadership positions, the overwhelming majority (76%) believe that women are not socially accepted to assume key leadership positions. Around 58% of the respondents believe that the culture and tradition do not allow women to assume key leadership potions. Overall, it is possible to conclude that the attitude and perception of communities towards women's ability to hold key leadership position is low.



4.4.4. Women in Decision Making Practices

In view of understanding the role of women in decision making practices, respondents were asked to reflect their view into two main issues: expenditure and income. In expenditure two main essential variables were treated. This included (1) decision making of women on major household expenditure (what crops to grow, what farming inputs to use or buy, what crops to take to the market to sell, what livestock production activities to engage in rearing/fattening/ dairy, and what livestock to purchase); and (2) decision making of women on minor household expenditure (expenditure for food and meals and small household utensils). In a similar vein, the role of women in decision making of household income has been analyzed on major income areas (decision on what to sell (crops in bulk and cattle to take to the market), when to sell and what livestock production activities to engage in (rearing/fattening/dairy etc.) and minor income areas (smaller amount of crops to take to market and other small scale decisions).

The results of this particular baseline survey indicate that the role of women in making decision of major household expenditures and income is very low. Only 12% (11%F & 14%M) and 9%(8%F & 10%M) of respondents respectively reported that women participated in decision making of major expenditure and income related issues- which means major issues related to expenditure and income are entirely dominated by men/husbands. The involvement of women in minor household expenditure and income issues is rather high. The data indicates that close to 75% and 91% of respondents reported that women equally/jointly decide on minor household expenditure and income related issues. The following table gives detail information on the involvement of women in expenditure and income related issues in the study woredas.

Table 24: The Role of Women in Expenditure and Income related Decision Making by Gender, (N=642), East and West Belesa Woredas, May 2018

Decision Making Areas	Gender	Decision makers	Name of woreda				Total	
			East Belesa		West Belesa			
			#	%	#	%	#	%
Major household expenditures	Male	Entirely by man/husband	64	85	112	87	176	86
		Jointly/equally/both	11	15	17	13	28	14
		Total	75	100	129	100	204	100
	Female	Entirely by man/husband	170	89	218	88	388	89
		Jointly/equally/both	21	11	29	12	50	11
		Total	191	100	247	100	438	100
	Total	Entirely by man/husband	234	88	330	88	564	88
		Jointly/equally/both	32	12	46	12	78	12
		Total	**266**	**100**	**376**	**100**	**642**	**100**
Minor household expenditures	Male	Entirely by man/husband	20	27	32	25	52	25
		Jointly/equally/both	55	73	97	75	152	75
		Total	75	100	129	100	204	100
	Female	Entirely by man/husband	46	24	65	26	111	25
		Jointly/equally/both	145	76	182	74	327	75
		Total	191	100	247	100	438	100
	Total	Entirely by man/husband	66	25	97	26	163	25
		Jointly/equally/both	200	75	279	74	479	75
		Total	**266**	**100**	**376**	**100**	**642**	**100**
Major household Income	Male	Entirely by man/husband	67	89	116	90	183	90
		Jointly/equally/both	8	11	13	10	21	10
		Total	75	100	129	100	204	100
	Female	Entirely by man/husband	180	94	223	90	403	92
		Jointly/equally/both	11	6	24	10	35	8
		Total	191	100	247	100	438	100
	Total	Entirely by man/husband	247	93	339	90	586	91
		Jointly/equally/both	19	7	37	10	56	9
		Total	266	100	376	100	642	100
Minor Household Income	Male	Entirely by man/husband	15	20	20	16	35	17
		Jointly/equally/both	60	80	109	84	169	83
		Total	75	100	129	100	204	100

	Female	Entirely by man/husband	27	14	40	16	67	15
		Jointly/equally/both	164	86	207	84	371	85
		Total	191	100	247	100	438	100
	Total	Entirely by man/husband	42	16	60	16	102	16
		Jointly/equally/both	224	84	316	84	540	84
		Total	**266**	**100**	**376**	**100**	**642**	**100**

To sum up – in most of the variables examined above, women have little/no involvement of decision-making. Qualitative sources consulted documented similar results. The overall impression of the FGD and KII participants show men in most of household related issues are the sole decision makers. Financial and other decision making processes is still in the hands of male and it has to be improved through capacity building education. According to key informants and FGD participants' decisions regarding selling bulk food items and cash crops, household income and expenditures, selection and purchase of farming technologies, and children's marriage and education issues are made alone or dominantly by men. Child care and selection and purchase of household utensils however are quite often decided by women.

With regards to decision making at community levels, the majority of decisions are made by men alone or as the final decision-maker. These decisions involve who attends community meetings, who makes decision during community meetings, and who should participate in the leadership. During the FGD one-woman participant told that "men are the heads of household and thus entitled to make important decisions".

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

4.5.1. Participation of Beneficiaries in Decision-making Spaces

With the view of understating of participation of beneficiaries in decision making spaces, household respondents were asked to reflect whether they have meaningfully participated in formal (government-led) and informal (civil society led, private sector-led) decision making areas. The results indicate that only 30% (39%F & 10%M) of household respondents participate in decision making in the formal and informal sectors. The remaining 70% of respondents had hardly any participation in those given areas. Of those 30% respondents having participated in decision making spaces, only 5%, 7% and 8% of respondents reported that they have assumed chairmanship, deputy chairmanship and secretary positions respectively. More than half (56%) of the respondents have been in membership in different sectors.

Table 25: Participation of Beneficiaries in Decision-Making Spaces by Gender, (N=845), East and West Belesa Woredas, May 2018

	Gender	Response	Woreda				Total	
			East Belesa		West Belesa			
			#	%	#	%	#	%
Participation of beneficiaries in formal (government-led) and informal (civil society-	Male	Yes	14	15	10	6	24	10
		No	77	85	149	94	226	90
		Total	91	100	159	100	250	100
	Female	Yes	90	35	140	41	230	39
		No	165	65	200	59	365	61

led, private sector-led) decision-making spaces		Total	255	100	340	100	595	100
	Total	Yes	104	30	150	30	254	30
		No	242	70	349	70	591	70
		Total	**346**	**100**	**499**	**100**	**845**	**100**

4.5.2. Government Response towards Community Request

Respondents were asked to reflect their view on government response toward their request in the areas of agricultural inputs, water supply, health and education, electricity, infrastructure, access to saving and credit, veterinary and social protection. As shown in table 26 below, the local government seemed to be unable to respond to the communities' request almost in all the areas stated above. This is especially true in water supply (86%), health and education (84%), electric service supply (94%), infrastructure (100%) and access to saving and credit (100%) where the local government is unable to respond adequately as reflected by household respondents. An overall aggregate result indicates that close to 25% of the respondents are in acceptance of local government's response to local communities' request. This part indicates community satisfaction level with government responses and service provision.

Table 26: Government Response to Local Communities' Request as Reflected by Household Respondents, (N=845), East and West Belesa Woredas

Services requested	Response	Woreda				Total	
		East Belesa		West Belesa			
		#	%	#	%	#	%
Agricultural inputs	Accepted	180	52	270	54	450	53
	Not Accepted	166	48	229	46	395	47
Water Supply	Accepted	42	12	80	16	122	15
	Not Accepted	304	88	419	84	723	86
Health and Nutrition	Accepted	49	24	90	18	139	16
	Not Accepted	297	86	409	82	706	84
Electricity Supply	Accepted	21	6	30	6	41	6
	Not Accepted	325	94	469	94	794	94
Infrastructure (road)	Not Accepted	346	100	499	100	845	100
Access to saving credit	Not Accepted	346	100	499	100	845	100
Veterinary	Accepted	298	86	430	86	728	86
	Not Accepted	48	14	69	14	117	14
Aggregate Weight	**Accepted**	**84**	**24**	**129**	**26**	**213**	**25**
	Not Accepted	**262**	**76**	**370**	**74**	**632**	**75**

Respondents were also asked to reflect whether the local government has involved local communities during planning of social and basic services. This included health, education, water supply and others. The responses indicated that only 18% (24%F & 6%M) of respondents reported that the local government involved local communities during planning of social and basic services. The response from female respondent relatively higher for participation in planning may be due to the fact that presence of different women related structures at grassroots/kebele level such as women development army, women association, women affair focal person and HEWs.

Table 27: Perception of respondents on the involvement of local community towards government planning of social basic services

Does the government involve local communities during planning for social and basic services?	Gender	*Response*	Woreda				Total	
			East Belesa		West Belesa			
			#	%	#	%	#	%
	Male	Yes	5	5	11	7	16	6
		No	86	95	148	93	234	94
		Total	91	100	159	100	250	100
	Female	Yes	55	22	85	25	140	24
		No	200	78	255	75	455	76
		Total	255	100	340	100	595	100
	Total	Yes	60	17	96	19	156	18
		No	286	83	403	81	689	82
		Total	**346**	**100**	**499**	**100**	**845**	**100**

4.5.3. Beneficiary Level of Satisfaction with Government Services

In a Likert Scale model, satisfaction of respondents has been measured on the existing social and basic services in the study woredas. This included satisfaction with government services in general (planning, implementation and close follow up of development activities and services provision), supply of agricultural inputs, access to and availability of water service, health and education, access to saving and credit service and etc. The responses indicated that only 6% of respondents were satisfied with the existing basic and social services. The remaining 94% of respondents were not satisfied with the basic services that the local government has rendered in the woredas.

Table 28: Household Respondents Level of Satisfaction on Existing Government Services by Gender, (N=845), East and West Belesa Woredas, May 2018

Gender	Level of Satisfaction	Woredas				Total	
		East Belesa		West Belesa			
		#	%	#	%	#	%
Male	Highly satisfied	7	8	7	1	14	5
	Satisfied	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Less satisfied	21	23	68	14	89	36
	Unsatisfied	63	69	84	24	147	59
	Total	91	100	159	39	250	100
Female	Highly satisfied	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Satisfied	13	5	23	7	36	6
	Less satisfied	57	22	83	24	140	24
	Unsatisfied	185	73	234	69	419	70
	Total	255	100	340	100	595	100
Aggregate weight	Satisfied (Highly satisfied + Satisfied)	20	6	30	6	50	6
	Unsatisfied (Less satisfied + unsatisfied)	326	94	469	94	795	94
	Total	**346**	**100**	**499**	**100**	**845**	**100**

V. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1. Conclusions

This baseline study attempted to document evidence on the existing situation of East and West Belesa Woredas, with particular reference to food security and resilience, water supply, and gender and social norms, participation and income of disadvantaged segments of the population.

The result of the survey documented the dire situation of the overwhelming majority of the study populations who were unable to feed their households throughout the 12 months of the year. Household respondents faced critical challenges food shortage for 5-7 months in a year time. Respondent households experienced frequent shocks and adopted their own positive and negative coping mechanisms. The overwhelming majority of household respondents earned meager daily income of birr 2.33 per person/day. The earning income female headed households was worse by far, which is less than 2 birr/day.

The results of the survey, pertaining to the existing social norms and practices, documented a good progress in demonstrating knowledge and awareness of respondents on pervasive effects of HTP and GBVs on the wellbeing of women and girls in the study woredas, but the practice is still there. There is a pervasive practice of gender roles that favor men and boys to the productive sphere while women and girls shoulder the burden of household chores that consume a significant amount of their energy and time (more than 8 hours a day).

Access to safe water is far below the standard. The significant proportion of respondents used unprotected water sources during rainy and dry seasons. Equally important, water consumption per household/day among the surveyed households was far below the minimum standard set to rural communities.

The survey, so far as participation and decision making practices of women is concerned, documented that the involvement of women in leadership positions were minimal. Equally important, women had no decisive role in production and livelihood making as well as financial decision-making undertakings. Women have substantial involvement in decision making on minor household expenditures and income areas.

To sum up – based on the critical findings and conclusions of the baseline survey, the following recommendations are drawn.

5.2. Recommendations

- In order to improve livelihoods and resilience usually caused by drought, expansion of irrigation farming is advisable, enhance the financial support services-saving and credit and facilitate jobs creation for unemployed and vulnerable community members mainly the poor women and girls;
- Intervention to improve access to water for the local community, access to water reduces crises especially during drought seasons, the critical shortage of water for human, livestock and farming activities. Rehabilitation and maintenance of the dysfunctional existing water schemes are also important;
- The problems with the local people in regards to disability are lack of public understanding, lack of information on number and status of disabilities, lack of access to basic needs such as vocational training placement, health facilities, education accesses. Thus addressing these challenges through creation of access to safe water supply, since people with disabilities are the most affected and vulnerable to the problem of accessing safe water supply and facilitation of inclusive intervention-both in WASH services and livelihood interventions are required;
- Women empowerment related interventions are highly required (promotion, advocacy and practice of policies and laws that favor women).
- With regards to improving decision of women, women empowerment interventions; familiarization of policies and legislative issues allowing access and control of resources are required for

communities, religious leaders, elders; including capacity building activities for law enforcement bodies;

- Facilitate access to finance (loan and credit services) for poor women, unemployed youth and other vulnerable community members to engage in IGAs.
- Capacity building interventions for key and relevant local government offices to help fill gaps related to knowledge, skills, understanding and practices on design and implementation of integrated development initiatives particularly for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized groups.
- Support and encourage vulnerable community groups to undertake appropriate and suitable environmental and economic shock coping mechanisms.

VI. Annexes

6.1. Project Result Framework/Matrix

Summary of SWEEP Project Baseline Survey Findings				
Result levels	**Indicators**	**East Belesa**	**West Belesa**	**Total**
Impact: Chronically food insecure households in Belesa woredas, Central Gondar zone of Amhara regional state have improved food security and resiliency	% of households reporting ensured food security disaggregated by gender and vulnerability status	0	0	0
	% of households reporting an increased capacity to adapt to environmental shocks disaggregated by gender	9	5	7
	% of households reporting an increased capacity to adapt to economic shocks disaggregated by gender	17	21	19
	% of households practicing physical violence disaggregated by gender	66	76	72
	% of households practicing sexual harassment disaggregated by gender	64	69	67
	% of households practicing FGM/C disaggregated by gender	26	24	25
	% of households practicing child marriage disaggregated by gender	14	24	20
Outcome 1: Improved access to water resources for domestic consumption and productive use	% of access to safe water supply of households in the target Woredas disaggregated by gender and vulnerability status	47	42	45
	Size of irrigated land size	3589	8966	12555
	Irrigation intensity in targeted Kebeles per year	2	2	2
	Irrigated land productivity in targeted Kebeles/ quintal	14.73	14.74	14.74
	Irrigated land production in targeted Kebeles	52877	132194	185071
	Number of hours (per day) marginalized rural women spent for household chores	12 to 14 hrs	12 to 14 hrs	12 to 14 hrs

	Number of hours (per day) marginalized rural girls spent for household chores	12 to 14 hrs	12 to 14 hrs	12 to 14 hrs
Outcome 2: Marginalized groups empowered to contribute productively in the household and community	Amount of income of marginalized beneficiary groups (marginalized groups) disaggregated by gender and vulnerability status	$ 0.47/day	$ 0.47/day	$ 0.47/day
	% of marginalized rural women participating in committees	1	0.7	0.3
	% of marginalized rural women represented in leadership positions	0.04	0.01	0.02
	% marginalized rural women who are able to equally participate in household financial decision-making	17	16	16
	% respondents who have positive attitude/perception in communities towards women's ability to hold and play a leadership roles disaggregated by gender	57	54	56
Outcome 3: Local government capacitated and community empowered to initiate and lead community development and adaptive measures	% of respondents/beneficiaries who have meaningfully participated in formal (government-led) decision-making spaces	58	54	56
	% of respondents/beneficiaries who have meaningfully participated in informal (civil society-led, private sector-led) decision-making spaces	58	54	56
	% of respondents/beneficiaries who report that government at Kebele level took their requests into consideration disaggregated by gender	24	26	25
	% of respondents/beneficiaries who report that government at Woreda level took their requests into consideration disaggregated by gender	24	26	25
	% of respondents/beneficiaries whose level of satisfaction for government service provision improved disaggregated by gender	6	6	6

6.2. Case Studies

Case Study with a Female Headed Household in Addisalem Kebele in West Belesa Woreda

Enatagegn Baykedagn is a 40-year-old woman who lives in Addisalem Kebele in West Belesa Woreda. She is a mother of five children and has become the only bread-winner of the family since the last five years now. Having lived together for 16 years, her husband passed away six years ago after serious illness that made him bed-ridden for long. Since then, all the household responsibilities are on the shoulder of Enatagegn including earning a living and caring for her two girls and three boys. Last year she also suffered with the further terrible loss of her eldest son, aged 16 who had left the area to seek work far away in Humera, which is in a lowland area near the Sudanese border. Many locals know of this place and explain how dangerous it is, that many die from malaria or snake bites.

On her two plots of land totaling 0.5 ha, she grows maize, sorghum and beans and some vegetables. One plot is steep and is eroded, which she states is caused by farmers further uphill having poor terracing and cutting trees. Enatagegn also uses terraces, bunds and grass to control the erosion but she says it is not enough. In those times, when her husband was alive, the family had two oxen, milk cows, sheep and chicken and life was relatively better, at least it was able to feed the family for nine months in a year time. However, all oxen, the milk cows and sheep were sold during his time [her husband] of illness for medical expenses as well as to buy other household items.

Enatagegn cannot afford to buy fertilizer, and only produces three quintals a year which leaves her with a six-month shortage of food. Additionally, because culturally women are not permitted to plough, her problem is that she must beg the neighbors to plough her land which as a result planting is usually delayed.

As a PSNP participant, this gap is filled with three months of food aid and three months of cash, but she prefers food aid because the cash is not of the equivalent amount. Last year she experienced an eight-month food gap but so far this year is better. The only other support she receives is from her brother who lends her an ox.

Two years ago Enatagegn received a loan of 2000 ETB from the Amhara Credit and Saving Institution (ACSI) for the purpose of buying a calf. Soon after she bought however, the calf died and now she is unable to repay the loan including the recurrent debt. Because of this regrettable experience, she does not want any more loans in the future.

Enatagegn stated that there was a practice of Self Help Saving Group in her village around three years ago, where she became a member and was able to save 5 Birr per month. However, the group has been disintegrated after a while due to disagreement among members as well as lack of having adequate capital as well as training on business management skills to run income generating activities.

Her two sons are attending school and are now in 6^{th} and 7^{th} grade, and her two daughters were married, but subsequently divorced. For success, Enatagegn says having a diverse range of crops and animals for fattening is important. By saving money she hopes to invest in sheep fattening then later of cattle and through this send her children to university so that eventually they will in turn support her. Enatagegn needs to be supported with oxen and fertilizer now for the realization of her dreams.

Case Study with a Female Headed Household in Chamakorach Kebele in East Belesa Woreda

Alemnesh Mune, a 42-year-old widower, lives with her five children in Chamakorach Kebele. Her husband was a soldier who died of serious illness of injury nine years after he returned back from Ethio-Eritirea war. She has since then lived alone and brought up their five children. Adding an insult to injury, two years ago tragedy struck when her eldest daughter died, leaving three children, which Alemnesh now looks after together with her own four children.

Being landless and with few income opportunities (350 birr of pension per month), Alemnesh rent land for which she pays 100 ETB per harvest for land producing 6 quintals, and also gives 50% of the produce to the landowner. Since it is culturally inappropriate for a woman go for ploughing, her younger son of 13 does so with hand-made digger. This land is steep and far from their home (two hours walk), so they have constructed terraces and bunds. Even so, this does not produce enough and to maintain their diet of Injera twice a day. This is especially true of the months in a year starting from April to May and quite often extends to September and October where there is an apparent food gap in the family. In fact, it is true that throughout the year Alemnesh and her children do not have enough to eat, and they have only two small meals a day. At holiday times her family help and this is the only time they eat meat.

Three years ago Alemnesh took a loan from the Amhara Credit and Saving Institution (ACSI) as part of a group of six people. She received 1200 ETB for sheep fattening but unfortunately some of the sheep died. This has also greatly impacted the livelihoods of her family.

Although she is able to socialize being a member of local Idir and religious groups, she does not feel an equal member of the community and sees herself as a lower status than others. With almost no education and no training available, she is not happy with the current state of her life. However, despite the previous difficulties with a loan, she would like another loan in future and by this means buy sheep and cattle for fattening, or a milk cow and donkey for transport. Then they can increase their income and be equal to friends and neighbors who own land. Almenseh aspires to send her children to college and universities.

Case Study with Unemployed Youth in Diquana Kebele in West Belesa Woreda

Agbaw Mandefro, 29, lives in a village of Diquana Kebele in west Belesa woreda. He is the elder son of the family with two younger brothers and two sisters. His father who is a bread-winner of the family earn a meagre monthly income (not more than 500 birr a month) out of casual works. His childhood dream was to complete his education and go to University and study Engineering. However, this dream was cut short because of his poor 10^{th} grade national exam scores. Despite failure of his dream, he studied agriculture in local TVET center yet he could not find a job in the field.

Agbaw witnessed that most of the households in this Kebele [Diquana Kebele] live under chronic poverty. As arable land in the Kebele is extremely scanty coupled with poor soil fertility, yield per harvest is extremely low. He boldly explained that “for the last many years I remembered to date, no household in my Kebele has ever fed all family members adequately throughout a year. Most households face hunger at least for three months in a year, that is why almost all households in this woreda are under PSNP program”. According to Agbaw, the woreda in general and the Kebele [Diquana Kebele] where he is currently living in at large has in fact potential of natural resource including rivers, but irrigation scheme is very poor by far.

Agbaw struggled for years to find a job that enables him to support himself and his family. He tried to engage himself with short term contract jobs to meet his daily need. Determined to take himself and his family out of the cyclic poverty, he tried so many things including daily casual works with hope and determination. All his efforts, however, has been in vain. Both formal and informal jobs not only in the

Kebele but also in the entire woreda is hardly available. There is little initiative by the local government to create a platform that engage youth in income generating activities. Agbaw said the existing saving and credit schemes in the woreda have in fact policies of prioritizing the poor, especially women and unemployed youth. They share an aim or eradicating poverty by stimulating growth of income generating activities. They provide loans on an individual or group basis but people are not encouraged to take loans for many reasons including huge interest rate (interest from 16-18%) as well as fear of penalties. Equally important, youth are not provided with adequate business and life skills training that will help identify marketable business areas and engage in sustained business activities.

According to Agabaw, it is a common practice to see the youth in the woreda to migrate in different towns including Humera in search of casual works, with its own associated life threatening risks. Agbaw witnessed the recent death of his bosom friend due to Malaria while fleeing to Humara in search of casual works. This creates a feeling of depression and hopelessness among the youth in the woreda. Agbaw said “there is nothing that makes one frustrated in life than joblessness.”