CARE Ethiopia

Final Report

Endline Review of Improved WASH Systems and Resilience in Amhara (IWRA) Project

By: Temesgen Consultancy Service

Addis Ababa

June, 2024

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Temesgen Consultancy Service

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Acronyms

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
CAPI	Computer-Assisted Personal Interview
CSC	Community Score Card
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DAs	Development Agents
EOCD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
FGC	Female Genital Cutting
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FHH	Female Headed Household
FWS	Food and Water Systems
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GII	Gender Inequality Index
HEWs	Health Extension Workers
HH	Household
HTP	Harmful Traditional Practice
HWD	Hand Dug Well
IEC	Information Education Communication
IGA	Income Generating Activity
IWRA	Improved WASH Systems and Resilience in Amhara
JMP	Joint Monitoring Programme
KII	Key informant Interview
LDM	Learning, Design and Measurement
M & E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
MHH	Male-Headed Household
MHH	Menstrual Hygiene and Health
NRM	Natural Resources Management
PSC	Project Steering Committee

RUSACCO	Rural Saving and Credit Cooperative
SAA	Social Analysis and Action
SDW	Shallow Deep Well
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Scientists
SSD	Solar Schemes Developed
SWEEP	Water for Food Security, Women's Empowerment and Environmental Protection
TCS	Temesgen Consultancy Service
TOT	Training of Trainers
VSLA	Village Saving and Loan Association
WASH	Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene
WASHCO	Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Committee

Executive Summary

CARE Ethiopia has designed and implemented a project called Improved WASH Systems and Resilience in Amhara (IWRA) in 28 kebeles of East and West Belessa woredas. The project aims at improving water source systems, strengthening resilience, empowering the marginalized and supporting community development. This endline review has been done to evaluate effectiveness, impact and sustainability of IWRA project, and draw lessons learnt for scaling it up or designing similar projects in the future. The endline review tried to address the following key questions: i) To what extent has the project achieved its objectives and anticipated results? ii) To what extent the project has generated significant positive or negative, intended or unintended, higher-level effects? and iii) To what extent the benefits or results of the project continue or are likely to continue after the project ends?

The endline review was done using the mixed method approach (both qualitative and quantitative). At the beginning, the consultant team conducted document review to understand the project theory of change; identify indicators; select appropriate sources and methods of data collection for each indicator; and develop appropriate tools for quantitative and qualitative data collection. Then the endline review has been carried out following three successive stages: (i) Evaluation framework development; (ii) Inception report development; and (iii) Data collection, analysis and write-up. Primary data collected from a total of 422 households and qualitative data collected through conducting 12 FGDs, seven KIIs and physical observation, including secondary data collected from CARE and partners offices.

Safe water supply and sanitation

Result indicate that water supply coverage in the target woredas was 55[1]%. In the target kebeles, water supply increased from 61% during the baseline to 78% at the endline. The burden of fetching water in the majority of the HHs is still on mothers followed by girls. This coupled with other household activities has engaged women on household chores for over 10 hours a day. The percent of households who reported that women spent more than 10 hours of a day on household chores reduced from 37.8%

[1] The data is taken from the IWRA water inventory assessment result which reflects the woreda level coverage, instead of taking the value of the ETE data drawn from sampled kebeles and surveyed households.

during the baseline to 22% at the endline. Women who spent 8-10 hours in households chores also reduced to 7% from 14% during baseline survey.

Generally, sanitation coverage in the intervention woredas, considering all types of sanitation facilities (safely managed, basic, limited, and unimproved as per the JMP Sanitation ladders) is 58% while the coverage of safely managed sanitation facilities remained low (7.8%). The situation needs further efforts of all stakeholders in devising appropriate sanitation technology packages that fit to the target area geomorphology and weather condition. Better approaches which can trigger the community to construct and utilize improved latrines should also be identified and put into practice.

Adaptation plans

The project supported preparation and implementation of adaptation plans in 16 watersheds. Natural resources management activities and improved irrigation systems are the most visible components of the adaptation plans. Result of the household survey indicated that 82.7% of the household practiced construction of physical soil and water conservation structures on their holdings and 87.9% have a tradition of planting trees by using different strategies.

Irrigation is the most feasible agricultural practice to drought-prone areas like East and West Belessa woredas for increasing food availability and access and thereby strengthen resiliency. The project has supported four irrigation schemes with a potential irrigation capacity of 329.7 ha. In addition, 60 quintals of improved-variety early-generation wheat seeds was provided to them for seed multiplication purposes. The endline survey indicated that 6.2% male-headed households and 1.5% female-headed households have access to irrigation, and they can on average generate Birr 13,115.00 income in one irrigation season.

Food Security

The percent of the households who reported ensured food security for a period of 8 months or more in general increased from 62% during the baseline to 73.5% at the endline. Meanwhile, food security of women-headed households and households whose head is a person with a disability did not show considerable improvement. Based on analysis of the household survey data, the reasons are: i) less proportion of FHHs and HHs whose head is a person with a disability have engaged in agriculture as their main livelihood; ii) less proportion of FHHs and HHs whose head is a person with a disability

have farmlands; and iii) the average landholding size of FHHs and HHs whose head is a person with a disability is smaller than other households.

Capacity to withstand environment and economic shocks

Environmental shocks in the area include mainly drought and pests/diseases for both crop and livestock production. And economic shocks comprise unemployment and limited access to financial services and agricultural inputs. Result of the household survey indicated that the percent of households with improved capacity to withstand environmental shocks increased from 72.9% during the baseline to 78.4% at the endline. Similarly, the percent of households with improved capacity to withstand economic shocks increased from 72.9% during the baseline to 83% at the endline.

Increased capacity to engage in income-generation activities

The project has been promoting access to financial services to local communities through supporting and/or establishing 334 village saving and loan associations (VSLAs) that have 7,212 members. The endline assessment indicated that 96.4% of the households participate in VSLAs, and the VSLAs enable members to access loans. And 305 VSLAs with 5321 members have established 23 Rural Saving and Credit Cooperatives. The growth of VSLAs to RUSACCOs has enabled members to access up to Birr 40,000.00 loan for engaging in different IGAs. The household survey indicated 83.8% of the households have accessed loans from VSLAs during the project period, and all members of the VSLAs have got equal access to loan service for an amount which is three-fold of their savings.

Attitude of the communities towards women's ability to hold and play a leadership role

Engagement of the community members in social analysis and action platforms improved attitude of the community towards women's' ability to hold and play leadership role. The percent of households who reported improved attitude of the communities towards women's ability to hold and play a leadership role in targeted kebeles raised from 68.4% during the baseline to 70.9% at the endline. The percent of households who reported satisfactorily use of social analysis and action mechanisms by communities in order to monitor and engage in ending violence against women and girls increased from 65% during the baseline to 74.3% at the endline.

Gender-based violence and Harmful traditional practices

The endline review identified gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices considerably reduced. The percent of households who reported sexual harassment and physical violence reduced from 17.7% during the baseline to 16.7% to at the endline. Harmful traditional practices like early marriage and female genital cutting highly remarkably reduced from 68.4% during the baseline to 3.1% at the endline. Meanwhile, there is yet another HTP (having a mistress by husbands) which is practiced by 31.6% of the male-headed households.

Women participation in major income and expenditure decision-making in the household

The endline assessment indicated increase in the percent of households which women have equal participation with men in making decision on financial issues of the household such as: buying/selling of agricultural inputs/tools; renting in/out land and other assets; allocating how much produce/income to consume and save; and how much loan to take and for what purpose to use the loan. It increased from 54.1% during the baseline to 76% at the endline.

Engagement of local government with community to address needs

The percent of respondents who reported that the government take into account their request or development need wholly or partially in its plan and budget increased from 52.7% during the baseline to 96.8% at the endline. Among those who requested for government services (water supply, health, farm inputs, etc.), 71.1% reported that they are satisfied on the services provided. The proportion of responds who reported that they are satisfied on the services provided increased from 40% during the baseline to 71.1% at the endline.

Involvement of the private sector in water, sanitation and the environment sector

Only 8 out of 24 entrepreneur groups (33%) are functional at least to some level. Compared to the baseline (zero), there is some level of effort. But this intervention was not effective as 67% of the groups cannot meet the intended purpose. The main reasons for failure were lack of commitment among group members on the business; previous experience of the group members was not adequately considered; and disagreement among group members. FGD participants indicated that there is no considerable change in monthly income of private sector actors, as most of them failed, and the remaining are working below their capacity.

The project completion report indicated that 73 women entrepreneurs were striving to contribute to the green economy in their kebele through engaging in spare parts supply (2 women); water filtration kits

supply (2 women); solid waste management (15 women); seedling production (2 women), and production and marketing of energy saving stoves (52 women).

Result of the household survey indicated that 77% of the respondents reported that they regularly attend formal meetings organized by government (kebele administration), and 83.2% reported that they regularly attend meetings on community development. Regarding informal meetings of village saving and loan associations, 97.4% reported that they attend VSLA meetings regularly. On average, 85.9% of the respondents indicated that women activity involved in issues that need community level decision. This compared to the baseline situation when 55.8% of the respondents were attending such formal and informal gatherings is a remarkable progress.

In general, the endline review indicated that the project was effective in improving food security, improving capacities to adapt to environmental and economic shocks, enhancing equal participation and decision-making role of rural women, reducing harmful traditional practices; and increasing engagement of the community in public meetings and uttering their development needs. The project has contribution to sustainable development goals: SDG2 reduction in hunger; SDG5 Gender equality; SDG10 reduction in inequalities; and SGD13 climate action.

Except operation and maintenance of the solar power system, the community and implementing partners have developed the required capacity and skill to effectively implement the project interventions and sustainably manage the results. Moreover, strong and growing institutions like RUSACCOs, Watershed development cooperatives, irrigation users' associations, etc., have been already established for insuring continuity of the project results. And the basic approach which IWRA project has been prompting by using water resources as an entry point is scalable and replicable intervention.

2. Introduction

CARE Ethiopia had been implementing Water for Food Security, Women's Empowerment and Environmental Protection (SWEEP) project from 2019 to 2021 in East and West Belessa woredas in order to address food and water insecurity. SWEEP project had been trying to tackle socio-economic and environmental stressors that are leading to food insecurity in 20 rural kebeles of East and West Belessa woredas. After completion of SWEEP project, CARE Ethiopia conducted an assessment of food and water insecurity of households in East and West Belessa woredas, including social and environmental stressors. The findings indicated that 46% of households reported experiencing a food shortage and no access to drinking water supply service; 56% of the households reported experiencing a food shortage and no access to farmland; and 18% of households reported experiencing climate-induced crop loss and food shortage. Household shock, sex of the household head, disability status of the household head, and income level of the household were identified as the main factors affecting food and water security.[2]

Based on this ground, CARE Ethiopia designed and implemented Improved WASH Systems and Resilience in Amhara (IWRA) Project in 20 SWEEP kebeles and 8 new kebeles of East and West Belessa woredas. The project aims at improving water source systems, strengthening resilience, empowering the marginalized and supporting community development. The ultimate result (impact) of IWRA project is to improve food security and resilience of the households in East and West Belessa woredas. The project has three interrelated outcomes: (i) improved, inclusive and equitable WASH systems through environmental protection and integrated water resources management for domestic consumption and irrigation; (ii) strengthened economic resiliency of marginalized groups through valuing their voices and challenging discriminatory social norms; and (iii) enhanced local government capacity, empowered community and strong private sector actors to maintain sustainable and inclusive community development.

[2] EMORY ROLLINS School of Public Health -The Influence of Social and Environmental Stressors on Food Insecurity in East and West Belessa, Ethiopia.

As the project period ended in February 2024, CARE Ethiopia needs to carry out an endline review following the DAC evaluation criteria to understand how and to what extent the project activities have contributed to the achievement of the intended outcomes and impact, i.e., evaluate effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the project. Temesgen Consultancy Service has carried out the endline review, and delivered this endline review report.

2.1 Objective of the Endline Review

The purpose of the endline review is to evaluate effectiveness, impact and sustainability of IWRA project, and draw lessons learnt for scaling it up or design similar projects. Specific objectives of the evaluation are to:

1) Evaluate effectiveness, impact and sustainability the project according to the DAC evaluation criteria;
2) Draw lessons learnt for scaling it up or designing similar projects; and
3) Increase accountability.

2.2 Scope of the Endline Review

The endline review was conducted in accordance with OECD/DAC evaluation framework. It mainly focused on assessment of the project effectiveness, impact and sustainability. Key evaluation questions that the end-term review has addressed are given bellow.

i) Effectiveness: To what extent has the project achieved its objectives and anticipated results, including any differential results across groups and how?

- Have the intended project objectives been reached? Have the pathways from activities to outputs and outcomes been adequate? (Consistency of logical framework)
- What were the major factors influencing the achievement and non-achievement of objectives?
- To what extent has the project adopted to changing external conditions (risks) in order to ensure benefits to the target beneficiaries?
- How the relationships between partners have helped or hindered the delivery of outcomes?
- What are the lessons learnt?

ii) Impact: To what extent the project has generated significant positive or negative, intended or unintended, higher-level effects?

- What has happened as a result of the project? Has the intervention caused a significant change in the lives of the intended beneficiaries?
- How did the intervention cause higher-level effects (such as changes in norms or systems)?
- Did all the intended target groups, including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, benefit equally from the intervention?
- Is the intervention leading to other changes, including "scalable" or "replicable" results?

iii) Sustainability: To what extent the benefits or results of the project continue or are likely to continue after the project ends (sustainability)?

- To what extent will activities, results and effects be expected to continue after donor intervention has ended? Did the project establish processes and systems that are likely to support the continued impact of the project?
- What were the major factors which influenced the achievement or non-achievement of sustainability of the project? What evidence is there to indicate that the benefits/results of the project will be sustained in the longer term, and if so, how?
- Have project partners been properly capacitated (technically, managerially, etc.) for continuing to deliver the project's benefits/services?
- What could be done to improve sustainability in future projects?

3. Background and Context Analysis

3.1 Problem Context

In Amhara region, respectively 59.4% and 38% of the population has access to improved water supply and sanitations services (Regional Bureau of Health Monitoring Report, 2020). Service coverage in the two target woredas was limited to 62.5% for water supply and 9% for sanitation. Regarding school WASH, only 10% of schools in East Belessa woreda and 24% of schools in West Belessa woreda had access to safe water supply service. Similarly, 26.8% schools in East Belessa woreda and 23% of schools in West Belessa woreda had access to improved sanitation

facilities[3]. The incidence of COVID-19 necessitated to improve the low coverage of water supply and sanitation services. The other problem was poor functionality and management of water supply facilities. Private sector involvement in spare part supply, sanitation marketing as well as water and irrigation facilities maintenance was limited. Water storage reservoirs for livestock and irrigation purposes were poorly managed. A joint assessment by CARE Ethiopia and stakeholders indicated that most of the dams were susceptible to sedimentation and pollution associated to limitations in the design of irrigation and conservation structures[4].

According to the assessment report, the two woredas have been experiencing erratic and uneven rainfall distribution, which led to dry up of 15% of water supply sources. Prolonged dry season and flood during the rainy season are the number one causes of disaster risk in the target woredas. Moreover, productivity of the area has been declining due to decreasing soil fertility associated to continuous cultivation for long years (lack of shifting cultivation because of land scarcity), and expansion of agricultural lands to the steeply slope areas that are exposed to high soil erosion. The existing land tenure policy which grants only use right has also constrained individual users from investing in land resources improvement[5]. Furthermore, harmful customary practices and stereotypes against women hindered effective implementation of the legal rights of women to possess and control land though the existing laws in Ethiopia recognize a woman's right to access and control over resources (including land).

In order to address these problems, CARE Ethiopia in collaboration with the woreda stakeholders had been implementing Water for Food Security, Women's Empowerment and Environmental Protection (SWEEP) project from 2019 to 2021 in East and West Belessa woredas. As a result, soil and water conservation on the agricultural land improved the available soil moisture, reduced soil erosion, improved soil fertility, improved the availability of water within the watershed, and

[3] Amhara Regional State Health Bureau annual report, 2021, as stated in IWRA project proposal document, page 9.
[4] SWEEP project water; inventory and performance assessment of water supply schemes in East and West Belessa of central Gondar in Amhara regional state, 2020.
[5] Article 40 of the 1995 constitution (which concerns property rights) provides that the right to ownership of rural and urban land, as well as of all natural resources, is exclusively vested in the state and in the people of Ethiopia. The constitution also states (Article 51) that the Federal Government shall enact laws for the utilization and conservation of land and other natural resources. Article 52 also states that Regional Governments have the duty to administer land and other natural resources according to federal laws.

thereby improved food security[6]. However, the capacity of the community and government staff to implement and sustain soil and water conservation activities in the agricultural watersheds was limited. In addition, there was a need to improve water management efficiency of irrigation schemes for better crop production. Pests and diseases were also regularly affecting crops and livestock in the two woredas, and decreasing productivity and income of the households. Unemployment, particularly among youth, was high as there were limited off-farm jobs. Furthermore, households in the two woredas had limited access to financial services and agricultural inputs. This might lead them to resort to negative coping mechanisms such as selling of assets or migrating to other areas when a drought and other shocks occurs.

Furthermore, significant gender inequalities persist in Ethiopia depriving women of the rights and opportunities and hampering their participation in development endeavors. Ethiopia ranked 125 out of 162 countries with gender inequality index (GII) value 0.517[7]. Ethiopian women are especially vulnerable to harmful traditional practices (HTPs) such as early marriage, abductions and forced marriages, and female genital mutilation, as well as economic, physical, psychological, and sexual violence. Women tend to be employed more in the informal sector, where remunerations are relatively small. In terms of access to resources and assets, Ethiopian women own property such as housing and land at a lower rate than men. Women in both rural and urban settings exercise more control over small assets while men have more control over larger assets that have more values. Though the government has made efforts to extend credit to women and to encourage their savings, the gains are modest showing that women around the country have limited access to credit and capital and had low savings.

People with disabilities also face numerous barriers and are among the most marginalized in communities in Ethiopia. It is estimated that nearly 7.8 million people in Ethiopia (9.3% of the total population) live with a disability. Although there is a higher risk of disability at older ages, around 30 percent of all disabled people are estimated to be children indicating that child disability should also get attention[8].

[6] Bahir Dar University experimental watershed monitoring report, 2021.
[7] Human Development Report 2020, briefing note for countries on the 2020 Human Development Report, Ethiopia, 2020
[8] UNICEF, Situation and access to services of persons with disabilities in Addis Ababa, 2019

Limited private sector involvement in the WASH sector is another constraint. This applies to some extent to water and sanitation infrastructure, as some of the WASH products are not easily available locally. The national foreign exchange shortage put specific strain on having competitive suppliers, and this resulted in price inflation in spare parts supply. The government is not as such encouraging or facilitating private sector engagement in the sector. The problems in this regard include finance/credit constraints, poor legal support, cumbersome regulatory procedures and poor coordination between the public and private sectors. According to the World Bank's 2020 Doing Business report, Ethiopia ranked 159th out of 190 economies in terms of ease of doing business.

Despite the challenges, there are a multitude of opportunities available to achieve positive change. There exist legal and policy frameworks on climate change, environmental development, WASH, among others, which represent a strong foundation for implementation and government's buy-in. Lessons from SWEEP project are also good opportunities to scale up successful models of change in the subsequent project such as: replication of solar-based technologies, community-led management, accountability processes as well as change in social norms. High-level of commitment of local government and community participation are also good potential to bring lasting changes. IWRA project has, therefore, been designed and implemented to address the problems by making use of existing opportunities.

3.2 The Project (Description)

CARE Ethiopia has implemented Improved WASH Systems and Resilience in Amhara (IWRA) project (Jan, 2022 to December, 2023) in East and West Belessa woredas of Central Gondar Zone in Amhara region (Figure 1). IWRA project area includes all the 20 SWEEP project implementation kebeles plus 8 new kebeles of East and West Belessa woredas. The project has been implemented with the financial support of Austrian Development Agency (ADA) in order to directly benefit 256,459 chronically food-insecure and drought-affected people in East and West Belessa woredas. From the total target beneficiaries, 222,064 are the beneficiaries of improved inclusive and equitable WASH systems, environmental protection, and irrigation management; 33,421 people are the beneficiaries of enhanced economic resilience and valued voice of marginalized groups in household and community affairs, and increased community engagement against discriminatory social norms; and 974 people are the beneficiaries of strengthening capacity

of the local stakeholders for sustainable and inclusive community development, such as increased access to water, reduced flooding and sedimentation, a more gender-equitable environment, and improved management of water resources and the natural environment.

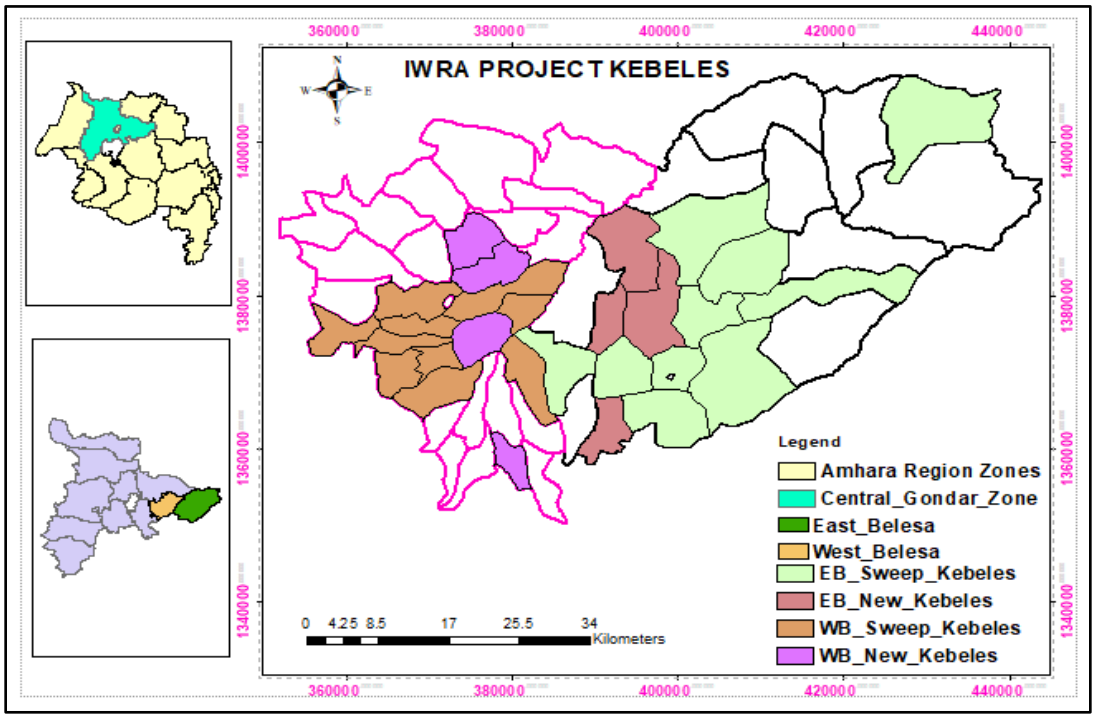

Figure 1: Map of the project area (SWEEP and New Kebeles) in the east and west Belessa woredas

3.3 Key Stakeholders Involved in Project Design and Implementation

Austrian Development Agency (the donor); Care Austria, CARE Ethiopia (project implementer); government sector offices (collaborators); and target community (beneficiaries) are the key stakeholders involved during project design and implementation. In order to realize harmonization of the project with other stakeholders in the region, IWRA has been working with project steering committees (at region, zone and woreda levels). Members of the project steering committee include Offices of Finance and Economic Cooperation; Women, Children and Social Affairs; Water & Energy, Low Land & Irrigation, Disaster Prevention and Food Security Commission; Agriculture; Labor and Skill Development Agency; Administration (zone and woreda); Cooperatives Promotion Agency; Health; and Education. In addition, local government associates at kebele and community level involved in project design and implementation.

3.4 The Project Theory of Change

The project used resources to accomplish activities such as: i) capacitating the community and government sectors to continue to manage water supply and irrigation schemes; ii) support the community to strengthen their resilience to shock; iii) capacitate marginalized groups to continue engaged in income generating activities; iv) challenge the existing discriminatory social norms and expand the role of women and girls; v) capacitate local government to engage with the community and address needs; vi) enhance stakeholders joint learning; and vii) strengthen private sector actors with business in the water, sanitation and environment sectors.

Accomplishment of the activities was meant to lead to outputs such as: i) improved access to water for domestic consumption and productive use; ii) improved protection of the environment and responses to environmental shocks; iii) improved capacity of marginalized groups to engage in income generating activities; vi) enhanced ability of powerholders and marginalized groups to challenge discriminatory social norms and promote the role of women and girls; v) increased engagement of local government with communities to address their needs; and vi) increased involvement of the private sector in water, sanitation, the environment sector.

And the outputs were meant to contribute to the following outcomes: i) improved inclusive and equitable WASH systems, environmental protection and irrigation management; ii) enhanced economic resilience and valued voices of marginalized groups in household and community affairs, plus increased community engagement against discriminatory social norms; and iii) strengthened capacity of the local stakeholders (government, private sector and the community organizations) to maintain sustainable and inclusive community development. Ultimately, these outcomes would lead to the sustainable development goals such as: reduction in hunger, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, reduced inequalities and climate action.

3.5 Project Implementation

CARE Ethiopia is directly implementing the project in the intervention woredas. CARE implemented the project activities in collaboration with government stakeholders at region, zone, woreda and kebele levels. Kebele-level government actors like kebele chairpersons, kebele managers, HEWs, DAs, schools and healthcare facilities actively involved in project

implementation. At woreda level, offices of the woreda administration, women, children and social affairs, finance and economy, cooperatives, water and energy, low land and irrigation, agriculture, health, and education are government stakeholders with whom CARE has been implementing the project. Zone government sectors/ departments have also a role in providing support to woreda sector offices who work with the IWRA project. At the region level, CARE Ethiopia has been working with signatories including Finance Bureau, Water and Energy Bureau, Women, Children and Social Affairs, Agriculture, and Cooperatives Office. The regional bureaus provide high-level management and technical support and guidance.

CARE has regional coordination office (North Program Office in Bahir Dar) which is well staffed with head of operations, project manager, water resource advisor, gender specialist, M&E specialist, finance officer, procurement officer, drivers and other operations/administration staffs who work closely with the project officers at the woreda level. The staffs at the North Program Office provided technical, managerial, and operational support and guidance. The technical teams from the North program office traveled to project sites and provided technical and managerial supports to CARE project satellite offices in both woredas. Each satellite office had one project officer who facilitated project implementation and coordination with the government stakeholders. CARE had also assigned female fresh graduate interns (on average 5-8 interns per woreda/year) who supported the project officers in implementation of the activities like watersheds, SAA and VSLA.

CARE staffs from the Food and Water System (FWS) unit/program at the Head office based in Addis Ababa also provided high-level technical and managerial supports to regional and field office staffs. The FWS unit coordinator; FWS senior program manager; Gender manager; senior Learning, Design and Measurement (LDM) advisor, Water resources advisor; NRM and Climate adaptation manager; Award and sub-award manager and specialist and others provided technical support and guidance. They have roles and responsibilities in ensuring the implementation of the project successfully as planned in effective and efficient ways. The project provided on-job training to build the technical and managerial capacities of government experts at woreda and zone levels. Capacity building training has been provided to the government partner staff based on partner capacity assessment conducted to identify gaps and needs.

To ensure accountability, transparency and governance issues, CARE has established project steering committees (PSC) at region, zone and woreda levels. The PSCs are chaired by government officials at all levels and have advisory roles. The PSC conducted review meetings regularly (bi-annual by the regional PSC, quarterly by the Zone PSC and monthly by the woreda PSC) and joint field monitoring visits. In the review meeting, they evaluated the planned vs accomplished activities and budget utilization; and in joint field visit, they visit the project activities at site level and discuss with communities/beneficiaries. The donor (ADA) has a representative at the regional level PSC.

The project implementation employed different approaches that are adopted from CARE's previous experiences or compiled from evidences of other organization/institutions. Social Analysis and Action (SAA), Community Score Card (CSC), Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs), and inclusive hygiene and sanitation were the key approaches employed during the project implementation. VSLAs have contributed to transformative shifts in existing norms, empowering women in leadership positions and promoting meaningful participation in household decisions. They have increased social relationships, and a shared sense of responsibility during emergencies. VSLAs can serve as a powerful catalyst for positive transformations, enriching the lives of their members in diverse ways.

4. Evaluation Design and Approach

4.1 Methodological Approach

The endline review employed a mixed-methods approach using non-experimental design to obtain reliable findings to the evaluation questions. The approach helps to triangulate quantitative and qualitative responses, and adequately answer the endline review questions. As far as baseline values are available for the indicators, comparison was made between baseline values and endline values to objectively assess the extent of changes. At the beginning, the consultant team conducted document review to understand the project theory of change; identify indicators; select appropriate sources and methods of data collection for each indicator; and develop appropriate tools for quantitative and qualitative data collection. Accordingly, the following documents have been reviewed during start up and on the process of the evaluation.

- IWRA project endline review terms of reference and IWRA project proposal document.
- Logical framework of the IWRA project and MEAL Matrix.
- IWRA project baseline survey report and IWRA project water inventory.
- SWEEP project evaluation report and water inventory.
- ADA evaluation guideline.
- An in-depth gender analysis through IWRA project.
- Social Analysis and Action guide booklet.
- WHO/UNICEF joint monitoring report 2021.
- A study on the influence of social and environmental stressors on food security in East and West Belessa woredas (by EMORY ROLLINS School of Public Health); and
- A study on the Impacts of Village Saving and Loan Association on Women's Economic Empowerment in Belessa Woreda. Unpublished M.Sc. thesis (2023) by Worku Shumye Berihun, Bahir Dar University, Department of Economics.

Based on a clear understanding gained through documents review, the endline review has been carried out following three successive stages: (i) Evaluation framework development; (ii) Inception report development; and (iii) Data collection, analysis and write-up, as illustrated in Figure 2.

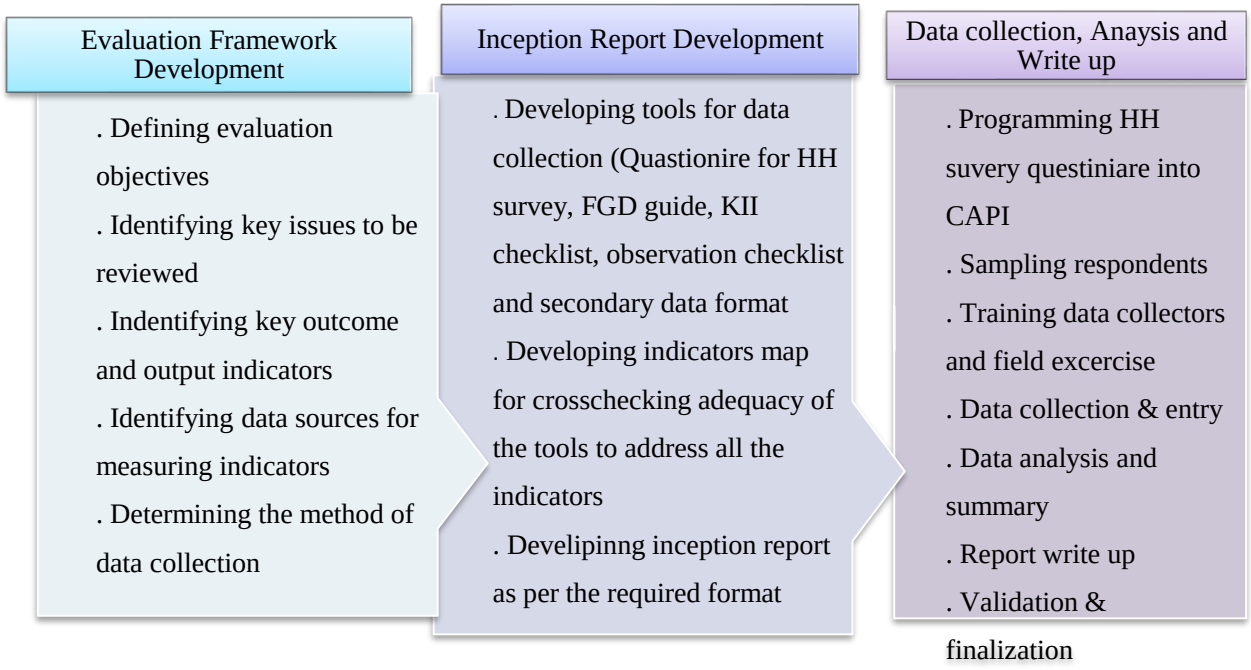

Figure 2: Stages of the endline review

4.1.1 Evaluation framework development

The evaluation framework includes results of the project intervention, key outcome and output indicators, baseline and endline values of the indicators, data sources for measuring the indicators and the method of data collection, including references to the tools which address each of the indicators. Definition of the indicators and disaggregation for calculation of indicators followed the definition and disaggregation given in the MEAL matrix (disaggregated by sex, disability status, new/SWEEP kebeles and east/west Belessa woredas). Table 1 shows the evaluation framework, including references to the data collection tools (Annex A: household survey; Annex B: focus group discussion guide; Annex C: key informants interview checklist; Annex D: observation checklist; and Annex E: Secondary data collection format) which are used for addressing the indicators.

4.1.2 Inception report development

The inception report prepared to show the objectives of the endline review, the methodology proposed to carry out the endline review, the timeframe for conducting the endline review, and team members (professionals, statistician, supervisors & enumerators) organized to carry out the endline review. The inception report served as a road map which the consultants followed, and the client monitored. After approval of the inception report, the endline review proceeds through training the field team on how to collect data; and carrying out data collection, data analysis and report writing.

4.2 Data Collection, Analysis and Write-up

4.2.1 Development of CAPI for quantitative data collection

TCS's statistician designed the beneficiary household survey questionnaires into Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) by using Kobo Toolbox. Kobo Toolbox is selected for its advantage of online data submission when internet connection is available and storing it when connection is not available. CAPI fixes all skip rules, and never passes to the next question unless the data collector completes the previous question. Moreover, the CAPI checks sub-totals, and advises the data collector to cross-check summations, in case individual values and their sums do not match.

Table 1: Evaluation framework, including references to the data collection tools that address each indicator (indicator map)

Results	Key indicators	Baseline value	Endline Value
Outcome 1: Improved inclusive and equitable WASH systems, environmental protection and irrigation management	% increase in the households in targeted Kebeles reporting ensured food security for a period of 8 months or more per year	62%	73.5%
	% of the households in targeted kebeles reporting an increased capacity to adapt to environmental shocks	72.9%	78%
	% of the households in targeted kebeles reporting an increased capacity to adapt to economic shocks	72.9%	83%
Outcome 2: Enhanced economic resilience and valued voices of marginalized groups in household and community affairs, and increased community engagement against discriminatory social norms	% of households reported gender-based violence (physical violence and sexual harassment) in the household	17.7%	16.7%
	% of households reported HTPs such as child marriage and female genital mutilation in household	68.4%	3.1%
	% of rural women who are able to equally participate in major income and expenditure decisions in the household	54.1%	76%
Outcome 3: Strengthened capacity of the local stakeholders (government, private sector and the community organizations) to maintain sustainable and inclusive community development	# and % of women entrepreneurs contributing to green economy	0	19 (26%)
	# and % of beneficiaries who have meaningfully participated in formal (government-led) and informal (civil-society-led, private sector-led) decision-making spaces	55.8%	85.9%

Results	Key indicators	Baseline value	Endline Value
Output 1.1 Improved access to and sustainable management of sanitation and water resources for domestic consumption and productive use	% of the households in the target woreda who use safe water supply	55%	55%
	% of the households in the target kebeles who use safe water supply	61%	78%
	% of households in target kebeles using safely managed sanitation services	14%	7.8%
	% change in time women in target kebeles spend per day on household chores ((i.e. cooking, fetching water, washing, cleaning, collecting firewood)	8-10 hrs 14% >10 hours 37.8%	7% 22%
Output 1.2: Improved protection of the environment and response to environmental shocks	# of community adaptation plans implemented in the targeted kebeles that contribute to the Disaster Risk Management strategy of Central Gondar Zone	0	16
Output 2.1: Increased capacity of marginalized groups to engage in IGAs	% of households in the targeted kebeles who reported increase in income in real terms Increase in income from the baseline (Birr)	- 15,570.00	26.3% 20,170.65
Output 2.2: Enhanced ability of powerholders and marginalized groups to challenge existing discriminatory social norms and expand the role of women and girls	% change in improved attitude/perception of the community in the targeted kebeles towards women's ability to hold and play a leadership role	68.4%	70.9%
	Extent of use of social accountability mechanisms by communities in order to monitor and engage in ending violence against women and girls	67.5%	74.3%

Results	Key indicators	Baseline value	Endline Value
Output 3.1: Increased engagement of local government with the community to address needs	% of the beneficiaries in the target kebeles who report that government (woreda) took their requests into consideration for provision of various services	52.7%	96.8%
	% of the beneficiaries in targeted kebeles whose level of satisfaction for government service provision improved	39.6%	71.1%
Output 3.2: Increased involvement of the private sector in water, sanitation and the environment sector together with increased engagement of local government and communities with the private sector	# and % of private sector actors engaged in water, sanitation and environmental sector in targeted kebeles which are effectively functioning	0	8 (33%)
	# and % change in monthly earning of private sector actors involved in water, sanitation and environmental sector	0	Birr 2431.00/ month/head

4.2.2 Sampling

Two-stage cluster sampling technique was employed to select respondents. In the first stage, kebeles were purposively selected by using clear selection criteria (security and accessibility). Then 8 kebeles (4 SWEEP and 4 new kebeles) were selected for data collection. During the second stage, representative sample households were drawn disaggregating the sample frame by sex and age of the household head, disability status of the household head, type of the intervention kebele (SWEEP/new kebele), and woreda (East/West Belessa). The number of households for the survey is determined through employing a formula to calculate sample size from a cluster of population. Sample size calculation considered 5% acceptable error (e=0.05); 50% reasonable estimate for the key proportion to be studied, i.e., proportion of households with strengthened resilience to shocks (p=0.5); and 95% confidence level. P=50% is considered for it yields the highest sample size under the given level of error. The higher is the sample size, and the more is precision of estimated results. The formula to calculate sample size from a cluster of population is given, as indicated in the equations below.

$$n_0 = \frac{\left(Z_{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\right)^2 * p(1-p)}{\varepsilon^2}$$

$$n = \frac{n_0}{1 + (n_0 - 1)/N}$$

Where: n_o is unadjusted sample size (number of sample households before adjustment);

$Z_{\frac{\alpha}{2}}$ is the value of Z at 95% confidence (1.96);

P is the proportion of households with strengthened resilience to shocks (p=50%);

Ɛ is acceptable error (Ɛ=0.05);

n is adjusted sample size (total number of households selected for the survey); and

N is the total number of target households of IWRA project (N= 244,117/5.5=44,385).

By substituting the variables in the above equation, non-adjusted sample size (n_0) is estimated to be **384** households. When n_o is adjusted to the total number of households in the target area (N= 44,385) the number of households to be selected for the survey (n) became 381 households. In order to compensate for non-response and missing households during the survey, 5% of n, (381*5%=19) was added. Hence, the total sample households surveyed was determined to be

381+19 = 400, and actually in the survey, data was collected from 422 households by taking 10% of n for non-response and missing values. Then these samples were distributed to each category of households based on probabilities proportional to the size of target households in each category (sex; disability status; SWEEP kebele/new kebele; and East/West Belessa woredas). Random selection of the sample households was done systematically from the list of households in each category.

4.2.3 Data Collection

The consultant was abided by CARE security policy and guideline, and received security clearance from CARE Ethiopia before traveling to the project area. Data collection was carried out by deploying a consultant team which comprises 4 consultants (Monitoring and evaluation specialist (lead consultant), WASH specialist, Natural resources management specialist, and Gender specialist together with a statistician, 2 supervisors and 15 enumerators (two women & 13 men). The consultants and data collectors are very experienced and familiar with the project content as well as language and customs of the community in the target area. The consultants trained enumerators and supervisors on the survey methodology, data collection techniques, the content of each question in the questionnaire and application of the data collection software for data entry. During the training, the questionnaire was filtered with appropriate phrases and statements which both the interviewers and respondents can easily understand.

Following two-day classroom training, a one-day field exercise and testing of the survey tools were accomplished by using the hard copy of the questionnaire. This helped the supervisors and enumerators to further build their understanding on the questionnaire and data collection methodology. Based on the field exercise and testing results, the tools for data collection were further revised/ refined. Limitations on the survey tool like skips identified during the field exercise were corrected before the actual data collection was started. Testing the questionnaire during the field exercise rather than doing it before the training helped to make it more participatory by involving consultants, supervisors, and enumerators.

Next, data collection proceeded by using a hard copy of the questionnaire. A hard copy of the questionnaire was used for field-level data collection because moving to the sample kebeles

holding a smartphone was risky due the security situation. Data collectors make data entry to the CAPI after they finished the field work and retuned back to office.

Qualitative data helps to enrich the data/information requirements of the endline review, which is difficult or impossible to generate with a household survey. Hence, the consultants conducted qualitative data collection (FGDs, KIIs, Physical observation and Secondary data collection) side-by-side with quantitative data collection. Participatory Rapid Assessment (PRA) was used to solicit qualitative data in the study area. This is because it enables to consider participants' knowledge, skill and understanding about the situations under study. The following PRA tools were applied during qualitative data collection.

Focus group discussions: A total of 18 focus group discussion/FGDs/ which participated 28 females and 60 males were conducted. FGD participants were members from: i) Social Analysis and Action (SAA) Groups; 2) VSLA and IGA beneficiaries; 3) Women and girls in the community; 4) Youth groups in the community; 5) Watershed management committee; 6) Irrigation committee; 7) Water, sanitation and hygiene committee (WASHCO); 8) School WASH club; and 9) Project steering committees. Figure 3 shows focus group discussions with different segments of the community.

Figure 3: Focus group discussion with different segments of the community

Key Informant Interviews: Qualitative in-depth interviews were carried out with a wide range of stakeholders (key informants) who have first-hand knowledge about the intervention. The consultants carried out KIIs with 10 (all are male) staff from the woreda offices of: Water and energy; Agriculture; Labor and skill; and Women, children and social affairs in East and West Belessa woredas. Moreover, KIIs were held with 2 development agents (all male), 2 health

extension workers (all female), and 2 kebele managers (all male) who are working in the sample kebeles. Key informant interview was also conducted with Care Ethiopia project staffs at Arbaya and Guahala towns for verifying responses from various stakeholders. Figure 4 shows key informant interviews with stakeholders.

Figure 4: Key informants' interview with stakeholders

The data collection was carried out in adherence to the basic ethical principles of Austrian Development Agency and other actors. The survey was done by first informing the participants about the purpose and process and requesting their consent.

4.2.4 Data quality assurance

The consultant team monitored and supervised data collection to ensure adherence to: (i) the agreed upon sampling procedure; (ii) the number of respondents required to be interviewed from each category; (iii) proper interviewing procedures including obtaining informed consent from all respondents prior to the beginning of the interviews; (iv) the agreed schedule for completing interviews; and (v) carrying out interviews in culturally sensitive and responsible way. While enumerators administer the interviews; the supervisors follow up them and check quality and completeness of the data collected on spot. Moreover, the consultants discussed with enumerators and the supervisors every day at close of business (in the evening) to make sure that the enumerators and supervisors are doing well and make on spot corrective measures for any flaw. Every evening, during the first few days of data collection, the supervisors and consultants re-checked quality and completeness of at least 15% of the filled questionnaires. And feedback was given to the enumerators every morning before they start the next day data collection. The statistician also monitored data entry by checking data entered every day.

4.2.5 Data analysis

Quantitative data collected was analyzed applying descriptive statistics such as percentage, frequency, mean, minimum, maximum. After the data collection and entry was completed, electronic data was exported to SPSS version, and data cleaning was done through running frequencies, checking skips, clarifying variables like "other", etc. Cleaned data was shared to CARE Ethiopia for validation. After CARE Ethiopia's approval on the data quality, the statistician worked on data analysis based on the data analysis and presentation tables developed by the consultants. Data analysis was done based on age and sex of the respondent/household head, disability status of the household head, SWEEP/new kebeles and East/West Belessa woredas. Qualitative data was analyzed content-by-content to further elaborate the findings of the quantitative data analysis.

4.3 Limitations, Risks and Mitigations Measures

Security problem was the main constraint which forced the consultant team to select relatively secured sample kebeles purposively. This limited the chance of observing the project accomplishments in those kebeles where there is problem of security. Moreover, the uncertain security situation forced the team to carry out quantitative data collection in paper rather electronic data collection. Because using smartphones for electronic data collection has high risk of being looted. This has some limitation on the speed and quality of data collection. In order to mitigate the problem, kebeles with relatively better security situation and which have similar interventions to the unsecured kebeles were purposively selected. And data collection and digitization were carried out in two rounds using a hard copy at field level, and filling CAPI in the office. In order reduce errors that might occur during data entry, field-level data collectors themselves carried out the data entry.

5. Findings

5.1 Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents

A total of 422 households (213 households in East Belessa and 209 in West Belessa woredas) were interviewed for the household survey. The households surveyed were selected from four SWEEP project kebeles and four new kebeles (2 per woreda). Basic socio-economic information about the

surveyed households (age, sex, number of family members, marital status, and educational level) are presented below.

Age of the household heads and respondents: The age of the respondents ranges from 18 to 72 years with an average of 36.6 years, indicating that the majority of the respondents are nearly relatively young. The age of the household heads ranges from 20 to 80 years with an average of 41.6 years, indicating that the majority of the household heads are relatively middle adult. The average age of male and female respondents are 42.55 years and 35.16 years respectively. From the total population in the sample households, 12% is within age range of 0-4 years old; 30% is between 5-14 years; 29% is between 15-29 years; 20% is between 30-45 years; 7% is between 46-65 years; and 1% above 65 years old.

Sex: **S**ex of the respondents showed that 80 % are female and 20% are male. Among the respondents in East Belessa woreda, 77.5% are female and 22.5% are male. Similarly, 82.8% and 17.2% of the respondents in West Belessa woreda are female and male respectively. Considering sex of the household heads, female-headed households account for 24% of the households surveyed and male-headed households account for 76% of the households. Table 2 shows detailed information regarding age and sex of the respondents as well as the household heads.

Table 2: Age-sex distribution of the respondent's surveyed and the household heads

Woreda	Sex	14-29		30-45		46-65		>65		Total	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Table 2a: Age and sex distribution of the survey respondents											
East Belessa	Male	6	3	24	11	17	8	1	0.5	48	23
	Female	64	30	84	39	17	8	0	0	165	77
	Total	70	33	108	51	34	16	1	0.5	213	100
West Belessa	Male	3	1	21	10	11	5	1	0	36	17
	Female	47	22	97	46	26	13	3	1	173	83
	Total	50	24	118	56	37	18	4	2	209	100
Overall	Male	9	2	45	11	28	70	2	0	84	20
	Female	111	26	181	43	43	10	3	1	338	80
	Total	120	28	226	54	71	17	5	1	422	100

Table 2ba: Age and sex distribution of the household heads											
East Belessa	Male	18	8	97	46	39	18	8	4	162	76
	Female	13	6	27	13	11	5	0	0	51	24
	Total	31	15	124	58	50	23	8	4	213	100
West Belessa	Male	11	5	89	43	51	24	70	3	158	76
	Female	8	4	29	14	12	6	2	1	51	24
	Total	19	9	118	56	63	30	9	4	209	100
Overall	Male	29	7	186	44	90	21	15	4	320	76
	Female	21	5	56	13	23	5	2	0	102	24
	Total	50	12	242	57	113	27	17	4	422	100

Source: Household survey conducted in February 2024

Household size: Household size determines the available labor for income generation or the pressure on food consumption needs of the household. The average household size was 5.3 for both woredas with the range from 1 to 13. Majority of the households have 3 to 8 family members. Family members by age of the household head showed that, on average, household heads with the age range of 15-29 years have 3.3 person; household heads with the age range of 30-45 years have 5.6 person; household heads with the age of 46-65 have 6.3 person; and household heads with the age >65 years have 4.5 person.

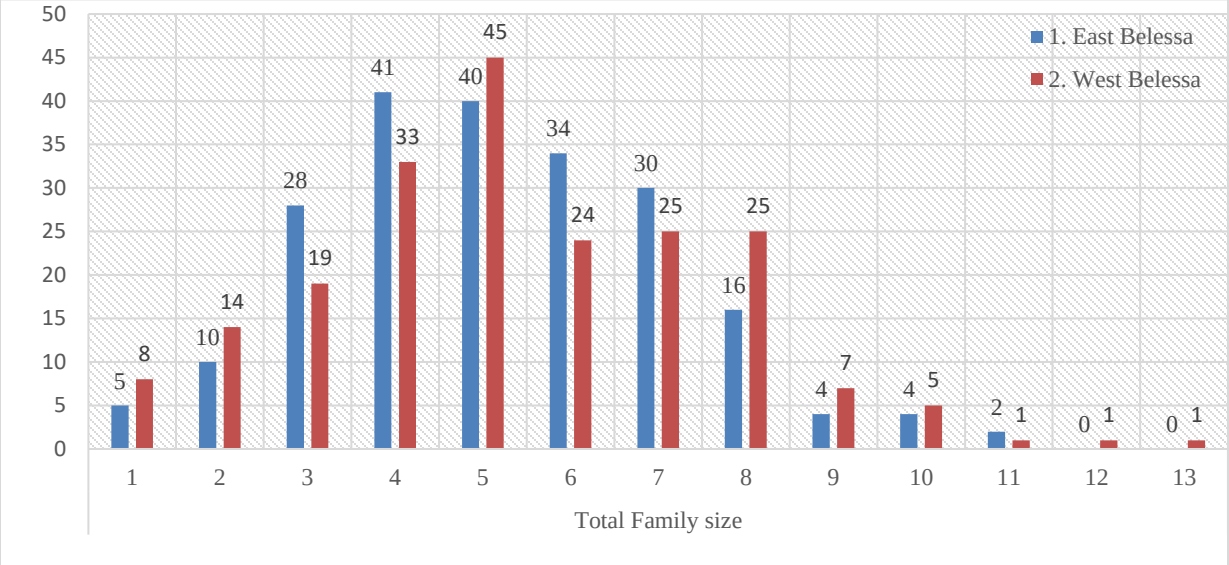

Figure 5: Percent of the households in East and Wesst Belessa woredas with different family size

Female-headed households have small family size as compared to male-headed households. Female-head households have on average 3.8 person, while male-headed households have 5.8 person. Family size in households whose head is a person with a disability[9] status is 4.5 person while it is 5.3 person in households whose head is a person without a disability. From a total of 422 household heads surveyed, 25 household heads (6%) were living with various disabilities.

Marital status: Majority (74.9%) of the sample household heads were married, 17.5% were divorced, 5.9% were widowed/widower and 1.7% were single. Marital status of households whose head is a person with a disability indicated 64% were married, 24% divorced and 12% single. Among the households whose head is a person without a disability, 75.6% were married, 17.1% divorced, 6.3% widowed/widower and 1% single. Age has a significant matter on marital status. The higher the age is the higher the percentage of marriage. From the sample respondents who were married, 88.2% are > 65 years, 78.8% are between the age of 46 and 65 years, 75.6% are between the age of 30 and 45 years, and 58% are between the age of 14 and 29 years.

Educational status of HH: Education is an important element of human development. It enables easy skill and knowledge transfer and technology adoption. However, close to half of heads of the households in the study area (45.3%) were illiterate and 8.8% attended only informal school like religious schools. Heads of the households who attended formal schools account 45.9%. Among them, 18.7% completed grade 1-6, 9.2% completed grade 7-8, 13.7% completed grade 9-12, and 4.3% graduated from university/college. Illiteracy is very high in households whose head is a person with a disability. The household survey indicated that 68% of the households whose head is a person with a disability and 44% of the households whose head is a person without a disability are illiterate. Table 4, shows educational level of heads of the households in East/West Belessa woredas as well as SWEEP/new kebeles, disaggregated by age, sex and disability status.

[9] Individuals are defined as living with disability if, as a result of physical or mental injuries, they cannot fully perform activities that other healthy persons can.

Table 3: Marital status of the household heads disaggregated by sex, age, disability, kebele & woreda

		Marital status of the household head:									
		Single		Married		Divorced		Widowed/ Widower		Total	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sex of the HH head	MHH	1	.3	316	98.8	2	0.6	1	0.3	320	100.0
	FHH	6	5.9	0	0.0	72	70.6	24	23.5	102	100.0
Age of HH head	14 - 29	3	6.0	29	58.0	15	30.0	3	6.0	50	100.0
	30 - 45	1	.4	183	75.6	47	19.4	11	4.5	242	100.0
	46 - 65	2	1.8	89	78.8	11	9.7	11	9.7	113	100.0
	> 65	1	5.9	15	88.2	1	5.9	0	0.0	17	100.0
Disability status	With disability	3	12.0	16	64.0	6	24.0	0	0.0	25	100.0
	Without disability	4	1.0	300	75.6	68	17.1	25	6.3	397	100.0
Intervention kebele	1. SWEEP	3	1.1	190	72.5	52	19.8	17	6.5	262	100.0
	2. New kebeles	4	2.5	126	78.8	22	13.8	8	5.0	160	100.0
	Total	7	1.7	316	74.9	74	17.5	25	5.9	422	100.0
Woreda	East Belessa	1	.5	161	75.6	39	18.3	12	5.6	213	100.0
	West Belessa	6	2.9	155	74.2	35	16.7	13	6.2	209	100.0
	Total	7	1.7	316	74.9	74	17.5	25	5.9	422	100.0

Source: Household survey conducted in February 2024

5.2 Effectiveness of the Project

To what extent has the project achieved its objectives and anticipated results, including any differential results across groups and how?

This section presents assessments regarding achievements related to the three outcomes of the project, i.e., i) improved, inclusive and equitable wash systems; ii) enhanced economic resilience and valued voices of marginalized groups in household and community affairs, including increased community engagement against discriminatory social norms; and iii) strengthened capacity of the local stakeholders (government, private sector and the community organizations) to maintain sustainable and inclusive community development.

Table 4: Educational level of the household heads disaggregated by sex, age, disability, kebele & woreda

		Educational level of the household head											
		Illiterate		Informal school		Grade 1-6		Grade 7-8		Grade 9-12		College/University graduate	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sex of the HH head	MHH	127	40	36	11	66	21	31	10	48	15	12	4
	FHH	64	63	1	1	13	13	8	8	10	10	6	6
Age of HH head	14 - 29	8	16	3	6	9	18	4	8	20	40	6	12
	30 - 45	94	39	15	6	57	24	28	12	37	15	11	5
	46 - 65	77	68.1	16	14.2	12	10.6	7	6.2	0	0.0	1	0.9
	> 65	12	70.6	3	17.6	1	5.9	0	0.0	1	5.9	0	0.0
Disability status of HH head	With	17	68.0	2	8.0	2	8.0	3	12	1	4.0	0	0.0
	Without disability	174	43.8	35	8.8	77	19	36	9	57	14	18	5
Intervention kebele	SWEEP	133	50.8	28	10.7	43	16.4	22	8.4	27	10.3	9	3.4
	New	58	36.3	9	5.6	36	22.5	17	10.6	31	19.4	9	5.6
	Total	191	45.3	37	8.8	79	18.7	39	9.2	58	13.7	18	4.3
Woreda	E/Belessa	81	38.0	13	6.1	45	21.1	28	13.1	34	16.0	12	5.6
	W/Belessa	110	52.6	24	11.5	34	16.3	11	5.3	24	11.5	6	2.9
	Total	191	45.3	37	8.8	79	18.7	39	9.2	58	13.7	18	4.3

Source: Household survey conducted in February 2024

The project started with capacity building of the community and government offices first and then provided material and technical supports for implementing the project activities. For example, the project implemented rehabilitation of hand dug wells and springs, expansion of the existing solar energy system, facilitating water quality taste, and construction of inclusive ventilated improved pit latrines in schools, after building capacity of the community and government stakeholders. This leads to improvement in access to and sustainable management of water resources for domestic consumption and irrigation. In addition, watersheds for implementing adaptation plans delineated, adaptation plans such as soil and water conservation measures prepared and implemented. This helped protect the environment and respond to environmental shocks. Based on the endline survey data, the cumulative effect leads to improved, inclusive and equitable WASH systems,

environmental protection and irrigation management. This shows that the pathways from activities to outputs and outcomes (results framework indicated in Figure 6) have been adequate.

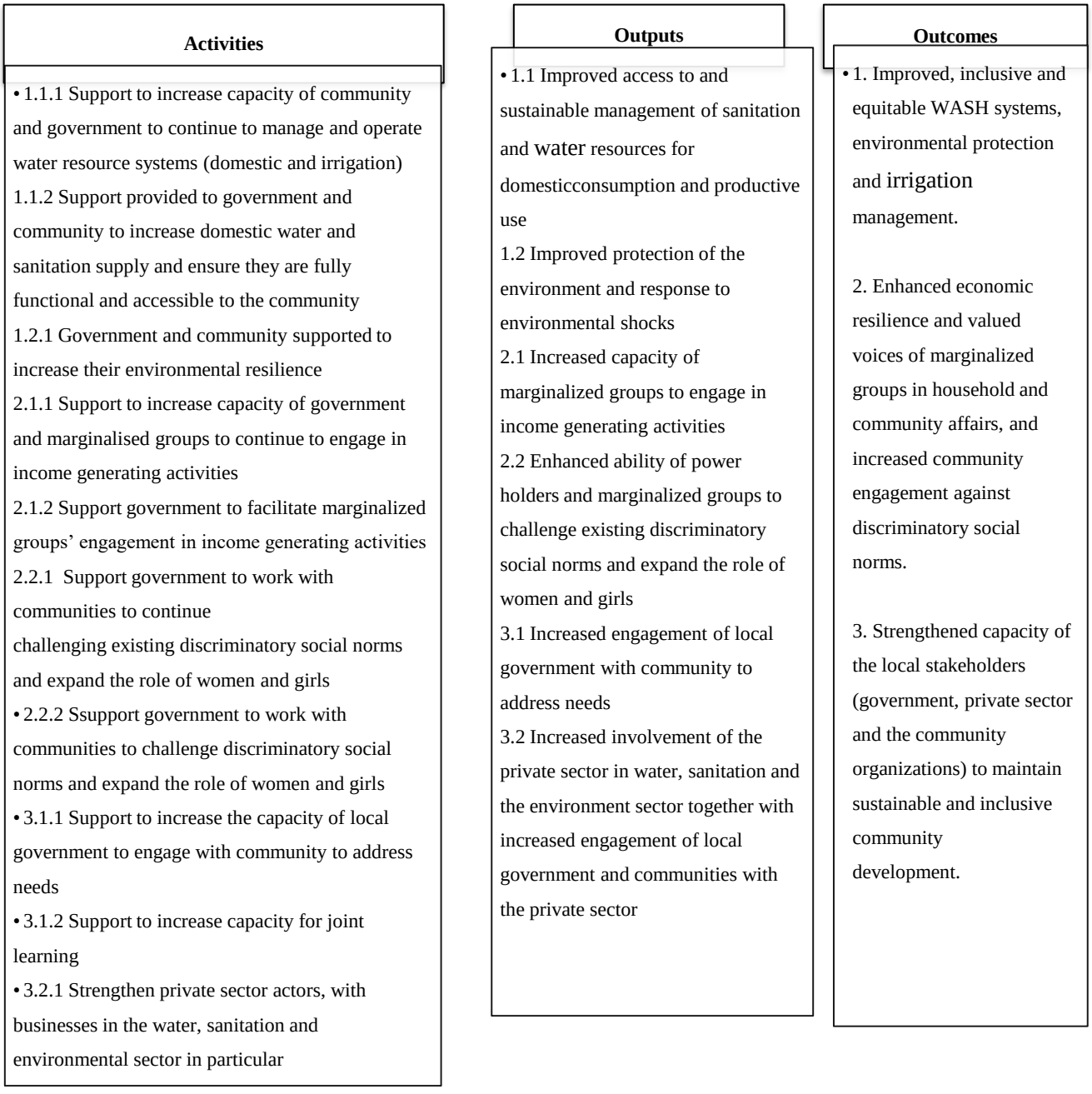

Figure 6: The pathway for IWRA project (Results framework)

In order to measures effectiveness, the endline review compares output and outcome indicators with baseline values of the indictors. For maintaining consistency of the logical framework, output indicators are measured first, and then outcome indicators followed.

Output 1.1: Improved access to and sustainable management of sanitation and water resources for domestic consumption and productive use

Safe water supply and use, safely managed sanitation services, and the time women spend per day on household chores are the key output indicators. These outputs were measured considering water inventory (census) conducted at the end of SWEEP project and IWRA project, IWRA project baseline and endline survey data, and an in-depth gender analysis conducted during IWRA project.

Safe Water Supply and Use

Coverage of safe water supply and use at woreda level was measured based on water inventory data collected at the end of SWEEP project (55%) which serves as a baseline for IWRA project, and a similar inventory data collected at the end of IWRA project (55%) which serves as an endline value for IWRA project. The woreda level contribution is sustaining the coverage through compensating for non-functional schemes outside the IWRA project intervention kebeles and maintaining the coverage for the growing population. Result of the endline review indicated water supply coverage in the target kebeles had increased from 61% during the baseline to 78% at the endline. The average time taken to fetch water per round trip including queuing was 27 minutes. Table 5 gives more information about water supply coverage in the target kebeles disaggregated by age, sex and disability status of the household head, SWEEP/New kebeles and East/West Belessa woredas.

Based on data collected from primary and secondary sources, IWRA project has increased access to water supply for 96,823 people (50% female) through working extensions on 4 water supply systems operating with solar power; rehabilitating 142 HDW/ SSD; supporting government and the community to upgrade 3 water systems operating with solar power and rehabilitating 58 HDW/SSD/SDW. In addition, the project has provided the woredas 4 drum water treatment chemicals. As a result, 107,000 people (28%) who accessed water from 1040 water supply schemes treat water with chlorine, and 257 households purchased water filtration kits.

Figure 7: water supply service

Table 5: Percent of the households in the target kebeles with access to safe water supply services

Description		Yes		No	
		#	%	#	%
Sex of the HH head	MHH	249	77.8	71	22.2
	FHH	81	79.4	21	20.6
Age of the HH head	14 - 29	38	76.0	12	24.0
	30 - 45	195	80.6	47	19.4
	46 - 65	82	72.6	31	27.4
	> 65	15	88.2	2	11.8
Disability status of the HH head	With disability	5	20.0	20	80.0
	Without disability	87	21.9	310	78.1
Intervention kebele	SWEEP	176	82.6	49	18.7
	New kebeles	154	73.7	43	26.9
Woreda	E/Belessa	176	82.6	37	17.4
	W/Belessa	154	73.7	55	26.3
	Overall	330	78.2[10]	92	21.8

Source: Household survey conducted in February 2024

In order to sustain the water system, the project provided training for 24 (2 of them females) woreda water office experts on establishment of water user association; supported establishment of 74 water user associations from 285 water schemes; and trained leaders of the associations on scheme management. It has also supported promoting schemes management systems for 5 schemes operating with solar power from WASHCO-based management to utility-based management system. The project has also trained 12 woreda water quality experts on basic skills of water safety planning and management. It has also tried to establish and support youth groups (private sectors) engaged in spare parts supply.

Respondents were also asked about their in-house water handling practice, and 93% of the respondents in E/Belessa woreda and 91.9% of the respondents in W/Belessa woreda reported practicing pouring into a cane from the container (not inserting a cane into a container). This shows

[10] This overall figure is for intervention kebeles, not for woreda level coverage

a good practice of respondents to reduce in-house water contamination. Majority of the households (77.5%) believe that the water is safe for drinking, and 77.3% have good awareness on significance of treating water before use. Table 6 gives more information about in-house water handling practice of the households disaggregated by age, sex and disability status of the household head, SWEEP/New kebeles and East/West Belessa woredas.

Table 6: % of HHs who reported on in-house water handling practices & significance of treating water

Description		Take out water from container via pouring		Believe the water is safe for drinking		Believe significance of treating water before use	
		Yes		No		Yes	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
Sex of the HH head	MHH	295	92.2	251	78.4	250	78.1
	FHH	95	93.1	76	74.5	76	74.5
Age of the HH head	14 - 29	47	94.0	35	70.0	42	84.0
	30 - 45	219	90.5	193	79.8	184	76.0
	46 - 65	107	94.7	87	77.0	87	77.0
	> 65	17	100.0	12	70.6	13	76.5
Disability status of the HH head	With	24	96.0	20	80.0	22	88.0
	Without	366	92.2	307	77.3	304	76.6
Intervention kebele	SWEEP	242	92.4	221	84.4	194	74.0
	New kebeles	148	92.5	106	66.3	132	82.5
Woreda	E/Belessa	198	93.0	164	77.0	170	79.8
	W/Belessa	192	91.9	163	78.0	156	74.6
	Overall	**390**	**92.4**	**327**	**77.5**	**326**	**77.3**

Source: Household survey conducted in February 2024

According to the project completion report in February 2024, FGDs and KIIs; water tariff set and properly collected from the users. To date, Birr 242,060.00 is collected by water users' associations. Bylaws are developed and operational. Regular meetings are done at scheme level. Moreover, the water supply schemes recruited managers and saved up to Birr 350,000.00 per scheme. Meanwhile, the water tariff is a flat rate (ETB 30.0 per household/month) without considering the difference in the amount of water collected by each household. The FGDs verified that households with few family members are taking two or three jerrican/day while households

with large family members are taking more than four jerrican/day. A tariff rate per a jerrican of water collected would make the service access more equitable. Moreover, this type of tariff would enable the WASH committee to collect better revenue and cover operation and maintenance costs for ensuring sustainable service.

Sanitation facilities and utilization

Sanitation coverage is the proportion of households with access to sanitation facilities. Sanitation coverage in the target kebeles include all types of latrines such as: safely managed latrine (7.8%); basic latrine (18.5%) and pit latrine (31.7%). The result regarding safely managed sanitation coverage is similar to WHO/UNICEF joint monitoring report 2021, which indicated 7% basic sanitation coverage in Ethiopia. Hence the data is consistent to other reports. Table 7 shows percent of the households using safely managed sanitation services disaggregated by age, sex and disability status of the household heads, including by category of the intervention kebeles and name of woredas.

In general, the endline assessment indicated that sanitation coverage in the intervention area (all types of latrines) was 58%. This means, 42% of the households are still practicing open defecation. There needs concerned efforts of all stakeholders in devising appropriate sanitation technology packages that fit to the target area geomorphology and weather condition. Moreover, better approaches which trigger the community to construct and utilize latrines plus strong monitoring mechanisms should be identified and promoted. FGD participants indicated that, some years ago, most of the households had tried to dig pit latrines through community mobilization. But many households did not utilize it or sustain its utilization because of its inconvenience (hard layer to dig deep and bad smell) and low commitment.

According to the project completion report and key informants' interviews, IWRA project has supported 10 schools to improve WASH services for 11,795 school communities through construction of 9 water supply stations, 8 block accessible improved latrines, and shower and waste disposal sites. It has also enhanced wash service provision through establishing 20 school clubs that have a total of 1,821 student members (1,234 girls). The project has also worked on behavioral change of the school community on school WASH management using 53 trained school WASH

club members and 32 Menstrual hygiene and health (MHH) club leaders (girls). School BCC and IEC materials developed and distributed to schools. And 20 social analysis action (SAA) clubs having 1200 members in schools have been carry out social analysis and action by organizing bi-monthly meetings.

Table 7: Percent of the households using safely managed sanitation services

Description		Safley managed latrine		Basic latrine		Pit latrine		Open field	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sex of the household head	Male	24	7.5	70	21.9	99	30.9	127	39.7
	Female	9	8.8	8	7.8	34	33.3	51	50.0
Age of the HH head	14 - 29	5	10.0	7	14.0	17	34.0	21	42.0
	30 - 45	20	8.3	48	19.8	79	32.6	95	39.3
	46 - 65	7	6.2	19	16.8	36	31.9	51	45.1
	> 65	1	5.9	4	23.5	1	5.9	11	64.7
Disability status of the HH head	With	0	0.0	5	20.0	5	20.0	15	60.0
	Without	33	8.3	73	18.4	128	32.2	163	41.1
Intervention kebele	SWEEP	12	4.6	45	17.2	98	37.4	107	40.8
	New	21	13.1	33	20.6	35	21.9	71	44.4
Woreda	E/Belessa	24	11.3	33	15.5	58	27.2	98	46.0
	W/Belessa	9	4.3	45	21.5	75	35.9	80	38.3
	Overall	33	7.8	78	18.5	133	31.5	178	42.2

Source: Household survey conducted in February 2024

The project constructed two-block accessible improved public latrines (Figure 7) in West Belessa woreda Arbaya town bus station to provide sanitation service to people who are staying there waiting for transportation service. It has also provided training of trainers (ToT) to 45 healthcare workers (25 women), and the trainees raised awareness on WASH and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) for 488 (321 women) members of the Health Development Army. As a result, sanitation committees with 75 members (25 women) established and conducted sanitary campaigns in Arbaya and Guahala towns. Three solid waste management groups are also established through the project support.

Figure 7: Public toilet and pit latrines utilized by communities in the intervention area

Regarding hand washing practice of the households, the endline assessment indicated that 75.1% of the respondents wash their hands after defecation, 91.5% wash their hands before food preparation, and 96.6% wash their hands before eating. The assessment also indicated that 45.5% of the households wash their hands before feeding a child and 29.6% wash their hands after cleaning annal parts of a child or changing dipper. However, only 30.8% of the households use soap for washing their hands. Other households use ash (12.6%) or water only (56.6%). This needs further awareness-raising efforts to raise awareness of the community on the benefits of using soap or a substitute during washing hands.

Time women spent on household chores

The burden of fetching water in the majority of the HHs is still on mothers followed by girls. Result of the endline survey indicated fetching water for a household is done by women (68%), girls (22%), boys (8%) and men (2%). This coupled with other household activities (such as food preparation, cleaning home and taking care of children and elders) has engaged women for over 10 hours a day on household chores. This indicator was triangulated with secondary data (an in-depth gender analysis of CARE Ethiopia for IWRA project in 2014). Accordingly, women spent more than 10 hours a day on household chores in 22% of the households. 7% of the households, women spent 8-10 hours a day on household chores, which was 14% during baseline survey. 71% of the households, women spent less than 8 hours of a day on household chores.

Reduction in the percent of households which women spent more than 10 hours of a day on household chores from 37.8% during the baseline to 22% at the endline is a good progress though it is less than the target. During the FGDs with women groups, women raised challenges which

created much work burden on them like increase in expenses for Bajaj transport and increased costs for grinding mill service. Increase in transport and mill service expenses limited them from moving to the nearby towns to get flour mill services. Result of the endline survey indicated that 79.4% of the households reported that they are severely affected by inflation. In addition, women disclosed that the current security problem has limited their free movement to the towns to get flour mill services. Consequently, they are grinding food stuff like *Shiro* and others using the cumbersome traditional stone mill which takes hours and has high fatigue.

Output 1.2: Improved protection of the environment and response to environmental shocks

The key indicator for this output is # of community adaptation plans implemented in the targeted kebeles that contribute to the Disaster Risk Management strategy of Central Gondar Zone. According to the information from key informants, the project supported training zone and woreda government staff on disaster risk management. Then the trainees conducted vulnerability assessment in the two woredas, and developed adaptation plans for 16 selected watersheds in East and West Belessa woredas. The adaptation plan comprises key options identified in the national adaptation plan such as: i) strengthening sustainable natural resources management; ii) enhancing food security through improving agricultural productivity (adopting climate-smart agricultural activities); iii) improving livelihoods of vulnerable people; iv) improving access to potable water; and v) enhancing renewable energy for power generation. The plan contributes to North Gondar zone disaster risk management strategy through capacity building of zone and woreda staff on adaptation plan preparation, preparing 16 adaptation plans, and demonstrating adaptation plan implementation in the selected 16 watersheds.

Sustainable Natural Resource Management (SNRM)

As part of implementation of the adaptation plans, IWRA project has improved protection of the environment and response to environmental shocks for 32,223 people through: institutional support to improve natural resources management of 16 watersheds, training 35 (12 F) government staff on disaster risk reduction, training 349 (84 F) watershed committee members on cooperative

management and watershed development techniques, legalizing 16 community watershed users' cooperatives which have 32,223 (14,192 female) members, constructing six offices for the community watershed users' cooperatives, and mobilizing labor for development of the 16 community watersheds. Result of the household survey (Table 8) indicated that 82.7% of the household practiced construction of physical soil and water conservation structures on their holdings and 87.9% have a tradition of planting trees by using different strategies, indicating encouraging practices of farmers in implementing the adaptation plans.

Figure 8: Kalay kebele Karita Wuha watershed users cooperative office, W/Belessa

Table 8: Percent of households who practiced physical SWC works and have a tradition of planting trees

		Do you work physical soil and water conservation structures on your holding?				Is there a tradition of planting trees in your community?			
		Yes		No		Yes		No	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sex of the HH head	MHH	282	88.1	38	11.9	292	91.3	28	8.8
	FHH	89	87.3	13	12.7	57	55.9	45	44.1
Age of the HH head	14 - 29	42	84.0	8	16.0	38	76.0	12	24.0
	30 - 45	216	89.3	26	10.7	197	81.4	45	18.6
	46 - 65	99	87.6	14	12.4	100	88.5	13	11.5
	> 65	14	82.4	3	17.6	14	82.4	3	17.6
Disability status of the HH head	With disability	20	80.0	5	20.0	15	60.0	10	40.0
	Without disability	251	88.4	46	11.6	334	84.1	63	15.9
Intervention kebele	SWEEP	233	88.9	29	11.1	217	82.8	45	17.2
	New kebeles	138	86.3	22	13.8	132	82.5	28	17.5
Woreda	E/Belessa	179	84.0	34	16.0	183	85.9	30	14.1
	W/Belessa	192	91.9	17	8.1	166	79.4	43	20.6
	Overall	371	87.9	51	12.1	349	82.7	73	17.3

Source: Household survey conducted in February 2024

Improved irrigation system

Improved irrigation systems are climate-smart interventions to response to environmental shocks associated to unreliable rainfall distribution in East and West Belessa woredas. According to the household survey and discussion with the project steering committee at East and West Belessa

woredas, the project has supported four irrigation schemes with a potential irrigation capacity of 329.7 ha of land. Training has been offered to relevant government staff to equip them with the necessary skill and techniques to effectively administer and maintain the irrigation schemes. The endline assessment indicated that the community are practicing irrigation and producing different types of irrigated crops such as: chickpea (40%), wheat (20%), garlic (16%), onion (12%), head cabbage (4%), mangos (4%) and papaya (4%). The households practiced chickpea production on average on 0.685 ha/HH; and wheat on average on 0.55 ha/HH. The project provided 60 quintals of improved-variety early-generation wheat seeds for seed multiplication purposes to 74 farmers. Improved wheat seeds showed better productivity, i.e., average productivity of wheat increased from 1600 kg/hectare (1.6 ton/hectare) to 2700kg/hectare (2.7 ton/hectare).

The endline assessment indicated that 6.2% male-headed and 1.5% female-headed households have access to irrigation. The percent of households who have access to irrigation looks small because the available water limits the number of beneficiaries though there is large command area. The number of beneficiary households vary depending on the type of crop they produce. According to the information from focus group discussion participants in Dengora kebele (West Belessa), the number of beneficiaries increase when they produce pulses like chickpea or Muong bean which have low crop water requirement. They underlined that, on the same amount of available dam water, 150 farmers able to access irrigation when they produce chickpea and only 74 farmers able to access irrigation when they produce wheat. When they produce vegetables, the number of farmers who access irrigation further reduces. These farmers were trying to optimize use of irrigation water by growing a cash crop (Muong bean). Meanwhile, they recently took out Muong bean from the list of their irrigated crops due to market problem.

Based on the quantitative and qualitative data collected from the project area, irrigation is the most feasible agricultural practice to drought-prone areas like East and West Belessa woredas for increasing food availability and access to food (generate income for buying food). Result of the household survey indicated that households having irrigation access on average generated Birr 13,115.00 per crop season (FHH Birr 1000.00 & MHH Birr 13,828.00) with a range from Birr 1000.00 to 50,000.00. According to the information from project steering committee and responses

of key informants, irrigation development has a considerable impact on improving the community livelihoods.

In general, output 1.1 and output 1.2 lead to the outcome – improved, inclusive and equitable WASH systems, environmental protection and irrigation management that can be measured using key indicators such as: i) percent of the households with ensured food security for 8 months or more; ii) percent of the households with improved capacity to withstand environmental shocks; and iii) percent of the households with improved capacity to withstand economic shocks.

Food Security

The definition of food security entails availability and access to enough food, both in quantity and quality needed for good health, always for all people to ensure an active and healthy life. Food security status of the households have been assessed using an indicator specified in the project MEAL matrix - households which have at least 3 meals a day with adequate food portion for 8 months of a year[11]. The endline assessment indicated percent of the households who reported ensured food security for a period of 8 months or more in general increased from 62% during the baseline to 73.5% at the endline.

Meanwhile, food security of women-headed households and households whose head is a person with a disability further deteriorated. Female-headed households and households whose head is a person with a disability have poor food security status during the baseline, and the situation further deteriorated at the endline. The reasons are: i) less proportion of FHHs and households whose head is a person with a disability have engaged in agriculture as their main livelihoods; ii) less proportion of FHHs and households whose head is a person with a disability have farmlands; and the average landholding size of FHHs and households whose head is a person with a disability is smaller than others. Table 9 gives detail information in this regard.

In order to compensate for food shortage they faced in the last 12 months, the households practiced coping strategies such as: i) selling livestock to buy food (54.5%); ii) renting assets like land to

[11] Household Food Consumption Score (FCS) was not measured because this indicator is not indicated in the MEAL matrix. We focused on the MEAL matrix, as this was one of the key comments given on the inception report.

buy food (8.8%); iii) harvest immature crops and feed the family (8.1%); iv) migrate to urban areas and work as daily laborers (5.9%); v) send children to work as daily laborers (5.7%); vi) consume seeds kept for the next season (4.3%); vii) collect and sell firewood and charcoal (4%); viii) migrate to other localities to find work and earn money (4%); ix) send children to stay with their relatives (1.2%); and x) withdraw children from school (1.2%). Detail information disaggregated by sex of the HH head, age of the HH head, disability status of the household head, SWEEP/new kebeles, and East/West woredas is indicated in the Appendix.

Table 9: Percent of HHs who reported ensured food security for 8 or more months and related information

Variables for disaggregation	Category	% of HHs reported ensured food security for ≥ 8 months	Means of Livelihood (% of HHs)				% of HHs who have farmland	Average size of farmland/ HH (ha)
			Agriculture	Trade	Civil servant	Wage labor		
Sex of the HH head	MHH	77.2	97	26	2	6	96.3	0.841
	FHH	61.8	64	65	0	12	64.7	0.601
Age of HH head	14 - 29	68.0	80	50	0	8	80.0	0.691
	30 - 45	75.7	88	39	2	7	87.2	0.736
	46 - 65	70.6	95	23	1	8	94.7	0.912
	> 65	77.8	88	24	0	6	94.1	1.125
Disability status of the HH head	With disability	60.0	64	40	0	8	72.0	0.667
	Without	74.3	90	35	1	7	89.7	0.805
Intervention kebele	SWEEP	71.6	87	32	1	9	87.4	0.762
	New	76.8	92	39	2	4	90.6	0.856
Woreda	E/Belessa	76.6	93	37	1	2	85.2	0.912
	W/Belessa	70.2	84	34	1	12	88.6	0.673
	Overall	73.5	87	35	1	2	96.3	0.799

Source: Household survey conducted in February 2024

Capacity to withstand environment and economic shocks

In this context, a shock is defined as an adverse event that led to a loss of household income, a reduction in consumption and/or a loss of productive assets. The shock can be environmental (climatic) and economic. Environmental shocks in the area include mainly drought, flood and pest and diseases for both crop and livestock production. Result of the household survey (Table 10) indicated that the percent of households with improved capacity to withstand environmental

shocks increased from 72.9% during the baseline to 78.4% at the endline. Occurrence of drought in the area in 2023 has limited the percent of households with improved capacity to withstand environmental shocks. The percent of households with improved capacity to withstand economic shocks also improved from 72.9% during the baseline to 83% at the endline.

Table 10: Percent of the households with improved capacity to withstand environmental and economic shocks

Description		Do you believe that you have a better capacity to withstand environmental shocks now than before?				Do you believe that you have a better capacity to withstand economic shocks now than before?			
		Yes		No		Yes		No	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sex of the HH head	MHH	256	80.0	64	20.0	268	83.8	52	16.3
	FHH	75	73.5	27	26.5	82	80.4	20	19.6
Age of HH head	14 - 29	41	82.0	9	18.0	40	80.0	10	20.0
	30 - 45	185	76.4	57	23.6	202	83.5	40	16.5
	46 - 65	93	82.3	20	17.7	93	82.3	20	17.7
	> 65	12	70.6	5	29.4	15	88.2	2	11.8
Disability status of the HH head	With	17	68.0	8	32.0	19	76.0	6	24.0
	Without	314	79.1	83	20.9	331	83.4	66	16.6
Intervention kebele	1. SWEEP	208	79.4	54	20.6	216	82.4	46	17.6
	2. New	123	76.9	37	23.1	134	83.8	26	16.3
Woreda	E/Belessa	172	80.8	41	19.2	176	82.6	37	17.4
	W/Belessa	159	76.1	50	23.9	174	83.3	35	16.7
	Overall	331	78.4	91	21.6	350	82.9	72	17.1

Source: Household survey conducted in February 2024

The strategies adopted by the households to withstand shocks include: i) crop diversification (growing different crops at a time (56.6%); ii) planting early maturing crops (55.2%); iii) change in ploughing frequency (45.3%); iv) change in planting date (55%); v) proper management of grazing lands (30.3%); and vi) practicing small scale irrigation (5.7%). Table 11 shows the percent of households who adopted different strategies important to withstand environmental shock. The other strategy is running IGAs. Secondary data indicated that eight groups (50 members) out of the 26 private sector IGA groups (130 members) are functional. The functional IGA groups have 50 members, and each member generates on average Birr 2431.00 per month from the IGAs.

Table 11: Percent of the HHs adopted different strategies important to withstand environmental shock

		Growing different crops at a time (Diversification)		Short-reaping crops (early maturing crops)		Changing plowing type (plowing frequency)		Changing crop planting dates		Proper grazing including cut and carry		Use small-scale irrigation	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Sex of the HH head	MHH	198	61.9	190	59.4	156	48.8	191	59.7	103	32.2	17	5.3
	FHH	41	40.2	43	42.2	35	34.3	41	40.2	25	24.5	7	6.9
Age of HH head	14 - 29	23	46.0	27	54.0	20	40.0	27	54.0	19	38.0	2	4.0
	30 - 45	139	57.4	122	50.4	99	40.9	131	54.1	75	31.0	15	6.2
	46 - 65	66	58.4	74	65.5	62	54.9	65	57.5	32	28.3	6	5.3
	> 65	11	64.7	10	58.8	10	58.8	9	52.9	2	11.8	1	5.9
Disability status of HH head	With	13	52.0	6	24.0	8	32.0	8	32.0	5	20.0	3	12
	Without	226	56.9	227	57.2	183	46.1	224	56.4	123	31.0	21	5.3
Intervention kebele	1. SWEEP	145	55.3	142	54.2	110	42.0	155	59.2	83	31.7	22	8.4
	2. New	94	58.8	91	56.9	81	50.6	77	48.1	45	28.1	2	1.3
Woreda	E. Belessa	94	44.1	128	60.1	122	57.3	135	63.4	63	29.6	4	1.9
	W. Belessa	145	69.4	105	50.2	69	33.0	97	46.4	65	31.1	20	9.6
	Total	239	56.6	233	55.2	191	45.3	232	55.0	128	30.3	24	5.7

Source: Household survey conducted in February 2024

Overall, the endline assessment indicated that the project was effective in improving food security and capacity to withstand environmental and economic shocks though further efforts are still required to improve food security of FHHs and HHs whose head is a person with a disability.

Output 2.1 Increased capacity of marginalized groups to engage in income-generating activities

The project has provided a range of services/support to increase the knowledge, skills and attitude to access economic resources and assets related to IGAs. It focused on disadvantaged segments of the community like women, youth and people with disabilities who are usually constrained with financial services to engage in economic opportunities and enhance their productive asset base. IWRA project has been promoting access to financial services to local communities through supporting and/or establishing 334 village saving and loan associations (VSLAs) that have 7,212 members. VSLA is a self-managed group that enables members to pool their money. The VSLA approach focused on creating solidarity groups and is being employed as a coping strategy during drought and emergency food insecure seasons. Once the group started saving money, they began offering

financial service (loan) to their members to operate various IGAs. VSLA loan repayment period is three months with 5% monthly interest rate.

VSLA has proven to be a successful micro-finance model under which saving groups are formed at community level to reduce financial constraints. The endline assessment indicated that 96.4% of the respondents (98% in FHH and 95.9% in MHH) participate in VSLAs (Table 12). The VSLA provides members a safe place to save their money, access loans and access emergency insurance. VSLA groups meet every two weeks, and each member of a group saved, on average, Birr 26.00 per month for revolving loan plus Birr 2.00 for social issues. The minimum and maximum monthly saving is Birr 10.00 and Birr 60.00. Members take out loans to meet various household needs as well as invest in income- generating activities. Hence, 7,212 VSLA members have access to financial services to engage in different IGAs. Based on the information from FGDs with women groups, participation of women in VSLAs has contributed to improvements in women's intra-household decision-making role, and women's involvement in decision- making in the community.

Table 12: Percent of the HHs who members of VSLAs are, and their monthly saving amount

		Are you or a member of your family participating in VSLAs?				How much is the monthly saving amount (Birr)?		
		Yes		No		Min.	Aver.	Max.
		#	%	#	%			
Sex of the HH head	MHH	307	95.9	13	4.1	10	28	60
	FHH	100	98.0	2	2.0	10	30	60
Age of HH head	14 - 29	50	100.0	0	0.0	10	29	50
	30 - 45	234	96.7	8	3.3	10	29	60
	46 - 65	107	94.7	6	5.3	10	27	60
	> 65	16	94.1	1	5.9	10	28	42
Disability status of the HH head	With	20	80.0	5	20.0	10	28	60
	Without	387	97.5	10	2.5	10	28	60
Intervention kebele	1. SWEEP	250	95.4	12	4.6	10	27	60
	2. New	157	98.1	3	1.9	10	29	50
Woreda	E/Belessa	207	97.2	6	2.8	10	28	60
	W/Belessa	200	95.7	9	4.3	10	29	60
	Overall	407	96.4	15	3.6	10	28	60

Source: Household survey conducted in February 2024

From the total 344 VSLAs, 305 VSLAs with 5321 members have been clustered and established 23 Rural Saving and Credit Cooperatives (RUSACCOs). While 13 RUSACOs are established in East Belessa woreda, 10 are established in West Belessa woreda. The growth of VSLAs to RUSACCOs has enhanced financial access to members for engaging in different IGAs. According to a key informant from woreda cooperatives promotion office, community members whose VSLAs grew to RURACCOs have been able to borrow up to Birr 40,000.00, which is much higher than the average amount of credit they had accessed from VSLAs. The endline survey indicated 83.8% of the households (88% FHH and 82.4% MHH) have accessed loans from VSLAs during the project period (Table 13), and all segments of the community have got equal access to loan provided that they are VSLA members. These households accessed loan from VSLAs for engaging in small businesses (61.9%); purchasing agricultural inputs (32.2%); purchasing food items (11.4%); purchasing cloth (5.9%); education (2.9%); and other purposes (4.4%). Loan repayment default rate was only 0.6%, and the defaulters are allowed for an extended three months' time to repay their loan.

Table 13: Percent of the households taking loan from their VSLAs

		Are you or a member of your family taking loan from VSLAs during the project period?			
		Yes		No	
		#	%	#	%
Sex of the HH head	MHH	253	82.4	54	17.6
	FHH	88	88.0	12	12.0
Age of HH head	14 - 29	41	82.0	9	18.0
	30 - 45	204	87.2	30	12.8
	46 - 65	81	75.7	26	24.3
	> 65	15	93.8	1	6.3
Disability status of the HH head	With disability	15	75.0	5	25.0
	Without disability	326	84.2	61	15.8
Intervention kebele	SWEEP	207	82.8	43	17.2
	New	134	85.4	23	14.6
Woreda	E/Belessa	167	80.7	40	19.3
	W/Belessa	174	87.0	26	13.0
	Overall	341	83.8	66	16.2

Source: Household survey conducted in February 2024

The percent of households who reported income increase in real terms was assessed considering the responses of the households who reported increase in income in real terms from the annual income of the household before two years (baseline). During FGD discussions, farmers indicated that inflation has highly affected annual income of most of the households. Households who have an increase in income in real terms are those who practiced irrigation and who considerably managed small business-like keeping sheep/goat. Result of the household survey indicated that 26.3% of the households reported increase in annual income of households in real terms. Figure 10 illustrated the percent of HHs who reported increased income in real terms from the amount of income during the baseline, disaggregated by sex, age, disability status, kebele and woreda. Secondary data from M.Sc. Thesis research conducted in 2023 by a student in Bahir Dar University indicated that the annual income of VSLA beneficiary households in Belessa was on average Birr 20,170.65[12]. This compared to the annual income during the baseline (Birr 15,570.00) indicated a considerable increase in annual income of the households.

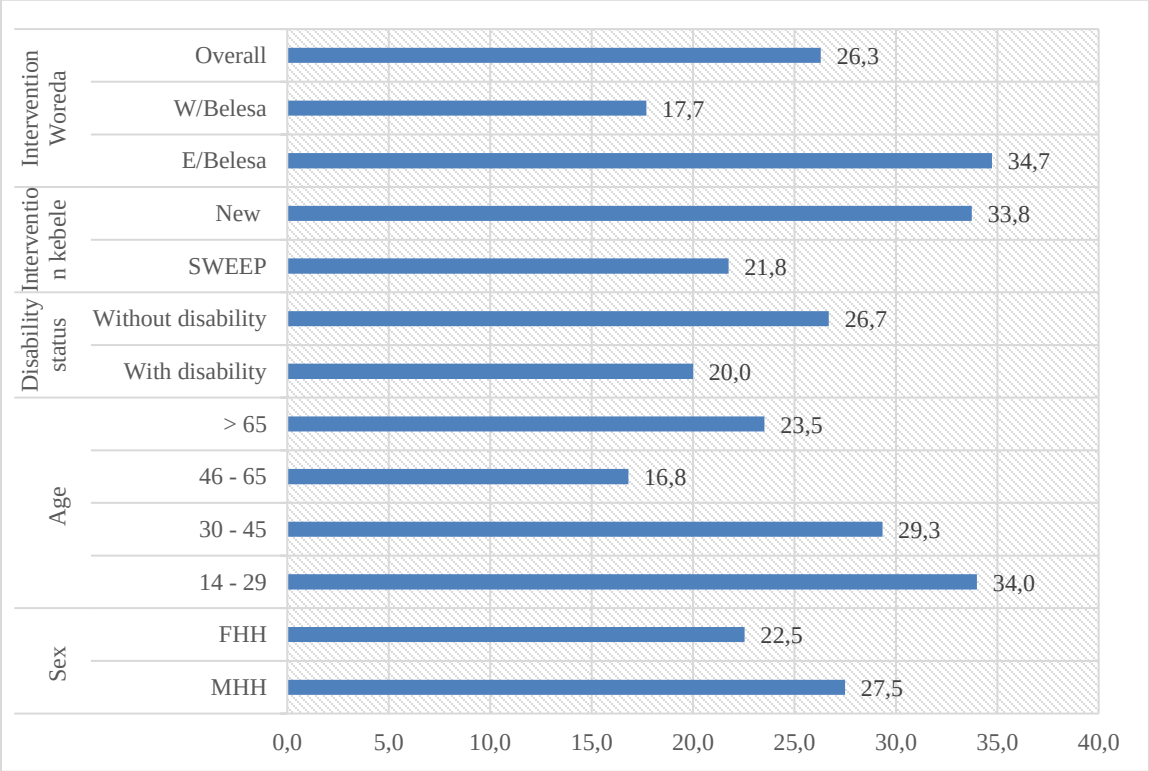

Figure 9: Precent of HHs who reported increase in income in real terms as compared to the baseline

[12] Impacts of Village Saving and Loan Association on Women's Economic Empowerment in Belessa Woreda. Unpublished M.Sc. thesis (2023) by Worku Shumye Berihun, Bahir Dar University, Department of Economics.

Output 2.2: Enhanced ability of powerholders and marginalized groups to challenge existing discriminatory social norms and expand the role of women and girls

The project completion report indicated that IWRA project has accomplished various activities that contribute to valued voice of marginalized groups in household and community affairs, and increased community engagement against discriminatory social norms. It has supported activities such as: providing TOT for 18 government staff on facilitating Social Analysis and Action (SAA); establishing 16 SAA groups with 480 members (240 females and 34 persons with disability) and trained 32 SAA facilitators (2 from each group); 76 SAA+ groups established; and 77 female-government staff working at woreda level trained on leadership and negotiation skill. SAA facilitation group meetings showed 93% attendance of the group members.

According to CARE definition, Social Analysis and Action (SAA) is a facilitated process through which individuals explore and challenge the social norms, beliefs, and practices that shape their lives and health. The goal of SAA is to help participants to surface and challenge restrictive norms and act together to create more equitable ones, while building support for sexual, reproductive, and maternal health rights. According to the information from FGD participants, SAA group members meet once a month regularly at a specified place in a village and make social analysis based on the module developed for facilitation. They have been raising issues like gender inequality regarding resources ownership and decision-making; husbands having a mistress; domestic violence; extravagancy (much ceremonies), and early marriage in their SAA sessions. In order to strengthen SAA group members social and economic ties and ensure continuity of SAA, the group members organized in VSLAs and mobilized savings. Secondary data from the project completion report confirmed that SAA groups have practiced saving, and mobilized a total of Birr 565,452.00 as of December 2023.

FGD participants disclosed, "*as a result of the ongoing social analysis and action, improvements are observed in terms of women engagement in different socio-economic activities (e.g., participation in VSLAs and IGAs), and participation in decision-making in the community (participation in leadership positions like RUSACCOs, WASHCOs and Watershed Committees), plus equal decision-making in the household*". They also underlined that woman have active participation in public dialogues like the general assembly of watershed cooperatives and

RUSACCOs and meetings of development teams. This has helped women to have equal access to and control over resources, and meaningfully participate in socio-economic development activities. Secondary information from the IWRA project offices and government offices strengthened the findings from FGDs evidencing that woman constitute leadership positions in WASHCOs (52%), watersheds committees (21%), RUSACCOs (83%), and kebele cabinet (18%).

The key indicators for measuring output 2.2 are: improved attitude/perception in communities towards women's ability to hold and play a leadership role; and extent of use of social accountability mechanisms by communities in order to monitor and engage in ending violence against women and girls. Attitude of the community towards women ability to hold and play a leadership role was assessed by asking the respondents, "To *what extent women in different committees and leadership position have self-confidence and convey their messages in public meetings?*" Result of the household survey indicated that the percent of households who believe in women's' ability to hold and play leadership role increased from 68.4% during the baseline to 70.9% at the endline. Figure 11 shows percent of the respondents who reported that women in different committees and leadership position have self-confidence and able to clearly express their views and opinions, and covey messages, disaggregated by sex, age, disability status of the household head, kebele and woreda.

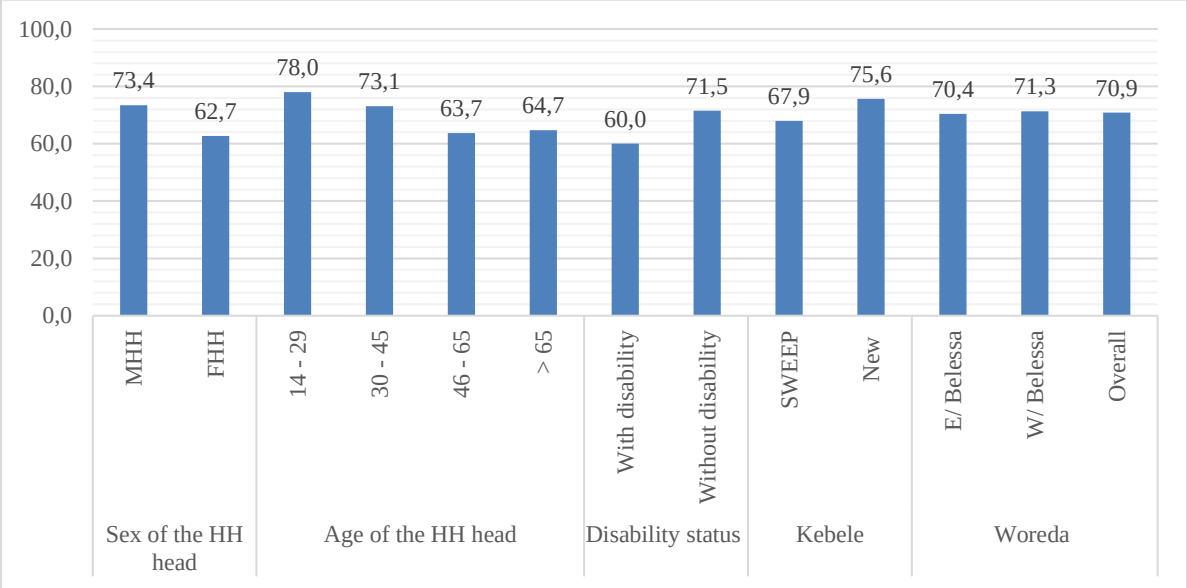

Figure 10: Percent of the respondents who believe in women's ability to hold and play a leadership role

Regarding the extent of use of social accountability mechanisms by communities, the number of social accountability mechanism action plans implemented in order to monitor and engage in ending violence against women and girls was analyzed. According to the project progress report, SAA groups prepared 6 action plans to disseminate the information on ending violence against women (VAW) to the larger community and implemented all the action plans. Result of the endline survey indicated that 74.6% of the respondents do have a practice of discussing with the duty bearers (police, justice, women children, social affairs, local justice) on ending violence against women. Among them, 74.3% of the respondents indicated that the duty bearer is implementing ending violence against women to a satisfactory level. Compared to 67.5% during the baseline, this achievement is encouraging though it is not adequate. An unanticipated risk such as severe drought and conflict have limited the efforts of the duty bearer in ending violence against women and girls. Table 14 gives disaggregated information about the use of social accountability mechanisms by communities to a satisfactory level.

Table 14: % of respondents reported that the duty bearer implements ending VAW to a satisfactory level

Description		Respondents who have any practice of discussing with the duty bearers on ending VAW		Respondents the duty bearer did implement ending VAW to a satisfactory level	
		#	%	#	%
Sex of the HH head	MHH	246	58.3	182	57.8
	FHH	69	16.4	52	16.5
Age of HH head	14 - 29	34	8.1	27	8.6
	30 - 45	193	45.7	142	45.1
	46 - 65	75	17.8	57	18.1
	> 65	11	2.6	7	2.2
Disability status of the HH head	With disability	17	4.0	11	3.5
	Without disability	298	70.6	223	70.8
Intervention kebele	SWEEP	206	48.8	150	47.6
	New	109	25.8	84	26.7
Woreda	E/Belessa	161	38.2	105	33.3
	W/Belessa	154	36.5	129	41.0
	Overall	315	74.6	234	74.3

Source: Household survey conducted in February 2024

In general, output 2.1 and output 2.2 leads to outcome 2- Enhanced economic resilience and valued voices of marginalized groups in the household and community affairs, and increased community engagement against discriminatory social norms. Gender-based violence, harmful traditional practices (like early marriage & female genital mutilation), and participation of women in decision-making in financial issues of the household are the key indicators for outcome 2.

Gender-based violence

The endline review identified gender-based violence such as beating women by husband (26.3%) and sexual harassment/abuse (7.2%). The percent of respondents who reported physical violence and sexual harassment reduced from 17.7% during the baseline to 16.7% at the endline. The result is encouraging though it still needs further efforts to bring about behavioral change of the rural community. Table 15 shows percent of the respondents from male headed households who reported about the practice of gender-based violence in the community, disaggregated by age and disability status of the household head, intervention kebele and woreda.

Table 15: Percent of the respondents who reported about sexual harassment in the community

Description		Sexual harassment (%)		Beating women by a husband (%)		Average (%)
		No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Age of HH head	14 - 29	96.6	3.4	69.0	31.0	17.2
	30 - 45	93.5	6.5	72.6	27.4	17.0
	46 - 65	90.0	10.0	76.7	23.3	16.7
	> 65	93.3	6.7	80.0	20.0	13.4
Disability status of the HH head	With disability	92.8	7.2	73.8	26.3	16.8
	Without disability	92.3	7.7	73.2	26.8	17.3
Intervention kebele	SWEEP	93.7	6.3	74.6	25.4	15.9
	New	92.8	7.2	73.8	26.3	16.8
Woreda	E/Belessa	92.0	8.0	72.8	27.2	17.6
	W/Belessa	93.7	6.3	74.7	25.3	15.8
	Overall	92.8	7.2	73.8	26.3	16.8

Source: Household survey conducted in February 2024

Harmful traditional practices (HTPs)

This indicator was addressed by asking the respondents the following questions. Is early marriage (marriage under 18 years of age) a common practice in your community? Is female circumcision a common practice in your community? And which of the following traditional practices (mistress, rape, abduction, etc.) prevail in your community? Result of the endline assessment (Table 16) indicated that there is a significance change on the prevalence of common harmful traditional practices (HTPs) such as: child marriage (3.1%) and Female Genital Cutting (FGC) (3.1%). Very high achievement in reducing HTP indicated effectiveness of the continuous SAA practices. FGD participants were open to express that there are very few practices of early marriage to a deacon who is going to become a priest, since the religious dogma dictates that deacons should marry a virgin. Compared to the baseline situation (68.4%), early marriage and female genital cutting highly decreased. Meanwhile, there is yet another HTP which is common in the area - having a mistress. Having a mistress for a husband is reported by 31.6% of the respondents from male headed households. Age old practice of "an eye to an eye of retaliation" in the target area is a triggering factor for husbands to have a mistress. Husbands arrange mistress usually in the towns to use their mistress as a safe place to stay (feed, drink or put their rifles) whenever they go to the towns for market or any other purposes.

Table 16: Percent of the respondents who reported about the practice HTPs in the community

Description		Having mistress by a husband	Early marriage	Female genital cutting (FGC)
Sex of the household head	Male	31.6	2.8	3.1
	Female	-	3.9	2.9
Age of the HH head	14 - 29	27.6	2.0	4.0
	30 - 45	36.0	2.5	3.3
	46 - 65	25.6	4.4	2.7
	> 65	20.0	5.9	0.0
Disability status of the HH head	With	31.6	4.0	4.0
	Without	31.4	3.0	3.0
Intervention kebele	SWEEP	31.7	1.9	3.8
	New	31.6	5.0	1.8
Woreda	E/Belessa	31.5	3.8	2.8
	W/Belessa	31.6	2.4	3.3
	Overall	31.6	3.1	3.1

Source: Household survey conducted in February 2024

Women's participation in major income and expenditure decision-making in the household

One of the sustainable development goals that have been set by the UN is to achieve gender equality. Women's participation in decision-making processes at household level is essential to improvement in household resource management. The household survey conducted during the endline review (Table 17) indicated that women and men make decisions jointly in 76% of the households for major activities like: buying/selling of agricultural inputs/tools; renting in/out land and other assets; allocating how much produce/income to consume and save; and taking loan including for what purpose to use the loan. Compared to the baseline situation (54.1%), the percent of households which women and men make decisions jointly adequately increased. The SAA platform has contributed to the successful achievement of this indicator through enabling men to develop behavioral change.

Table 17: Percent of households women and men jointly make decisions on issues related to income/expenditure

Description		Buying/selling of agricultural inputs	Renting in/out land/ other assets	Allocating saving/ consumption	Taking a loan and investing it	Average
Sex of the household head	Male	69.06	67.19	81.88	86.56	76.17
	Female	-	-	-	-	-
Age of the HH head	14 - 29	79.31	93.10	100.00	93.10	91.38
	30 - 45	68.28	67.20	79.57	84.41	74.87
	46 - 65	65.56	57.78	82.22	87.78	73.33
	> 65	80.00	73.33	73.33	93.33	80.00
Disability status of the HH head	With	42.11	63.16	68.42	68.42	60.53
	Without	70.76	67.44	82.72	87.71	77.16
Intervention kebele	SWEEP	68.69	66.67	82.32	86.87	76.14
	New	69.67	68.03	81.15	86.07	76.23
Woreda	E/Belessa	82.10	80.25	87.04	92.59	85.49
	W/Belessa	55.70	53.80	76.58	80.38	66.61
	Overall	69.06	67.19	81.88	86.56	76.17

Source: Household survey conducted in February 2024

Regarding women participation and decision-making role in the community, 97.4% of the respondents indicated that women regularly attend meetings of VSLAs and 70.8% indicated that they actively involved in decision-making; 83% indicated that women regularly attended meetings

on community development and 24.5% indicated that they actively involved in decision-making; 77% indicated that women regularly attended meetings of women associations and 54.2% indicated that they actively involved in decision-making; and 75.1% indicated that women regularly attended religious related gatherings and 36.6% indicated that they actively involved in decision-making.

Output 3.1: Increased engagement of local government with community to address needs

The project trained 26 (3 women) government staff on the Community Scorecard's approach and methodology to positively influence the quality, efficiency and accountability with which services are provided at different levels. The community scorecard is a social accountability tool which aims to empower communities to raise their issues and perceptions of service delivery and evaluate the services provided by service providers. In addition, 123 (48 women) community representatives participated in 8 community scorecard sessions with a focus on watersheds, water schemes, and school WASH. In order to monitor progresses, review and reflection meetings were carried out at different levels. Four quarterly review and reflection meetings which participated 486 (221 female) community members conducted at kebele level. Similarly, 2 quarterly review and reflection meetings which involved kebele representatives conducted at woreda level; 2 bi-annual review and reflection meetings which involved woreda representatives conducted at zone level; and one workshop which involved zone and woreda representatives conducted at regional level.

Key indicators for measuring this outcome are: i) percent of beneficiaries who report that government (woreda) took their requests into consideration; and ii) percent of beneficiaries whose level of satisfaction for government service provision improved. The endline assessment tried to address these indicators by asking respondents a series of question such as: Did kebele/woreda government involve any member of your household in its planning, budgeting and monitoring for basic social services? Did you get an opportunity to request services (water supply, health, education, input supply, road, etc.)? Did the woreda/kebele consider your opinions and development needs in its planning and budget-making? And are you satisfied on the services provided?

According to the endline assessment, 96.8% of the respondents reported that the government take into account their request or development need wholly or partially in its plan and budget. Compared to the baseline situation (52.7%), this has shown remarkable progress in raising social accountability. Among those who requested for government services (water supply, health, farm inputs, etc.), 71.1% reported that they are satisfied on the services provided. This shows that the proportion of responds who reported that they are satisfied on the services provided increased from 40% during the baseline to 71.1% at the endline. Table 18 shows the percent of respondents who reported the government took into consideration their requests for development, and percent of beneficiaries whose level of satisfaction for government service provision improved. Discussion with the project steering committees in the two woredas strengthened this finding. The project steering committees have active involvement in selection of target kebeles and target beneficiaries, identifying intervention focuses, developing plans based on community requests, implementing plans and monitoring progresses.

Table 18: Percent of the respondents who reported the government took into consideration their requests, and percent of beneficiaries whose level of satisfaction for government service provision improved

Description		The woreda/kebele involve the respondent /its HH member/ in its development planning	The respondent/ its HH member/ got an opportunity to request services	The woreda/kebele considered requests (development needs) in its planning	The respondent is satisfied on the services provided
Sex of the HH head	MHH	76.3	81.9	98.0	71.4
	FHH	63.7	75.5	92.3	70.1
Age of the HH head	14 - 29	74.0	86.0	97.3	67.4
	30 - 45	74.8	79.3	96.7	72.9
	46 - 65	70.8	80.5	96.3	72.5
	> 65	64.7	76.5	100.0	46.2
Disability status of the HH head	With	72.0	80.0	94.4	80.0
	Without	73.3	80.4	96.9	70.5
Intervention kebele	SWEEP	69.1	76.7	97.2	75.6
	New	80.0	86.3	96.1	64.5
Woreda	E/Belessa	73.2	79.8	97.4	64.7
	W/Belessa	73.2	80.9	96.1	77.5
	Overall	73.2	80.3	96.8	71.1

Source: Household survey conducted in February 2024

Output 3.2: Increased involvement of the private sector in water, sanitation and the environment sector together with increased engagement of local government and communities with the private sector

Increased involvement of the private sector in water, sanitation and the environment were planned to fill the gap identified during SWEEP project evaluation and link the supply of and demand for spare parts plus skill for WASH operation and maintenance services. Data sources for selecting the beneficiaries were job seekers lists (lists of graduate & non-graduate job seekers) in the woreda labor and training office which was formally known as technical and vocational education & training, plus records of local administrations. Target beneficiaries for the private sector support were selected from the list by labor and training offices, woreda administrations and kebele administrations. The selection gave priority to women, individuals with disabilities, those from resource-poor families and older graduates rather than more recent ones.

Then selected entrepreneurs were organized into a group of 3-6 individuals, and business skill training was provided to them in collaboration with woreda labor and training offices. Furthermore, technical skill trainings were provided to them in partnership with experts from relevant sector offices, such as: water and energy office (WASH scheme operation & maintenance and water filtration, fuel saving stove); health office (solid waste management); and agriculture office (improved seed). Shoat fattening was also planned and implemented to manage stocking density and at the same time generate income to the poor. Poor women were organized in production and marketing energy saving stoves plus managing mini restaurants. Meanwhile, most of the entrepreneurs were not successful as identified during FGDs and KII. Secondary data from the project office also witnessed this reality.

Key indicators identified for measuring attainment of this output are: i) # and % of private sector actors engaged in water, sanitation and environmental sector and effectively functioning in the targeted kebeles; and ii) # and % change in monthly earning of private sector actors involved in water, sanitation and environmental sector. Based on data collected from the project offices and key informant interviews with government staff, the number and percent of private sector actors engaged in water, sanitation and environment sectors is given in Table 19.

Table 19: The number of groups and group members organized in different enterprises

S/N	Type of group supported	# of groups	# of members	Existing groups
1	Spare parts supplier group (2 women & 11 men)	3	13	0 group exist
2	Water filtration kit supply (2 women & 1 men persons with a disability)	1	3	1 group exist
3	Solid waste management groups (15 women & 15 men)	3	30	3 groups exist
4	Energy-saving stove producers (52 women)	12	52	0 groups exist
5	Seedling producers' groups (2 women & 3 men)	1	5	1 group exist
6	Shoat fattening groups (5 women)	1	5	0 group exist
7	Mini restaurant groups (10 women)	2	10	0 group exist
8	Beekeeping (12 male)	3	12	3 group
	Total	26	130	8 group exist

Source: Secondary data from the project office

As indicated in Table 15, only 8 out of 26 groups (30.7%) or 50 group members out of the 130 group members (33.3%) engaged in the business at least to some level. Compared to the baseline (zero), there is some level of effort. But this intervention was not effective as 69.3% of the groups failed to exist at least as a group. Based on the discussion with the project steering committee, the main reasons for failure were lack of a thorough and realistic feasibility study (analysis of profitability, market rivals, business model); groups were not established based on interest and intimacy of the group members; previous experience of the group members was not adequately considered; and disagreement among group members. For example, there was no clear business model which shows how the solid waste management groups can collect service charges from the community. Moreover, security problem in the region limited efforts of the government offices to closely follow up the entrepreneurs and provide technical support.

According to the information from the project office, the members of the private sector groups were able to generate Birr 2431.00 per month/head. Meanwhile, FGD participants indicated that there is no considerable change in monthly income of private sector actors, as most of the IGAs failed, and the remaining are operating under their capacity. Unless water supply schemes can improve their tariff rate, and able to collect adequate amount of money, sustainability of these enterprises is at risk. Similarly, the water filtration kits supplier group cannot sell adequate kits

that can help them support their living from the profit of the business. Fuel-saving stove producers groups stopped production because of high price of inputs and shortage of buyers.

The consult team's experience over a decade in evaluating similar projects in many parts of Ethiopia, in general, indicated that group-based enterprises are in most cases unsuccessful (face losses, group dismantle, face shortage of running cost, operate at low efficiency, face market problem for products, etc.). Hence private sector supports need to focus on individuals or intimates, and it should be based on a complete feasibility study and realistic business plan.

In general, output 3.1 and output 3.2 lead to the outcome 3 – strengthened capacity of the local stakeholders (government, private sector and the community organizations) to maintain sustainable and inclusive community development. Key outcome indicators included: i) # and % of women entrepreneurs contributing to the green economy in targeted kebeles; and ii) # and % of beneficiaries who have meaningfully participated in formal (government-led) and informal (civil-society-led, private sector-led) decision-making spaces in the targeted kebeles. The project completion report indicated 19 women entrepreneurs (26%) are contributing to the green economy in their kebele through engaging in spare parts supply; water filtration kits supply, beekeeping, solid waste management and production and marketing of energy saving stoves.

Result of the household survey indicated that 77% of the respondents reported that they regularly attend formal meetings organized by government (kebele administration), and 83.2% reported that they regularly attend meetings on community development. Regarding informal meetings of village saving and loan associations, 97.4% reported that they attend VSLA meetings regularly (Table 20). On average, 85.9% of the respondents indicated that women activity involved in issues that need community level decision. Compared to the baseline situation when 55.8% of the respondents were attending such formal and informal gatherings, the endline assessment has shown remarkable progress on regular attendance of community members to formal and informal public gatherings. This shows that the project was effective in raising community participation in meetings and gatherings, which are key platforms to make consultative decisions in all forms of development endeavors. During the FGDs, community members indicated that they regularly attend meetings organized by the government (women association) and meetings on community

development monthly or once in two months. Regarding informal meetings, VSLA members indicated that they regularly meet in every 15 days.

In general, the project was satisfactorily effective in improving food security of households and strengthening their capacity to withstand environmental and economic shocks. As a result, the beneficiaries able to cope up with the serve drought which occurred during 2023/24 crop season. It was also highly effective in increasing women equal participation in decision making in the household and reducing harmful traditional practices. Participation of the community in meetings led by the government or civil society organizations was also highly satisfactory which most of the community members were attending and uttering their development needs.

Table 20: Percent of respondents who reported regular attendance to formal and informal meetings

Description		Regularly attend formal meetings organized by the government	Regularly attend meetings on community development	Regularly attend informal meetings of village saving and loan associations	Average
Sex of the HH head	MHH	77.5	82.8	97.2	85.8
	FHH	75.5	84.3	98	85.9
Age of the HH head	14 - 29	76	82	100	86.0
	30 - 45	79.3	85.5	98.3	87.7
	46 - 65	73.5	80.5	94.7	82.9
	> 65	70.6	70.6	94.1	78.4
Disability status of the HH head	With	52	64	84	66.7
	Without	78.6	84.4	98.2	87.1
Intervention kebele	SWEEP	76	84.4	96.6	85.7
	New	78.8	81.3	98.8	86.3
Woreda	E/Belessa	76.1	80.3	98.1	84.8
	W/Belessa	78	86.1	96.7	86.9
	Overall	77	83.2	97.4	85.9

Source: Household survey conducted in February 2024

5.3 The Project Impact

To what extent the project has generated significant positive or negative, intended or unintended, higher-level effects?

The project emphasis on demand-driven, inclusive, and gender-transformative approaches in all aspects from design to implementation and to post-implementation monitoring has helped to provide equitable benefits to the poor and marginalized. Through supporting continuous practices of social analysis and action and involving the poor and marginalized in village saving and loan association, the project has shown visible impacts in building social capital and financial capital within the project beneficiaries. The VSLA platforms clearly extend their impact beyond economic empowerment, bringing about significant positive changes in that women have actively engaged in managing cooperatives and assuming decision-making roles in various committees.

This has contributed to transformative shifts in existing norms (improving attitude of communities on women confidence and capability to hold a leadership position), empowering women in leadership positions and promoting meaningful participation in household decisions. Through the VSLAs, women have increased social relationships and shared a sense of responsibility during emergencies. Besides their cooperation during different events like marriage and funeral ceremonies by saving extra money together with their regular saving for VSLAs, 11.4% of the respondents disclosed that they have got accessed to loan for buying food during times food shortage. The intervention has also brough about higher level effects (most significant change) in terms of changing social norms on traditional practices of early marriage and female genital cutting whereby 97.9% of the respondents believe that early marriage and female genital cutting should no longer continue as a community norm.

The application of community scorecard focusing on watersheds, water schemes and schools has raised accountability. The woreda-level project steering committee, led by the woreda administrator, follow up the project achievements through regular monthly meetings, annual planning, and quarterly joint supervision visits. This has raised community participation in meetings and gatherings, which are key platforms to make consultative decisions and strengthen coordination in all forms of development endeavours.

Moreover, the basic approach which IWRA project has been prompting by using water resources as an entry point for addressing food security and promoting women empowerment and gender equality is scalable and replicable intervention. Water is a key resource for providing domestic water supply for people and livestock, promoting hygiene and sanitation plus strengthening resiliency to withstand climate change effects through practicing irrigation and improving soil moisture for rainfed production. In general, the project has contributed to sustainable development goals: SDG_2 reduction in hunger; SDG_5 Gender equality; SDG_{10} reduction in inequalities; and SGD_{13} climate action.

5.4 Sustainability

To what extent the benefits or results of the project continue or are likely to continue after the project ends (sustainability)?

The project activities are implemented with active participation of the community and government stakeholders, and this has created good sense of ownership of the community members. Moreover, strong institutions have been established in order to ensure sustainability of the project results. For example, irrigation beneficiaries are organized in irrigation water users' associations. For water supply schemes, either a water board or water users' associations are established. And natural resources management activities are managed by watershed user's cooperatives. What is not yet institutionalized is the social analysis and action platform. SAA may not continue when the project ends unless the woreda women children and social affairs offices can responsibly take over it and encourage SAA facilitators to continue on practicing SAA.

VSLA leaders are developing leadership skills, and the VSLAs are growing/linking to rural saving and credit cooperatives to ensure continuity and scale up of members saving and credit practices. Flexibility of the cooperative's promotion offices on the possibility of registering two RUSACCOs in a kebele (the customary RUSACCO plus majorly/wholly women RUSACCOs) has positively contributed to ensure growth and sustainability of VSLAs and thereby enhance equitable access to financial services for the poor and marginalized.

Technically, NRM, VSLAs and SAA can be sustainably manged by the community members. Meanwhile, there is no adequate technical skill for operation and maintenance of solar power

system used for water supply and irrigation schemes, as the power system requires more skill full persons who are not available in the target area. Groups organized for spare parts supply and providing maintenance service are not as such successful. Still there exists skill and spare parts supply gap for maintenance of water supply and irrigation facilities. Hence it is advisable to identify at least 2 quick learner and responsible individuals per woreda, provide intensive and practical training on operation and maintenance of the solar power system; and supply some stock of spare parts to them. The trainees should get into commitment to provide maintenance services within their woreda at reasonable costs. Outside their woredas, he/she can charge relatively higher service fees for his/her maintenance services.

Irrigation schemes, NRM interventions, and VSLAs can generate the required financial resources for sustaining the project results. Water supply schemes, however, cannot generate adequate amount of revenue which can enable them cover operation and maintenance costs unless there is an improvement in water tariff rate and collection system. Price of spare parts is increasing from time to time. But revenue generated by water boards or water user associations is small. According to the information from FGD participant WASHCO members, the communities have a fixed price of Birr 30.00 per M^3 of water, and the amount of water consumed per month by a household is, estimated to be on average one M^3 or 40 jerricans, which is much less than the actual consumption. As women FGD participants indicated, under normal circumstances, a household consumes at least 2 Jerricans of water per day (60 Jerricans per month), but pays only Birr 30.00 per month.

In order to ensure suitability of the water supply service, the water board or water user associations have to improve the existing tariff based on the actual water consumption rather than simply collecting Birr 30.00 per household per month. And tariff collection should be done based on the actual amount of water consumed by each household. Assigning a poor woman or a person with a disability to collect water fee at each water point (per a jerrican of water) would help increase revenue from water supply services, and thereby cover operation and maintenance costs. Although using the solar power system has reduced running costs such as costs for buying fuel to the power sources, cost of maintenance of solar power system is very high. Hence, enough money should be deposited in bank to provide timely maintenance whenever the system stops functioning.

Watershed management interventions have good contribution to environment sustainability in terms of reducing soil erosion, improving soil moisture, improving surface and subsurface water resources and enhancing biodiversity. Solar power systems for water supply and irrigation facilities are also friendly to the environment, and irrigation farms have good contribution to improve the microclimate. Expanding irrigation (fruits production integrated with apiary) at downstream of the dam water by using groundwater would further enhance environmental sustainability in terms of reducing carbon emission and enhancing bee biodiversity.

In general, the project activities have been implemented building capacity of the community on the activities promoted. And there has been active engagement of the government sector offices from the onset of the project. Moreover, the project steering committee at all levels continue on monitoring and supporting the community to ensure continuity of the project results.

6. Conclusion

CARE Ethiopia has designed and implemented Improved WASH Systems and Resilience in Amhara (IWRA) project in 28 woredas of East/West Belessa woredas in order to improve water source systems, strengthen resilience, empower the marginalized and support community development. Result of the endline review regarding effectiveness, impact and sustainability of IWRA project indicated that the project was effective in improving food security, improving capacities to adapt to environmental and economic shocks, enhancing equal participation and decision-making role of rural women, reducing harmful traditional practices; and increasing engagement of the community in public meetings and uttering their development needs. Adaptation plans promoted by the project such as natural resources management and irrigation development were appropriate to improve food security and strengthen resiliency.

The intervention has brought about meaningful social, economic and environmental impacts. For example, social analysis and action and village saving and loan which are continuously promoted by the community members have shown visible impacts in building social capital and financial capital of the beneficiaries. Natural resources management activities implemented via the adaptation plans have also good contribution to build natural capital. Furthermore, water supply

and irrigation facilities rehabilitated by the project have visible contribution in improving physical capital for the beneficiary community.

The project activities have been implemented through active participation of the beneficiary community and government stakeholders. Except operation and maintenance of the solar power system, the community and implementing partners have developed the required capacity and skill to effectively implement the project interventions and sustainably manage the results. Moreover, strong and growing institutions like RUSACCOs, Watershed development cooperatives, irrigation users' associations, etc., have been already established for insuring continuity of the project results.

In general, the project has contributed to sustainable development goals: SDG_2 reduction in hunger; SDG_5 Gender equality; SDG_{10} reduction in inequalities; and SGD_{13} climate action. Furthermore, the basic approach which IWRA project has been prompting by using water resources as an entry point is scalable and replicable intervention.

7. Recommendation

In order to ensure sustainability of the project results and also address gaps which are not yet addressed by IWRA project, it is worthy to consider the following recommendation.

- WASHCOs need to improve the water tariff determination modalities by sharing experiences from Guna-Begemidir and Estie woredas. Water tariffs should be determined based on the amount of water consumed rather than a uniform monthly or annual rate.
- The community should take full responsibility for managing the watersheds where adaptation plans are being implemented. The community should pay salary for guards either in kind or in cash or give a plot of land for its guarding service. The government should not continue on paying salary for the guards as the watershed users cooperatives are legal entities responsible to own and manage the watersheds. The government should rather support the community in the watersheds in legally registering community watershed users' cooperatives as per the proclamation 1223/2020.
- Further efforts and better methodologies are required specially to improve food security of FHHs and households whose head is a person with a disability through working on improving market linkages and identifying feasible income generation activities.

- VSLAs growth to RUSACCOs is important for growth and sustainability of financial access, and thereby enhancing access to loan. It is good to scale out VSLA approach to non-project kebeles to increase the number and financial capacity of RUSACCOs.
- Continuous efforts are required to significantly reduce a harmful traditional practice that a considerable proportion of the husbands have a mistress. The government offices should take over full responsibility to cascade the social analysis and action platform, and the project steering committee need to give due focus in terms of allocating resources to cascade it.
- The consultant team experiences in evaluating various projects including IWRA project showed that group-based enterprises are in most cases unsuccessful. Hence supports given to the private sector on operation and maintenance of water system facilities need to focus on interested individuals, and it should be based on a complete feasibility study and realistic business plan.

8. Annexes

Annex A. Questionnaire for household survey to conduct endline review of IWRA project in east and west Belessa woredas of central Gonder zone, Amhara region

Consent Form

Good morning/afternoon! My name is_____ and I am working with CARE Ethiopia Improved WASH systems and Resilience in Amhara (IWRA) project. We are conducting endline survey to find out more about the achievements of IWRA project which has been implemented in you kebele. You are being asked to participate in this survey because of your important role as a beneficiary of the project. I will ask you a series of questions that would take about 30 minutes. Your name and responses will remain confidential and be analyzed together with the responses of others, solely for the purpose of this endline survey. We expect you to answer all questions truthfully. It is your choice whether or not to take part in this interview and if you choose to participate, you have the right not to answer any question or to stop the interview at any time. If you don't choose to participate, it will in no way impact your relationship with CARE Ethiopia. Before we begin, do you want to ask me any questions about the survey? Shall I continue in asking you each question?

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

Questionnaire ID: _____
Woreda code: 1. East Belessa 2. West Belessa
Project Category: 1. SWEEP 2. New kebeles
Kebele code: 1. 11 2. 12 3. 13 4. 14 5.21 6.22 7.23 8. 24

Part A. General Information

1-A. Name of respondent: …….
2-A. Age of the respondent_____
3-A. Sex of the respondent: 1. Male 2. Female
4-A. Family size of the household:

Age	0-4	5-14	15-29	30-45	46-65	> 65
Male						
Female						

5-A. Educational Status of the household head:
1. Illiterate
2. Informal School
3. Primary School (grades 1-6)
4. Middle school (grades 7-8)
5. Secondary School (grades 9-12)
6. College/University graduate

6-A. Marital status of the household head:
1. Single
2. Married
3. Divorced
4. Widowed/Widower

7-A. Sex of the household head: 1. Male 2. Female
8-A. Age of the household head: _____
9-A. Means of livelihood of the household: Mark all that apply
1. Agriculture
2. Merchant
3. Civil servant
4. Wage labour

10-A. Does the household head have impairment problem? 1. Yes 2. No

Part B. Project Impact Related Questions

I. Improving WASH Systems for Domestic Use and Irrigation

B-1 What is your primary source of water for domestic use (drinking, cooking and washing, Mark on it)?

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

B-2. Mostly who fetches water from the source (multiple responses?)

No.	Source of water	Dry season 1. Mother, 2. Girl, 3. Boy 4. Men	Wet season 1. Mother 2. Girl 3. Boy 4. Men
1	Protected hand-dug well-fitted with a pump		
2	Unprotected hand-dug well		
3	Harvested roof water		
4	Pipe water		
5	Protected spring		
6	Unprotected spring		
7	Protected dam (or pond)		
8	Unprotected dam (or pond)		
9	Running water (river)		
10	Rainwater collection		

B-3. Which capacity containers did household members fill and bring home yesterday? [Mark all that apply]
1. 25 liters
2.20 liter
3.15 liter
4.10 liter
5. Other (please specify)

B-4. Yesterday, how many total containers of this size did the household members bring home? ___
1. 25 liters _____
2.20 liter_____
3.15 liter_____
4.10 liter_____
5. Other (please specify) _____

B-5. How many minutes do the current water source take (round trip) including waiting? _____

B-6. How do you take out water from the containers for drinking?
1. Immersing the small can/glass directly to the water storage jar/pot
2. Bending the water storage jar/pot down and pouring water to the small can/glass
3. The water storage jar/pot has a kind of tape to open & pour the water to the small can/glass

B-7. Do you believe that your water is safe for drinking? 1. Yes 2. No

B-8. If the water is not safe for drinking, what is the main reason?
1. The water source often gets broken and not maintained soon

2. It is far and sometimes difficult to walk to the water point during a rainy time,
3. We use unprotected water source during the rainy season
4. Water supply is not sufficient to satisfy the community

B-9. Do you believe the significance of treating drinking water before use?

1. Yes
2. No > B.11

B-10. If yes, what methods are you using most of the time to treat drinking water?

1. Boiling and cooling before drinking
2. Using water treatment tablets/chemicals like aqua tabs
3. Using water filter materials/equipment
4. Pouring on clean clothes/straining on clean cloth

B-11. If you do not treat the water that you use for drinking, what is the main reason?

1. Lack of skill on how to treat water
2. We do not know the importance of treating drinking water
3. We do not like the taste of treated water
4. The treatment method is not affordable
5. The treatment is time-consuming

B-12. How satisfied are you with your water service?

1. Not Satisfied
2. Neutral
3. Satisfied

B-13. Are you paying for water fee? 1. Yes 2. No > B.15

B-14. How often do you pay for water? (Probe: Are there any other times you pay?) [Mark all that apply] and how much

1. Per container Birr_____
2. Daily Birr_____
3. Weekly Birr_____
4. Monthly Birr_____
5. Yearly Birr_____
6. When the system breaks Birr_____

B-15: Sanitation facility (latrine or toilet) used by the household

1. Safely managed latrine
2. Basic latrine
3. Pit latrine.
4. Open defecation

B-16. How are feces from children under 3 in this household disposed of?

1. Child uses latrine
2. It is put or rinsed into latrine
3. It is put or rinse into garbage bin
4. It is put or rinsed on the ground or in the open
5. It is buried
6. Not applicable

B-17. When do you personally wash your hands? [Do not read options to respondent. Probe to ask “Are there any other times that you wash your hands?” until they finish. Mark all that apply]

1. After defecation
2. After cleaning or changing a baby dipper
3. Before food preparation
4. Before eating
5. Before feeding child
6. After working in the dirt

B-18. What is the means of hand washing?

1. Water only
2. Water with ash
3. Water and Soap
4. Other (specify) _____

B-19. Where do you take baths?

1. at bathroom
2. at shade inside home garden
3. at River
4. Other (specify)_____

B-20. Is there a hand washing facility near the latrine that user able to access it?

1. Yes
2. No

B-21. Where do you dispose solid domestic wastes?

1. Open field
2. Closed refuse pit
3. Open refuse pit
4. Burn in open field

B-22. Does your household have farmland? 1. Yes 2. No

B-23. Size of farm: a) Total _____ ha b) Own _____ ha c) Rented in _____

B-24. Do you have access to irrigation water through the support of the project?

1. Yes 2. No >B.28

B-25. Types and number of crops produced with irrigation

S/N	Fruits trees		Vegetables		Cereals		Pulses	
	Type	Number	Type	Area (M^2)	Type	Area (ha)	Type	Area (ha)
1								
2								
3								
4								

B-26. If no, what are the reasons behind for absence of irrigation crops in your irrigation field? Please specify only two main reasons:

……
……

B-27. Did you harvest irrigation crops in the previous one year? 1. Yes 2. No> B28

B-28. If yes, how much Birr you sold the crop harvested in the previous one year from your irrigation field?

……..

B-29. Comparing with the income level of your household before two years, to what extent did the income level of your household during the past 12 months increased?

1. Greatly increased
2. Increased
3. Same
4. Decreased
5. Greatly decreased

B-30. Do you think that women's economic activity is sufficiently recognized by men, including husbands?

1. Yes
2. Somehow recognized
3. Not recognized at all

B-31. For how many months were you able to provide food (at least three meals per day) for your household during the past harvest season? _____ Months

II. Improved protection of the environment and response to environmental shocks

B-32. Did this household get severely affected by any of the following major shocks during the past 12 months? *(Multiple responses possible)*
1. Crop loss due to weather changes
2. Crop loss due to crop disease and/or pests
3. Livestock death due to disease or drought
4. Shortage of food to feed the family
5. Other shocks like illness or death of working family member

B-33. Did this household get severely affected by any of the following major economic shocks during the past 12 months? *(Multiple responses possible)*
1. conflict
2. market problem
3. shortage of food
4. inflation
5.looting

B-34. Which of the following strategies have you done during the past 12 months in order to compensate for the food shortage? *(Multiple responses possible)*
1. Sell livestock and buy food items
2. Sell/rent other productive assets like land and buy food items
3. Collect and sell firewood and charcoal
4. Migrate to other localities to find work and earn money/food
5. Migrate to urban areas and work as daily laborers
6. Send children to stay with relatives
7. Send children to work as daily laborers /wage laborers/
8. Withdraw children from school
9. Harvest immature crops and feed the family
10. Consume seeds kept for the next season

B-35. Is there a watershed (soil and water conservation) activity in your community/village?
1. Yes
2. No

B-36. Do you (the community/owned) have a tree nursery site?
1. Yes
2. No

B-37. If no, where do you get the seedlings for tree plantation activity in the watersheds?
1. Government supplies
2. CARE project supplies
3. Private suppliers of seedlings

B-38: Do you know women entrepreneurs who contributing to the green economy in your kebele
1.yes
2.no

B-39. If B-36-1 yes, which types of green economy do women entrepreneurs engaged in
1. Fuel saving stove
2. Solar
3. Beekeeping on area closure
4. Seedling production

B-40. Is there a tradition of planting trees in your community?
1. Yes
2. No

B-41. Do you build terraces and other physical structures on the land you possess to conserve soil/water?
1. Yes
2. No

B-42. What other measures do you take to prevent soil erosion and water run-off? *(Multiple responses possible)*
1. Growing different crops at a time (Diversification)

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

B-43. Do you believe that communal and individual natural resource conservation practices contribute to reduce the negative impacts of climate change and prevent natural resource depletion/degradation?
1. Yes
2. No

B-44. Do you believe that you have a better capacity to withstand environmental shocks now than before?
1. Yes
2. No

B-45. Do you believe that you have a better capacity to withstand economic shocks now than before?
1. Yes
2. No

III. Increased capacity of marginalized groups to engage in income-generating activities

B-46. Are you or a member of your family participating in VSLA?
1. Yes
2. No >IV

B-47. If yes, number of years since you joined VSLA?
1. Four or more years
2. Three years
3. Two years
4. One year

B-48. If yes, how much Birr do you save per month? _____

B-49. Did you share-out your savings money annually?
1. Yes
2. No

B-50. For what purpose you used the share-out money (Mark all that apply)
1. Food
2. Cloth
3. Agriculture inputs (seed, fertilizer, chemicals)
4. Education
5. Small business
6. Other (Specify)_____

B-51. Did you take loan from your VSLA?
1. Yes
2. No

B-52. If yes, for what purpose did you take the loan from your VSAL?
1. Food
2. Cloth
3. Agriculture inputs (seed, fertilizer, chemicals)
4. Education
5. Small business
6. Other (Specify)_____

B-53. What is the loan repayment period? Number of months: _____months

B-54. What is the monthly service charge/interest rate for the loan? ……

B-55. Have you had defaulters in loan repayment?
1. Yes
2. No

B-56. If yes, how do you recover funds from a member who defaults on loan repayment?
_____

IV. Enhanced ability of power holders and marginalized groups to challenge existing discriminatory social norms and expand the role of women and girls

B-57. Is female circumcision a common practice in your community?
1. Yes
2. No

B-58. Do you think that female genital mutilation is a harmful practice that affects the lives of women/girls?
1. Yes
2. No

B-59. Do you believe that female genital mutilation should continue as a community culture/norm?
1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree

B-60. How old is your youngest daughter? _____ years

B-61. Is your youngest daughter circumcised?
1. Yes
2. No

B-62. Is early marriage (marriage under 18 years of age) a common practice in your community?
1. Yes
2. No

B-59. Have you heard any early marriage (marriage under 18 years of age) arranged in your community during the past year?
1. Yes
2. No

B-60. Do you think that early marriage (marriage under 18 years of age) is a harmful practice that affects the lives of girls?
1. Yes
2. No

B-61. Do you believe that early marriage (marriage under 18 years of age) should continue as a community culture/norm?
1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree

B-62. Has your family facilitated (arranged) early marriage during the past year?
1. Yes
2. No

B-63. Which of the following traditional practices prevail in your community? (*(Multiple responses possible)*
1. Rape
2. Abduction
3. Sexual harassment/abuse
4. Beating by a husband
5. Beating by other men and boys
6. Insult by a husband
7. Insult by other men and boys
8. Widow inheritance
9. Mistress

B-64. Do you agree that the above traditional practices are harmful to girls and women?
1. Strongly agree
2. Agree

3. Neutral
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree

B-65. Is the community effort to fight the above community practices satisfactory?
1. Yes
2. No

V. Increased engagement of local government with community to address needs

B-66. Participation of women and girls in household chores, (Who participates in the household chores most often?

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

B-67. On average, how many hours per day do women in your household spend on domestic activities?
____hour

B-68. On average, how many hours per day do girls in your household spend on domestic activities?
_____hour (Write NA if there is no daughter in the household)

B-69. Participation of men and women in household-level decision-making

No.	Description	1. Women only 2. Men only 3. Women and men together 4. Not relevant (if they don't have)
1	Purchasing of cattle, oxen, and other large livestock	
2	Selling of cattle, oxen, and other large livestock	
3	Purchase of sheep and goats	
4	Selling sheep and goats	
5	Selling/purchase of chicken and eggs	
6	Purchase/sell of production assets like agricultural inputs and tools	
7	Renting out/in plots of land	
8	How much of the income/product to save or to consume	
9	Whether the household to take a loan and how much to borrow, and how to invest the money borrowed	
10	Family planning (contraception use and decision on the # of children)	
11	Schooling of children	
12	Marriage of children	
13	Selling of butter	
14	Selling of crops	
15	Selling of vegetables and fruits	
16	Selling/purchase of bee colony/honey/wax	

B-70. Participation in community-level decision-making

No.	Activity description	Do you regularly attend meetings of this group?	If yes: To what extent you are involved in making important decisions in the group?
		1. Yes 2. No	1. Actively involved 2. Moderately involved 3. Rarely involved 4. Not involved at all
1	Women's association		
2	Self-help groups, VSLA, VESA		
3	Community development		
4	Religious gatherings		
5	Negotiation for peacebuilding		

B-71. To what extent women in different committees and leadership position have self-confidence and convey their messages in public meetings?
1. Highly assertive, confident and self-expressive
2. They are good, clearly express their views and opinions and convey messages
3. They are weak; they don't have confidence and poorly convey their messages on a public meeting
B-72. Does Kebele/Woreda government involve any member of your household in its planning, budgeting and monitoring for basic social services (like water supply, road access, environmental protection, education and health, input supply, etc.)?
1. Yes, always
2. Yes, sometimes
3. No, it does not involve us in the planning budgeting and monitoring works
B-73. If yes, does Woreda/kebele considered your opinions and development needs in its planning and budget-making?
1. Yes, fully considered
2. Yes, partly considered
3. No, it does not consider our requests while planning and budgeting
B-74 Do you get an opportunity to request services (water supply, health, education, input supply, road, etc.?) from duty bearers
1. Yes
2. No
B-75 If yes, are you satisfied on the services provided?
1. Yes
2. No
B-76. Do you have any practice of discussing with the duty bearers (police, justice, women children, social affairs, local justice) on ending Violence against women?
1. Yes
2. No
B-77 If yes, to what extent the duty bearer did implement ending violence against women?
1. Satisfactory
2. Not satisfactory

Annex B: Focus Group Discussion Guide

I. FGD For the Social Analysis and Action Group

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

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

1. Does the group have permanent members? If yes, how many active members?
2. How was this SAA established?
3. What is the prime objective of the SAA?
4. What capacity building supports did you get from CARE?
5. What did you do so far (since your establishment)?

   5.1. Number of sessions held (conducted)
   5.2. Number and composition of participants in each session
   5.3. What types of social and cultural barriers are identified by the group/session participants?
   5.4. Developing SAA action plans
   5.5. What were your plans and implementation status?
6. Explain me how it has identified and addressed the most prevalent HTPs like early marriage, FGM, abduction/rape and domestic violence.
7. What are the successes, challenges and gabs of SAA?
8. Do you believe that you have built active, effective and sustaining SAA?
9. Explain me your relationship with the government and their contributions to ensure effective community **awareness with regard to major HTPs in the area**

   10.1. How responsive is the local government to your questions related to HTP fighting?
   10.2. How satisfied is the community by the government response?
10. What do you recommend to make SAA more effective and functional than they are now

II. FGD guide for project steering committee

Level: Woreda _____, Kebele_____-

Name	Sex	Disability	Represented from	Position in the PSC

1. How does this PSC organize itself in terms of
   1.1. Structure/governance (chair, secretary, members, etc.)
   1.2. Bylaw (meeting schedule, place, venue, date)
   1.3. Action plan
2. Tell me the main supports entrusted to this PSC for the success of this project.
3. How were the project designed and implementation arrangement & stakeholders' engagement defined and Kebele and beneficiary selection was made?
4. What were the roles of this PSC in the implementation and monitoring of the project?
5. What were the challenges you faced in terms of
   6.1. Getting organized
   6.2. Functioning as intended (conducting sessions, joint project visits and problem solving),
   6.4. Communicating with CARE for intended amendments on project plans, implementation modalities and relevant issues
6. How does the steering committee work with sector offices and enforce the implementation of its recommendations/lessons?
7. What are the main strengths of the project in terms
   7.1. Project design processes
   7.2. Stakeholders' engagement and decision-making including communities
   7.3. Implementation arrangements
   7.4. Resource management arrangements
   7.5. Government and community empowerment, learning and sustainability strategies
8. What do you think are the limitation of the project against the above criteria?

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

III. Focus Group Discussion Guide for VSLAs/ RUSACCOs

1. Do you know about CARE-Ethiopia?
   1.1. How do you know it?
   1.2. What do you know about it?
2. Who and how was the VSLA established (driving force, process)?
3. Why you establish this VSLA (purpose) and what are your regular activities?
4. How often do you meet, how are your leadership structured and what are your most common agendas of discussion during your regular meeting?
5. Tell me about your association's Total saving
6. Tell me about your savings (principles), loan management (principles) and purposes of loans.
   6.1. Lending to all members at a time or turn by turn?
   6.2. Lend same amount to all or different amounts based on demand and capital?
   6.3. What are the purposes of the loan?
   6.4. What are the loan processes (application, appraisal and collateral issues)?
   6.5. What is the minimum loan size?
   6.6. What is the maximum loan size?
   6.7. How long is the loan term?
   6.8. How is the repayment arranged (one go or installment)?
   7.10. How is the interest rate determined (and by who)?
7. Would you please tell me your group and individual savings: frequency (weekly, monthly)?
8. Tell me your current feeling and situation as compared to your feeling during VSLA formation.
9. Explain me the positive changes/impacts of CARE project on your (women's) lives
   9.1. Access to various education and trainings (knowledge, attitude, skill)
   9.2. Access to (consumption and business) loan and IGA thereby improving income and livelihoods
   9.3. Leadership development (association leader, book writer, representative)
   9.4. Assertiveness (learn to speak, ask questions, answer, dialogue and participate)
   9.5. To what extent has the VSLA approach supported members' economic empowerment?
10. Tell me both positive and negative (unintended for you) impacts of being a VSLA member on your (family) life
11. Explain me the contribution of VSLA approach for (you) women's participation in the
   11.1 Community roles (WASHCO, Watershed management, SAA/LPA, Idir and others)
   11.2 Government leadership roles (Kebele and Woreda)
   11.3 Leadership in civil society organizations, groups and associations and the private sector)
12. Do you discuss on social and environmental issues in your VSLA meeting like on
   12.1 Child rights issues
   12.2 Women rights issues
   12.3 Harmful traditional practices prevalent in your area (like early marriage, gender inequality, unsafe child migration, FGM, child labor exploitation)

12.4 Management of watersheds and linking them with women's livelihoods

13 Can you give me your records like Minute book, Ledger (loan ledger), Individual passbook, and Bank account opened in the name of your association or joint account and other relevant documents?

14 Did your VSLA grow to a RUSACCO? When? HOW?

15 How many VSLAs members did the RUSACCO involve? Who many beneficiaries do the RUSACOO have? (Prob: M/F)

16 What are the benefits of growing to a RUSACCO?

IV. Focus Group Discussion Guide for Women/men in the Community

1. Do you know about CARE-Ethiopia?
   - 1.1. How do you know it?
   - 1.2. What do you know about it?
2. In which CARE project components are you benefiting from?
   - 2.1. Safe drinking water supply
   - 2.2. Environmental protection
   - 2.3. Women empowerment
   - 2.4. Support to marginalized community groups
3. How did you participate in this project management process?
   - 3.1. As a project beneficiary
   - 3.2. As a committee member (WASHCO, and watershed management)
   - 3.3. Member in SAA
4. What were the capacity building supports you have received from CARE project?
   - 4.1. Soft skills: training and exposure visits on gender equality, water, hygiene and sanitation (health), business and entrepreneurship, saving and credit management, income generating activities,
   - 4.2. Material support (any kind including minute books and passbook)
   - 4.3. Financial supports in the form of matching fund, Revolving loan fund, business startup capital, seed money
5. Explain me the positive changes/impacts of CARE project on your (family) lives
   - 5.1. Access to various education and trainings (knowledge, attitude, skill)
   - 5.2. Access to (consumption and business) loan and IGA, improved income/livelihood
   - 5.3. Access to safe drinking water and its health and associated benefits
   - 5.4. Leadership development (association leader, book writer, representative)
   - 5.5. Assertiveness (learn to speak, ask questions, answer, dialogue and participate)
6. To what extent has the project supported your economic empowerment/livelihoods?
   - 6.1. Business and entrepreneurship skills
   - 6.2. In terms of diversifying IGA through opening new ventures
   - 6.3. Scaling up existing businesses/agricultural activities
   - 6.4. Improving land and labor productivity
7. Shocks and Copping Mechanisms
   - 7.1. Are there any experiences of food or income-related shocks of Households in this locality/Kebele, what type shock experienced? Why?
   - 7.2. Were the shocks related to Weather, Disease and crop, livestock and human disease or mortality?
   - 7.3. Which shock(s) have had an acute impact on food security and livelihoods? Why? What impact these shocks had on your livelihoods?
     Probe: Crop Loss? Income loss? Livestock loss? (Mortality & stress sales) Food Shortage, Livestock Feed Shortage, Labor Loss/shortage and other (specify)? Why and how these shocks have happened?
   - 7.4. What is the key success of the project in addressing shocks if any related with current access water, pasture availability, livestock and crop conditions, etc. why?
8. Tell me the negative (unintended for you) impacts of the project
9. Explain me the contribution of the project on (your) participation in the
   - 9.1. Community roles (WASHCO, Watershed management, SAA/LPA, Idir and others)
   - 9.2. Government leadership roles (Kebele and Woreda levels)
   - 9.3. Leadership in civil society organizations, groups and associations and the private sector)

10. Do you have regular forum to discuss on social and environmental issues like
    10.1 Child rights issues
    10.2 Gender equality (Women's rights) issues
    10.3 Harmful traditional practices prevalent in your area (like early marriage, gender inequality, FGM)
11. Your opinion about CARE project (staffs) and Government structure
12. Overall, do you notice any observable real difference and changes that the project activities made to the beneficiaries? Why?
13. Do you believe that the project has addressed well gender issues in the implementation of activities and overall managements of the project? Why and why not?
14. How do you explain consideration of environmental aspects in the implementation of the project? Why and why not?
15. Do you believe the project was socially inclusive? Why and why not?
16. How do you explain the continuity of activities, results and effects after this project? why? Did the project establish processes and systems that are likely to support the continued impact of the project?

V. Focus Group Discussion Guide for men in the Community

11. Do you know about CARE-Ethiopia?
    1.1. How do you know it?
    1.2. What do you know about it?
12. In which CARE project components are you benefiting from?
    2.1. Safe drinking water supply
    2.2. Environmental protection
    2.3. Women empowerment
    2.4. Support to marginalized community groups
13. How did you participate in this project management process?
    13.1 As a project beneficiary
    13.2 As a committee member (WASHCO, and watershed management)
    13.3 Member in SAA

14 What were the capacity building supports you have received from CARE project?

14.1 Soft skills: training and exposure visits on gender equality, water, hygiene and sanitation (health), business and entrepreneurship, saving and credit management, income-generating activities,

14.2 Material support (any kind including minute books and passbook)

14.3 Financial supports in the form of matching fund, Revolving loan fund, business startup capital, seed money

15 Explain me the positive changes/impacts of CARE project on your (family) lives

15.1 Access to various education and trainings (knowledge, attitude, skill)

15.2 Access to (consumption and business) loan and IGA, improved income/livelihood

15.3 Access to safe drinking water and its health and associated benefits

15.4 Leadership development (association leader, book writer, representative)

15.5 Assertiveness (learn to speak, ask questions, answer, dialogue and participate)

16 To what extent has the project supported your economic empowerment/livelihoods?

16.1 Business and entrepreneurship skills

16.2 In terms of diversifying IGA through opening new ventures

16.3 Scaling up existing businesses/agricultural activities

16.4 Improving land and labor productivity

17 Shocks and Copping Mechanisms

17.1 Are there any experiences of food or income-related shocks of Households in this locality/Kebele, what type shock experienced? Why?

17.2 Were the shocks related to Weather, Disease and crop, livestock and human disease or mortality?

17.3 Which shock(s) have had an acute impact on food security and livelihoods? Why? What impact these shocks had on your livelihoods?

Probe: Crop Loss? Income loss? Livestock loss? (Mortality & stress sales) Food Shortage, Livestock Feed Shortage, Labor Loss/shortage and other (specify)? Why and how these shocks have happened?

17.4 What is the key success of the project in addressing shocks if any related with current access water, pasture availability, livestock and crop conditions, etc. why?
18 Tell me the negative (unintended for you) impacts of the project
19 Explain me the contribution of the project on (your) participation in the
19.1 Community roles (WASHCO, Watershed management, SAA/LPA, Idir and others)
19.2 Government leadership roles (Kebele and Woreda levels)
19.3 Leadership in civil society organizations, groups and associations and the private sector)
20 Do you have regular forum to discuss on social and environmental issues like
20.1 Child rights issues
20.2 Gender equality (Women's rights) issues
20.3 Harmful traditional practices prevalent in your area (like early marriage, gender inequality, FGM)
21 Your opinion about CARE project (staffs) and Government structure
22 Overall, do you notice any observable real difference and changes that the project activities made to the beneficiaries? Why?
23 Do you believe that the project has addressed well gender issues in the implementation of activities and overall managements of the project? Why and why not?
24 How do you explain consideration of environmental aspects in the implementation of the project? Why and why not?
25 Do you believe the project was socially inclusive? Why and why not?
26 How do you explain the continuity of activities, results and effects after this project? why? Did the project establish processes and systems that are likely to support the continued impact of the project?

VI. FGD Guide for the Watershed Management Committee/Association/Cooperative

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

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

1. What are the functions of the committee?
2. What was the primary role (objective) of this committee? Did you believe that the objective already met?
3. With which government office, if any, have you closely worked with?
4. What was expected and received from this partner office?
5. Is this responsibility written/agreed or not?
6. What activities did you done and what results achieved so far with regard to watershed management?
7. Did you have any action plan? If yes, please show me or give me a copy of it.
8. What were the institutional, organizational and technical capacity building supports you have received from CARE project and/or government office?

Probe: Systems you have established for a sustainable watershed management and its impacts
8.1. Institutional arrangements and structure
8.2. Leadership and management
8.3. Financial (sources like saving and management) including receipts
8.4. Material resource management
8.5. Watershed resource management manual and administration (bylaw)

9. What is the status of the watershed management site now?
Probe: Is it protected, open for grazing and farming, fenced, or what? If there are problems, what the problems you are facing?
10. What physical and biological watershed managements were made? Why? What was the result achieved and why or why not?
11. What are the problems associated with the watershed management practice as compared to its original plan/design/approach?

12. For what other purpose do you use the watershed than for soil and water conservation?
13. Do you believe the committee was effective? Why? Do you want to continue with the committee? Why? Is there plan to become Watershed users' cooperative?
14. How do you explain integration of environmental aspects in the implementation of the project? why and why not?
15. Do you believe the project was socially inclusive? Why and why not?
16. How do you explain the continuity of activities, results and effects after this project? Why? Did the project establish processes and systems that are likely to support the continued impact of the project?
17. What do you recommend to future watershed management programming?

VII. FGD For the water, sanitation and hygiene committee (WASHCO)

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

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

1. How were the committee members selected? (Selection criteria and processes adopted)
2. Tell me about the structure and subcommittees of WASHCO and their functions
3. How many are the total active water users? __
4. What type of water scheme do you have? For drinking and livestock consumptions?
   Probe: Developed spring water source, Deep-dug water source, Diverted River water, Pond and related surface water scheme
5. Is your water scheme newly developed or renovated (upgraded)?
6. How is the water system functioning?
   Probe: Gravity driven (pipe line) Power driven pipe line, manual
7. How accessible is the water source for the majority of the users during dry and rainy seasons?
8. Who usually fetch water in this community?
   Probe: girls/women and men/ boy and how many hours do they travel to fetch water
   Probe: estimation of average hours in round trips that it takes for beneficiaries to fetch water from water points (in dry and wet seasons)
   Probe: your estimation of the average distance in km in round trips that it takes for beneficiaries to fetch water from the water points? (in dry and wet seasons)
9. What is the primary objective of this WASHCO?
10. How do you assess the capacity of the committee members in self-managing the water facilities effectively?
11. Do you have legal cash receipt vouchers printed by the name of the committee? If yes, please show me sample receipts
12. What internal (none (financial)) bylaws do you have and to what extent do you respect them?
13. What is the status of the water supply scheme/service?
    13.1 Is it working, has a problem or totally stopped?
    13.2 If there is a problem in the water scheme, what are the problems?
14 What are the problems associated with safe drinking water supply?
15 For what other purpose do your members use the water supply (sources) than drinking?
16 Can you please give me your master list that contains the list of water users and other documents such as saving and minute book if available?
17 Overall, do you notice any observable real difference and changes that the project activities made to the beneficiaries? Why?
18 How do you explain consideration of environmental aspects in the implementation of the project? Why and why not?
19 Do you believe the project was socially inclusive? Why and why not?

20 How do you explain the continuity of activities, results and effects after this project? why? Did the project establish processes and systems that are likely to support the continued impact of the project?

VIII. FGD With Irrigation Users Cooperative/ Association/Committee

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

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

14. How were the committee members selected? (Selection criteria and processes adopted)
15. Tell me about the structure and subcommittees and their functions
16. How many are the total active irrigation users?
17. What type of irrigation scheme do you have?
18. Is your irrigation scheme newly developed or upgraded?
19. Do you collect cash for operation and maintenance? How the modality of cash collection (Prob: by crop type, area size, uniform)
20. Do you have legal cash receipt vouchers printed by the name of the committee? If yes, please show me sample receipts

21 What are the problems associated with irrigation water management?

IX. FGD with School clubs / MHH

1. Do you have school hygiene and sanitation club or MHH Club?
2. How many members does it have? (M/F)
3. What kinds of supports do you get from the project?
4. What are the benefits of participating in the club? Do you have resting room, bath room for ministerial hygiene management? Is there adequate water to keep your personal hygiene?
5. Are your peer male students well aware of your club and it purpose?
6. Are there problems limiting your club performance? What are they?

Annex C: Key Informants Interview Checklist

I. **KII checklist for water and irrigation development office**

Name _____ Sex ____disability _____ positions _____ Woreda _____

1. Tell me the main supports entrusted to your organization for the success of this project?
2. What are the main results of the project in terms of

3.1. Coverage of safe drinking water supply (and sanitation and hygiene) _____ %

3.2. Irrigation development (ha, type of scheme, beneficiary number, major crops produced, irrigation users' cooperatives/" Yuhua abate")

3. How are the drinking/irrigation water supply schemes being managed and utilized?
4. What were gaps of the project in terms of using

4.1. Drinking water schemes for multiple purposes like Water for drinking and cooking (domestic), economic activities (animal drinking including bees, fattening, vegetable gardening) and health such as sanitation and hygiene (shower rooms)

4.2. Watershed development to enrich surface and ground water resources (raise ground water level)

5. How do you describe the project contribution to institutional and management capacity development? Have project partners been properly capacitated (technically, managerially, etc.) for continuing to deliver the project's benefits/services?
6. How do you explain integration of environmental aspects in the implementation of the project? why and why not?
7. Do you believe the project was socially inclusive? Why and why not?
8. How do you explain the continuity of activities, results and effects after this project? Why? Did the project establish processes and systems that are likely to support the continued impact of the project?

II. KII Checklist for Women, Children and social Affair's Office

Name _____ Sex ____ disability _____ positions _____Woreda _____ Tele, ---------

1. Tell me the main supports entrusted to your office for the success of this project.
2. Explain me how you discharge your responsibilities (as PSC (project String Committee) member, as an office, etc.)
3. What are the main results of the project in terms of
   3.1. Reducing domestic chores of women and increasing their economic and social engagement
   3.2. Improving the health of women and girls
   3.3. Improving women's, girls' and communities' awareness on HTPs and determination in fighting them
   4.4. Supporting and opening up new jobs for FHHs, PWD and unemployed youth
   4.5. Improved gender equality and women's leadership and decision-making powers
4. What are the strengths and limitations of this project?
   4.1. Design level
   4.2. Relevance and effectiveness of project management and implementation strategies
   4.3. Implementation
   4.4. Management related
   4.5. Monitoring and reporting (including compliance)
5. What are the gabs of the project in terms of using
   5.1. Drinking water schemes for multiple purposes like Water for drinking and cooking (domestic), economic activities (animal drinking including bees, fattening, vegetable gardening) and health such as sanitation and hygiene (shower rooms)
   5..2. Watershed sites for job creation, value chain development and food security
   5.3. VSLA for economic activities (saving and loan), women empowerment (leadership and decision-making practices), child protection, gender equality and social justice (collective voicing)
   5.4. Existing (community and government) structures for the achievement of project objectives
   5.5. Community and public resources for the achievement of project objectives
   5.6. Reducing risks
6. To what extent does your office play its entrusted roles?
7. How many staffs received various capacity building trainings from the project? _____
8. How do you evaluate the coordination, management and financing arrangements of the project? did the project contributed to institutional strengthening and local ownership?
9. Overall, do you notice any observable real difference and changes that the project activities made to the beneficiaries? Why?
10. How do you describe the project contribution to institutional and management capacity development? Have project partners been properly capacitated (technically, managerially, etc.) for continuing to deliver the project's benefits/services?
11. Do you believe that the project has addressed well gender issues in the implementation of activities and overall managements of the project? why and why not?
12. Do you believe the project was socially inclusive? Why and why not?
13. How do you explain the continuity of activities, results and effects after this project? why? Did the project establish processes and systems that are likely to support the continued impact of the project?

III. KII guide for agriculture office

Name _____ Sex _____disability _____ positions _____ Woreda _____ tell-----

1. What is the key natural resources development approaches? (Water centered developed (surface/subsurface water enrichment, Integrated water resources management, etc.)
2. Tell me the main supports entrusted to your office for the success of this project.
3. How are the following community resources (amenities) being managed and utilized?
   3.1. Watershed sites and
   3.2. Irrigation schemes
4. Is it protected or open for grazing and farming? If there are problems, what the problems you are facing?
5. What are the gabs and challenges of the project in terms of using?
   5.1. Watershed sites for job creation, value chain development and food security

5.2. Community and public resources for the achievement of project objectives
5.3. Disaster-risk reduction approaches (chock resistance like cereal banks and water reservoirs)

6. To what extent does your office play its entrusted roles? Explain the reasons if you believe your support was below expected.
7. What are Shocks and Copping Mechanisms?
8. Are there any experiences of food or income related shocks of Households in this woreda, what type shock experienced? Why?
9. Were the shocks related to Weather, Disease and peat of crop, livestock and human disease or mortality?
10. Which shock(s) have had an acute impact on food security and livelihoods? Why? What impact these shocks had on your livelihoods? Probe: Crop Loss? Income loss? Livestock loss? (mortality & stress sales) Food Shortage, Livestock Feed Shortage, Labor Loss/shortage and other (specify)? Why and how these shocks have happened?
11. What is the key success of the project in addressing shocks if any related with current access water, pasture availability, livestock and crop conditions, etc., why?
12. What strategies were supported for the households to employ to cope up with the impact of these shocks? **Probe:** Reduce the number of meals, Collect/sell firewood/charcoal, eat less (smaller portions), and send children to stay with relatives, borrow food or money, withdraw children from school, Sale livestock or other productive assets, send children to work? Engage in labor activities, household members migrated to find work?
13. Did the project contribute to institutional strengthening and local ownership?
14. Overall, do you notice any observable real difference and changes that the project activities made to the beneficiaries? Why?

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

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

Name _____ Sex _____positions _____ Duty station _____

1. Kindly explain me the overall design process and management arrangement of the project.
2. Explain me how the project was managed and its human, material and financial resources.
3. What are the main results of the project in terms of
   3.1. Coverage of safe drinking water supply (and sanitation and hygiene) _____ %
   3.2. No of watershed areas covered by vegetation and physical structures _____
   3.3. No of farmers benefited from new irrigation systems _____
   3.4. No of farmers using improved seeds, compost and sawing in raw _____
   3.5. No of farmers who developed backyard vegetable gardening using wasted/excess water __
   3.6. Improved women empowerment, gender equality and women's participation
   3.7. Improved awareness on SGBV, HTP and organized efforts in identifying such social ills and fighting them
   3.8. Community/government capacity development supports for sustainable community development
4. How do you explain the achievements of the project in terms of the following community resources (amenities) managements and utilization?
   4.1. Drinking water supply schemes
   4.2. Watershed management sites and
   4.3. Irrigation schemes
5. How has the government used the CSC in order to improve good governance and service provision?
6. Explain me the technical support systems, financial management and monitoring from CARE regional and AA offices.
7. What are the strengths and limitations of this project?
   7.1. Design level
   7.2. Strategic issues
   7.3. Implementation
   7.4. Management related including structure and staffing
   7.5. Monitoring and reporting (including compliance)

8. What is the overall success, effectiveness and impacts including challenges and gabs of the project in terms among other the following issues?
   8.1. Drinking water schemes for multiple purposes like Water for drinking and cooking (domestic), economic activities (animal drinking including bees, vegetable gardening) and health such as sanitation and hygiene (shower rooms)
   8.2. Watershed sites for job creation, value chain development and food security
   8.3. VSLA for economic activities (saving and loan), women empowerment (leadership and decision-making practices), child protection, gender equality and social justice (collective voicing)
   8.4. Existing (community and government) structures for the achievement of project objectives
   8.5. Community and public resources for the achievement of project objectives
   8.6. Using existing (government and community) disaster risks reduction systems
   8.7. Relationship of the project with local government, communities and relevant other actors
9. Overall, do you notice any observable real difference and changes that the project activities made to the beneficiaries? Why?
10. Do you believe that the project has addressed well gender issues in the implementation of activities and overall managements of the project? Why and why not?
11. How do you explain consideration of environmental aspects in the implementation of the project? why and why not?
12. Do you believe the project was socially inclusive? Why and why not?
13. How do you explain the continuity of activities, results and effects after this project? Why? Did the project establish processes and systems that are likely to support the continued impact of the project?
14. Do you conduct climate venerability and capacity assessment in the target area?
15. What are the main factors
16. Did you develop adaptation plan to reduce vulnerability?
17. What were the key components of adaptation plan?
18. How was the community participation during CVSA and adaptation plan preparation?

No	Number Established	Number of functional private sectors	% of functional
1	Spare parts supply		
2	HH water filtration kits		
3	Fuel-saving Stove group		
4	Seedling supply group		

19. How many Female graduate entrepreneurs participate in those private sectors established --------and functional----------?
20. How much is the monthly income of functional private sectors?

Annex D; Field Observation Checklist

Woreda _____Kebele_____Site Name _____

A. WASH

1. Is water scheme disability inclusive_____
2. WASHCo Regular meeting: see different minutes
3. WASHCo Bank Account
4. Household pit latrine with hand washing facility
5. School WaSH (water supply facility, MHH room, inclusive VIPL)

B. Irrigation

1. Irrigation scheme

2. Irrigation users' Cooperative bylaw/ certificates
3. Account and amount in the account (if any)
4. Office and store (if any)

Annex E: Secondary Data Collection Format

Annex E: Secondary Data Collection Form

1) Activity plan VS achievement by component by each intervention woreda.

S/N	Type of activity	Unit	Plan	Achievement	# of Beneficiaries		Benefic. # of PWD	SWEEP kebele	New kebele
					FHH	MHH			

Annexes E. Stokeholds participate in FGD and KII

1.FGD West Belessa woreda, Kalay Kebele Biruh Tesfay VSLA group

No.	Name	sex	Age	Position in VSLA	disability	Tel #
1	Maria Biyadglign	Female	43	Chair person	Not disable	
2	Naniye Tigabu	Female	41	Secretary	Not disable	0967285605
3	Yengusie Mekonnen	Female	38	Cashier	Not disable	
4	Maria Zewude	Female	39	Key holder	Not disable	
5	Lemlem Belete	Female	41	Key holder	Not disable	

2.FGD with West Belessa Worehala water board members

No.	Name	Sex	Role in the board	disability	Role in other organization/community
1	Getnet Mekuria	Male	Chair person	Not disable	Woreda Water and Energy office (Water & infrastructure team leader
2	Kasa Fantahun	Male	Secretary	Not disable	Worehala water scheme manager
3	Sheh Seid	Male	member	Not disable	Community representative
4	Chilot Haile	Male	Member	Not disable	Community representative
5	Getaw woreta	Male	member	Not disable	Worehala School Director
6	Zebe Mihret	Female	member	Not disable	Health extension workers
7	Atselech Kassie	Female	member	Not disable	Kebele Social worker
8	Atkilt Sendekie	Male	member	Not disable	Kebele land administration
9	Abay Tezera	Male	Member	Not disable	Kebele chair person

3.FGD West Belessa, Kalay kebele Karita Wuha watershed users' cooperative leaders

No	Name	Sex	Disability	Position in this committee	Phone number
1	Eyasu Selame	Male	Without disability	Chair	0906539995
2	Alemu Asamin	Male	Without disability	Secretary	-----
3	Guade Yihuance	Male	Without disability	Treasurer	0947154116
4	Gizachew Tsegaye	Male	Without disability	Accountant	-----

5	Aster Muche	Female	Without disability	Female member	------
6	Melkamu Alebachew	Male	Without disability	Member	------
7	Bayewe Alaminew	Male	Without disability	Member	0954936798
8	Sisay Yeshiber	Male	Without disability	Member	0903819022
9	Maria Buyadiglign	Female	Without disability	Gender member	

4.FGD West Belesa Woreda, Kebele Kalay, Name of the watershed Weyina,

No	**Name**	**Sex**	**Disability**	**Position in this committee**	**Position in other community and/or government office**
1	Eyasu Selame	M	No	Chair	0906539995
2	Alemu Asamin	M	No	Secretary	-----
3	Guade Yihuance	M	No	Treasurer	0947154116
4	Gizachew Tsegaye	M	No	Accountant	-----
5	Aster Muche	F	No	Member	------
6	Melkamu Alebachew	M	No	Member	------
7	Bayewe Alaminew	M	No	Member	0954936798
8	Sisay Yeshiber	M	No	Member	0903819022

5.FGD participants at west Belesa woreda Eberarage kebele men groups

No	Name	Age	Education level
1	Agegnech Adera	32	Read and write
2	Degu Takele	38	Read and write
3	Mequanent Teka	35	4th
4	Wasehun Fiseha	36	Read and write
5	Fiker Asefaw	36	10th
6	Mehari Eshetie	75	9th
7	Azemeraw Nigussie	55	Illiterate
8	Ayalew Bitew	40	5th

6 FGD participants at East Belessa Denegora kebele men groups

No	Name	Age	Education level
1	Ayenalem Habetie	63	Illiterate
2	Niberet Tesfie	50	7th
3	Destaw Tarekegn	58	8th
4	Bicha Mesefine	50	2nd
5	Eshetie Atalo	41	9th
6	Adane Tsegaw	50	Illiterate
7	Gashaw Tarekegn	58	8th
8	Prist. Dereje Zewudu	43	7th
9	Prist.Samual Adane	30	10th
10	Destaw Molla	40	Illiterate

7. FGD participants for social analysis and action (SAA) in Woreda West Belessa Amesitya kebele

No	Name	Sex	Age	Disability	position of SAA	Position in the community
1	Abaye Bogale	Male	46	Not disable	member	Edir chair
2	Prist G/Egizeabeher Beyene	Male	25	Not disable	member	religious leader
3	prist Endalew Kassa	Male	30	Not disable	chair person	religious leader
4	Prist Amelaku Yirga	Male	32	Not disable	member	religious leader
5	Dessie Adeno	Male	32	Not disable	chair	kebele administration security head
6	Tadelo Meseganaw	Male	32	Not disable	member	militia
7	Woledie Kassaw	Male	50	Not disable	member	watershed committee

8	Melekitu Berihun	Female	35	Not disable	key holder	women association chair
9	Destaye Asemare	Female	36	Not disable	key holder	women association member
10	Enanye Mentie	Female	28	Not disable	casher	member
11	Fenetahun Muche	Male	51	Not disable	member	Justice secretary
12	Muhabaw Miheretu	Male	35	Not disable	member	militia

8. FGD participants for social analysis and action (SAA), Woreda East Belessa achekane kebele

No	Name	Sex	Age	Disability	position of SAA	Position in the community
1	Prist Dessie Mulu	Male	28	no	member	religious leader
2	Deneberie Alene	Female	35	no	member	no
3	BelayenewFeleke	Male	31	no	member	dev.t team leader
4	Prist Tadiwos Workie	Male	60	no	member	religious leader
5	Achaw Aberham	Male	32	no	chair	no
6	Melekamie Amebachew	Female	28	no	casher	no
7	Bizuayehu Eshetu	Female	24	no	chair	women association
8	Mulate Melash	Male	60	yes	member	no
9	Getu Melash	Male	52	no	member	no
10	Ambaw Zemene	Male	23	no	member	no
11	Abiyu Mekuriaw	Male	32	no	chair	dev.t team leader
12	Bitehonegn Melash	Female	48	no	member	no
13	Kassaw Melese	Male	35	no	member	no

9. **FGD participants for project steering committee/PSC/** East Belessa woreda PSC members

No	Name	Sex	Disability	Represented from	Position in the PSC
1	Tazebe Ayalew	Male	no	Woreda admin. head	chair
2	Destaw Feneta	Male	no	water& energy head	secretary
3	Kassye Sisay	Male	no	education head	member
4	Dilu Alebachew	Male	no	agriculture head	member
5	Mequanent Asemare	Male	no	finance head	member
6	Enaneye Nigate	Female	no	WCSA head	member
7	Wubie Maru	Male	no	health head	member
8	Tigete Tigabu	m	no	cooperative head	member

10.FGD participants for project steering committee/PSC/ West Belessa PSC members

No	Name	sex	disability	Represented from	Position in PSC
1	Merko Asetarekew	Male	no	water& energy head	secretary
2	Shambel Kassew	Male	no	WCSA Representative	member
3	Wassie Kassye	Male	no	cooperative head	member
4	Gizew Sisay	Male	no	labor& training head	member
5	Bogale Woledie	Male	no	education head	member
6	Worekeneh Much	Male	no	agriculture vice head	member

11.FGD participants in BiruhiTesfa junior secondary school (1-8th grade) at East Belessa woreda

No	Name	Position	Responsibility
1	Zewalu Kebede	teacher	MHH club leader
2	Adanech Biyadegilign	8th grade student	MHH club leader
3	Nebiyate Teshome	6th grade student	girls club leader
4	China Teshome	7th grade student	Girls club leader

12.FGD Woreda East Belesa, Kebele Hamusit, Name of the watershed Gabicho,

No	**Name**	**Sex**	**Disability**	**Position in this committee**	**Position in other community and/or government office**
1	Asefa Ayalew	M	No	Chair	0911375884

2	Birhane Azeze	F	No	Secretary	0942322083
3	Gashaw Mamo	M	No	Treasurer	0918317617
4	Molla Adane	M	No	Accountant	0928453283
5	Begashaw Getahun	M	No	Member	0939018425
6	Ashagre Alemu	M	No	Member	0935723003
7	Riste Engida	F	No	Member	---
8	Destaw Kassawmar	M	No	Member	-----
9	Bosse Tsegaye	F	No	Member	---

13. Key informant interview

No.	Name	Sex	Organization	Position	Phone #
	West Belessa				
1	Ato Getnet Mekuriaw	Male	Water and Energy office	Water & infrastructure team leader	0918455386
2	Ato Derso Melkie	Male	Cooperative promotion office	RUSACCO Team leader	0924258787
3	Bantihun Kassaw	Male	Women, children and social affairs office	gender mainstreaming team leader	+251 918 178 279
4	Haymanot Ambachew	Male	Office of Agriculture		+251979161491
	East Belessa				
5	Aragaw Melkie	Male	Women, children and social affairs office	Women mobilization and enhancement team leader	+251918133195

Copping strategies the respondents practiced during the past 12 months in order to compensate for the food shortage

		Sell livestock and buy food items		Sell/rent other productive assets like land		Collect and sell firewood and charcoal		Migrate to other localities to find work and earn money		Migrate to urban areas and work as daily laborers		Send children to stay with relatives		Send children to work as daily laborers		Withdraw children from school		Harvest immature crops and feed the family		Consume seeds kept for the next season	
		Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Sex of the HH head	MHH	201	62.8	23	7.2	7	2.2	11	3.4	16	5.0	2	.6	17	5.3	5	1.6	26	8.1	15	4.7
	FHH	29	28.4	14	13.7	10	9.8	6	5.9	9	8.8	3	2.9	7	6.9	0	0.0	8	7.8	3	2.9
Age of the HH head	14 - 29	26	52.0	5	10.0	3	6.0	1	2.0	1	2.0	0	0.0	2	4.0	0	0.0	5	10.0	4	8.0
	30 - 45	125	51.7	14	5.8	7	2.9	8	3.3	16	6.6	4	1.7	15	6.2	3	1.2	17	7.0	7	2.9
	46 - 65	73	64.6	14	12.4	5	4.4	8	7.1	8	7.1	1	.9	7	6.2	2	1.8	10	8.8	5	4.4
	> 65	6	35.3	4	23.5	2	11.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	11.8	2	11.8
Disability status	With	8	32.0	3	12.0	3	12.0	2	8.0	4	16.0	0	0.0	3	12.0	1	4.0	0	0.0	1	4.0
	Without	222	55.9	34	8.6	14	3.5	15	3.8	21	5.3	5	1.3	21	5.3	4	1.0	34	8.6	17	4.3
Kebele	SWEEP	157	59.9	21	8.0	11	4.2	14	5.3	17	6.5	4	1.5	20	7.6	4	1.5	19	7.3	14	5.3
	New	73	45.6	16	10.0	6	3.8	3	1.9	8	5.0	1	.6	4	2.5	1	.6	15	9.4	4	2.5
Woreda	E/Belessa	107	50.2	13	6.1	4	1.9	4	1.9	6	2.8	0	0.0	6	2.8	1	.5	17	8.0	8	3.8
	W/Belessa	123	58.9	24	11.5	13	6.2	13	6.2	19	9.1	5	2.4	18	8.6	4	1.9	17	8.1	10	4.8
	Overall	230	54.5	37	8.8	17	4.0	17	4.0	25	5.9	5	1.2	24	5.7	5	1.2	34	8.1	18	4.3