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Bureau of Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Office of Food for Peace

QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

Awardee: World Vision, Inc.
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Awardee HQ Contact Name and Title:	Buck Bradshaw, Program Management Officer
Awardee HQ Contact Address:	300 I St NE, Washington, DC 20002
Awardee HQ Contact Telephone:	+1 202 572 6594
Awardee HQ Contact Email Address:	jobradsh@worldvision.org

Host Country Office Contact Name and Title:	Michael Mulford, Chief of Party
Host Country Office Address:	Ethiopia
Host Country Office Contact Telephone:	+251 966269961
Host Country Office Contact Email Address:	Michael_Mulford@wvi.org

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I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW TABLE

Project Name: Goal: Geographic Focus: Target Coverage:	Strengthen PSNP4 Institutions and Resilience (SPIR) Resilience to shocks and livelihoods enhanced, and food security and nutrition improved, for rural households vulnerable to food insecurity The Project operates in 8 Woredas in Amhara region; 6 Woredas in Oromia region; 2 Woredas in SNNPR region. Total 16 vulnerable Woredas Direct project participants 526,444
Purpose 1:	Increased Income, Productive Assets & Equitable Access to Nutritious Food for Vulnerable Women, Men & Youth
Sub-Purpose 1.1:	Increased Agricultural Productivity of Nutritious Foods for Women, Men and Smallholder Farmers
Sub-Purpose 1.2:	Increased Access to Agricultural Markets for Women, Men, and Youth Smallholder Farmers
Sub-Purpose 1.3:	Increased Off-farm & Non-farm Income for Vulnerable Women, Men and Youth
Sub-Purpose 1.4:	Increased Use of Financial Services for Vulnerable Women, Men and Youth
Purpose 2:	Improved nutritional status of CU2, PLW, and Adolescent Girls
Sub-Purpose 2.1:	Increased utilization of diverse nutritious food for CU2, PLW, and girls
Sub-Purpose 2.2:	Increased utilization of health and nutrition services
Sub-Purpose 2.3:	Reduced prevalence of diarrhoea and water borne diseases
Purpose 3:	Increased Women's Empowerment, Youth Empowerment and Gender Equity
Sub-Purpose 3.1:	Institutions are responsive to the needs and priorities of women and girls
Sub-Purpose 3.2:	Reduction of workload on women and girls
Sub-Purpose 3.3:	Strengthened aspirations, capabilities, leadership and decision-making power for women and youth
Purpose 4:	Strengthened ability of women, men and communities to mitigate, adapt to and recover from human-caused and natural shocks and stresses
Sub-Purpose 4.1:	Improved natural resource management by women, men, youth and communities
Sub-Purpose 4.2:	Improved disaster risk reduction strategies for women, men and communities
Sub-Purpose 4.3:	Improved effectiveness and social mobilization of PSNP 4 institutions
Total Project Participants: 526,444	
1. Project Element-Agricultural Sector	Agriculture and livelihoods interventions will benefit 262,437 women, men, and youth farmers.

Capacity:	
2. Project Element-Capacity Building Preparedness and Planning:	147,978 project participants will engage in climate change and building resilience to disaster risk through capacity building and preparedness planning activities
3. Project Element-Maternal and Child health:	179,303 project participants will be covered under this project element.
4. Project Element-Nutrition:	179,303 project participants will be covered under this element.
5. Project Element-Social Assistance:	274,194 project participants will be covered through social assistance
6. Project Element-Strengthen Microenterprise Productivity:	138,567 project participants will get the opportunity to involve with Income Generating Activities and join Village Economic and Savings Association (VESA) groups.
7. Project Element-Water Supply and Sanitation:	152,100 project participants will be covered.
Roles and Responsibilities:	
World Vision:	World Vision is the consortium lead, responsible for overall project leadership and management. This includes the coordination and management of contracts, finances, and staffing and support of all partners. Secondly World Vision provides technical leadership in the areas of Institutional strengthening and social Accountability, Nutrition and Health, WASH, Commodity management and overall monitoring, learning and evaluation. Finally, World Vision is the implementing partner of all activities in Siraro and Daro Lebu Woreda
CARE:	CARE is responsible for technical leadership in Agricultural Livelihoods and Gender Mainstreaming. CARE brings its rich experience in Village Economic and Saving Association (VESA) group formation and the Social Analysis and Action (SAA) approach, which seeks to address culturally imbedded factors that hamper progress in health, savings, and the overall well-being of the target communities. CARE is also implementing all project activities in Chiro, Gemechis, Kurfachelle, and Grawa Woredas of Oromia Region. This includes coordination, stakeholder engagement and leading all activities.
ORDA:	ORDA supports the consortium in providing government partnership consultation and support, and is responsible for technical leadership in disaster risk management and natural resource management areas. ORDA is the implementing partner of all activities in Amhara region. This includes stakeholder engagement, leading all SPIR activities and coordination in these project areas.

IFPRI/Ambo University /Hawassa University:	Responsible for the implementation of project's learning agenda and associated research activities.
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II. OVERVIEW AND CONTEXT

i. Program Overview

The Strengthen PSNP4 Institutions and Resilience [SPIR] Development Food Security Activity (DFSA) implemented by World Vision, CARE and ORDA is aimed to enhance livelihoods, increase resilience to shocks, and improve food security and nutrition for rural households vulnerable to food insecurity in Ethiopia. SPIR is responsive to community needs, carefully aligned with the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and grounded in the depth of experience of its consortium partners. SPIR aligns with overall DFSA programming in Ethiopia with a focus on institutional strengthening of the PSNP, especially at the Woreda and Kebele-levels.

This first quarter performance report of FY18 summarizes the key progress made by SPIR in Amhara and Oromia region intervention woredas over the period from October to December 2017 as well as in the pilot project implemented in SNNP Region.

ii. Food Security Situation

In Amhara, below normal rainfall during the *Belg* rainy season resulted in poor crop production and Bugna, Meket, Dahina, Sekota, and Gaz Gidla were designated as Priority 1 hotspot woredas. As a result, these areas were targeted for two extra rounds of support for PSNP and other targeted beneficiaries. Following the Meher season harvest during this period, most farmers in the woredas have sufficient staple grains to meet daily food needs. The food security and nutrition situation in the SPIR implementation woredas of Amhara (Bugna, Lasta, Wadla, Meket, Sekota, Dahena, and Gaz Gidla) is typical of an average harvest agricultural season.

According to the Siraro Woreda Food Security Task Force, the pre-summer distribution of rainfall was erratic and varied across kebeles. The expected rain was delayed for more than 54 days and in June and August it came erratically, especially in the 14 *kola* or low land kebeles of the woredas. Over 5,610 ha of farm land were affected, together with 907.8 ha affected by fall army worm and 668 ha by the newly emerging Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease (MLND). As a result, 9,936 household or 59,796 [30,049 female] reported underproduction or losses of 292,590.64 quintals of cereal crops. Meanwhile, the FSTF assessment report indicated that 60,325 (31,373F) people need assistance, which has been reported to the Regional and Federal governments' concerned offices. In response, the federal government supplied food commodity (Cereals, pulse, oil and CSB) to 49,343 individuals in two rounds in Siraro woreda. Also, the situation created shortage of animal feed especially in kola kebeles of the woreda.

Likewise, according to the post-harvest report of Daro Lebu Woreda Disaster Management Office there was a significant shortage rain in *Belg*, snow and spread pests cropping season. As a result, the estimated collection of 65,421 quintals cereals production in 12,803 hectares of 38,071 households were almost failed. Similarly, the report shows that there was erratic rain during *Meher* season of the year in the Woreda. Hence, the area covered by different crops was reduced from 29,838 ha to 19,129.075 ha. The expected crop production also reduced from 867,860 to 220,671.5 quintals. The assessment report revealed that the population affected by crop loss of *Meher* season is predicted to be 87,000 out of which 43,040 were female beneficiaries and need emergency food support.

According to a multiagency report, there was inadequate rainfall in most dry lowland areas in the Hararghe's and the Meher season was characterized by long periods of cold weather. According to the pre-harvest assessment carried out for the Meher season at the end of October, the average expected crop production yield for the Gemechis woreda was 60.6% and production loss was 29.4% while for the Chiro woreda production yield was 47.42% and production loss was 52.58%. Kurfa Chelle woreda crop production has showed an 8% decrease compared to last year while in Grawa woreda there was a 5% decrease from last year's production level. In response to these needs, and with the support of USAID/FFP, SPIR distributed an extra round of food rations in the Priority 1 Hotspot woredas of Kurfachelle and Grawa to protect food security in the face of these difficult seasonal conditions.

iii. Extreme Climatic or Other Conditions

People were displaced, mainly from Somali region to West and East Hararghe due to a flaring up of conflict during this period. Due to related insecurity issues specifically in Kurfa Chelle, Grawa, Chiro, Gemechis and Daro Lebu, the program lost 1016 person-days during this quarter. SPIR is currently working to close the resulting gaps through plan revisions and doubling of efforts to carry out program activities.

III. PERFORMANCE UPDATES FROM THE QUARTER

A. Purpose Level Activities

Purpose-1: Increased income, productive assets and equitable access to nutritious food for vulnerable women, men and youth;

Intermediate Outcome 1.1.1: Increased livestock productivity and diversity

SPIR conducted a Training of Trainers (TOT) on Poultry Production Management and Shroat fattening in Siraro Woreda to 20 Community Facilitators (CFs), Development Agents (DA) and government service providers [3 female]. This training will be cascaded down to the community and participants will receive three-month-old chicks through VESA groups with a requisite cost share contribution.

Following the ToT provided to DAs and CFs on poultry production and management at the end of FY17 in West Hararghe, the training was cascaded to a total of 570 [555 female] program participants during this reporting period. In addition to the training 3,480 pullets (2,900 hens and 580 roosters) and 78.3 quintals of poultry feed (13.5kg per farmer) were distributed for 580 program participants [565 female], with the participants each contributing a cost share of 360 ETB (USD \$13) into the VESA group rotational lending fund. In addition to this, with the aim of improving the standard of housing for poultry, nine demonstration coops were constructed at FTCs (Farmer Training Centers); following this, 404 (397F:7M) program participants with support from SPIR have contributed 40,400 ETB (USD \$1496) [100 ETB each, equivalent to USD \$3.7] for purchase of mesh wire to construct their own poultry houses.

Similarly, in East Hararghe, the project in coordination with the Woreda Livestock Agency conducted targeting for ten kebeles of Grawa and Kurfa Chelle and a total of 329 vulnerable PSNP female headed HHs to create a poultry production beneficiary list. Following the targeting, a training session took place for 106 women from Kurfa Chelle woreda on poultry production, management, and utilization. Poultry experts from the woreda Livestock Office facilitated the

training. In East Hararghe, site selection, bill of quantity, and design preparation for one vet clinic (Kurfa Chelle) has also been completed.

Intermediate Outcome 1.1.2: Improved climate-resilient and nutrition sensitive crop production

SPIR conducted a three-day training in East Hararghe on climate smart agriculture (CSA) for 17 (6F:11M) Agriculture Office focal persons, empowerment facilitators, and DAs from Grawa and Kurfa Chelle woredas. The training took place in collaboration with a Zonal Agriculture Office expert. At the end of the training participants prepared action plans to cascade the training to demonstrate CSA techniques in their respective communities.

Five irrigation schemes in Oromia (Chiro, Siraro, Kurfa Chelle and Gemechis Woredas) and five in Amhara (Dahena, Gaz Gibla, Lasta and Sekota) were identified and pre-feasibility studies were conducted. A checklist for site selection with minimum standards regarding consideration of environmental, socio economic, agro ecology and geological issues, was developed and compiled by the consortium technical advisors and adopted from USAID environmental guidelines and the Oromia Irrigation Development Authority. Three river diversions and one small dam canal extension is targeted for construction in Amhara region.

Intermediate Outcome 1.2.1: Improved access to quality inputs

Identification of potential farm shop vendors is ongoing in SPIR implementation areas, with SPIR input suppliers identified so far in Grawa and Gemechis for farm shops or “*Ye Irsha Medebir*” establishment. These woredas were first selected based on the non-availability of other agro dealers, kebele coverage, and comprehensiveness of the woreda agro-ecology.

Haricot beans were selected as an ideal commodity for value chain production in Chiro woreda, and 15 [5 female] model farmers were identified as having the potential to yield high production levels of haricot bean seeds based on qualifications related to land holding size and economic capacity, skill in haricot bean production, and interest of farmers of participating in seed multiplication and value chain production.

Intermediate Outcome 1.2.2: Women, men and youth farmers linked to output buyers

SPIR conducted a participative value chain and market analysis exercise throughout all implementation areas. A total of seven commodities were selected for targeted value chain activities: poultry, shoat (sheep and goat), haricot bean, honey, potato, oxen fattening and vegetables; out of these only 3 will be prioritized for each woreda. After the selection a detailed assessment took place to see the constraints and to design upgrading strategies to enhance the overall performance of the value chain.

Intermediate Outcome 1.3.1: Increased opportunities for self-employment

SPIR conducted a five-day TOT on business and soft skill development for technical staff from each implementing partner. This training will be cascaded in the coming quarter. IGA SPM (Income Generating Activities - Selection planning and Management) training was provided to 4,080 [2375 female] VESA members in 39 kebeles (from 194 VESA groups) for two days at the kebele level in East and West Hararghe. Meanwhile, potential IGAs were identified based on their economic importance, environmental friendliness and equal participation of women and

youth in sampled kebeles. As a result, 10 potential IGA's on grain, milk, vegetable, poultry, shoat, oxen fattening, hand craft, petty trade, hot pepper and fruit were identified in Oromia region.

Intermediate Outcome 1.4.3: VESA members have improved knowledge of savings and lending best practices

SPIR formed 465 VESA groups with the membership of 10,344 [5,391 female] during the quarter. VESA members saved \$64,290 USD (1,735,820 Birr), with \$40,877 USD (1,103,673 Birr) distributed as loan for 4,584 [2,857 female] members during this period. In addition, 104 kebele-based VESA Facilitators have been recruited thus far in FY18 as a strategy for providing closer monitoring and support to VESA groups.

Intermediate Outcome 1.4.4: Vulnerable people, especially women, demonstrate improved financial management skills

SPIR organized a capacity building training on SAVIX staff to gain knowledge and skills in using related tools for collecting group-level data and analyzing using this online database and software. A two-day financial skills training was provided for 2,945 [1747 female] project participants at the kebele level. The objective of this training was to increase savings culture and to improve cash management within target communities.

Purpose-2: Improved nutritional status of children under two years of age, pregnant and lactating women, and adolescent girls;

Intermediate Outcome 2.1.1: Increased Men's involvement and women's improved practice in IYCF

SPIR conducted a ToT for 70 [7 female] participants in Oromia SPIR implementation woredas. The participants included Health Extension Worker (HEW) supervisors, woreda nutrition focal persons, woreda health office heads, primary health care unit (PHCU) staff and food security focal people. The SURE¹+ training guide was used for the training, and exclusive breast feeding, complementary feeding, cooking demonstration, and nutrition sensitive agriculture were all covered. An action plan was made to cascade the training for HEWs to build their capacity for providing on-the-job training for Health Development Army (HDA) members.

Intermediate Outcome 2.1.2: Adolescent girls have equitable access to household food

SPIR included a component of adolescent nutrition in the ToT from 2.1.1. The training focused on interactions between gender and nutrition with a special emphasis placed on adolescent girls' nutrition, specifically on the topics nutrition behavioral change communication, cooking demonstration and nutrition sensitive agriculture.

Intermediate Outcome 2.1.3: Increased support from men and improved practice by women on optimal maternal nutrition

¹ Sustainable Under-nutrition Reduction program in Ethiopia training guide: developed by FMOH using different evidence based IYCF and maternal nutrition program that are implemented by different NGOs. They have used the Alive and Thrive TTC home visit schedule for HDA training and is approved as IYCF and Maternal nutrition training materials for HEWs & DAs and HDAs by MOH and MOA but it lacks the adolescent component and SPIR added on it and named SURE plus(SURE+) training guide.

SPIR included a component of maternal nutrition in the ToT from 2.1.1. Male involvement on maternal nutrition has been given special emphasis to make these interventions more practical at the community level. Design for Behavior Change (DBC) training was also conducted in SNNP with Hawassa University and government partners participating. As mentioned in the Annex, the training was provided to enable identification of barriers in relation to optimal maternal and child feeding practices in the target SNNP Pilot woredas and recommend interventions based on the assessment findings. Results will be analyzed in the upcoming quarter and used to make informed decisions about adapting the activity to the context.

Intermediate Outcome 2.1.4: Increased preparation of nutritious food

SPIR conducted a TOT in Oromia on diversified, nutritious food preparation with specific menus and food demonstrations using an approach called “community participatory nutrition promotion”. A total of 32 [5 female] participants from zonal and woreda health offices and from the SPIR program attended the training. The woreda and zonal officials invited nutrition focal persons for the training. This training empowers community members to rehabilitate malnourished (severe- mild underweight) using locally available and affordable food in their homes. Additionally, the training included situational analysis, understanding of the nutritional status of the children, documentation of seasonal availability and affordability of local foods and market survey to understand variation of food cost and their availability. After presentations and practical cooking demonstrations, the trainees went to the field and discussed with community members and mapped locally available food items and prepared diversified energy dense food.

Intermediate Outcome 2.2.1: Improved health seeking behaviors for PLW and CU2

SPIR held a TOT on Timed and Targeted Counseling (TTC) for 30 [4 female] participants from all implementing partners. The project staff commenced the TOT for health extension supervisors in Amhara and Oromia region covering 90 HEWs. As follow up activity, participants developed action plans and monitoring systems to cascade this training for these HEWs and to support HDAs to conduct household counseling.

Intermediate Outcome 2.2.2: Improved quality of HDAs services

Using adaptive management principles through the SPIR Program Review Meeting in October 2017, all SPIR implementing partners reconsidered the VESA group membership, and if a HDA representative was not already a member, they identified a community HDA representative to join these newly formed groups. HDAs are expected to increase demand and uptake of health and nutrition services and act as the platform and entry point for community nutrition and health intervention facilitation as well as the encouragement of positive behavioral changes for improved health and nutrition status of vulnerable women and children.

Facilitating inter-sectoral coordination with the National Nutrition Program implementation partners is one of the program focus areas to integrate both nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions. Accordingly, one of these meetings took place in Chiro woreda and participants from the agricultural, health, youth and gender, water and energy, education, and finance and planning offices attended. During the coordination meeting, each of the sectors reported their status towards implementing the National Nutrition Program. All the committee members acknowledged that nutrition received less attention and needs further mainstreaming across all the signatory actors.

Intermediate Outcome 2.3.1: Increased access to safe drinking water

SPIR started the selection, site assessment and design for 33 water provision structures (15 spring capping and 18 hand-dug wells) located in Dahena, Gaz Gibla, Lasta, Meket, Sekota and Wadla woredas of Amhara region. Out of these, construction has begun with two spring rehabilitations at Gaz Gibla and four hand dug wells at Lasta.

To ensure the sustainability of water provision facilities, a training on organizational management and operation of potable water schemes was provided to 54 [13 female] members of 54 WASHCOs in Siraro Woreda. The training provided information on how to finance scheme maintenance, maintain sustainability, and conflict resolution. In addition, World Vision Ethiopia's National Office WASH division conducted a feasibility study for drilling two deep water wells in response to extremely high potable water access needs in Siraro. The assessment was conducted in 4 PSNP kebeles and during the assessment the number of beneficiaries in need, average round trip distance and impact on women were used as the selection criteria.

Intermediate Outcome 2.3.2: Increased number of open defecation free villages

SPIR conducted a five-day ToT session for 62 [7 female] project staff, partners and targeted mothers and caretaker groups with the objective of building basic understanding of Community Led Total Sanitation and Hygiene (CLTSH) in its intervention woredas. Elements and tools of the approach utilized in the session included hands-on field experience to enhance the facilitation skills of participants in triggering local collective action related to sanitation and hygiene. Two villages from Goro Gerbi and Arele Gudda kebeles respectively were targeted in Kurfa Chelle woreda of East Hararghe Zone during the practical session of the ToT. Village ODF committee establishment also took place for follow-up. A CLTSH village mapping exercise was conducted to track interventions of other NGOs and GoE actors in all four operational woredas immediately following the ToT training. Following the ToT, kebeles were selected as intervention sites and coordination meetings were held with Kebele Chairpersons, DAs, HEWs, teachers, religious leaders, and SPIR Community Facilitators.

In addition, a hygiene campaign was conducted for two days in 25 PSNP kebeles of Gemechis and Siraro in which 13,110 [6,799 females] community members participated. During the campaign, SPIR delivered messaging tailored around the DBC framework on handwashing practices for mothers with children under five years of age. The major activities of the campaign included draining of stagnant water, cleaning of waste found in their surroundings, and institutions and burning the wastes collected in the waste disposal. In collaboration with the woreda education office, three WASH clubs were established to assist as entry points for program-sponsored school WASH interventions in Sarro Primary school, Walargi primary School, and Arele Gudda primary school of Chiro, Gemechis, and Kurfa Chelle woredas, respectively. The three WASH clubs consist of a total of 190 members with equal proportions of male and female students.

In addition, a total of 80 [44 female] VESA group members participated in the 'Clean and Safe House & Playground Promotion' initiative for children at Arele Tikka kebele of Kurfachelle woreda through a general solid waste clean-up campaign. A similar hygiene campaign took place at Arele Gudda primary school through the active participation of 87 [38 female] students in a school compound clean-up campaign. In addition, gender sensitive peer education on safe

hygiene and sanitation practices was given in the same school focusing on proper latrine utilization and personal hygiene among 28 [15 female] students.

Purpose-3: Increased women's empowerment, youth empowerment and gender equity;

Intermediate Outcome 3.2.1: Increased men and boy's engagement in child care and household work

SPIR provided a four-day master ToT on social analysis and action (SAA) to 28 participants [15 female] composed of staffs from all implementing partners (9 ORDA, 10 CARE, 8 WVE and 1 IFPRI). The training aimed to provide skills for facilitating the empowerment of vulnerable communities through the advancement of equitable gender, social, and power norms using participatory reflections and dialogues. This master ToT will be cascaded first to SPIR project staff and then down to the community level in the next quarter.

Review meetings in both East Hararghe woredas were held to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of Gender and Social Development (GSD) Program Implementation Manual (PIM) provisions. The review meetings were attended by a total of 66 [20 female] participants from different government sectors such as the Women and Child Affairs Office, Health Office, and the Woreda Food Security Task Force. Participants mentioned that, after the GSD training provided by SPIR, they have observed a great improvement in considering GSD provisions during the retargeting process. On the other hand, a lack of coordination and clear understanding of the provisions among stakeholders were mentioned as major challenges. Finally, the participants have committed to work together in all phases of PSNP implementation (from planning up to monitoring and evaluation). In West Hararghe a one-day session on GSD provisions took place for 270 female project participants at Gemechis woreda with the purpose of raising awareness among the project participants about their GSD rights.

Intermediate Outcome 3.3.1: Increased access to income, inputs and markets for women and youth

A specific unit (topic) entitled “Gender in climate-smart agriculture” has been prepared and integrated into the original CSA training material as well as into the training provided in East Hararghe.

Intermediate Outcome 3.3.2: Girls and boys demonstrate improved life skills

A life skill training manual was developed to be gender sensitive, and it contains three participatory sessions on gender roles and its impact on economic and behavioral aspects. Issues that came across the gender analysis were made part of the discussion. One example is that the analysis found that less than 30% of the users of the GoE funded Youth Fund are young women and one of the constraints was that animal fattening (one of the highly sought-after activities) is not considered appropriate for girls so girls do not choose this activity. Hence, the life-skill manual contains a session on how perception of gender roles and expectations shapes livelihoods and helps youth see this in a different light to change the norm. A ToT on the manual was provided for staff from all SPIR implementing partners.

Intermediate Outcome 3.3.4: Improved actions taken by community groups on gender based violence (early marriage and removing barriers on girls'/women's ' mobility)

Gender dialogue session curriculum development for VESA groups are almost completed (pending inclusion of any relevant findings from the forthcoming Gender Analysis study report) with the following participatory sessions.

- Equitable work load division- Daily Clock activity
- Harmony in the home – role play
- Household decision making on income and asset – cash flow tree
- Learning to listen
- Engaged fathers and role models
- Let's talk openly – story on early marriage, mobility limitations and menstrual hygiene management

All sessions will have action steps at the end and each subsequent session will start by asking VESA members the type of actions they took based on the last discussion.

SPIR celebrated this year's 16 Days (Nov25 – Dec10) of Activism campaign at the field and country office levels by organizing different programs and events. In East Hararghe a one-day awareness-raising event took place on preventing violence against women and girls at Kurfa Chelle woreda with the involvement of woreda level office heads, gender focal persons, experts, religious leaders, elders, and administrators. The event was attended by a total of 240 participants [47 female]. Similarly, the 16 Days of Activism celebrated in the West Hararghe focused on gender-based violence and relevant response and prevention strategies.

Purpose-4: Strengthened ability of women, men and communities to mitigate, adapt to and recover from human-caused and natural shocks and stresses.

Intermediate Outcome 4.1.1: Restoration of degraded communal lands by women, men and youth

Based on the different agro-ecology conditions of implementation areas, SPIR plans to adopt Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration and Comprehensive Land Husbandry methodologies to restore degraded communal lands through community participation. In Amhara, SPIR promoted Comprehensive Land Husbandry in seven selected model watersheds and held TOT training on innovative soil and water conservation measures for 54 [5 female] project staff and government stakeholders in Lalibela and Sekota.

In addition, a training on innovative soil and water conservation technologies has been provided to 203 [20 female] experts of East and West Hararghe implementation woredas. The training contained both theoretical and practical sessions to enhance expert's knowledge and skills in guiding communities in public works implementation. SPIR staff in collaboration with woreda and zone provided the training. Restoration of degraded communal land takes in to account climate smart practices, gained through climate smart agricultural techniques and technologies, under intermediate outcome 1.1.2, linked with innovative soil and water conservation techniques. On average 3-5 Kebeles per woreda were identified and delineated for the practice of consortium best practice, FMNR, on degraded communal land.

Preparatory activities for soil and water conservations like input provision, site selection, nursery site clearing, compost preparation, bed preparation and capacity building were done in SPIR implementation woredas. During this quarter 2.4km Bench terrace, 16.2 km Hillside terrace, 166 Trenches, 4490.5 m³ loose stone check dam, 179 m³ Gabion check dam and ²⁴⁷ Sediment storage dam (SSD) were constructed in Amhara operational woredas.

Intermediate Outcome 4.1.2: Improved Watershed Management

To improve the watershed management, SPIR identified climate adapting species, including multipurpose trees can serve as seedlings for planting on individual farmlands as agroforestry or as an enrichment plantation in communal degraded lands. In this regard, the project has distributed tree seed, forage and grass seed and nursery materials and equipment in operational woredas in both Amhara and Oromia regions. To make tree nurseries both climate and nutrition sensitive, support has been provided to woreda offices to better understand and request species that offer nutritional benefits and at the same time are able to adapt to changing climates. The objective of government nursery support is to encourage tree raising practices that support native species, nutrition sensitivity, and climate adapting species selection, and choosing multipurpose trees that may serve as seedlings for planting on individual farmlands as agroforestry or as an enrichment plantation in communal degraded lands.

In addition, SPIR selected watershed and sub watersheds sites and delineation with GPS in Oromia, following USAID's Climate Risk Management (CRM) standards that encourage minimizing climate risks as a part of project activities. The selected sites in the region were 50 (14 in Kurfa Chelle and 36 in Grawa) and 74 sub watersheds (35 in Gemechis and 39 in Chiro) in East Hararghe and West Hararghe respectively.

Intermediate Outcome 4.1.3: Increased utilization of proven energy-efficient and climate smart technologies

During the quarter, in consultation with government and other development actors, two energy efficient cook stoves (*Tikikil* and *Mirt*) were identified. The cook stoves will be distributed for target households based on the cost share input delivery modalities through VESA groups.

Intermediate Outcome 4.2.1: Adoption of Multi-Level Emergency contingency plans

A TOT session on Gender Sensitive Climate Vulnerability Capacity Analysis (GCVCA) and Community Adaptation Action Plan (CAAP) was given to 38 [4 female] Woreda and zonal government and program staff to understand the tools, techniques and application of GCVCA tools for CAAP development and each Keble. Following this, a GCVCA was conducted in Amhara region and the results will be utilized in developing a CAAP that guides climate sensitive livelihood adaptation options to VESA members and other PSNP program participants.

In addition, SPIR organized a training for the Woreda Early Warning and Disaster Risk Reduction committee for 8 participants in East Hararghe on contingency planning at Kurfa Chelle woreda. The training covered themes of hazards, risks, vulnerability, and disasters. A woreda multi-stakeholder platform, chaired by a Deputy Administrator and head of Agriculture office, has been established.

Intermediate Outcome 4.2.2: Accurate and timely weather and seasonal forecasts used by vulnerable communities

SPIR has started discussion with the National Meteorology Agency (NMA) to share and transmit customized weather forecasts and climate information to its implementation Woredas. As the first step Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NMA and SPIR has been drafted for

review. In the coming quarters, timely weather and seasonal forecasts will be disseminated for target communities for their decision making in their livelihoods.

Intermediate Outcome 4.2.4: Increased social mobilization capacity of vulnerable women, men, youth and communities to cope with climate change and disasters

GCVCA and CAAP training was cascaded to 21 government staff [2 female] and 13 project staff [5 female] in this quarter in West Hararghe. After the training, an assessment has been completed at Gemechis woreda, whereby assessments were undertaken at three (varied agro-climatically between highland, mid land, and low land) selected kebeles with identified GCVCA tools.

Assessments for Chiro, Kurfa Chelle, and Grawa woredas will be finalized in January; delays in conducting these assessments were due to social unrest. After all the assessments are completed, findings can inform Community Adaptation Action Plan (CAAP) development at Kebele level, with identified gender, climate sensitive vulnerability gaps and to plan for different capacity building in areas that builds on adaptive capacity.

Intermediate Outcome 4.3.1: Increased capacity of LNGOs, CSOs, & CBOs to support PSNP activities

To increase the capacity of VESA, youth and women group, SPIR has been identifying existing formal and informal institutions to assess potential actors and community gatekeepers in addressing the socio-economic challenges of the society. Targeted capacity building training will be provided for selected institutions later.

Intermediate Outcome 4.3.2: Increased technical capacity of food security task forces (FSTF) and gov't officials to meet PIM standards

SPIR organized consultation meetings at woreda and kebele levels to establish follow up mechanisms to ensure proper function of CFSTF and to ensure regular FSTF meeting sessions to comply with commodity transfer monitoring requirements. In addition, practical training session for SPIR staffs on digital transfer mechanism was provided.

Intermediate Outcome 4.3.3: Increased PSNP responsiveness to community needs

SPIR organized a 3-day ToT on social accountability approaches, tools, and implementation for 19 [1 female] government staff and ORDA institutional strengthening and social accountability, and Gender and Youth staff to enhance proper implementation of social accountability at community level. A launching workshop was held at the woreda level on the social accountability approaches for 177 [40 female] participants of committees established in four Woredas (Gaz Gibla, Dahena, Wadla and Bugna). The training cascaded to 1,633 [679 female] participants of social accountability committee members and Food Security task force and community members of woredas.

To ensure an effective and efficient transfer and to reduce grievances from PSNP clients regarding the transfer, a three-day payroll attendance sheet system (PASS) software training given to four East Hararghe zone government partners from each woreda finance and economic development office and three SPIR commodity staffs in total participants attended the training. In addition, SPIR staff participated in the Regional and Federal level JRIS Midterm evaluation meetings and contributed SPIR learnings and recommendations in the relevant technical group break-out sessions.

B. Other Areas of Interest

Integration, Layering and Sequencing

World Vision signed a MOU with CRS to outline roles and responsibilities and related coordination mechanisms for joint or shared programming in Siraro woreda with Livelihoods for Resilience activity, funded by Feed the Future/Bureau of Food Security. This collaboration was ‘launched’ with a meeting in Hawassa with project staff from each organization and CRS’s partner MCS on November 1, 2017. Initial meetings of the Overlap Management Committee (OMC) and joint MEAL TWG meetings were held in December, with TORs developed.

Commodity Management

During the reporting period, SPIR began receiving the Call Forward commodities, specifically 12,924.55MT wheat and 46.948 Vegetable oil at Adama, Melkasa, Kombolcha and Diredawa PDPs. In FY17, 8 of SPIR’s operational woredas (5 in Amhara and 3 in Oromia) were designated as Priority 1 Hot spot woredas. As SPIR’s 11% Federal Contingency was unable to cover the full two-months of extended round transfers, USAID/FFP included an additional transfer of commodities from the CRS JEOP program in the recent award modification. As a result, 2860.6 MT wheat, 47.5 MT YSP and 178.552 MT vegetable oil was received from CRS in support of these transfers. Transfers to PDS beneficiaries also began during this reporting period, and as described below, a total of 2605.1647MT food was transferred for the extended round transfer and PDS transfers.

Table 1 SPIR Food Distribution

Woreda	Public Work				Permanent Direct Support			
	Actual BNF #	Wheat	YSP	V.Oil	Actual BNF #	Wheat	YSP	V.Oil
Siraro					1,360	20.4	2.04	0.612
Daro Lebu	17,295				2826	34.68	3.463	1.041
Kurfa Chelle	14,053	225.765	22.5765	6.77295	3,026			
Grawa	26,978	218.04	21.804	6.5412	3,276			
Chiro	0				2,314	13.312	1.248	0.3744
Gemechis	0				2,889	15.93	1.593	0.4779
Bugna	17,681	265.215	26.521	7.95645	4,319			
Lasta	36,070				6611			
Wadla	32,039				4424			
Meket	54,317	793.11	79.311	23.7933	8797			
Sekota	36,461	169.89	16.989	5.0967	7122			
Dahena	26,177	392.655	39.266	11.77965	4967			
Gaz-Gibla	14,388	208.17	20.817	6.2451	3466			
Total	258,824	2272.845	227.2845	68.18535	50,377.00	84.32	8.343	2.501

M&E and Learning Agenda:

SPIR conducted a capacity building training on monitoring and evaluation for M&E staffs to enhance the capacity of staff on FFP PIRS, IPTT indicators, data collection tools, and field level

data collection and data quality. At the end of the training, participants had created an action plan to cascade the training to all project staff at the field level to improve data quality. During the reporting period data collection tools for annual monitoring indicators were designed and sent to technical leads and implementing partners for their input.

During this period, SPIR continued to work closely with a consulting firm in the design and development of a web based Management Information System (MIS) that will support routine periodic monitoring and evaluation, beneficiary-based surveys, and GIS to use real-time data for program planning, management, reporting, quality assurance and decision making. Also during the reporting period, SPIR MEL team reviewed routine monitoring indicators from the IPTT, designed data collection tools and mapped the tools to indicators, and reviewed the DIP plan by each task and analyzed the relationship between the DIP tasks and the tools.

IFPRI submitted the SPIR DFSA Learning Agenda Inception Report in Q1 2018. The inception report included three main components:

1. a series of five literature reviews on the following topics: (i) community approaches to improved nutrition and health, (ii) the impact of transfers on women's empowerment and intrahousehold decision-making, (iii) the economic lives of the poor in Ethiopia, (iv) the impact of the PSNP on agricultural productivity and the benefits of community assets, and (v) research on how improving aspirations of beneficiaries can improve wellbeing;
2. a detailed description of the SPIR impact evaluation design; and
3. lessons from the inception phase formative research conducted by Ambo University and Hawassa University.

In December 2017, the Learning Agenda partners (IFPRI, Ambo and Hawassa) met to plan activities for the impact evaluation baseline quantitative and qualitative research as well as other complementary research activities. In addition, a two-day workshop was held with participation of the Learning Agenda partners and the senior leadership team from World Vision, CARE and ORDA, including the Thematic Working Group leads. IFPRI gave an overview of the quantitative evaluation design and plans for the baseline survey. Thematic Working Group leads for Purpose 1, Purpose 4 (a and b), Purpose 2 and Purpose 3 each gave overviews of the latest developments in project planning. Hawassa and Ambo universities presented an overview of their research plans. There was an active discussion about how to integrate the impact evaluation design and related livelihood and nutrition activities needed for the four treatment arms with implementation plans.

Environmental Management:

As a part of the SPIR IEE consultancy, the consultant conducted a training of consortium and implementing partner technical staff on Environmentally Sound Design and Management (ESDM), where the project team became more acquainted with the IEE and EMMP and developing an EMMP implementation strategy with necessary monitoring tools required to carry out the implementation strategy. The training was further cascaded to relevant field staff and government partners. For example, 14 participants (7 government staff and 7 program staff) engaged in a four-day environmental management training at Dire Dawa that focused on environmental compliance in project planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

Environmental Safety and Compliance staff supported the revised road PEA (amended to include bridges) and irrigation PEA during this period. PSNP public work activities have also been screened using the World Bank ESMF screening format. Lastly, SPIR submitted its revised PERSUAP to USAID for review and is awaiting approval.

IV. CHALLENGES DURING THE QUARTER

Commodity Management		
Challenge	Response	Status
Volatile security situation was a major challenge to planned Q1 program activities	Accelerating implementation during windows of relative security	Ongoing
Delay of food commodity distribution to PDS beneficiaries (due to December arrival of the Call Forward and some challenges in working out the loan from CRS/IEOP and questions around December 2017 BUBD on the oil, delays in woreda re-targeting exercises, security problems and busy schedule of government staffs)	Effort is being made to prioritize these distributions in all operational woredas.	In progress

Administrative		
Challenge	Response	Status
Admin/Capital expenses have not been reimbursed for government of Oromia	Close follow-up with USAID on the review of these documents and ultimate decision and direction on how to move forward.	Under final review with USAID for reimbursement
WV and CARE faced challenges in recruiting the recently added VESA Facilitator/Village Agent position due to concerns from their legal departments over compliance with GoE Labor Laws.	A stipended volunteer position that will have input from the Woreda administration and co-signing the stipended volunteer agreement should provide sufficient compliance with labor laws	VESA facilitator positions have been advertised (<i>note: ORDA has already recruited 104 of these VESA Facilitators</i>).
In some of the woredas in Oromia, there are some discrepancies between the Government infrastructure construction and project plans (especially around the construction of DA houses which SPIR has argued is not listed on the list of priorities for capital projects in the PSNP4 PIM)	Meetings were held with the Regional Food Security Directorate and officials there agreed to help intervene in these negotiations at the Woreda level to find a final agreement.	A compromise position between both SPIR and Woreda officials is expected to be finalized soon.
Government officials' DSA rate issue caused officials to refuse to come to	SPIR proposed a solution to USAID that addressed the main	USAID approved this proposal, with the

project related meetings or trainings and put a significant strain on the relationship with government staff, especially at the Zonal and Woreda levels.	issue of the high lodging rates for reasonable accommodation in many of the zonal/regional towns where these meetings were held.	caveat that it would not entail any LOA budget increase, and its initial implementation has been met with gratitude from government partners.
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Programmatic		
Challenge	Response	Status
Finding qualified translation services for translating program training manuals, nutrition manuals, handbooks, etc. into local languages has been a challenge and has caused delays in disseminating these materials to program staff.	A qualified translator was identified and the work is under progress.	In progress
Heightened conflict in West Hararghe, specifically in Daro Lebu (the newest SPIR DFSA operational woreda) and neighboring Hawi Gudina woreda caused the displacement of 3,329 HH (17,547 individuals) and access issues for some areas in Daro Lebu, which resulted in delays of some program activities and food commodity distributions to PDS beneficiaries.	SPIR is working closely with local authorities to coordinate responses to some of the immediate needs of the displaced with private resources, and has proposed to USAID to use some 'left over' contingency food commodities for addressing some of the short-term food needs of these populations.	NFI distributions are in progress, and waiting for a response from USAID. PDS distributions and other activities continue in most Kebeles, security permitting.

V. PLANS FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

Purpose-1: Increased income, productive assets and equitable access to nutritious food for vulnerable women, men and youth:

- Intermediate Outcome 1.1.1: Increased livestock productivity and diversity
 - Facilitate TOT for public extension workers and DAs on improved forage, improved proper storage and feeding techniques
 - Equip animal health workers with vet package
 - Construction of vet clinic
 - Facilitate distribution of poultry with feed for selected program participants
 - Monitor progress of poultry beneficiaries of previous year
- Intermediate Outcome 1.1.2: Improved climate-resilient and nutrition sensitive crop production

- Facilitate training on different types of improved techniques of crop diversification, home gardening kits and enhanced kit provision as well as CSA techniques and technologies for CFs and DAs
 - Promote construction of small scale irrigation and household level water harvesting structures and train irrigation groups and household level water harvesting structures
- Intermediate Outcome 1.1.3: Increased adoption of improved storage and post-harvest technology
 - Train and strengthen producer groups and model farmers on improved seed multiplication and then facilitate provision of starter seed
- Intermediate Outcome 1.2.1: Improved access to quality inputs
 - Train and strengthen producer groups and model farmers on improved seed multiplication
 - Establish or strengthen woreda-based farm shops/Agro dealers
- Intermediate Outcome 1.2.2: Women, men and youth farmers linked to output buyers
 - Cascade the value chain approach training for CFs
- Intermediate Outcome 1.3.1: Increased opportunities for self-employment
 - TOT training for officers and CFs on business and life skill
 - Training target youth on life skill/soft skill and VESAs on selection and management of IGAs as well as wholesalers on micro franchise model
 - Facilitate business plan competition awards to secure fund for business service providers
 - Selecting, training and providing kits for sales women on micro franchise model
 - Fund for business service providers
 - Provide model Bylaws and VESA tool kit
- Intermediate Outcome 1.3.2: Increased opportunities for wage employment
 - Linking youth with TVET and TTI for skill training
 - Link trained youth to WBL (job shadowing, internship and apprenticeships) for exposure learning
- Intermediate Outcome 1.4.3: VESA members have improved knowledge of savings and lending best practices
 - Training for CFs and Village Agents on VESA Methodology
 - Community orientation on VESA and Targeting program participants
 - VESA group formation, establish bylaw and provision of tool kit and discussion manual
 - Promote saving and loan mobilization by VESAs
- Intermediate Outcome 1.4.4: Vulnerable people, especially women, demonstrate improved financial management skills
 - Provide financial literacy training for VESA

- Assisting MFI institutions to develop and implement appropriate loan products for vulnerable women, men and youth

Purpose-2: Improved nutritional status of children under two years of age, pregnant and lactating women, and adolescent girls;

- Intermediate Outcome 2.1.1: Increased Men's involvement and women's improved practice in IYCF
 - Facilitate TOTs and cascade IYCF nutrition training
- Intermediate Outcome 2.1.2: Adolescent girls have equitable access to household food
 - Cascade TTC and GSD training for HEW and project staffs
- Intermediate Outcome 2.1.3: Increased support from men and improved practice by women on optimal maternal nutrition
 - Cascade maternal and adolescent nutrition training for HEW and project staffs
- Intermediate Outcome 2.1.4: Increased preparation of nutritious food
 - Conduct community participatory nutrition promotion training for HEW and project staffs.
- Intermediate Outcome 2.2.1: Improved health seeking behaviors for PLW and CU2
 - Facilitate TTC ToT and cascade to HEWs
 - Provide Nutrition Sensitive and GSD training
 - Conduct a Joint Integrated Supportive Supervision to projects
 - Train on HTSP including delay of first birth & post-partum family planning to HEW supervisor
- Intermediate Outcome 2.2.2: Improved quality of HDAs services
 - Train HDAs on improved service delivery (CMAM case identification and Referral)
- Intermediate Outcome 2.3.1: Increased access to safe drinking water
 - Facilitate rehabilitation/ construction of potable water schemes
 - Train WASHCOs organizational management through ensuring women involvement,
 - Train woreda level WASH COs expertise on monitoring and supervision
 - Train government maintenance service technicians and pilot local entrepreneurs on scheme management, operation and maintenance
- Intermediate Outcome 2.3.2: Increased number of open defecation free villages
 - Conduct pre-triggering and triggering of CLTSH across targeted villages
 - Construction of solid waste disposal pits, gender-sensitive demonstration latrines in public places and institutions, demonstration hand washing facilities in public places and institutions
 - Conduct Periodic hygiene campaign in schools and communities.
 - Train school WASH Clubs on Hygiene and sanitation topics

- Intermediate Outcome 3.1.1: Increased implementation of gender equity and equality provisions of PSNP-PIM
 - Train facilitators and core groups on SAA and facilitation skills
 - Facilitate learning opportunities for ongoing GSD-PIM provisions and gender equality and equity knowledge and evidence generation

Purpose-3: Increased women's empowerment, youth empowerment and gender equity;

- Intermediate Outcome 3.2.1: Increased men's and boy's engagement in child care and household work
 - Training on gender and gender based barriers to youth peer groups are provided
 - Men groups established
 - Male champions are identified and trained on the male engage curriculum
- Intermediate Outcome 3.3.3: Increased leadership of women and youth in community institutions (formal and informal)
 - Women and young girls are trained in leadership, decision making, and public engagement skills.
 - Establish women's solidarity groups
- Intermediate Outcome 3.3.4: Improved actions taken by community groups on gender based violence (early marriage and removing barriers on girls'/women's ' mobility)
 - Conduct discussion on VAW with VESAs using SAA tools

Purpose-4: Strengthened ability of women, men and communities to mitigate, adapt to and recover from human-caused and natural shocks and stresses.

- Intermediate Outcome 4.1.1: Restoration of degraded communal lands by women, men and youth
 - Conduct regional workshop on land user certification for ex-closure lands and user groups
 - Delineate boundary and prepare management plan for ex-closure areas
 - Train women and men community members on improved communal land management
 - Facilitate roundtables for sharing experience on communal land management
 - Train CFs and VA on innovative soil and water conservation technologies
 - Train community members on innovative soil and water conservation technologies
- Intermediate Outcome 4.1.2: Improved Watershed Management
 - Provide nursery input (seed, polyethylene tube, hand tools), gabion boxes, and hand tools for soil and water conservation
- Intermediate Outcome 4.1.3: Increased utilization of proven energy-efficient and climate smart technologies
 - Demonstrate improved cook stoves and solar-based electricity and heat cooking solution

- Intermediate Outcome 4.2.1: Adoption of Multi-Level Emergency contingency plans
 - Conduct participatory GCVCA and CAAP
 - Train Woreda and Kebele EW and DRR committee on contingency planning
- Intermediate Outcome 4.2.2: Accurate and timely weather and seasonal forecasts used by vulnerable communities
 - Facilitate Kebele level platform to assess accurate and timely use of weather seasonal forecast by vulnerable communities
 - Conduct PSP workshop and review meeting at Woreda level
 - Training for VESA members on PSP methodology
- Intermediate Outcome 4.2.3: Effective early warning systems in place and functioning
 - Train and establish Woreda level multi-stakeholder's platform
 - Fix Bill Boards
 - Conduct learning workshop with insurance company, government and community representatives on crop index insurance
- Intermediate Outcome 4.2.4: Increased social mobilization capacity of vulnerable women, men, youth and communities to cope with climate change and disasters
 - Undertake formative research into CCA/DRR and NRM policy issues
- Intermediate Outcome 4.3.1: Increased capacity of LNGOs, CSOs, & CBOs to support PSNP activities
 - Select joint group from all stakeholders for capacity building
 - Organize and provide training sessions for local institutions
 - Facilitate establishment of networks of local organization and linkage to woreda and Kebele PSNP4 line offices
- Intermediate Outcome 4.3.2: Increased technical capacity of food security task forces (FSTF) and govt officials to meet PIM standards
 - Organize consultative meeting at woreda and Kebele levels
 - Establish follow up mechanism to ensure proper functioning of CFSTF
 - Ensure regular FSTF meeting sessions to comply targeting and transfer
 - Organize experience sharing visit for FSTF
 - Organize ICT training for project & government staff at region, zone and woreda levels
 - Organize practical training session for DFSA staffs on digital transfer mechanisms
 - Identify and organize training needs assessments in the targeted areas
 - Conduct event on graduation criteria for woreda and kebele task forces
 - Cascade the graduation training to the program participants/community
- Intermediate Outcome 4.3.3: Increased PSNP responsiveness to community needs
 - Select community working groups to manage grievance
 - Conduct sessions to cascade and adopt grievance mechanisms to PSNP participants
 - Organize workshop for woreda FSTF staff on social accountability tools and approaches

- Organize training for Kebele FSTF members on social accountability tools and approaches
- Orientation on the social accountability tools and adopt for the PSNP participants
- Facilitate community working groups from task forces/oversee the grievances

VI. ANNEXES

SPIR Sidama Pilot Update

PERFORMANCE UPDATES FROM THE QUARTER

Purpose-1: Increased income, productive assets and equitable access to nutritious food for vulnerable women, men and youth;

Intermediate Outcome 1.1.1: Increased livestock productivity and diversity

To improve production and productivity of the livestock sector for targeted beneficiary, improving the feed and feeding system was identified as a priority. Accordingly, a TOT session was provided for 23 [4 female] DAs on forage development and improved feeding practices.



DAs on Practical training on forage development and improved feeding techniques.

Intermediate Outcome 1.1.2: Improved climate-resilient and nutrition sensitive crop production

The project has been promoting nutrition sensitive crop production through the delivery of inputs and capacity building trainings given to the VESA members.

Intermediate Outcome 1.1.3: Increased adoption of improved storage and post-harvest technology

The project is assessing cost effective storage technologies to be demonstrated at central FTC where most of VESA members and community could gain lessons from this technology.

Intermediate Outcome 1.3.1: Increased opportunities for self-employment

SPIR has provided IGA training to 591 [331 female] VESA members with the objective of identifying potential small business opportunities and gaining basic skills in getting these businesses started. As a result, 94 [51 female] members selected and began engaging in several different self-employment activities.

Intermediate Outcome 1.4.1: Input credit available to women, men and youth smallholder farmers

During the reporting period, VESA groups have started loan disbursements for those members who want to engage in different income generating activities. In addition, 267 [103 females] members have received agricultural inputs such as seed (carrot & beet root) and farm tools (hoes, watering can, spade etc.) through their VESA, with a cost recovery contribution to their VESA loan fund. Further, the project is working to identify and link potential agro-dealers to program participants.

Intermediate Outcome 1.4.3: VESA members have improved knowledge of savings and lending best practices

During the reporting time 34 VESA groups having 1,015 [520 females] members were organized and started saving. So far, 118,442 ETB (4,386USD) has been saved, with 35,000 ETB (1,296 USD) disbursed as loans to 94 [51 female] vulnerable HHs to exercise financial management skills and improve their economic status.

Intermediate Outcome 1.4.4: Vulnerable people, especially women, demonstrate improved financial management skills

SPIR trained 591 [331 female] VESA members on financial literacy and transactions (e.g. book keeping, documentation and cash management) to improve their individual and group money management.

Purpose-2: Improved nutritional status of children under two years of age, pregnant and lactating women, and adolescent girls;

Intermediate Outcome 2.1.3: Increased support from men and improved practice by women on optimal maternal nutrition

DBC training was conducted in the reporting period where Hawassa University and government partners participated. This is anticipated to identify the barriers in relation to optimal maternal and child feeding practices in the target woredas and recommend interventions based on the assessment findings.

PLANS FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

Purpose-1: Increased income, productive assets and equitable access to nutritious food for vulnerable women, men and youth;

- Intermediate Outcome 1.1.1: Increased livestock productivity and diversity
 - Provision of 3-month-old chicken for female headed households
 - Community level promotion on improved forage development for model farmers
 - Training for Agricultural DAs on forage development and improved feeding techniques
- Intermediate Outcome 1.1.2: Improved climate-resilient and nutrition sensitive crop production
 - Provision of seed for cereal crop/Potato; vegetable/ for model farmers and demonstration centers at FTC
 - Promotion of fruit and vegetable production for model farmers & producer groups/VESA Members
 - Train community members on climate smart agriculture practices
 - Train DAs, woreda experts and zone experts on FFBS

- Intermediate Outcome 1.1.3: Increased adoption of improved storage and post-harvest technology
 - Train farmers on improved storage techniques
- Intermediate Outcome 1.2.2: Women, men and youth farmers linked to output buyers
 - Train cooperatives on provision of marketing and quality services
 - Facilitate business to business meetings, agro dealers
- Intermediate Outcome 1.4.3: VESA members have improved knowledge of savings and lending best practices
 - Strengthen existing & establishing new VESAs through VESA PM training
 - Conduct Joint Supervision with local leaders- VESAs visit
 - Conduct self-esteem and life skill trainings for youth and women
 - Training VESAs members on business development services/business
 - Train Saving group on business skills and financial transactions
 - Facilitate Linkages of VESAs and its members to IGA
 - Training village agents to train VESA members (Cap)
- Intermediate Outcome 1.4.4: Vulnerable people, especially women, demonstrate improved financial management skills
 - Follow up will be made on the results of the IGA and financial literacy skills training given to VESA members, especially Women.

Purpose-2: Improved nutritional status of children under two years of age, pregnant and lactating women, and adolescent girls;

- Intermediate Outcome 2.1.1: Increased Men's involvement and women's improved practice in IYCF
 - Conduct training in IYCF, Adolescent and Maternal nutrition by using (SURE +) training materials for HWs worked at HEWs, DAs & school teachers (20HEWs, 10W. Ags., 20 school teachers) as per DIP target.
- Intermediate Outcome 2.1.4: Increased preparation of nutritious food
 - Train men and women of VESAs members in adolescent girls and maternal nutrition & demonstration and WASH through VESAs discussion
 - Formation of nutrition corners and demonstration site for nutritious diet (menu) preparation from locally available foods in health facilities and FTCs

Purpose-4: Strengthened ability of women, men and communities to mitigate, adapt to and recover from human-caused and natural shocks and stresses.

- Intermediate Outcome 4.1.1: Restoration of degraded communal lands by women, men and youth
 - Delineate boundary and prepare management plan for closure areas
 - Provide multi-purpose seeds to farmers cooperatives/VESA members in the identified KAs

- Semi-skilled labor for gabion check dam construction
- Women and men community members trained on improved communal land management from VESA members
- Women and men community members trained on forest /agroforestry

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Conduct routine monitoring and document lessons and share as deemed necessary. Engage in using the approved data collection tools for monitoring purposes, contribute the national MEAL team as well. Demonstrate quality data and evidence.

Environmental Management

The issue of environmental safety shall be maintained as per the mitigation plan having received the support and guidance from environmental advisor for consortia. The project shall give attention to poultry provisions concerning environmental or waste management for example.

VII. List of Acronyms

BCC	Behavior Change Communication
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere, Inc
CBA	Community Based Adaptation
CCTS	Country Commodity Tracking System
CLH	Comprehensive Land Husbandry
CLH	Comprehensive Land Husbandry
CLTSH	Community Lead Total Sanitation and Hygiene
COP	Chief of Party
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSA	Climate-Smart Agriculture
CTS	Commodity Tracking System
CU2	Children Under 2
DA	Development Agents
DBC	Design for Behavior change
DFSA	Development Food Security Activity
DIP	Detailed Implementation Plan
DNFMP	Diversified Nutritious Food Menu Preparation
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EWS	Early Warning System
FDP	Final Distribution Point
FfE	Facilitators for Empowerment
FFP	Food for Peace
FH	Food for the Hungry
FMNR	Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration
FSTF	Food Security Task Force
FTC	Farmer Training Centre
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
HDA	Health Development Army
HEW	Health Extension Worker
HTSP	Healthy Timing and Spacing of Pregnancy
ICB	Institutional capacity building
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IMCI	Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
IPTT	Indicator Performance Tracking Table
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
LMMS	Last Mile Mobile Solution
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MBL	Master Beneficiary List
MCHN	Maternal Child Health and Nutrition
MIS	Management Information System
MoANR	Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources

PDS	Permanent Direct Support
PIM	Project Implementation Manual
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Program
PW	Public work
SAA	Social Analysis and Action
SAM	Sever Acute Malnutrition
SBCC	Social Behavior Change Communication
SoW	Scope of Work
SPIR	Strengthen PSNP 4 Institutions and Resilience
SPM	Selection, Planning and management
SWC	Soil and water conservation
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VCA	Value Chain Analysis
VESA	Village economic and social association
WASH	Water, Hygiene and Sanitation
WASHCOs	Water Sanitation and Hygiene Committees
WV	World Vision