

USAID UGP Chicken Distribution Productivity

Assessment Report

USAID UGP distributed chickens to beneficiaries throughout year three. Raising poultry is part USAID UGP's goal to improve the nutritional status of OVC and women affected by HIV/ AIDS through the consumption of eggs. Poultry raising also serves as an income generating activity through the sales of eggs. In year three, USAID UGP distributed chickens to 90 beneficiaries in 51 IPs (Implementing Partners). A total of 4600 beneficiaries received chicken and each received six pullets and 50 Kg of chicken feed. Additionally poultry were distributed to 50 children in collaboration with Retrack Ethiopia. The distribution has taken place at different time interval and from different vendors majorly from Gerado Plc, followed by Friends poultry farm, Getu poultry farm and Bora integrated farm.

USAID UGP then assessed year three chicken beneficiaries to see whether the distribution met the objectives and provided benefits according to UGP objectives. During various field trips, USAID UGP staff provided technical support to chicken beneficiaries based on the gaps identified.

Methodologies used:

- Individual beneficiary dialogue
- Visit of chicken cages/ houses of selected individual beneficiaries
- Group discussions were made with the gardeners on issues of chicken keeping
- Data from those beneficiaries who recorded the costs and benefits of chickens kept under their household and provided by UGP
- Feed sample was collected and sent for analysis

Benefits of chicken distribution to UGP beneficiaries:

- The beneficiaries developed a habit of working and knowledge is also shared among beneficiaries

- Consumption of eggs by the beneficiaries, which helped them to improve the daily nutrient requirements
- Sell of eggs and purchase other household materials, pencils, school uniforms
- Some beneficiaries intensified the poultry business after trying the investment with the minimum resource they are supplied with while others sold the birds and shifted to small ruminant keeping

Major challenges of poultry distribution:

- **Beneficiary targeting:** most of the targeted beneficiaries do not have money to buy chicken feed ingredients to prepare chicken feed or buy a rationed diet.
- **Competition for cereals** between beneficiaries and chickens: the ingredients that are mostly used for chicken feed preparation are important cereal groups for human beings. This creates price inflation on the major cereals and resulted in price inflation.
- **Distribution pattern:** In some IPs, chicken/ chicken feed were provided in groups and big challenge was faced on management of chickens like feeding, cleaning,In some IPs, the beneficiaries hired a daily laborer to solve this problem, but no big impact on the productivity of the birds because the daily laborer is not a trained personnel.
- **Loss of chicken:** Chickens will die due to outbreaks or they will be killed by predators. In few areas, there is also a risk of theft.
- **Vendor problem:** From the start of the program (2008), chicken were distributed to gardeners from different vendors. The productivity and productive life of the chickens were found to be different among different suppliers. This may be due to gap in management (especially feeding) of chickens at early stage and proper vaccination schedule (some vaccines are imported).
- **Poor quality of chicken feed:** Chicken feeds that were distributed by Gerado Plc were sent to NVI for feed analysis and the result was found to be below the standard. The quality of feed has a direct impact on the productivity of the birds. Upon receiving the result, the vendor was changed after open bidding.

Opportunities seen in chicken keeping among UGP beneficiaries:

- Use of chicken feces for animal feed preparation, or used as fertilizer for the garden
- Income generation after selling of manures, and also sell of meat after their productive life cycle is over
- Use of garden byproducts for chicken feed

Recommendations for future programming:

- ✓ During beneficiary targeting and selection, care must be taken “we have to give food for those who don’t have rather than providing them chicken”.
- ✓ It is advisable to change the activity from chicken keeping to SHOAT keeping. This is because most of SHAOT feed can be produced from byproducts of major feed ingredients that can be used for human consumption and also most vaccines are locally produced which make them easily accessible to the community than those imported vaccines for chickens.
- ✓ Intensive training should be provided to the beneficiaries, with special emphasis on practical demonstrations. Farm visits or experience sharing visits will be encouraged before starting the poultry business.
- ✓ The organization should have to deal with vendors with good reputation in the community and long years of experience, as it has a great impact on the productivity of the birds.
- ✓ To avoid the risk of zoonotic diseases (diseases that are transmitted from animals to humans) and drug resistance, training should be organized before distributing any species of animal including poultry, and awareness creation should be part of the technical support program.
- ✓ Poultry should not be provided to the groups because it will create difficulty in management, so individual targeting should be encouraged.