



Key learnings from the implementation of the pastoral pilot

With funds from USAID/FFP, between April 2008 and September 2009, Save the Children UK has been implemented the PSNP Pastoralist Areas Pilot (PSNP-PAP) in three woredas of the Afar Region – Chifra, Gulina and Teru. The program targeted approximately 44,775 beneficiaries across these three woredas.

After eighteen months, program staff, woreda and kebele officials took stock of key lessons generated. This annotated paper lists some of the key ones identified.

- In the implementation process of public work activities, understanding the temporal and spatial variation of pastoral context with regard to the livestock and pastoralists mobility is a priority issues and needs a due attention to ensure the full participation of communities in the program achievement.
- Pastoralists show keen interest to participate in public work activities such as area closure, pond construction, road maintenance, class room maintenance and irrigation scheme upgrading
- Experience sharing visit with neighboring region (Amhara) enabled woreda partners and beneficiaries to develop sense of ownership to the safety net program in general and public works in particular and know their accountability and responsibility
- Public work activities should not be conducted during hunger season (April-July) as the community members migrate at this time and the temperature becomes extremely hot
- Pastoralist are able to adopt to new livelihood options such as irrigation and grow crop (maize) on the side of permanent rivers if they are supported in upgrading (cementing) the traditional irrigation schemes and given awareness trainings
- The grazing lands and water sources areas in Afar communities are under communal ownership and mainly managed by clan leaders. In this case, public work activities designed and implemented in the areas of geographically border communities need a caution and a prior consultation with the neighboring communities. Failure to do so lead to the destruction of activities may be sources of conflicts over the use of resources. In this case grazing lands and waters sources are common property and being used by all pastoralists in the area, it is found imperative to consult and involve all people before selection and enclosure of the rangeland.
- Afar region is vast in geographic coverage, and accessibility to the commodity transfer is also an important consideration. A result of community consultation revealed that construction of satellite warehouses in different kebeles minimized the distance where beneficiaries who were traveling long and save time in order to receive their rations.
- Public work activities such as rangeland management and pond constructions have been quite successful. Implementing public work (PW) activities in an integrated manner does have significant multiplier effect compared to activities done in a dispersed way. It has also the power to convince and bring attitudinal change among end-users. Area closure is found the best way to go out of pasture problems in the area, if people do it consciously and in groups. Individuals suffer from watching the area day and night. Additionally, people do not give attention to and respect individual enclosed areas. In light of limited previous experience of the pastoralist communities, implementation of activities should be first at small-scale level and then scaled up depending on the result. The rangeland enclosure which was first started at

small hectare of land has now expanded and attracted the interest of large numbers of pastoralist households.

- Community value-based targeting approach has been tested at two woredas (Gulina and Teru) and is found to be a worth mentioning approach – more acceptable, time saving and cheaper. This is due to the fact that pastoralists are very much aware of each other's livestock and asset holdings. Local knowledge is the basis of a number of traditional livestock redistribution systems in pastoral areas; where better off families (Tu maali) help destitute or the very poor families (Bahooitaa). Elders and clan leaders play key roles in identifying the most vulnerable and needy households because they tend to have knowledge of all community members' background and wealth status. In Gulina, each community forms its own selection committee and agrees on the characteristics that it will use to assess household wealth and needs and then with lots of community involvement prepares the lists of the households. After the list has been prepared, the approach often uses only a single gathering of the members of the village to decide on the beneficiaries of the program. Compared to the community triangulation targeting approach which can take even months, the former is less time consuming and laborious. Self targeting approach, which was not applied across the three project woredas, needs cash payment as it does not comply with the current wage rate and attract the beneficiaries to participate on public work activities
- Satellite warehouses construction across the three project woredas enhanced the predictability of food transfer. Support from kebele and clan leaders is required to achieve maximum effect their roles would be in supporting the mobilizing and sensitizing the eligible beneficiaries .With the construction of satellite warehouses construction across the three project woredas the predictability of food transfers was enhanced. The construction of satellite warehouses:
 - Improved distribution process – reduced delays in delivery owing to breakdowns or trucking capacity as most food was delivered to satellite warehouses in advance of distributions.
 - minimized transport cost paid for the food and beneficiaries themselves
 - Reduced distance traveled by clients, and saved the clients' time
 - Reduced the incidence of selling food to pay for transportation to and from villages.
 - Enabled women to receive the food themselves as opposed to delegation where clan elders traveled to far off centers and were not fully accountable to the beneficiaries and often times did not deliver the correct amounts back to the beneficiaries.
 - In some distribution satellite warehouses private grinding mills are established and this helped beneficiaries not to go back to woreda town for the purpose of grinding the food
- Building the capacity of the community and bringing social and behavioral change is Paramount important in the process of development program implementation. We learned from PNP-PAP that the pastoral communities are open to learn development intervention mechanisms and committed to implement it. For instance in Teru woreda, Boyina kebele community members were organized and coordinated through their clan leaders designed and constructed more than 20 Kilometers of road by hammering a hill covered with stones. This indicated that once the pastoralists clearly understand the benefit generated from the program, they will put great effort and time to accomplish the desired and planed activities
- Clan and religious leaders play pivotal role in the food distribution, site selection for the satellite warehouse construction, generating ideas on potential conflict and putting in place mitigation processes and in the event of a conflict quickly engaging the different parties to achieve resolution. Further they play an active role in the facilitation and ownership of public work activities within the project implementation kebeles.