



Annual Results Report
Multi Year Assistant Program (MYAP)

Title II
Food for the Hungry/Ethiopia (FHE)
Fiscal Year 2010

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List of Acronyms

ARR:	Annual Result Report
BCC:	Behavioral Change and Communication
BFP:	Backyard Fodder Production
CLTS:	Community Lead Total Sanitation
DAs:	Development Agents (Government of Ethiopia)
DLS:	Diffused Light Store
DRM:	Disaster Risk Management
EDAC:	Ethiopian Development Assistance Consortium
EHA:	Essential Hygiene Action
ENA:	Essential Nutrition Action
FFP:	Food for Peace
FHE:	Food for the Hungry/Ethiopia
FSTF:	Food Security Task Force
FTC:	Farmers' Training Center
FY:	Fiscal Year
GBFP:	Group Based Fodder Production
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
HABP:	Household Asset Building Program
IEC:	Information Education Communication
IPTT:	Indicator Performance Tracking Table
IR:	Intermediate Result
KA	Kebele Administration
KPC:	Knowledge, Practice Coverage
MOU:	Memorandum of Understanding
MT:	Metric tons
MYAP:	Multi-Year-Assistance-Program
OFSP:	Other Food Security Program
ORDA:	Organization for Relief and Development of Amhara
PASS:	Payroll and Attendance Sheet System
PDP:	Primary Distribution Point
PIM:	Program Implementation Manual
PSNP:	Productive Safety Net Program
PW:	Public Works
Quintals	10 MT
RCB:	Rotating Credit Basis
SCG:	Saving and Credit Group
SHG:	Self-Help-Group
SO:	Strategic Objective
SPSNP:	Support to Productive Safety Net
TOT:	Training Of Trainers
USAID:	United States Agency for International Development
USG:	United States Government
VCA:	Value Chain Analysis
WARDO:	Woreda Agriculture and Rural Development Office
WATSAN:	Water and Sanitation

1. Introduction: Annual Food Aid Program Results

Overview of the Program: Food for the Hungry/Ethiopia and its sub-grantee the Organization for Rehabilitation and Development in Amhara (ORDA) have been involved in the implementation of the Government of Ethiopia (GOE)-led Productive Safety Net Program since 2005. The current program extends from August 2008 through July 2011.

In terms of geographic locations, FH/E and ORDA target 194,741 food insecure beneficiaries in five woredas in Amhara Region, which is about 10% of the chronically food insecure caseload in the region. The target woredas are Tach Gayint and Simada in South Gondar Zone and Wadla, Lasta, and Bugna in North Wollo Zone. The PSNP beneficiaries in these woredas are addressed through both cash and food resources. The food resource is contributed by USAID while the cash portion is contributed by the GOE.

The overarching goal of the MYAP is “to reduce the level of food insecurity at the household and woreda levels.” This goal is being supported by three strategic objectives: SO1: Protect and improve the assets and livelihoods of food insecure households, SO2: Enhance community resiliency to withstand shocks, and SO3: Improve the capacity of stakeholders to manage the PSNP.

Fiscal Year 2010 is the second year of the three year MYAP. The current Annual Result Report (ARR10) is compiled based on FH/E’s internal monitoring, field assessment (barrier analysis, mini-KPC and anthropometric surveys) and periodic progress reports. It includes discussions of activities and achievements over the course of FY10 against program goals, objectives and intermediate results. Additionally, the report includes success stories, lessons learned and changes in key assumptions.

SO1: Assets and Livelihoods of Food Insecure Households Protected and Improved

FH/E has implemented a number of interventions in this fiscal year in order to enable the target beneficiaries develop adequate capacity to withstand minor shocks and ultimately prevent asset depletion at the household level.

IR 1.1. Food Self-Provisioning Gaps of Chronically Food Insecure Households Bridged

It is estimated that local production in normal years support a family only for six months, leaving six months of food gap. The food gap months are worsened when external shocks occur and sometimes to the extent of pulling back the better off into the state of temporary food insecurity. FH/E has considered appropriate, timely and predictable food transfer as the core outcome of this program to bridge this food gaps in the target areas. FH/E has executed a number of activities in order to attain this outcome and contribute to the asset protection objective of the PSNP.

Beneficiary targeting: The program rendered training to 1,125 woreda, kebele and community task forces on beneficiary targeting for program entitlement and exit/graduation, which is 132% of the annual target. Moreover, 260 woreda government staff and 96 farmers participated in graduation workshops which would raise their awareness on linkages between PSNP and HABP

and graduation criteria. These trainings and workshops were very helpful in familiarizing the key actors with the newly revised PSNP PIM in terms of targeting and graduation procedures. As a result of this, the task forces at different levels have successfully executed their responsibilities in identifying beneficiaries for program entitlement and those who were ready for graduation in the fiscal year. The master lists were updated across all woredas in line with the guidance from the revised PIM so as to meet the principle of full family targeting. Program beneficiaries who were ready for graduation was also identified based on graduation guidance which highlights *household asset level* and *self-graduation* as main criteria.

Warehouse Preparation and Maintenance: FH/E has been working to increase food aid storage capacities both at primary distribution points and final distribution sites. As part of this effort, the implementing partners have maintained 15 and furnished 18 warehouses (115% and 72% of the annual target in that order) across the five woredas in this reporting period. The partners have devised an efficient warehouse management system whereby commodities in the PDPs from the first shipment would be immediately uplifted to final destination sites in five woredas and leave space for the incoming next shipment. This final shipment would be dispatched to final destination sites after the distribution of first shipment commodities to program beneficiaries. This warehouse management system has enabled the implementing partners to timely pre-position 10,500MT of food commodities for the first round distribution.

Timely Submission of PWs Report: Timely submission of PWs performance reports is one of the outcome level indicators set to measure the performance of timely food transfer. Across all woredas PWs performance reports were timely submitted from development agents to the woreda agriculture and rural development office for five months, which is 125% compared to the annual target. This improvement is in part attributed to the use of the PASS software in generation of payroll and attendance lists. Improved commitment from all actors who are involved in the implementation of the PSNP is the other factor contributing to this achievement.

Timely Food Transfer: The program has successfully met the objective of timely food transfer to program clients. In the fiscal year, FH received 19,721.20MT of food commodity at Nefas Mewucha and Kombolcha PDPs, which is 99.5% of the annual resource need. Of the total received volume, 18,206 MT full package foods have been distributed to 323,339 food insecure beneficiaries across the target woredas. Of this volume, 2552.61MT accounts for contingency commodities and were distributed to 88,287 transitory beneficiaries. The remaining 749MT of contingency resources will be distributed to 17,644 recipients in October as part of the fiscal year 2010 distribution period. Overall, the commodity transfer achieved 92% of the the annual plan in the fiscal year while beneficiaries reached is 166%. Non-achievement of 100% commodity distribution to PSNP beneficiaries is attributed to the following factors: 1) 392 beneficiaries were voluntarily moved to productive areas for resettlement; 2) 3,912 beneficiaries graduated from PSNP in 2008 and; 3) 3,161 beneficiaries were reduced from the total target caseload because of the reassignment of two kebeles from Wadla woreda to a neighboring woreda.

Similarly, the number of beneficiaries reached in the fiscal year is over-accomplished mainly due to reduced number of food transfer months. FH/E originally planned to address the food needs of 194,741 beneficiaries for six months. In the course of program implementation, however, the average number of food transfer months was reduced to four months for regular beneficiaries and 1-3 months for contingencies. The remaining two-month gaps for regular beneficiaries were

covered by cash transfers from the government. This has raised the total number of beneficiaries reached in the fiscal year to 323,339 (88,278 contingency, 235,052 regular PSNP beneficiaries).

The number of rural households who benefitted from USG intervention this fiscal year was 84,652, which is 131% of the annual target.

Table 1: Annual (FY'10) food distribution in MYAP woredas (Oct 2009 to Sep2010)

No	Woredas	Planned		Distributed	
		Food in MT	# of beneficiaries	Food in MT	# of beneficiaries reached
1	Bugna	2,337	22,976	2,123.06	44,309
2	Lasta	3,259	32,048	3,459.17	59,412
3	Wadla	2,637	25,931	2,734.11	54,885
4	Simada	8,265	81,266	6,614.05	92,953
5	Tach Gayint	3,307	32,519	3,275.87	71,780
	Total	19,805	194,741	18,206.26	323,339

IR 1.2. Early Warning and Response System Improved

Reliable early warning information gathering and sharing is one of central points of the new GoE National Policy for Disaster Risk management. In this fiscal year, FH/E has continued strengthening and building the capacity of local government and community institutions that are directly involved in early warning information collection and communication.

As part of this effort, FH/E has provided early warning training to 38 government and project staff and 353 committee members. It was reported that the early warning committees at woreda, kebele, and community level are well organized and properly functioning in terms of bi-weekly and monthly data gathering and communication. The woreda early warning case team is also strengthened and now committed to analyze three months' data and produce quarterly early warning reports to FH/E and woreda-level government and zonal offices. During this reporting period, 12 months' community-level early warning data was gathered and forwarded to the woreda early warning case team on time, which is 100% of the annual target. Similarly, the woreda early warning case team has compiled four quarters' early warning information and communicated to the concerned zonal office, which then passed to the regional body.

The other outcome indicator set to measure the attainment of this intermediate result is “number of assisted communities with disaster early warning and response systems in place as a result of project assistance.” In this regard, 114 communities were assisted and strengthened with disaster early warning and response systems, which is 158% of the annual target. In addition, all the projects in the five woredas assisted the woreda-level early warning committees to conduct crop and livestock assessments twice this year to complement community-level early warning reports.

IR1.3. Market-Led Rural Income Increased and Diversified

The purchasing power of chronically food insecure MYAP beneficiaries across the five target woredas is very weak. It was in recognition of this fact that FH/E started promoting both on-farm and off-farm income generation and livelihood diversification activities in its current MYAP. The implementing partners have continued promoting these activities in this fiscal year and there

are some empirical results that demonstrate these interventions are contributing towards the program objectives and goal:

- 26 individuals (116% of the target) have received USG support short-term agricultural sector productivity training;
- 6 value chains (83% of the target) were developed and promoted;
- 2307 cubic meters of compost (131% of the target) were prepared;
- 299 (180% of the target) bee-hives with accessories were distributed;
- 144 (108% of the target) Self-Help Groups were organized and become operational;
- 116 Saving and Credit Groups formed and provided with selected value chain crops;
- 8,125 apple cuttings distributed to 294 beneficiaries.

Value Chain Analysis: Conducting detailed value chain analysis for selected marketable crops was one of the main interventions finalized in this fiscal year. This intervention was started last year and six VCA have been completed for the selected commodities across the five MYAP districts. These value chain crops include pepper, apple, garlic, honey, potato and haricot beans, with at most three commodities targeted per district. It is believed that this study has helped program beneficiaries in making informed investment decisions which is demand-based and attracts maximum profit.

Group Organizations and Input Provision: The program follows a two-pronged approach in organizing producer groups. The first approach is promoting the selected marketable commodities such as potato, pepper, apple, haricot beans, garlic, and honey through injection of initial production inputs. Additionally, 116 new Savings and Credit Groups (SCGs) with 10 members each were organized during the reporting period across the five woredas.

In order to ensure proper functioning and sustainability of these groups, MOUs were developed and signed between the cooperative promotion office, WARDO, FH/E and the woreda council. Individual groups have also developed their own bylaws. Having finalized group formation and bylaws, the project has delivered 47 MT of potato seeds, 2.3 MT of garlic seeds, 10kg of pepper seeds, 8,425 grafted apple seedlings, 4 MT of haricot beans and 299 modern bee-hives with accessories to 116 SCG. The groups have a total member of 1,160 households across the five target districts. The inputs were delivered to the first half of each group on a Rotating Credit Basis (RCB). The beneficiaries that received inputs this year will, in turn, rotate the inputs to the second half beneficiaries after the first harvest via cooperatives. According to this strategy, 430 households who received different value chain crops in the first year have transferred the amount they received to the second half 430 beneficiaries on revolving basis.



Figure 1: Debreloza and Yemreha beekeeping farms (left to right), Lasta.

Among the value chain crops, potato in Tach Gayint, apple in Wadla, and bee-keeping in Lasta and Bugna have become very popular and being disseminated at greater adoption rates. For instance, the groups organized last year in Tach Gayint were able to produce 1,300 quintals of potato seeds, which were kept in Diffused Light Storage and sold to local markets and

neighboring woredas. The groups have sold 490 quintals of potato seeds to governmental and non-governmental organizations from five neighboring woredas at a cost of 550 birr/quintal (equivalent to US\$410/quintal). The group members have earned US\$20,090 (an average of US\$118/household) from the sale of 490 quintals of potato tubers during this reporting period. On top of this, the farmers have used 319 quintals of potato (12 quintals/head) for family consumption and 190 quintals (1.2 quintals /head) tubers reserved in Diffused Light Storage (DLS) for planting out for the last production season. Integration of bee-keeping activities with rehabilitated watersheds has become one of the feasible interventions in Lasta and Bugna woredas. Landless youth groups are organized into groups and engaged in honey production in Lasta and Bugna woredas. The groups have done the necessary preparation to grow into honey producers cooperatives.



Figure 2: Potato tuber stored in DLS and potato field under irrigation, Simada

The producer groups established this year for potato value chains in Tach Gayint and Simada have had their fields certified by regional authorities and expect to harvest over 9,768 Quintals of improved potato in the next fiscal year. FH-Ethiopia has been supporting the groups by linking them with the regional seed certifying agency at Bahir Dar and through market promotion.



In Wadla, apple producers who planted apple seedlings during the SPSNP period have started reaping fruit and sold their first harvest for over 42,380 Ethiopian Birr.

The second approach to organizing program beneficiaries is into Self-Help Groups, based on a model adopted from CARE/Ethiopia. The project supported these volunteer groups by providing village-level safe boxes and technical training on the importance of group formation, savings and credit ventures. In this fiscal year, 144 SHGs have been organized and become operational across the five target woredas, raising the total number of groups into 241 in year one and two. The groups organized in this fiscal year were able to save a total of 124,369 Birr. The total amount of loan disbursed to group members was 109,449 Birr in this fiscal year.

Compost Preparation: As synthetic fertilizers are not affordable to farmers and cause negative effects on the environment, FH/E has promoted compost as an option to improve soil fertility. To this end, in this reporting period, 2307m³ (156% of the plan) compost was prepared by seed producers groups. The program was also able to formulate and apply 1,606 liters of bio-pesticides.

2,671 farmers (52% of the total livelihood beneficiaries across FH/E project woredas) have used a minimum of one defined sustainable agricultural technology; this achievement is 130% of the target set for the year. The technologies adopted by the livelihood beneficiaries are proper cultural practices, improved high-yielding and early-maturing varieties and improved bee-hives.

During this reporting period, the number of PSNP/MYAP beneficiaries who also benefited from the HABP was reported to be 50,227 households, which is 80% of the total PSNP beneficiaries. This performance is 101% when compared to the target set for the year.

FH/E has introduced one enterprise per targeted household in each of the five target woredas, which is 100% of the target set for the year. The program has enabled the supported communities across the five target woredas to employ two livelihood strategies. The strategies employed were rural saving and credit and small-scale irrigation interventions.

SO2: Community Resiliency to Withstand Shocks Enhanced

Building community assets through implementation of Public Work sub-projects is one of the two major objectives of the PSNP.

IR 2.1. Community Watershed Assets Conserved and Improved

In the target woredas conservation and sustainable management of the natural resources base play an essential role in increasing soil fertility and moisture contents. FH/E has implemented a number of bio-physical soil and water conservation activities during the course of the fiscal year.

FH/E has considered watershed management and planning as the main approach to natural resources conservation and rehabilitation in the MYAP target areas. Prior to embarking on actual implementation of physical activities, the implementing partners in collaboration with woreda ARDO subject matter specialists organized and conducted a watershed management training for 489 (156% of the target) relevant government and project staff. After the training, 112 watershed plans (101% of the annual target) were developed/updated with full community participation.

In order to halt the growth and expansion of gullies, 572,116 m³ of loose stone, gabion, and wooden check dams were constructed across the five target woredas. In this fiscal year alone, a total of 515.49 hectares of different sized gullies were treated with both physical and biological soil and water conservation measures and rehabilitated to be used in the future for different agro-forestry purposes. This is a 384% accomplishment when compared to the annual target. The over accomplishment is due to community's top priority need for this intervention.



Figure 3: Snap shot of gullies treated with bio-physical measures, Bugna district

During this reporting period, 7,802 hectares of communal land was treated and planted with more than 20 million multi-purpose seedlings. Moreover, 382 individual nursery owners have raised more than 12 million forest seedlings (mainly eucalyptus) and earned an income of 62,072.50 Birr from sale of seedlings. It was reported that plantations are significantly improving the sustainability of the physical structures and contribute towards improving the vegetation cover of the woredas. Based on the first round seedling survival rate inventory carried out by the respective woreda field offices, the average survival rate across the operational areas is 75.6%.

The target set for the year was 78% while the baseline survival rate was 59%. There was relatively very good rainfall distribution in this fiscal year in all the operation areas.

During this period, the program has enabled 114 communities (100% of the annual target) to develop improved physical infrastructures to mitigate the impacts of future shocks.



Figure 4: Physical soil and water conservation activities (hillside terrace, micro-basin) in Wadla woreda.

These are some of the output level achievements during FY10:

- 5,344.23 km (152% of the annual target) of physical soil conservation measures such as hillside terrace, constructed;
- 621,489 m³ (137% of the annual target) physical soil conservation measures constructed;
- 201 km (75% of the annual target) of bund stabilized;
- 6,259 ha (381% of the annual target) of land put under area closure & sustainably managed;
- 489 DAs and woreda experts trained on integrated watershed management;
- Over 30 million multi-purpose forest seedlings raised and planted out.

IR2.2. Access to Irrigation Increased

Small-scale irrigation development and management is one of the major PW activities during the FY10. It was planned to construct four river diversions, 20 rope and washer pumps, and one community pond. The program was able to complete construction of four river diversions, two community ponds, one spring and 19 hand-dug wells with treadle/rope and washer pumps for small scale irrigation purposes. River diversion construction in Bugna and Tach Gayint is more than 65% completed and the remaining activities will be finalized early next fiscal year.

In addition, FH/E established four irrigation users' associations and offered training on sustainable management and efficient utilization of water. From the five target woredas, a total of 190 irrigation users had received training on irrigation agronomy and efficient utilization of irrigation water while not compromising the needs of the downstream users.

The program has put 62.98 hectares of land under irrigation farming across the project areas, which is nearly 101% of the target and 175% relative to the baseline. As a result, the proportion of beneficiaries using irrigation infrastructures has increased to 39.75%, which is a 9.95% and 14.75% increase relative of annual target and baseline line levels respectively.

IR 2.3. Availability of Fodder Improved

In order to improve livestock feed availability in the target areas, FH/ORDA has given top priority to improving availability and quality of fodder in the target areas. It has employed two strategies- Group Based Fodder Production (GBFP) and Backyard Fodder Production (BFP).

Through GBFP, which is a communal watershed-based fodder development approach, more than 3 million improved exotic fodder trees, shrubs, herbs, and grasses were raised in central nurseries and planted inside the selected watersheds- 161% of the target for the year. This strategy encourages the establishment of group-managed fodder plots which will be used as a source of livestock feed and bee-production.

As part of BFP, 1,873 beneficiaries were trained and provided with protein-rich seeds such as alfalfa and vetch to establish forage plots in their backyards. All the beneficiaries managed to create minimum 100m² homestead fodder plots, which is 155% relative to the target for the year.

IR 2.4. Rural Infrastructure Improved

In this fiscal year the program materialized construction of 65km of new rural access roads and maintained 173km of existing roads across the five operation areas, which are 57% and 73% of the annual targets respectively. The program planned to construct three strategic bridges and eight culverts/fords in order to upgrade the road networks into all-weather types and enhance accessibility. FH/E was able to complete the construction of two bridges and 10 fords/culverts, 67% and 125% of the annual plan. Moreover, the program constructed 19 class rooms and upgraded three schools by constructing additional classrooms in Bugna and Lasta, while 17 schools were furnished with 347 combined desks in Bugna, Lasta and Simada. One new health post was also constructed in Simada.



Figure 5: Feeder road & ford construction, Lasta and bridge construction, Wadla

180,456 farmers across the five woredas received improved access to agricultural input and output marketing due to the access road construction and maintenance.

It was also reported that construction and maintenance of schools and health facilities has improved school enrolment and the health status of the community. It is believed that improvement in community health will in turn significantly improve labor contribution to the agricultural activities and eventually to the food security status of the target community.

SO 3: Human Capabilities Protected and Improved

In order to address health and nutrition related issues, FH/E planned to improve human capabilities through multiple activities.

IR 3.1. Dietary Intake and Disease Prevention Improved

Under this IR various activities were conducted with the aim of tackling the very poor maternal, infant, and young child nutrition prevalent in the target communities.

In this reporting period, TOT trainings on Essential Nutrition/Hygiene Action actions were given to 25 district and project health staff (100% of the target) and 114 health extension workers (117 % of target). The training aimed to strengthen the capacity of government health workers to counsel and teach mothers during each of the four key access points- public gatherings, health facility contact, care groups and mass media campaigns. The trained key project and government health staff in turn trained the health extension workers. As a result, 110,919 (116.8% of the target) beneficiaries have received basic health education on maternal/child nutrition and hygiene actions. The health education lessons were given through a variety of platforms including: public works events, food distribution sites, church sermons, children's health day and market days.

Additionally, 109 Care Groups (403% of the target) were established, 1083 leader mothers and 31 promoters/volunteer community health workers (VCHW) were selected (104% and 108% of the target respectively). Care group participants are pregnant woman and mothers with children under two years old within the community with special emphasis to safety net beneficiaries. These mothers form groups of 10 – 14 members and select one leader mother who leads the health lesson discussions. Health extension workers are also using the Care Group Model for the promotion of other health extension program packages. Instead of moving from house-to-house this structure enables them to access mothers in groups to deliver health related messages.

FH/E believes that establishing a mother-to-mother support group and arranging regular discussion helps in bringing the desired behavioral change towards improving the health and nutrition status of children and mothers. The curriculum has five modules and 20 lessons developed and printed on flip charts. The topics of the module are Care Group orientation, prenatal nutrition and breast feeding, complementary foods and feeding of the sick child, micro nutrients, personal and environmental hygiene, and food and water hygiene. In total 2,174 flip charts each with five sets of modules were produced and printed (134 % of the target).

Additionally, 121 religious and community leaders (100.8% of the target) received ENA and essential hygiene action (EHA) orientation.

The accomplishments in the above indicators are due to the inclusion of non-safety net beneficiaries to care group discussions. The outcome indicators of this IR were set after baseline data was collected and analyzed in this reporting year.

- 86% of beneficiary infants and young children aged 6-24 months fed with three appropriate infant and young child feeding practices (continued breastfeeding, age-appropriate dietary diversity, and age-appropriate frequency of feeding) –FFP
- 94% of children 0-24 months old started breastfeeding within one hour after birth
- 91% of beneficiary children 0-6 months old exclusively breastfed in the last 24h - FFP
- 18% mothers/caregivers of children 6-24 months of age who gave the same or more food to their child during a childhood illness in the past two weeks
- 57.4% of mothers/caregivers of children 0-24 months of age who regularly (biweekly or more often) meet with a health promoter to learn about health
- 50% of caregivers of children aged 0-24 months report washing their hands with soap or ash at a minimum of two of the critical times.

IR 3.2. Access to Potable Water and Sanitation Increased and Improved

The following outputs were recorded during this fiscal year across the five woredas:

- 23 (96% of the target) WATSAN committees formed and trained;
- 46 (184% of the target) hand dug wells constructed and maintained;
- 19 (90.5% of the target) springs constructed and maintained;
- 11 (157% of the target) latrines were constructed;
- 3,112 (117% of the target) IEC and BCC materials produced and distributed.

The percentage of beneficiaries using improved drinking water has increased by 5% as a result of physical facilities constructed in this fiscal year. This has raised water coverage across in the five woredas into 47.7%, which is 106% and 129% relative to the baseline (37%) and FY10 target (45%), respectively. Similarly, the proportion of beneficiaries in the target areas who are using pit latrines has increased to 54% from the 12% baseline and 25% annual target. The accomplishment in this intervention is attributed to the use of the Community-Led Total Sanitation approach.

IR 3.3 Management Capacity of Government Stakeholders Improved

Various capacity building trainings have been given to the local government offices. As a result of these efforts, program implementation quality and government staff participation have grown.

Other capacity building provided by the program in this reporting period is listed below:

- 58 woreda government staff had experience sharing visit to different regions;
- 20 zonal- and woreda-level government staff (100% of the target) trained on integration of HABP & PSNP;
- Four computers, three printers, two GPS units, 21 benches/desks, two shelves, and 60 sleeping bags were purchased and provided to woreda government offices;
- 168 kebele- and community-level food security task forces (FSTFs) reformed and strengthened;
- 31 government zonal and woreda staff trained on planning, monitoring, supervision and reporting;
- 66 woreda government staff trained on Land Administration.

Variance Explanation: There were two major factors which attributed to under-accomplishment of some planned targets in this fiscal year. These were the late start-up of PW activities due to the extended duration of free labor community mobilization works, and the lack of government commitment to meet its matching fund requirement for bridge construction. The free labor mobilization for implementation of soil and water conservation activities on farmlands was unusually extended this fiscal year for about two months, delaying PWs' starting time. This has led to falling short of expected targets for some activities such as river diversions in Bugna and Tach Gayint. The conflict between free labor mobilization and PWs implementation was raised during the recent regional JRIS mission as major constraint and action points were included in the regional *Aide Memoire*. The Tach Gayint woreda administration has also failed to meet its commitments to supply materials for one bridge construction while FH met its responsibilities to contract out labor. This problem is now resolved and the work will be finalized by the next fiscal year. FH/E has incorporated the lessons learned from current year program implementation and has put in place all mitigation measures into the upcoming fiscal year's implementation in order to improve program performance.

Changes in Key Assumptions: In this fiscal year, most of the anticipated assumptions held true except for one- “no major emergency situation (shock) occurs that raises the number of transitory food insecure beyond what can be addressed with contingency resources.” Contrary to the original assumption, however, there were severe shocks in the project areas due to below normal Meher rainfall which increased the number of transitory food insecure beyond what could be addressed with contingency resources. In response to this problem, FH/E has fully allocated and distributed 2,552.61MT (the amount of the 20% contingency resources) to 88,287 transitory food insecure beneficiaries. The remaining 742MT of contingency resources will be distributed in October as part of FY10 distribution period. Additional resources were received from the Joint Emergency Operational Plan which is funded by USAID and led by CRS. 4,212MT additional relief food commodities were distributed to 227,366 transitory beneficiaries.

Feedback from Beneficiaries: FH/E collects program recipients’ feedback while trying to implement and achieve food aid program objectives. The implementing partners have considered this feedback as an essential tool to monitor the performance of the program. For instance, in the last two consecutive resource requests, FH has changed commodity type selection from sorghum to wheat in response to clients’ preference for the latter. This and other feedback from the beneficiaries show that the program is successful in helping the food insecure.

Partnership and Change in Institutional and Policy Framework: FH/E is partnering with different stakeholders while implementing the MYAP. Major partners were GoE, USAID, Non-Governmental Organizations, and actors in the private sector. In the fiscal year, FH had experienced a very good working relationship with all governmental institutions at different levels, sister NGOs and private actors. Working with governmental institutions at different levels expedites program implementation. However, at times in this year, the government experts and decision makers were occupied with frequent meetings which delayed the implementation of some MYAP activities.

FH/E has a very good working relationship with other NGOs implementing the productive safety net in Amhara and other regions of the country. It has been jointly working with these NGOs under the umbrella of the Ethiopian Development Assistance Consortium (EDAC). It has become a center of knowledge management among different NGOs and a forum for resolving common issues related to NGOs. FH/E has also a very good working relationship with USAID FFP office as well as the local mission. Consultative discussion forums on issues that need joint decisions during this reporting period functioned very well.

FH/E has a good strategy to proactively follow-up with institutional and policy changes in the country. It has actively taken part in the second phase GoE Food Security Program redesign process and is aware of the associated changes in institutional arrangements, particularly in the implementation of PSNP, HABP, and DRM. FH has adapted to the new changes and adhered to the new government strategy in the implementation of PSNP during this reporting period.

2. Success Stories

2.1. *“Once couldn’t cover annual food needs, now become confident to lead family without assistance”*

Ato Melkamu Zemene is one of the productive safety net beneficiaries who live in Dari hamlet, Lasta district. He is 52 years old and stopped his education at grade six because of his family's inability to cover his education expenses. He is married and has four daughters and three sons. He said, "I am sending all my children to school to not pass my fate on to them."

He owns 1.5 hectares of rain-fed and 0.125 hectare irrigable land. Sometimes, he also leases 0.25 hectare of irrigable land and 0.75 hectare of rain-fed farms from other farmers. Ato Melkamu explained that even though he had been struggling hard to fight poverty, he couldn't manage even to cover his family food needs for 12 months from his produce before his engagement in PSNP in 2005. He used to receive emergency food assistance annually in order to cover his family food gaps. He further added that the local community in recognition of his chronic problem selected him as one of the safety net beneficiaries in 2005.

He said, "After my involvement in the safety net program, I have been covering my family food needs by complementing my produce with the rations (15kgs of wheat, 1.5kgs of pulses and 0.45kgs of vegetable oil) I am getting from the safety net." The food aid rations are supported by USAID. He has also one of the beneficiaries of the government credit scheme. In addition, he is one of the beneficiaries of USAID-funded FH/E MYAP and received inputs for red onion production. He has also been engaged in rearing of livestock by using his savings from his monthly food rations and credit. He described that the food rations he is getting from safety net apart from bridging food gaps supported him in building household assets. He explained, "Now I have two oxen, one cow, one calf, 22 sheep, two goats, two donkeys, 11 hens and two beehives." He also added that he recently bought a motorized pump which will help him with efficient utilization of his irrigation water. He bought this pump from the woreda agriculture and rural development office on a credit basis by paying a 400 Eth. Birr down payment earned from sales of red onion. Ato Melaku explained his prosperity as follows, "The secret of my success is one thing only, which is using family labor and working intensively on my irrigation field."

He narrated his next plans this way, "Once I bought my pump, my chance of sustainably working on my irrigation field increased. Now I am confident to feed my family for 12 months with my own produce and from my livestock assets. My plan next year is to voluntarily graduate from the safety net program and continue with my family business. After God, I would like to thank the American people and the local government for their support to enable me to get to this level."

2.2. CLTS as Best Approach to Promote Sanitation at community level

Ato Dinku Abeje is a resident of Kebele 05, *Tache Mindek* village, Simada district. He is married and has six family members, three sons and one daughter. He is a landless peasant and supports his family through small scale handicrafts business. He estimated that he is earning a monthly income of 30-50 Birr and 0.1MT of grains in kind from his business. He said, "before I joined the safety net program in 2008, the income I was getting from my personal business couldn't be enough to cover my family food needs throughout the year. I used to receive emergency food assistance every year. After 2008, I have been entitled to get 85kgs of cereal, 7.5kgs of pulses and 2.25kgs of edible oil per month, which complements my own income and bridge my family food gap."



Ato Dinku and his wife standing in front of their own latrine

Tache Mindek is one of the villages selected for promoting massive introduction and adoption of sanitation activities at the community level in Simada district in fiscal year 2010. Community Lead Total Sanitation (CLTS) was used as main approach to promote these activities. Ato Dinku and his wife were one of the 40 family members who attended CLTS discussion at ***Tache Mindek village***.

Before this discussion session Mr. Dinku and his family used to practice open defecation as did other members of the villagers. Mr. Dinku said, ‘Even though the government health extension workers would repeatedly tell us about constructing latrines and avoiding open defecation, we couldn’t understand the severity of the problem related to open defecation before. During the

CLTS discussion, however, all the villagers including myself have recognized the severity of the personal and environmental impacts of open defecation. With this understanding all the villagers unanimously agreed to make their village free from open defecation and safe for health and living.”

Ato Dinku said, “After the discussion forum I couldn’t wait one more day. I immediately constructed a three-meter-deep pit latrine and started using it.” He has also hand washing facilities including soap and ash as detergent near the toilet. He further said, “Now we have started observing the difference. The bad smell around my backyard and numbers of flies have been significantly reduced. The frequency of taking children to nearby health post has also decreased. Generally my family health condition has improved *unbelievably*.”

Mr. Dinku also explained that all the other villagers who attended the CLTS discussion have constructed their own private latrines. Finally, he concluded his conversation by extending his sincere thanks to FH and district health office staff for promoting this new approach which immediately changed their thoughts.

3. Lessons Learned:

FH/E has documented many valuable lessons over the past fiscal year of MYAP implementation. Some of the most important lessons are described below:

- 1) ***PASS Software:*** Use of PASS software is fully operational across FH/E operational areas. The respective projects have reported that the use of this software has significantly simplified beneficiary master list handling and enabled them undertake timely resource transfers. It has reduced the workload of DAs, foremen/women and woreda-level clerks

who used to prepare attendance lists and payment sheets manually. It has also significantly contributed to the reduction of inclusion and exclusion errors.

- 2) ***Experience Sharing Visits:*** Experience exchange visits within the region and to other regions have been found to be a best approach to rapidly and widely disseminating different technologies across the target woredas.
- 3) ***User groups identification as essential tool for sustainability of communal assets and long- term investment:*** FH/E learned that handing over communal assets to landless youth groups and community based organizations like '*Idir*' will enhance the sense of ownership and sustainable management of communal assets. Integration of bee-keeping activities inside rehabilitated watersheds is an indication of this success.
- 4) ***Value Chain Approach:*** FH/E has learned that the value chain approach has helped the program to exert its efforts on selected beneficial marketable crops which remarkably change the lives of the community.
- 5) ***Promoting Gender Equality by Empowering Women:*** FH/E has learned that intentionally targeting women to form their own associations (SHGs) so as to save money and to be involved in various small trading activities has economically empowered them and increased their social standing.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Indicator Performance Tracking Table

Attachment B: Detailed Implementation Plan

Attachment C: Standardized Annual Performance Questionnaire

Attachment D: Tracking Tables for Beneficiaries and Resources

Attachment E: Expenditure Report

Attachment F: Monetization Tables

As there was no monetization activity in this fiscal year, this attachment is not applicable for reporting.

Attachment G: Baseline Survey, Mid-Term or Final Evaluation Reports

As the Final Evaluation report is not yet finalized, it is not included in this report.

Attachment H: Supplemental Materials

An additional document detailing further success stories is included.

Attachment I: Completeness Checklist