



**PRODUCTIVE SAFETY NET PROGRAM (CHIFRA, TERU AND GULINA)**

**FISICAL YEAR 2010 ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT**

**(October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010)**

**Save the Children UK /Ethiopia Office**

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List of Acronyms

ARDPFSB	Afar Regional Disaster Prevention and Food Security Bureau
AWD	Acute Watery Diarrhea
DA	Development Agent
DCM	Drought Cycle Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Management
DS	Direct Support Beneficiaries
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FSTF	Food Security Task Force
HH	Household
IPTT	Indicator Performance Tracking Table
JEOP	Joint Emergency Operation Plan
KA	Kebele Administration
KFSTF	Kebele Food Security Task Force
LBPW	Labor Based Public Works
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
PARDO	Pastoral agricultural rural development
PCDP	Pastoral Community Development Program
PDO	Pastoral Development Office
PSNP-PAP	Productive Safety Net Program – Pastoral Area Pilot
PW	Public work
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Program
WFSTF	Woreda food security task force

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## **1 Introduction: Annual Food Aid Program Results**

### ***1.1 Background***

The Government of Ethiopia in partnership with donors designed a safety net programme as part of its food security strategy. This programme called the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) aims to ensure that chronically food insecure households have sufficient income to meet their food gaps and thereby protect their household assets from depletion. The objectives of the PSNP are ‘to provide transfers to the food insecure population in chronically food insecure woredas in a way that prevents asset depletion at the household level and creates assets at the community level.

Somali and Afar regions were initially intended to be covered by the PSNP when it rolled out in 2005. However it was recognized that the operating environment and different livelihood strategies employed in the pastoral areas of Ethiopia presented an erstwhile challenge in delivering the PSNP. To address this situation the Pastoral Area Pilot (PAP) program was designed focusing on testing an appropriate programme for the livelihoods in the pastoral areas of Ethiopia. The federal and regional government selected six woredas in Afar for the pilot with Save the Children being invited to implement the program in the three operational woredas.

Since April 2008, Save the Children UK has been implementing the PSNP Pastoralist Areas Pilot (PSNP-PAP) in three Woredas of the Afar Region – Chifra, Gulina and Teru. Initially, the program targeted approximately 44,775 beneficiaries across these three Woredas over an 18-month period. However, for the 2009 calendar year, the Regional Government of Afar decided to increase the beneficiary population in the three Woredas to 71, 245.

The piloting of the PSNP in the three project woredas has been done at a scale that enabled the organization and government partners to learn lessons and experiences on how to best deliver such a program in pastoral communities. The lessons generated from the program were vital in informing the ongoing roll-out the PSNP in the pastoral areas of the country. Save Children actively participated in the design meetings and workshops as well as document review that planned the rollout program and in the process of PSNP implementation in the new eleven selected Woredas of Afar region.

This report presents the key achievements, lessons, successes and challenges that the program recorded in the period between October 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 and September 30th, 2010

### ***1.2 Summary of Achievements***

- In FY10, 1043 government partner and program staff, and representatives from community based organizations (CBOs) and community members were trained on various topics, as a means of building appropriate capacity for the implementation of the PSNP. The training topics included Leadership and Management, Targeting, Health and Sanitation, and Warehouse and commodity management, Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and experience sharing visits made in

Amhara and Tigray regional state.

- SC UK has dispatched and distributed a four months transfer in Chifra, Gulina and Teru project Woredas totaling the total FY 2010 food transfer 4224.007 MT for 71245 beneficiaries.
- The construction of 5 warehouses each with 500MT-capacity at Wuhama (Chifra Woreda) Alelu and Didiga (Teru Woreda) and Kelewan (Gulina), as well as the foundation works / maintenance of a 500MT-capacity rub hall in Chifra town were finalized during the reporting period. At the time of reporting, the hollow-block warehouse at Alelu, and Wuhama Rub hall and giving service to the local communities. Fencing around Wahama warehouse was undertaken to protect the rub hall from damage by animals and children. Furthermore, the construction of 6 smaller warehouses (satellite warehouses) with between 120-200MT capacities was finalized and they were utilized in the food distribution processes.
- The interest shown by pastoralists and the enthusiasm with which they carried out Public Work activities stands out as one of the major accomplishments of program. The achievements include the following: 80 hectares new area enclosed and 60 hectares of existing area closure maintenances and 14 ponds constructed and ponds were maintained; 16 cattle trough; 8 alternative schools constructed; 266.5 Km of feeder road maintained; and 2 classrooms maintained and 1 Development Agent resident house constructed and 683.5 meters cubic check dams and 1410 meter soil bond structure constructed.

## **2 Progress Towards Achieving Program Objectives**

This section summarizes key achievements by objective area highlighting successes and challenges engaged. Detailed activity accomplishments vis-à-vis targets are updated in presented in the Indicator Performance Tracking Table (IPTT) and Detailed Implemented Plan (DIP) annexed to this report. All out come and impact level indicators are not reported on because the program did not conduct any formal surveys. The final evaluation report by an external consultant is yet to be released.

***Objective 1: To build the capacity of Government and community to effectively implement, monitor and evaluate a productive safety net program with pastoralist communities.***

The program places premium on the development of the human capital at the local government and community levels. Leadership and management training; training on re-targeting; training of foremen on soil and water conservation and road maintenance; strengthening Woreda and Kebele food security task force; training on rangeland management; warehouse and store management training , monitoring and evaluation and project cycle management , crop husbandry training for agro-pastoralists and Disaster Risk Management ( DRM) are some of the key trainings delivered. The program focused on theoretical and practical aspect during the training ones, this ensured that participants were brought up to date with current theory and then challenged to apply it in their day to

day work by action planning and practical fieldwork.

During exchange visits, the woreda officials focused on watershed management in the rehabilitation of degraded lands and the role of watershed development committees in the implementation process of productive safety net program. The program delivered above 90% in all planned activities besides public work activities such as hand dug well construction and maintenances, DAs house construction, and class room construction are below 70 % achievement. The reason can be the delay in the procurement process due to the price fluctuation, absence of enough market supply within the operational woredas and lack of technical person to execute and follow up the engineering works. Owing to keen interest the program delivered above 125 % of set targets on various training for government partners and CBO and community members. The success of the achievements are the results of the collaboration , being the interested to take the training and being passionate among government partners, communities and the project staff to engage and speed up practical program implementation.

Offering various trainings have led to increased ownership of the program by kebele and woreda officials at the same time improving efficiency, decision making and service delivery. Staff turnover has however been a constraint to realizing all the benefit; another impeding factor was the political season that reduced availability of government officials and resources.

***Objective 2: To identify and select the best targeting approach for the pastoralist community of the Afar region***

### **Targeting approaches**

Following on lessons from the pilot period, the program has been working with two approaches; namely the value based targeting approach and the community values triangulation approach. Gulina and Teru opted for the former while Chifra chose the latter. On a larger scale these has worked well apart from in Gulina woreda where retargeting was carried out in Wanasena Harigerbo Kebele which took several days to finalize the retargeting process as consequences commodity transfer for the months of March and September was delayed. Exclusions and inclusions errors were identified by community members and investigated by the kebele appeal committee and misunderstanding among the kebele leaders were also one of the issues that were resolved by the woreda decision makers. The program however was able to deliver on its program obligations despite these delays. To stem such challenges, the program has reinforced the capacity of the targeting and appeal committees during trainings and it is hope this will go along way to reducing recurrence of these challenges

As the program invested in new satellite and woreda warehouses, it was possible to deliver commodities closer to the communities. The program was able to devise a new way of commodity transfer strategy across the three woredas. This strategy mainly focused on the use of weighting scales in front of eligible beneficiaries across the different distribution sites to ensure the targeted beneficiaries are receiving the given entitlement. These brought program staff closer to the kebelles and were able to deal with

targeting challenges that they had hitherto not being able to come across when food was delivered at woreda centers. In addition to this, with the support of the program, partner Woredas undertook periodic reviews of the targeted beneficiaries to clean up and update the registers and documented properly and filed both in the project and Pastoral Rural Development Offices.

***Objective 3: To identify test and analyze the appropriateness of public work activities and pastoralist communities***

The pastoral communities participating in different public work activities have begun to appreciate the impact of the interventions towards addressing some of the underlying causes of food security the project Woredas. These emerging outcomes such as increased fodder and water availability and crop production are acting as stimulants for deeper engagement.

The reduction in the overall food provisioning period from 9 months (2 by government and 7 by Save the Children) greatly affected the ability of the program to deliver on program targets specifically on the labor intensive ones. Most of the activities will be accomplished in the coming program year. But on overall some Life of Activity (LOA) targets will not be achieved to 100% levels.

Major public work activities undertaken during the reporting period included the following:

**Road Maintenance**

The vast distances across woredas has often implied that remote communities did not have access to services and markets. The program managed to support the rehabilitation of 266.5 KM of roads. The necessity of these access paths can not be underscored, at the time of the implementing this roads, communities, having learnt how to and with necessary equipment invested time on their own without any payment to rehabilitate other section of roads. The interest in road works stems from emerging outcome that they are contributing to reduced cost of delivery of market commodities to the villages saving them time and resources. The community at the house hold level has a benefit to sell their animals and animal products to the near by markets and merchants who can come closer to the kebelles which has contributed to protection of assets.

The recent floods (August 2010) affected some of the roads and more work will be needed on them as woredas think through how best to protect their assets from these level of flooding that was not anticipated.

**Pond construction and maintenance**

Most of Afar region is chronically drought prone area for a decade, shortage of drinking water both for livestock and human being , are one of the most critical problems of communities that has been hasten the mobility of pastoralist in searching of water for their life existence. To reduce the mobility of pastoralist and shortage of water in project intervention Kebeles of the project woredas a total of 30 ponds constructed and

maintained in the FY 2009/2010. Each pond has the capacity to harvest approximately an average of 2,035 cubic meters of water sufficient to take around 70 households (HH) and 980 livestock through most of the dry seasons. In the project woredas ponds are good water sources for livestock and human beings and can be used for short period of time. The major sources of water for ponds are mainly harvesting the run off and the surrounding flood coming from the highland areas. Construction of ponds and 'Ellas' by public works created access to water for both human beings and live stocks. This in turn contributed to reduce distance traveled in search of water though the water collected in the pond lasts for few months (3-4 months) because of evaporation induced by existences of high temperature. Availability of water using pond construction further initiates the communities to have more demands of water for livestock and human consumption. Thus, in the fourth quarter of the FY 2010 pastoralist communities in Chifra woreda were requested the project for the construction of bore hole to attain a sustainable development intervention.

### **Cattle Troughs**

Further more, cattle troughs are constructed near the ponds to serve as drinking spots for live stock and human beings after some traditional water treatment has been done. In Teru Woreda a total of 5 cattle troughs were constructed near the ponds. The newly constructed cattle trough enables the livestock to use as sources of water separately from human beings. In general the construction of cattle trough near the pond areas has significant advantage of improved drinking water quality ,reduced the entrance of animal dugs (waste) and soils which further reduced disposal waste materials as well as silt accumulation and reduced the disturbance of surrounding ponds by live stocks.

### **Alternative basic education centers and class rooms**

In most of the rural Kebeles of the project Woredas, there are no alternative basic education (ABE) centers constructed and this necessitated for the communities to prioritize the construction of ABE to be implemented under public work activities. To improve the quality of education and the teaching learning process as a whole, construction of alternative schools were the top priority activities identified by the Woreda food security task forces and local communities. A total of five alternative basic education centers were constructed in Chifra and Gulina woredas. These ABE centers will give service for a total of 423 students. The construction of alternative basic education center, benefited rural communities in terms of save their time traveling long distances , ensure to improve the quality and performance of formal education at the village level , adults will be able to access formal education and ultimately contributes to increase for the over all education coverage at the regional.

### **Soil conservation**

River bank protection (gabion work) , construction of check dams , terracing in flood exposed areas and micro basin in an enclosed range land areas are other public work activities undertaken by the local communities to improve soil and water conservation system in the project woredas. The fact that Afar remains prone to flash floods owing to

limited vegetation cover has led to the increased relevance. The regeneration of vegetation around these structures is the beginning of a longer-term environmental rehabilitation. Within area enclosures, the rapid regeneration of grass cover is testimony to this rehabilitation, as shrubs and trees begin to grow in this areas, the soil will be less prone to flash flooding and will help retain moisture in the soil keeping the vegetation green longer.

***Objective 4: To test and analyze the most appropriate methods of making predictable food distribution in pastoralist communities***

From the first 18 months the program was able to learn that food distribution in vast pastoral areas like afar is least effective and timely when distribution is done in centralized locations. The cost of transportation, accessibility of some of the Woredas and un-trusted kebele leaders that may keep some of the food for themselves are among the challenges that PSNP beneficiaries are faced with when they live as much as 30 Kilometers away from Woreda centers.

There were different approaches followed to maintain the timely and predictability of commodity distribution. These are providing trainings for government partners and project staff on the warehouse and commodity management, construction of satellite warehouses (with the capacity of 100- 200MT) and big warehouse (with the capacity of 500MT) are the best examples. The warehouses completed and utilized in FY10 had been planned for FY09 but construction activities were not completed in the FY and thus were actually carryovers.

Continuous sensitization work on PSNP implementation conducted at the community level and the establishment of display boards to illustrate the ration size across the different distribution sites. In addition to this, planning applicable distribution schedule with the consultation of local communities by considering the different hunger seasons and the pastoral mobility pattern are some of the efforts. The project staff in collaboration with woreda food security task forces made periodic post distribution monitoring system to cross-check the food deliveries and utilization at household level.

In the FY 2009/2010, Afar the program planned to distribute a seven-month food transfer for 71,245 beneficiaries starting the month of March to September. However, the government decided the food security gap to be covered only for six months in the Afar PSNP woredas. The government dispatched and distributed a two-month food and the remaining four-month food transferred made by Save the Children. The commodity types and the quantities distributed for direct support and labor based public work beneficiaries in the respective Woredas are summarized in table 1 below:

**Table 1 PSNP PAP food deliveries in FY Year 2010**

Woreda	Beneficiary Type	Food Type [MT]			Direct Food Beneficiaries		
		Wheat	Pulse	Oil	Male	Female	Total
Gulina	LBPW	481.5	48.1	13.6	3,803	3,600	8,355
	DS	253.7	25.4	9.0	3,734	3,517	6,299
	Sub Total	735.2	73.5	22.6	7,537	7,117	14,654
Teru	LBPW	1,105.7	110.8	33.8	10,802	11,164	23,186
	DS	487.0	48.5	14.9	6,389	3,516	8,685
	Sub Total	1,592.6	159.3	48.7	17,191	14,680	31,871
Chifra	LBPW	729.0	77.0	24.0	9,202	6,139	11,586
	DS	679.3	63.9	19.1	5,315	4,061	13,134
	Sub Total	1,408.3	140.9	43.0	14,517	10,200	24,720
Total		<b>3,736.1</b>	<b>373.7</b>	<b>114.3</b>	<b>39,245</b>	<b>31,997</b>	<b>71,245</b>

The completion of warehouse construction in the project woredas and use of these facilities has been a great contribution towards the management of program commodities in a number of ways including the following; enhance timely transfer of commodities and the implementation of PW activities. By reducing the distances covered by program beneficiaries to collect rations, as well as the cost of camel/car rental for the transportation of food; less food is being sold to pay for this transportation. The program plans to complete the remaining warehouses in the period between October and January so as to utilize them in the FY11 food delivery processes.

***Objective 5: To test how to effectively incorporate risk management approaches in the PSNP -PAP program***

One of the major activities under this objective is the conduct of food security and early warning situation assessment in the intervention woredas. These include the collection of early warning and food security information/data such as rainfall, grazing situation, market prices, livestock movement pattern and animal and human diseases. In General, the over all food security situation in the woredas has been stable in the past year. An above normal rainy season, consistent support for chronic and transitory food insecure household, has had a positive impact in stabilizing the market prices and assuring availability of fodder. The above normal Sugum and Karam rains performance which resulted in good availability of browse, water, and pasture and improved livestock physical conditions in most part of the region improved on the terms of trade enabling livestock owners access more grain with one livestock unit compared to the previous year.. The early warning and food security situation information analyzed to support the ongoing productive safety net program implementation

In the fourth quarter of the FY 2010, the program organized DRM training for government partners and project staff to address the statement under the specific objective five. The training provided in depth orientation on DRM concepts and guidelines, including the DRM framework as well as understanding the key aspects and

activities of protection, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation. The training builds upon participants' existing knowledge base so they can relate DRM issues in practical terms to their day-to-day responsibilities of productive safety net program implementation. The Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) component of the training will also allow participants to practically apply the skills at the grass root level.

In August there was a major natural disaster occurred in the region, flood waters from localized rains as well as burst banks from on rivers flowing from the highlands inundated huge areas of the region. The flood waters brought infrastructural damage in their wake leaving schools, home , roads and bridges seriously damaged. The following section highlights the magnitude of the flooding, its impact and response measures undertaken by the region with specific roles of the Save the Children program.

### **The effect of flood on the commodity distribution**

Due to geographical location of the region, the project intervention woredas are usually vulnerable for continues flood occurrences. The seasonal rivers which come from high land of Amhara and Tigray region contributes for the emerging of floods. In August 2010 there was unusual heavy, torrential and high intensity rain fall across the three project woredas which highly affected the home properties and livestock of people living in the area. The run- off from Chifra different catchments being combined with the highland run- off caused overflow the perennial rivers Mille and Wuama. As a result big bridges with significant economic importance have were damaged. These bridges connect the road from Samara to Chifra; and the road from Chifra to Woldiya-Mekele as well as the one connecting Chifra to Bati-Kombolcha. Chifra was virtually inaccessible.

As a result of these, commodity movement from project woreda towns to any of the six satellite warehouse was blocked secondly food dispatched from Dessie central warehouse could not to reach to the main warehouses located in the woreda centers.

60 heavy trucks delivering food to various satellite warehouses were marooned in Chifra town for close to a month. Project staff held discussions with the woreda food security task forces to look for a temporary storage commodities and kept commodities around school compounds. In Teru woreda people house were swept away and, residents forced to move to higher and safe areas.

To address this problem Save the Children (UK) with the collaboration of woreda and the regional food security task forces to coordinate and ensure effective response. The program was able to utilize 20% of PSNP-PAP contingency resource for flood affected population in Teru woreda. The project also supported logistics and provided an awareness creation for the flood affected communities to safe their life and properties. The following picture illustrated the bridge damaged due to the recent flood.



**Photo 1** Damaged road connected Chifra-Mille-Samara road (left) and Chifra-Gulina and Woldiya-Mekele (middle), Chifra-Bati (right)

### **3 Success Stories**

Save the Children UK's smooth partnership at region, woreda and community level has contributed to the emergence of positive outcomes at community level. The full participation of the pastoralists in the course of identifying and prioritizing problems, implementation, monitoring and evaluation created sense of ownership, belongingness and success on the sustainability of project. The following is a story from an indirect beneficiary of the program in Chifra woreda.

#### **Possibilities in Afar: Crop farming in Chifra Woreda**

Save the Children has been working in Afar region for the last four years focusing on livelihood and emergency interventions. Focused on children, the organization desires to implement activities that help to improve the nutritional and livelihood wellbeing of families with children. One of the programs implemented in the area since April 2008 is the Government of Ethiopia Productive Safety Nets Program in three woredas of Teru, Gulina and Chifra where Save the Children is funded by USAID/FFP.

Chifra woreda has potential for agricultural production, particularly along the permanent/perennial river banks. Of late, owing to frequent droughts, some pastoralists have started focusing on agricultural production along the river banks. The PSNP program realized this and engaged with the community in Chifra along the Mille River to improve on the irrigation schemes.

Ato Habib Abdela, who is 27 years of age, is one of the beneficiaries of upgraded traditional irrigation scheme along Mile River in Chifra woreda. Mille River. Ato Habib is not direct beneficiary of Safety Net Program nonetheless he used the traditional irrigation scheme cultivate maize along the river banks of Mile. Save the Children through the Safety Net Program upgraded the canals, by cementing and constructing a steel case crossing for the community reducing siltation. Through this gravity fed system, Ato Habib and his peers look forward to a brighter future. Further the efficiency created has increased the harvesting from 2 to 3 times in one year all resulting in well over 200% (from 10 to 22.5 quintals in year) increase in production.

Ato Habib is now intent on producing vegetables and fruits in the future and sell the

production and increase his household income. These otherwise rare crops in Afar would go along way in diversifying diets and improving nutritional status of children and other residents of the woreda.



**Photo 2 Bolele irrigation scheme upgraded canal and bridged crossing on dry valley Chifra woreda (Bolele Kebelle, (taken on 12/25/2009 by Million Arraya)**

Regarding potential for growth and sustainability he explained that there is water committee and beneficiaries of the irrigation scheme use water timely keeping their turn according to bylaw. Ato Habib expressed his wish that Mille River is diverted widely and used for most agro pastoralists as it can enable the users to produce crops and feed their families. On top of this, he appreciated other public work activities such soil and water conservation activities, road construction and gully reclamation.

#### **4 Lessons Learned**

Pastoralists have shown a commitment to participate on different public work activities. One of the challenges identified is that the most favorable months for undertaking public works in the intervention Woredas are October to February. During the period the weather conditions are favorable for outdoor activities (temperatures are at the relative lowest points), pasture and water availability is assured (in a good year) and pastoralists, who migrated between May to August would have returned to their communities. During the dry season pastoralists migrate out of their villages in search of water and pasture. This dynamic has led to lack of participation by some beneficiaries because they can not determine where they will be when the food provisioning season comes. Therefore 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. SCUK is working with regional authorities to see how this challenge can be best tackled.

Prior the rainfall season comes; commodity should be dispatched and transported to the woredas and stored in different warehouses. Transportation of commodities in the time of rainfall seasons concurrent with the occurrences of muddy areas along the roads that lead to different warehouses. Eventually the needy population will not receive their ration on an agreed schedule. Commodity arrivals to the intended distribution sites contribute the timely transfer to the eligible beneficiaries and will enhance to achieve the activities under objective 3.

Understanding the customary institutions and encouraging the participation of the clan and religious leaders plays a great role in mobilization of communities for the preparation of PSNP action plan, ease food distribution, appropriate site selection for warehouses constructions and implementation of various public work activities in different Kebeles. This all entails the ownership and belongingness of the program and ensures the social, economical and environmental sustainability of the productive safety net program.

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. Examples are the cattle trough and nursery site constructed in between Awara and Gulina woreda were damaged by the non-intervention PSNP woreda (Awara) which is very closer to Gulina woreda (17km). The enclosed rangeland areas on the communal land in Teru in cases of sever drought become sources of conflict on the uses of range.

More satellite warehouses construction across the three project woredas enhanced the predictability of food transfer. Effective food delivery can only be achieved when the program can deliver the commodities to individual households. However, vast distances between delivery centers and beneficiary settlements coupled with poor road facilities are one of the challenging factors to achieve the intended objectives. The program learned that construction of satellite warehouses improved commodity distribution process, minimized transport cost paid for the food and beneficiaries themselves, saved the clients' time, contributed not to sell the food, enabled women to receive the food themselves, reduced delegation to receive the food and women and old persons able to receive the food themselves.

## **5 Other Program Related Issues**

The program continued to receive recognition and support from key stakeholders such the federal and regional governments, woreda officials and the W/KFTSTF. Save the Children participated in pastoral roll-out meetings and workshop that culminated in the development of the pastoral roll-out strategies and plans. At the regional level, SCUUK remained an active player in the management and implementation of the PSNP, and was recently selected as secretary to the regional food security technical committee tasked to follow-up on the set of actions needed to be implemented towards the pastoral roll-out. Save the Children UK participated in the monthly Pastoral Task Force (PTF) meetings held at the federal level. In February, 2010 a Rapid Response Team (RRT) team was drawn from pastoral task forces (PTF) deployed to carry out an assessment to the roll-out of PSNP in the Afar region. SC-UK's support was sought for capacity building requested by the regional DPFSB in early March 2010 when the bureau started to prepare public works plan for the newly selected PSNP intervention Woredas. The Bureau requested Save the Children to assign project staff to assist in training and planning at the field level

with focus on PSNP highlights, targeting and community action plan preparation. The major objective of the trainings can be clearly stated as equipping government staff, Woreda and Kebele food security taskforces, DAs, teachers and experts with key concepts and share experiences and lessons learned from the PAP.

SCUK participated at the regional emergency task forces activities such as rapid response assessment, early warning and food security information gathering, analysis and dissemination and any ad hoc emergency activities when the regional government declared for humanitarian support. In the recent flood emergency incident in the region, the PSNP staffs were involved in designing emergency and contingency plan preparation in the process of prevention, mitigation and recovery activities undertaken at the regional and woreda level. In Teru woreda the program staffs were highly involved in the livestock emergency activities such as provision of animal feed, livestock vaccination campaign and facilitation on emergency beneficiary targeting process in different kebeles.

## **6 Challenges/Problems Encountered**

In spite of the positive learning, the project has also had to deal with some constraints in implementing its activities. Some of the key ones are:

Heavy rain followed with high flood has adversely affected the program implementation in the project woredas and this resulted in damaging both feeder and main roads, creating large gullies affecting rangelands and cropping land and eventually the delay of food distribution. In addition to that project implementation activities interruption, staff and partners movement was limited in few kebeles. As a consequence of flood incident in the project woredas the needy population increased and an extra resource and manpower was required as an emergency response to mitigate the flood problems. To address the problem the project staffs take the lead for mobilizing the communities and actively involved in flood emergency activities undertaken in the operational woredas.

Initially the months of food transfers was agreed and planned for seven months however, it has been reduced to four months and this as a whole affected the planned public work activities that will be implemented within the program periods. The program devised consultation forum with government partners to identify the possible delivery months

Personal interests of the woreda officials (especially in Gulina Woreda) became an impeding factor to the achievement of program objectives, this culminated in a suspension of program activities and a lot of time was spent resolving the issues. This has led to non accomplishment of activities planned for the third quarter of FY 2010. With the collaboration of Afar regional government and SCUK senior staffs the issue was discussed and an agreement made to execute the program implementation.

Government delayed delivery in Jan/Feb and pushed to March. It was only in March that the JEOP, PAP, and Government resources were delivered simultaneously. Un-planned government deliveries delivered late or without proper planned support by SCUK staff lead to constraints in the management of commodities and created some confusion among

beneficiaries to determine the type of sources resources.

The Ethiopian national elections campaign period for national and regional especially in the Months of April and May made the kebele end woreda official to be engaged in the political commitment. This greatly reduced the availability of key decision makers at regional and woreda levels often delaying activity delivery.

## **7 Annexes to the Report**

- A. Indicator Performance Tracking Table.
- B. Detailed Implementation Plan.
- C. Standardized Annual Performance Questionnaire.
- D. Tracking Table for Beneficiaries and Resources.
- E. Expenditure Report.
- I. Completeness Checklist.