Title II - Development Food Security Activity

Targeted Response for Agriculture, Income and Nutrition Project

Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Results Report
Revised Submission after Issues Letter

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<th>Food for the Hungry/Ethiopia</th>
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<td>Award Number</td>
<td>AID-FFP-A-16-00007</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Development Food Security Activity (DFSA)</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>ARARI</td>
<td>Amhara Region Agricultural Research Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARR</td>
<td>Annual Results Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBO</td>
<td>Community Based Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CG</td>
<td>Care Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLTS</td>
<td>Community-Led Total Sanitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DA</td>
<td>Development Agent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFSA</td>
<td>Development Food Security Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIP</td>
<td>Detailed Implementation Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRR</td>
<td>Disaster Risk Reduction</td>
</tr>
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<td>EMMP</td>
<td>Environmental Mitigation and Management Plan</td>
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<td>ESMF</td>
<td>Environmental and Social Management Framework</td>
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<td>FDPs</td>
<td>Final Distribution Points</td>
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<td>FFP</td>
<td>Food for Peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FHE</td>
<td>Food for the Hungry Ethiopia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTC</td>
<td>Farmers Training Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTF</td>
<td>Feed The Future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GoE</td>
<td>Government of Ethiopia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEW</td>
<td>Health Extension Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HH</td>
<td>Household</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPTT</td>
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<tr>
<td>IO</td>
<td>Intermediate Outcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCHN</td>
<td>Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MFI</td>
<td>Microfinance Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT</td>
<td>Metric Ton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIM</td>
<td>Program Implementation Manual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLW</td>
<td>Pregnant and Lactating Women</td>
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<td>PREP</td>
<td>Pipeline Resource Estimate Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSNP</td>
<td>Productive Safety Net Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PW</td>
<td>Public Works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RuSaCCO</td>
<td>Rural Saving and Credit Cooperative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBCC</td>
<td>Social and Behavioral Change Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWC</td>
<td>Soil and Water Conservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>ToC</td>
<td>Theory of Change</td>
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<td>TRAIN</td>
<td>Targeted Response for Agriculture Income and Nutrition</td>
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<tr>
<td>TVET</td>
<td>Technical and Vocational Education and Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USG</td>
<td>United States Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRA</td>
<td>Women of Reproductive Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WoANR</td>
<td>Woreda Office of Agriculture and Natural Resources</td>
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A. Annual Results Report Narrative

Food for the Hungry Ethiopia (FHE) has been implementing the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded Targeted Response for Agriculture, Income and Nutrition (TRAIN) project in support of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) in six chronically food insecure and drought prone Woredas of Amhara Region. The targeted Woredas include Lay Gayint, Tach Gayint, and Simada in South Gondar Zone as well as Ziquala, Sahila, and Abergelie in Wag-Himra Zone. These Woredas have been plagued with a range of shocks such as recurrent droughts, environmental degradation, population pressure, and human and animal diseases, all greatly contributing to chronic food insecurity.

USAID financed the TRAIN project with the aim of supporting the Government of Ethiopia’s (GoE) PSNP. TRAIN was launched on September 30, 2016 and will end on September 29, 2021. The project primarily targets 245,139 beneficiaries (211,327 chronically food insecure and 33,812 contingency beneficiaries). USAID obligated $9,174,875 cash budget and 20,004 metric tons (MT) of food commodities for the implementation of the program during the reporting fiscal year.

In the reporting period a total of 268,263 beneficiaries (211,327 through regular food and cash transfer, 1,691 through contingency food transfers and 55,245 with DFSA project components such as livelihoods, health, etc) were addressed. A total of 17,855.45 MT food commodities (14,064.61 MT of wheat and 3,749.85 MT of pulses) were distributed to 211,327 (177,259 Public Work and 34,068 Direct Support) beneficiaries and additional 41 MT of food commodities were distributed to 1,691 contingency beneficiaries from 5% contingency resource.

The overarching goal of TRAIN is “Resilience to shocks and livelihoods enhanced, and food security and nutrition improved, for rural households (HH) vulnerable to food insecurity” Four purposes, associated sub-purposes and intermediate outcomes (IO) contribute to the achievement of this goal.

This Annual Result Report (ARR) covers the performance of the implementation of the project in Fiscal Year 17, the first year of the Life of the Activity. The narrative section is the core part of the report as it analyzes and presents a detailed description of program activities and results against the approved Pipeline and Resources Estimate Proposal (PREP) and the Indicators Performance Tracking Table (IPTT) following the program framework or Theory of Change (ToC).

TRAIN’s ToC outlines pathways for substantial change in chronic and acute malnutrition, HH hunger, income, and absorptive/adaptive capacities. The project’s ToC explicitly addresses the key underlying factors that contribute to the region’s food insecurity and malnutrition challenges, including nutrition-sensitive determinants, climate change and variability, government and community capacity deficits, and inequitable gender norms. The natural calamities such as drought, hailstorm and armyworm negatively challenged the IOs in the reporting year. However, most interventions executed in the reporting year indicate that the project is on
track to achieve the desired outcomes. The assumptions made during program design still hold true and remain acceptable to the ToC.

Note: The IPTT has not yet been approved by USAID. Indicators that are not targeted for the fiscal year are not discussed in this report whereas relevant indicators missed in the IPTT but achieved in the fiscal year are discussed in this ARR.

i. Activity Interventions and Results

The activity interventions and results section is presented by purpose, sub-purpose and IO over the following pages. The content of the results report is produced from the project’s progress based on the measurements indicated in the IPTT (Attachment A) and accomplishments of the first year Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) (Attachment B) and data tracked through routine and seasonal monitoring. The contribution of each activity toward the IOs, sub-purposes, and purposes is the focus of the discussion. The project encountered challenges that affected the overall project implementation and results. These challenges include late start of project implementation due to the lengthy staff hiring process, frequent revision of cap/admin activities by local government sector offices, failure to engage microfinance institution (MFI) to implement pilot e-cash transfer in Lay Gayint, Acute Watery Diarrhea episode in Simada, and the occurrence of natural calamities (hailstorm and armyworm) in the target Woredas. Armyworm ravaged 2,700 hectares of maize and sorghum field at their early vegetative stage in Tach Gayint. A hailstorm in Simada damaged 9,153 hectares of field crops, which forced 5,581 HHs to cover their farm plots by late crops. Despite the challenges, various activities were accomplished in the reporting period. Variances are explained in the narrative briefly while the detailed variance explanation by activity is presented in the DIP table.

Purpose 1: Improved Resilience of HHs/Communities to Shocks

Sub Purpose 1.1: Improved Relevance, Function, Responsiveness of existing/ new Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Committees

IO 1.1.1: Enhanced Use of National and Regional Early Warning Information at the Kebele Level

Under this IO, various trainings were conducted in the fiscal year. Aiming at building local capacity in early warning, the project trained 124 (84% of the plan) agricultural extension workers on interpreting localized rainfall data. Also, Community Based Disaster Risk Management training was provided for 146 (99% of the plan) agricultural extension workers. Further, 97 DRR committee members (40% of the plan) and 114 (78% of the plan) target HHs were trained on tailoring climate information for communities to make climate informed farm level decisions. Additionally, 37 Kebele DRR committees (27% of the plan) were strengthened and 13 (9% of the plan) DRR plans were prepared. The next step is to share and discuss the plans with government officials and community members to initiate joint effort to solicit
funding. FH DRR department will facilitate the efforts on behalf of the FH. Besides, TRAIN project has planned to provide budget for a few competent DRR plans as a pilot.

Indigenous knowledge has been at the center of the DRR plans as communities at the grassroots level were engaged in the plan preparation process. In addition, FH will work with each of the Woreda offices of Agriculture and food security towards the integration of the plans in the Woreda Development plans.

All trainings were given by the experts of local government sector offices and the FHE project office. The under accomplishments are ascribed to the late start of activity implementation due to the lengthy process to deploy staff to project areas, specifically to the three remote Woredas of Wag-Himra Zone.

Indicator # 4: Number of People Trained on Disaster Preparedness as a Result of US Government (USG) Assistance (FFP #31)

FHE planned to train 750 people on various DRR topics but a total of 856 (114% of the plan) people were trained. The trainees were drawn from the target community and relevant government sector offices. Increased number of participants from the community contributed to the slight over achievement.

Table 1 shows the trainees composition by sex.

**Table 1. Trainees’ composition by sex**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government staff</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>288</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>856</td>
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Of the total participants, 216 (25%) were women, which indicates that FHE is a little behind the 30% target described in the TRAIN proposal. Thus, the need remains to make extra effort in creating the chance for a higher representation of women to participate in future DRR related activities.

Sub Purpose 1.2: Improved Conservation of Watersheds

The degradation of productive farmland in the target areas is associated with various man-made and natural factors. To mitigate the impact of farmland degradation, various environmental protection activities were carried out. The constructions of different types of natural resource conservation activities such as biological (tree planting, area enclosure, etc.) and physical (structures constructed mostly on communal lands such as bunds) measures contributed towards maintaining the fertility of farmland and preventing further degradations of communal land.
IO1.2.1. Improved Soil and Water Conservation

Various activities were conducted to achieve the IO, contribute towards the achievement of the sub-purpose/purpose, and to ultimately play a role for the attainment of TRAIN’s goal. The major activities accomplished under the IO include construction of soil and water conservation (SWC) structures, raising and planting of seedlings in the delineated watersheds, carryout of Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) screening and certifications, and provision of capacity building training.

In the reporting fiscal year, a total of 38 new watersheds covering 16,437.35 hectares of land were delineated. In addition, FHE executed different bio-physical SWC activities in the existing 290 watersheds covering 128,961.65 hectares of land which were delineated in the past years. In total, there are 328 watersheds (38 new and 290 old) in the operational Woredas. Out of these, 204 watersheds are located in highland-dominant Woredas of South Gondar Zone whereas 124 watersheds are located in the lowland dominated Woredas of Wag-Himra Zone.

Physical conservation measures: Out of the delineated watersheds, a total of 28,252 hectares of land were rehabilitated using area closure (on 26,128 hectares) and by bio-physical SWC (2,123.61 hectares) activities. The bio-physical SWC was covering communal land (1,634.61 hectares) and private farm land (489 hectares). Figure 1 depicts the type and magnitude (in terms of hectares of land covered) of physical SWC structures executed in the watersheds.

![Figure 1. Physical SWC structures in order of their magnitude (ha of land covered) in % (left) SWC structure in Tach Gayint (Right)](image)

Biological conservation measures: Regarding biological conservation, a total of 27.1 million multi-purpose forest/fodder and micro-nutrient rich fruit tree seedlings (104% of the target) were raised in 59 central nurseries across the operational Woredas. A total of 22.99 million
seedlings were planted along the constructed physical soil and water conservation structures. Of the total raised seedlings, close to four million were not planted because they were damaged either during transportation from nurseries to the planting sites or during loading/unloading, or the seedlings were sown late on seedbeds that were not mature enough for planting so they were left in nurseries.

That said, according to the information from the Woredas, the survival rate of seedlings in Waghimira zone is below 20%. In consultation with Waghimira zone and the three Woreda officials during kick-off meetings, agreement was reached to pursue area closure as a strategy, instead of seedling planting. Accordingly, in the first fiscal year, over 96% of the trees were raised for highland dominated Woredas of South Gondar zone, which relatively enjoys sufficient amount of rainfall for tree growing. The remaining 4% seedlings raised in Wag zone were mostly used for backyards, institutions’ compound. In fact, few trees were also planted in some watersheds.

Environmental compliance is at the center of the TRAIN project. FHE adheres to USAID environmental compliance procedures as described in TRAIN’s Initial Environmental Examination. In addition, the project is in alignment with PSNP’s Program Implementation Manual (PIM) which clearly states that Public Work (PW) is subject to the ESMF compliance criteria. Following the criteria, each PW is assessed annually by Natural Resource and Social Development experts of government office and FHE experts for any potential negative environmental or social impacts.

Additionally, 14 (three of whom were females) government and FHE project staff were trained on USAID’s environmental rules and regulations. The training emphasized the preparation of ESMF screening and certification and the preparation of Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP). The trainees are expected to apply the training to verify that screened and certified projects are in alignment with the ESMF. Furthermore, 267 (14 of whom were females) watershed committee members (107% of the target) were also trained. The results recorded under this sub-purpose as a result of the above activities is presented as follows:

**Indicator # 5: Total Area Closed through PSNP PW Activities (PSNP)**

According to the definition in the Performance Indicator Reference Sheet (PIRS), this indicator incorporates activities such as physical SWC, area closures, gulley reclamation, tree planting and fodder tree promotion. During the year under review, FHE implemented all of the mentioned activities in selected watersheds. As a result, a total of 28,252 hectares (113%) were covered through PSNP PW activities.

**Indicator # 6: Hectares of Closed Areas with Improved Management Practices as a Result of USG Assistance (MC-05)**

Free grazing is common practice in operational Woredas. FHE plans to promote area closure mainly in the three operational Woredas of Wag-Himra Zone where moisture availability is a bottleneck to grow trees in the watersheds. FHE understood and agreed with the three new
Woredas that planting trees in the watershed sites alone is not a feasible option. Data from the Woreda Office of Agriculture and Natural Resources (WoARN) and past experience showed that there was a low survival rate of seedlings in those areas with an average figure of less than 20%. As a result, area closure establishment was considered as an alternative option. To this end, 26,128.1 hectares (105%) of land were closed and protected from human and livestock interference.

**Indicator # 7: Percentage of PWs Projects Screened in Accordance with ESMF – Disaggregated by Highland and Lowland (PSNP)**

This indicator measures the proportion of PWs of all types screened in accordance with ESMF and with proposed mitigation measures within the reporting year. The process of ESMF screening begins with the Agricultural and Natural Resource office and goes to the Environmental Protection and Land Use Administration office for certification of any potential negative environmental or social impacts. In the reporting fiscal year ESMF screening and certification was completed in 225 watersheds. The plan was to screen and certify 90% of the watersheds but only 69% of the watersheds (77% of the target) were screened and certified. The under achievement is attributed to the busy schedules of responsible government experts in Lay Gayint and Ziquala Woredas to verify the projects.

**Indicator # 9: Percentage of PWs Projects for which Operation and Maintenance Mechanisms are Established – Disaggregated by Highland/Lowland**

This indicator is about the timely and day-to-day actions to keep PW projects functioning properly and to keep PW structures, plants, equipment and other facilities in optimum working order. According to the PIRS, the core elements of the indicator include operation and maintenance, community participation, community institutionalization, capacity building, integration, technical standardization of PW, developing bylaws, cost sharing (labor and local material contribution), etc. FHE considered the watersheds delivered to user groups as operations and developed a maintenance mechanism. As can be seen in the table below, only 19% of the watersheds were delivered to user group, which is far below the target value of 35% in the fiscal year (54% of the plan). The low achievement is due to the delayed action of Kebele administration of the Woredas.

**Table 2. Watersheds with committees, bylaws and user groups**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Woreda</th>
<th># of Watershed</th>
<th>Total area in Ha</th>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Local bylaw</th>
<th>User-group</th>
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<tr>
<td>Laygayint</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>35,634.97</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semada</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>43,407</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tachgayint</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>18,249</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total (Highland)</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>97,290.97</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IO1.2.2. Improved Community and HH Capacity on SWC Practices

FHE has intensified the implementation of massive physical and biological SWC measures on degraded communal lands and private farmlands that are critical to the watersheds. In order to enhance the effectiveness of the effort, FHE built the capacity of the community and HHs on SWC practices. To this effect, various trainings were given in the year under review. A total of 837 individuals were trained on various SWC related topics. The detail is shown in Table 3 below.

**Table 3. Type of training and target group by quantity and sex**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training topics</th>
<th>Target group</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>T</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SWC techniques</td>
<td>Development Agents (DA)</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PW site foremen training on SWC techniques</td>
<td>PW site foremen</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery management</td>
<td>Nursery forewomen/men</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private nursery management</td>
<td>Farmers</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participatory forest management</td>
<td>Natural Resource Management experts, watershed user groups</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest carbon measurement and monitoring</td>
<td>DAs, Natural Resource Management experts, watershed user groups</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>649</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td></td>
<td>77.5</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Indicator # 12: Number of Communities who get Access to Social Infrastructure as a Result of USG support (Custom, New)

This custom indicator is new and is not included in the IPTT but reported considering the significant contribution of the activities toward achieving the goal. The social infrastructures constructed were: school (one), health posts (four), veterinary posts (three) and mobile child care center (fifteen). A total of 23 communities received access and 22,913 beneficiaries (53% of whom were PSNP) benefited. Nearly half of the direct beneficiaries (49%) were women.
Purpose 2: Increased Availability of Safe, Diverse, Nutritious and High Value Food

Sub Purpose 2.1: Increased High Value Crop Production

IO2.1.1 Increased Adoption of Appropriate Crop Technologies

In the reporting period, various activities were conducted to attain the IO and contribute to the achievement of the sub-purpose and purpose. TRAIN aims to use Farmers Training Centers (FTC) as a center to disseminate technologies and enhance adoption of the technologies by farmers. As the result, the first activity conducted was the FTC capacity gap assessment. The assessment was done for 103 (77% of the target) FTCs of which 30 FTCs were selected to be used as centers to demonstrate research released technologies. The selection criteria of FTCs were number of direct and indirect participants benefiting from the FTC, accessibility, number of DAs assigned, availability of guard and fence and access for water to irrigate demonstration fields, and potential for agricultural production.

FH’s intention is to concentrate TRAIN’s efforts in these 30 training centers to create model FTCs so that the experience will be adopted and scaled up by government and other stakeholders elsewhere in the target areas and the Region. However, at the end of the second year, FH will review its approach towards FTCs. And if the review comes up with a recommendation of increasing the number of FTCs, then FH will double the number of FTCs going to be addressed by following a cohort approach. This is a strategy which FH employs for the health and nutrition component of DFSA-TRAIN. In this approach FH will target 30 FTCs the first half of the project life and moves to other 30 FTCs in the second half of the project life.

High value and nutritious seeds and seedlings were purchased and provided to the FTCs for demonstration. To this end, 17 kg (40% of the target) of improved vegetable seeds and 423 (83% of the target) seedlings were distributed. The types of seedlings distributed include 185 grafted mangos, 215 grafted apples and 23 oranges in 17 FTCs. The seeds distributed were carrots, onions, tomatoes, peppers and Swiss chard to 12 FTCs. The vegetables in most of the FTCs currently are at the vegetative stage. The delay is mainly due to the relatively high price during purchase.

FH Ethiopia DFSA FY’17 Revised ARR AID-FFP-A-16-00007

FHE created linkages with Amhara Region Agricultural Research Institute (ARARI) and Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resource at regional, zonal and Woreda levels. The objective was to facilitate increased access to and use of the most recent, tested and research-based practices to be demonstrated in the FTCs for dissemination and adoption. A one day workshop was undertaken at Bahir Dar to bring all parties together to discuss future collaboration, joint implementation and monitoring. A total of 61 (61% of the target) participants from ARARI, Research Centers (Adet, Sirinka and Sekota), South Gondar and Wag-Himra Zones Department of Agriculture and Natural Resource, Offices of Agriculture and Natural Resource of the six operational Woredas, and FHE staff attended. Highlights of the workshop included agreement on the sharing of affordable and practical crop, livestock, and post-harvest
technologies with FTCs and DAs, and provision of information to effectively cascade gained knowledge to farmers.

In addition, the workshop agreed on joint monitoring exercises between research centers and Woreda agriculture offices, to provide feedback and on the spot training to DAs and FHE livelihood animators as required. FHE signed a Memorandums of Understanding with ARARI and is planning on signing one with the research centers (Adet, Sirinka and Sekota) and Woreda agriculture offices.

Various capacity building trainings were also given under this IO. A Training of Trainers was given by researchers from ARARI to 33 Subject Matter Specialists of Offices of Agriculture and Natural Resources and FHE Livelihood Officers, who in turn cascaded the training to 116 government DAs and FHE Livelihood Animators working in TRAIN’s Kebeles. The training emphasized the overall concept of Climate Smart Agriculture, various Climate Smart Agriculture based agricultural practices such as alley cropping, inter cropping, and Conservation Agriculture, which FHE wants to promote in the target areas. To this end, a total of 149 (248% of the target) Subject Matter Specialists, DAs, Livelihood Officers and Livelihood Animators participated in the training, of which 46 (30% of the trainees) were female. The overachievement is due to the fact that more than one DA was trained per Kebele. The original plan was to train one DA who planned to act as a focal person for TRAIN’s interventions in the Kebele. In the course of implementation, however, agreement was reached with WoANR of the respective Woredas to train all DAs as in each Kebele there were at least three DAs with different professional backgrounds (crops, livestock and natural resources).

![Figure 2. Farmers digging pit for seedling planting in FTC (LG-Right)  Grafted mango seedling planted in FTC (Ziquala-Left)](image)

**IO 2.1.2: Increased Use of Alternative Water Sources for Crop and Livestock Production**

The farming communities depend on rain-fed agriculture. One of the major challenges of the agriculture sector is the increasingly unreliable rainfall in the region. To this end, FHE closely works with the Woreda offices of agriculture to conduct needs assessments and feasibility studies and subsequently construct small-scale irrigation schemes based on the existing potential for river diversion, spring development and other water harvesting structures. Prior to construction, FHE conducted ESMF for each irrigation scheme and developed appropriate
mitigation plans and vector control measures in conjunction with the GoE. For instance, the study team recommended diversion of weir/head bar intake structures along with lined canal construction (1.3km) and FHE adhered to the recommendation.

In the reporting period, FHE field level infrastructure officers, together with the Woreda office of agriculture engineers, facilitated the construction of one river diversion (33%), upgraded 13 irrigation schemes (163%) and 35 hand dug wells for irrigation (350% of the plan). Further, the construction of 2 dams (100% of the target) is underway and will be completed in the first quarter of the Fiscal Year 18. The projects were built by local contractors with oversight provided by FHE and agriculture office engineers. In order to ensure sustainability of the schemes, 22 irrigation user committees (100%) were established. Training of irrigation users’ committee members is one of the key activities necessary for the effective utilization of alternative water sources and sustainable management of existing schemes. In the reporting year, FHE planned to train 87 members of irrigation user committee. A total of 62 people (20 female) or 71% of the target were trained on effective use of irrigation water and sustainable management of alternative water source for irrigation. Training on improved agronomic practices was also given to 465 irrigation water users (78% of the target). The results achieved under this IO against the indicator are described below. The training on agronomic practices involved irrigation water techniques, row-planting, integrated pest management and timely weed management.

**Indicator # 18: Hectares of Land put under Small-Scale Irrigation as a Result of USG Assistance (MC-03)**

TRAIN targeted to put 250 hectares of land under small-scale irrigation by the new or expanded/re-constructed irrigation schemes in this implementation year. The achievement, however, was 348 hectares (139% of the target). The over achievement is attributed to the high demand of government to shift the capital budget to irrigation development. Though the shift in budget affects other outcomes of the project, FHE believes that this investment will lead to increased HH level agricultural production and ultimately contribute to HH graduation.

**Indicator #19: Number of HHs benefiting from small-scale irrigation as a result of USG assistance (MC-04)**

This indicator measures the number of hectares served by existing or new irrigation or drainage services that are either constructed or rehabilitated with USG funding during the reporting year. To this end, the indicator had a target value of 1,000 HHs benefiting from irrigation. During the reporting period, a total of 965 (97% of the target) HHs will be benefiting from the irrigation schemes. Of the total, 16% were female headed HHs. A total of 437 (45% of the beneficiaries) are PSNP beneficiaries who will directly benefit from the constructed irrigation schemes and other socio-economic infrastructures.

**Sub Purpose 2.2: Increased Livestock Production**
IO 2.2.1: Increased Adoption of appropriate livestock technologies

The PSNP PIM suggested the provision of livelihoods transfer to facilitate the development of productive assets of extremely vulnerable individuals. With this understanding, FHE planned to provide input for extremely food insecure members of the target community, aiming to help them engage in income generating activities and thereby help them build their asset base. Accordingly, 101 (94% of the target) extremely vulnerable PSNP participants received livelihood transfers worth 200 USD each. From the total 101 vulnerable PSNP participants 58 (57%) were women headed HHs.

The beneficiaries chose to engage in sheep and goat rearing. Recipients of the PSNP livelihood support were also trained in financial literacy, technical and business advice, and follow-up support. Moreover, a business plan was prepared for each participant and the transfer was made in the form of productive assets with active involvement of Woreda livelihood technical committee and Subject Matter Specialists on the process of the livelihood input transfer. In total, 378 shotts (215 sheep and 163 goats) were provided to the beneficiaries. On average each individual was provided with around four sheep or goats. This particular activity has been implemented in collaboration with Woreda offices of agriculture. The Woreda livestock experts, veterinarians and DAs have been involved in each activity implementation process. These staffs are responsible for the veterinary service. FH project staff will closely follow up and provide logistical support as necessary to make sure that the required services are provided.

Sub Purpose 2.4: Food Gaps of HHs Bridged

To enable chronically food insecure HHs to protect and eventually build up their assets, this program transferred food resources to vulnerable people through PW, temporary direct support, and permanent direct support. A total of 17,814 MT of food was distributed to beneficiaries as of September 30, 2017.

FHE called forward 20, 004 MT of food (wheat and yellow split peas). Accordingly, 20, 031.85 MT food was received (15, 830.95 MT of wheat, 4, 200.90 MT of yellow split peas). Out of the total wheat called forward, 37.95 MT of wheat was received in excess. Conversely, 10.1 MT of yellow split pea was short.
A total of 17,814.45 MT (14,064.61MT of wheat and 3749.85 MT of pulses) food commodity was distributed to 211, 327 Public Work (PW) and Direct Support (DS) beneficiaries. Additionally, 41MT of commodity from 5% contingency resource was distributed to 1691 beneficiaries with acute shortage of food.

**Cash transfer:** FHE piloted an electronic cash transfer in one of the target Woredas, Lay Gayint. It was planned to transfer $1,658,558 to 49,589 beneficiaries for three rounds whereas $1,236,291 was distributed to the same number of beneficiaries. The under achievement was due to the fact that some beneficiaries were not paid the full amount due to their absence from PWs in one of the three transfer periods.

In order to address the challenges related to transfers, training was provided to food security task forces at community, Kebele and Woreda levels. The training topics included client targeting, use of client card, communication strategy, client rights and responsibilities and graduation assessment based on DFAP-2 PIM. A total of 615 (172 females) Food Security Task force members participated in the training. It is expected that efficiency of coordination will increase the percentage of clients paid within the agreed timeframe. The sub-purpose has an IO and four outcome level indicators set to measure progress in the achievement of the IO and the sub-purpose, which is discussed below.

**IO 2.4.1: Increased (access to) cash and food availability at HH level**

**Indicator # 20: Percentage of clients paid within the agreed timeframe (20 days for cash and 30 days for food) from the end of the previous month disaggregated by highland and lowland (PSNP)**

This indicator measures the timeliness of transfers by calculating the proportion of PSNP clients who received food or cash within 20 and 30 days (for cash and food, respectively) from the end of previous month transfer. The achievement is shown in Table 4.

**Table 4. Percentage of beneficiaries paid on the agreed time frame**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>C/D*100</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>F/G*100</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transfer Type</td>
<td>Total number of food recipient beneficiaries</td>
<td>Beneficiaries received food within the agreed time frame</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Total cash recipient beneficiaries</td>
<td>Beneficiaries received cash within the agreed time frame</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>211,327</td>
<td>180,492</td>
<td>85</td>
<td></td>
<td>49,589</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TRAIN targeted to reach 100% food and cash payment to PSNP beneficiaries within the agreed timeframe. However, as it can be seen in the above table 85% of the beneficiaries received food...
within the agreed time frame but none of the beneficiaries received cash within the agreed time frame. Shortage of FDPs in the new operational Woredas (Abergelie, Ziquala and Sahila) was the major factor that contributed to delayed food distribution. The delayed cash distribution, on the other hand, was attributed to failure of the technology provider called Kifiya to bring the MFI on board to effect the payment on time. The agreement was that Kifiya was responsible to bring Amhara Credit and Saving Institution on board. Finally, through the discussion made with USAID local mission the payment was done through Kifiya.

**Indicator # 21: Number of USG Social Assistance Beneficiaries Participating in Productive Safety Nets (FTF #33)**

According to the definition of the indicator, “productive safety net” program encompasses three kinds of activities. These are activities which strengthen community assets (e.g., PWs); human assets (e.g., literacy training, HIV, prenatal, and well-baby visits); and HH assets (e.g., livelihood diversification, agriculture extension, micro-savings, and credit). The target for the year was 169,062 people to participate in productive safety nets and a total of 177,259 people (105% of the target) participated. Of the total participants of PSNP, 89,505 (49%) were female participants.

**Indicator # 22: Number of HHs Benefiting Directly from USG Assistance**

This indicator holds the value of all direct project participants. The target was set to reach 70,000 HHs with a set of interventions in the first year of implementation. A total of 80,785 HHs (115% of the plan) directly benefitted from the project. FH’s target was set to benefit PSNP households only. However, about 14% of the beneficiary HHs were non-PSNP households that benefitted from the project due particularly to irrigation interventions. Since the irrigation schemes are constructed following water potentials, the project doesn’t have much control to determine who benefits from the schemes. Everyone who have arable land within the command area of the scheme benefits regardless of their PSNP status.

**Table 5. Direct project participants by intervention**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intervention Type</th>
<th># of HH</th>
<th>Intervention Share (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSNP (Direct support + PW participants)</td>
<td>69,736</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-PSNP</td>
<td>11,049</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>80,785</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achievement in %</td>
<td>115</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Indicator # 23: Number of People Benefiting from USG Supported Social Assistance Programming (FFP #32)**

This indicator captures the number of people receiving assistance (cash, food, or other in-kind) from programs supported in whole or in part through FFP resources. The target value of this indicator is 211,327 people. The same number of people (100% of the plan) benefited from USG supported social assistance programming in the reporting year.

**Purpose 3: Increased Equitable Income for Men, Women and Youth**

This purpose consists of three sub-purposes and associated IOs. TRAIN, under this purpose, planned to address PSNP HHs through off-farm activities, which aligns with the off-farm livelihood pathway of the PSNP-4. There were three indicators set to gauge the progress of the activities to achieve the purpose. The activities achieved and results obtained against the indicators are narrated as follows.

**Sub Purpose 3.1: Increased Sale of Agricultural Products for Women, Men and Youth**

**IO 3.1.1: Increased Access to Market for Women, Men and Youth for On-farm Production**

**Indicator # 27: Kilometers of roads improved or constructed as a result of USG assistance (FFP #19)**

The target was to construct and/or improve 67 km of road through public works. A total of 82 km feeder roads were maintained and 4 kms of new roads were constructed across the six operational Woredas. The feeder roads have connected 17 Kebeles, around 51 villages, and benefited a total of 42,233 beneficiaries (20,615 are female). The over achievement (128% of the target) is attributed to the increased need of some Woredas to maintain extra feeder roads than planned.

**IO 3.1.3: Men and Women Producers Group Established**

**Indicator # 29: Number of for-profit private enterprises, producers organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG food security related organizational development assistance (FTF#12)**

Assuming preliminary activities would lay the foundation for farmers and others who participate in value chain activities, this indicator was not given target value in the first year. Nevertheless, typical supports stated in the PIRS resonated with some of the supports and investments made thus far. As it can be seen in Table 6 below, 203 organizations received various supports.
Table 6. Organizations supported by type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization type</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Identifier Name</th>
<th>Support type</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cooperatives</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Saving and credit</td>
<td>Guarantee loan fund</td>
<td>New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producer Organization</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>Producer group</td>
<td>Establishment, saving practices</td>
<td>New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Users Association</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Water users group</td>
<td>Training</td>
<td>New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>146</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cooperative:** In order to reduce barriers to financial access eight Rural Saving and Credit Cooperatives (RuSaCCO) were provided with a total start-up loan fund of $9,000. Through this fund, the cooperatives will provide small loans to the FHE supported individuals or organized groups with the most competitive business plans enabling them to access guaranteed credit.

**Producers Organizations:** A total of 116 producer groups who were willing to participate in value chain activities were created. They have also started saving money which makes them eligible to access loans in the future.

**Water Users Association:** In the reporting year, 22 water users were established. While the management committees were provided with training on management issues their respective members were provided with agronomic practices. The water users reported in this sub-section are irrigation water users. A total of 62 committee members were trained which can be reckoned as organization development assistance under indicator # 29. The committee members are composed of 42 males and 20 females. Of the total irrigation users 21% are PSNP beneficiaries.

**Sub Purpose 3.2: Men, Women, Youth Engaged in Profitable off-Farm activities**

Under this purpose different activities were conducted in the fiscal year. FHE plans to use Technical and Vocational Educational Training (TVET) as skill training centers. For this, capacity gap assessment of TVETs was undertaken in four out of seven target Woredas. FHE learned that TVETs do not exist in Abergelle, Sede Muja and Sahila Woredas. These Woredas are in contact with neighboring Woredas to access available TVET services. After identifying the needs, different equipment and materials were provided to each TVET and the TVETs promised to give the required skill trainings. Accordingly, 60 youths (27 male and 33 female) were trained on different skills. The trainings were given on masonry, plumbing, metal work, tailoring, and wood work. The standard amount of time for masonry training was 90 days and 45 days for the other skills trainings. The trainings on plumbing, metal work, and wood work was completed by
48 youths and 12 youths completed the masonry training on October 30, 2017. The trained youth are prepared to access loans from RuSaCCOs and start business.

Figure 4. Training on metal work (Simada)-Left and Training on Tailoring (T.Gayint)-Right

Figure 5. Training on plumbing (Abergelie)

**Indicator # 30: Number of micro, small and medium enterprises, including farmers, accessing savings programs with FFP assistance (FFP #26)**

A target was not set for this indicator during the first implementation year; however, 116 members of producers groups started saving to jump start participation in value chain activities during the next implementation year. A total of 1721 people started saving across the six Woredas and saved $4108 in the reporting year.

**IO 3.2.3: Equitable Gender Norm, Decision Making and Resource Control**
**Accepted and Practiced**
Indicator # 32: Percentage of Participants in USG Assisted Programs Designed to Increase Access to Productive Economic Resources (assets, credit, income or employment) who are Female (FFP #60)

This indicator was not targeted for the fiscal year. However, various activities such as livelihood transfer, irrigation schemes, and vocational skills training were conducted to benefit 626 (37% female) individuals in order to increase their access to productive economic resources.

Purpose 4: Improved Nutrition for Children under Five, Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) and Women of Reproductive Age (WRA), Including Adolescent Girls

Sub Purpose 4.1: Increased equitable and diverse intake of nutritious foods

IO. 4.1.2: Increased Adoption of Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) Practices

FHE’s principal strategy to achieve changes in nutrition practices is the Care Group (CG) Model. The CG model is a Social and Behavioral Change Communication (SBCC) methodology through which groups of 10-15 volunteers and community-based female health educators regularly meet together with FHE health promoters for training and supervision regarding a defined series of maternal and child health training modules. CGs create a multiplying effect to equitably reach a critical mass of HHs within a target population with peer-to-peer behavior change communication. CGs in TRAIN are composed of PLW and adolescent girls. To this end, 160 CGs (99% of the plan for the year) were established in the fiscal year. In order to facilitate nutrition message delivery to the CG members, a total of 2650 flipcharts (141% of the planned) were produced and delivered to projects with subsequent distribution to Women Health Development Armies, Health Extension Workers (HEW), and health facilities.

FH pursues cohort based approach to implement its health and nutrition interventions. That means FH addresses 100 kebeles (80% of the total FH operational kebeles) in two rounds or cohorts. In the first cohort, FH works in 50 Kebeles and in the second cohort it will move to 50 new kebeles. The first cohort covers the first two and half years of the LoA while the second cohort covers the remaining two and half years. The rest 20% of the kebeles were addressed with similar approach during the past DFAP.

Indicator # 33: Number of Children under 2 (0-23 months old) Reached with Community-Level Nutrition Interventions through USG-Supported Programs (FTF#79)

This indicator captures the number of children under 2 reached by CG sessions as a result of their mothers’ participation. During the fiscal year, FHE planned to reach 12,000 lactating mothers and the same number of children under 2 and 12,633 mothers participated in the CG (105% of the target).
**Indicator # 34: Number of Pregnant Women Reached with Nutrition-Specific Interventions through USG-Supported Programs (FTF#80)**

The plan was to reach 5,674 mothers with nutrition specific intervention through CG; however, only 3,359 (59% of the target) were addressed. Target was set using the estimated proportion of pregnant women from the total population. During the registration, however, the number of pregnant women happened to be low.

**IO4.1.3: Improved Quality of MCHN Services**

**Indicator # 36: Number of Individuals Receiving Nutrition-Related Professional Training through USG Supported Programs (FTF#78)**

This indicator captures the number of individuals who received nutrition-related training. In addition to transferring food and/or cash, TRAIN promotes nutrition and health messages that lead to behavioral change. Major training topics covered were nutritional interventions during pregnancy and lactation, optimal breast and complementary feeding practices, the overall concept of 1,000 days and corresponding continuum of care, diversification of diet at the HH level, production and consumption of micronutrient-rich foods, promotion of appropriate weaning foods and personal hygiene. Accordingly CG and SBCC training was provided to health and nutrition officers, hygiene and sanitation facilitators, gender and youth officers, livelihood officers to equip staffs on basic concepts, knowledge and skills pertinent to the CG approach, and educational messages and methods. During the reporting period, 23 (110% of the plan for participants were trained. The training was organized by the FH Regional SBCC team and it was cascaded to 88 HEWs and health and nutrition animators, who will in turn cascade the training to 1,000 Women Health Development Armies (WHDA) with the objective of improving the knowledge and facilitation skill of WHDAs to properly convey health and nutrition messages to the target households.

**Sub Purpose 4.2 Improved Healthy Timing and Spacing of Pregnancies**

FHE under this sub purpose strives to improve the reproductive health of WRA. Under this sub-purpose the following activities were conducted.

A total of 19,801 adolescent girls were identified and organized into groups. A census was conducted in 50 first cohort Kebeles of the six Woredas. In the next month, a census will be conducted for a similar number of adolescent males and they will be formed into groups. The sessions will commence after the production of reproductive health and nutrition booklet.

Additionally, a total of 95 adolescent leader girls age 15-19 were identified. Out of the identified leader girls, 91 (96% of the plan) were trained on a range of topics using an adolescent booklet created by FHE. The topics include working together safely, supporting each other during puberty, sexuality and sexual life skills, adolescent sexual and reproductive rights, learning to cope with feelings while growing up and developing self-esteem.
Sub Purpose 4.3: Reduced WASH-Related Illness

FHE, under this Sub Purpose, aims to reduce WASH related illnesses through increasing access to potable water and adoption of WASH practices via promotion of essential hygiene action among target HHs and public work sites complementary to promotion of community led total sanitation in selected Kebeles.

IO 4.3.1: Increased Adoption of WASH Practices

In the reporting year, FHE assessed the status of target Kebeles and learned that in each Kebele there are community-led total sanitation (CLTS) committees established either by the preceded Title II Program or other NGOs who were implementing similar program in the area. However, the status of hygiene and sanitation conditions in some Kebeles was very weak and strengthening of the committee either through training or increasing the number of committee for improved intensity is needed. Accordingly, 88 committee members (81% of the plan) were trained on the CLTS. This activity will be a precursor for the subsequent activities related to CLTS.

IO 4.3.2: Increased Sustainable use of WASH Infrastructure

Indicator # 40: Number of Water Points Constructed or Rehabilitated (M-02)

The target value of this indicator is to construct five water points. However, only one spring was developed in the reporting year (20%). The night reservoir tanker built for the spring has a capacity to hold 9M³ water. Due to major a budget shift as a result of the Regional Government’s prioritization of irrigation development, planned activities in WASH component were not implemented. This has become a real concern for FH. Hence, it will continue to lobby regional, zonal and Woreda level government counterparts to ultimately ensure HHs have improved access to potable water. FH is planning to request USAID local mission to be part of this effort to resolve this outstanding issue.

A Water and Sanitation committee was established for the water scheme with seven members (three females). The spring eye has a yield of 0.3 liters per second in the driest season of the year. Consequently, each beneficiary is receiving 25.92 liter per day (25.92 liter/person/day), which meets the national standard (25 liter/person/day).

Indicator # 41: Number of People gaining Access to a Basic Drinking Water Service as a Result of USG Assistance (FFP #47)

Access to potable water is a major problem in the target Woredas. Provision of reliable, safe and protected drinking water source is one of the priorities of the WASH component. One spring was capped with reservoir in Tach Gayint. A total of 531 (317 female) people have gained access to a basic drinking service as result. Due to major budget shift to irrigation development, planned activities in WASH component were not implemented.
ii. Direct Participating HHs Receiving Multiple Interventions by Sector (Purpose)

Table 7. Direct Participating HHs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>J</th>
<th>K</th>
<th>J</th>
<th>K</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Unique Participating HHs</td>
<td>P1 only</td>
<td>P1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>P2 only</td>
<td>P2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>P3 only</td>
<td>P1 &amp; 3</td>
<td>P4 only</td>
<td>P1 &amp; 4</td>
<td>P2 &amp; 4</td>
<td>P3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>P1,2,3</td>
<td>P1,2,3 and 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>63,811</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>45,064</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>1251</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>16,868</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>6,088</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>30,576</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>30,264</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHs</td>
<td>94,387</td>
<td>748</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>75,328</td>
<td>5596</td>
<td>1410</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>16,901</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>6,088</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

iii. Challenges, Successes, and Lessons Learned

Challenges:

1. Commodity warehouse shortage and trained manpower in the lowland Woredas:
   - Commodity warehouses were below standard and inadequate especially Wag-Himra Zone and especially in Abergelie and Ziquala Woredas. As the result, FHE was forced to use the low standard warehouses to store food commodities which in some cases caused pest infestation problems which was exacerbated by the high temperature in these locations;
   - FHE had limited engagement in the lowland Woredas earlier. Consequently, recruitment and placement of qualified technical, support and commodity staff demanded extensive employment process and provision of training and follow up.

2. Late startup of the project:
   - The TRAIN project implementation started late in the Woredas due to the lengthy agreement signing process with the Regional government. This created work overload and tight work schedule to the field staff to complete planned activities of the year.

3. Little investment on WASH activities:
   - The Amhara regional government set a priority on water harvesting structures and especially on small scale irrigation construction activities. Shifting the majority of the Cap/Admin budget toward this particular focus area at the expense of other activities including construction of drinking water schemes and other WASH related interventions had a negative consequence on the achievement of the overall project objectives on which FHE intends to engage on
high level discussions to convince the government stakeholders and decision makers to critically consider overall project goals.

4. **Certifying watershed user groups:**
   - After the youth groups were established, they had to be certified to use the watersheds by way of issuing user certificates by the Woreda Land Use Administration. However, the process in most Woredas was time consuming and discouraging to the organized groups to effectively engage into production.

5. **Capacity of youth enterprises involved in construction:**
   - In view of encouraging youth employment opportunities, FHE has given some small construction projects to these youth groups. However, in most cases it was observed that youth groups needed to acquire more experience and capacity in order to effectively manage construction activities.

6. **E-payment:**
   - The initial expectation and agreement was that Kifiya Technology Solutions had to engage the Amhara Credit and Saving Institution for the financial service inclusion of the PSNP target HHs in Lay-Gayint. However, this did not materialize due to lack of interest from the MFI. The traditional approach which FHE, has identified at a later stage after embarking into implementation phase, was to enter agreement with the MFI, who in turn should select and invite the technology provider.

**Successes:**

- Nineteen user groups were established, and developed watershed were handed over to them over the year. The groups were organized in different areas including honey production and they have started to generate income. The user groups were organized during the first year, but the watersheds have been developed since the past DFAP. In the fiscal year, part of the watersheds were further developed by DFSA investment. FH is planning to aggressively work on the market linkage. In order to facilitate the market linkage and value chain activities, FH included a staff position - ‘value chain and marketing officer’ in the second year PREP. The position holder will be responsible to lead the effort to link all products with market and ensure the beneficiaries are linked with the right market opportunities.

- Despite the late startup of the project due to project agreement signing with the regional government, most of the planned activities for the year were accomplished successfully;

- To diversify livelihood interventions, FHE in collaboration with the TVET centers provided skills training for 60 youth on masonry, plumbing, carpentry and metal work;

- Despite challenges such as the inability to bring the MFI on board, FHE was able to pilot e-cash payment in Lay-Gayint Woreda. This is a new area of engagement and experience
for FHE on which ample experiences were gained from implementation in distributing cash successfully to the target PSNP HHs.

**Lessons learned:**

1. **Targeted reduction of high rural unemployment rate for the youth**
   - According to a study in 2014 by International Labor Organization, the overall youth unemployment rate is 24% for Ethiopia compared to 10% for the Sub-Saharan Region. There is, however, an already created infrastructure to train youth in various vocational and technical skills so as to create better employment opportunities for the youth.
   - There is also considerable potential in both on-farm and off-farm activities such as beekeeping and bench terrace making aimed at creating additional plots for vegetable and fruit production where engagement of the youth can further be enhanced towards reduced unemployment rate. FHE should give due priority and get highly engage in these particular areas.

2. **E-payment**
   - FHE piloted an e-cash transfer in Lay-Gayint project in 2017 in collaboration with Kifiya as a technology service provider. With Kifiya on board, FHE expected (as per the agreement) that the technology provider would bring the financial service provider (MFI). Due to disagreements on contractual terms, the technology service provider was not able to bring the MFI (the Amhara Credit and Saving Institution) onboard. It became apparent that Amhara Credit and Saving Institution had more power to dictate the terms of the e-payment partnership than Kifiya. FHE, in consultation with USAID, decided to follow a reverse approach where FHE enters into an agreement with the MFI and then the MFI selects the technology provider. This is an approach the World Bank and the GoE have followed. Detailed lessons learned from the e-payment pilot is documented.
   - In addition, FHE learned that a comprehensive stakeholder mapping needs to be done to identify and engage all stakeholders in the e-payment process. Adequate engagement and intentional collaboration with stakeholders such as MFI, technology providers, Ethiopian Telecommunication, Ethiopian Electric Power supply, local banks for adequate liquidity purpose, as well as Woreda sector offices GoE sector offices need to be made. Though FHE identified and engaged many of the stakeholders, service providers such as banks, telecommunication authority and electric power supply authority were missed, whose services were critical for the success of the pilot project.

**A. Success Story**

See Attachment A
B. IPTT
See Attachment B

C. IPTT Indicator Data Source Descriptions
See Attachment C

D. Baseline/Evaluation, Assessments and Study Reports
The preliminary baseline survey results from EVELYN is attached. The Gender Analysis has been completed and the report will be received in a few weeks.

E. Technical Sectors Survey
See Attachment D

F. Unique and Direct Participants
See Attachment E

G. ARR Program Area and Elements Information
i. Specialized Food Products table
   This is not applicable for FH

ii. Commodities table
   Commodity prepositioned and distributed in MT by Type and Woreda

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<th>Woreda</th>
<th>Total Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Commodities Prepositioned Wheat</th>
<th>Pulse</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Commodities Distributed Wheat</th>
<th>Pulse</th>
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<td>564.00</td>
<td>2,681.35</td>
<td>1,933.04</td>
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<td><strong>15,744.85</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,187.80</strong></td>
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<td><strong>14,064.61</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,749.85</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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iii. **Resources table**
   See Attachment F

H. **Monetization and Cost Recovery Data Tables**
   This is not applicable for FH

I. **Standardized Annual Performance Questionnaire**
   See Attachment G

J. **Actual Tables**
   See Attachment H