

**Development Food Security Activity (DFSA)**  
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## Acronym List

BOLSA	Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs	LQAS	Lot Quality Assurance Sampling
CA	Community Animator	LRO	Livelihoods for Resilience -Oromia
CAHW	Community Animal Health Worker	MC	Mercy Corps
CC	Community Conversation	MCHN	Maternal, Child Health and Nutrition
CCG	Community Conversation Group	MCS	Meki Catholic Secretariat
CCL	Centre for Creative Leadership	MEAL	Monitoring Evaluation Accountability and Learning
CCFLS	Community-based Complementary Feeding and Learning Sessions	MF	MicroFlush
CHAST	Children Hygiene and Sanitation Training	MFI	Microfinance Institution
CHNP	Community Health and Nutrition Promoters	MG	Marketing Groups
CLA	Collaboration, Learning and Adapting	MIS	Management Information System
CLTSH	Community-Led Total Sanitation and Hygiene	MoANR	Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources
CRS	Catholic Relief Services	MT	Metric Tons
CU5	Children Under Five	NSA	Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture
DA	Development Agent	ODF	Open Defecation Free
DFSA	Development Food Security Activity	O&M	Operations and Maintenance
DIP	Detailed Implementation Plan	OTP	Outpatient Therapeutic Program
EI	Economic Infrastructure	OSC	One Stop Centre
ESDM	Environmentally Sound Design and Management	PDS	Permanent Direct Support
ESMF	Environmental Sound Management Framework	PICS	Purdue Improved Crop Storage
ETB	Ethiopian Birr	PIM	Program Implementation Manual
FDP	Food Distribution Point	PLW	Pregnant Lactating Women
FES	Fuel Efficient Stove	PTC	Pastoral Training Center
FA	Field Agent	PSNP	Productive Safety Net Program
FAL	Functional Adult Literacy	PSP	Private Service Provider
FF	Follower Farmers	PW	Public Works
FFP	Food for Peace	PWD	Persons with Disabilities
FMNR	Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration	Q	Quarter
FSP	Financial Service Providers	RUSACCO	Rural Saving and Credit Cooperative
FTC	Farmer Training Center	SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
FY	Fiscal Year	SEI	Social/Economic Infrastructure
GBV	Gender Based Violence	SILC	Savings Internal Lending Communities
GoE	Government of Ethiopia	SPX	Cross-cutting Sub-Purpose
HC	Health Center	SSI	Small Scale Irrigation
HCS	Hararghe Catholic Secretariat	SWC	Soil and Water Conservation
HDA	Health Development Armies	TFH/IFH	The Faithful House/Islamic Family House
HEW	Health Extension Worker	TWG	Technical Working Group
HF	Health Facilities	ToC	Theory of Change
HFW	Health Facility Worker	ToT	Training of Trainers
HH	Household	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
HTP	Harmful Traditional Practice	WBC	Water Benefit Calculator
IGA	Income Generation Activity	WC&YO	Women, Children & Youth Office
IMNCI	Integrated Management of Newborn and Child Illnesses	WoHO	Woreda Health Office
IP	Implementing Partner	WFSTF	Woreda Food Security Task Force
JEOP	Joint Emergency Operation	YCC	Youth Community Center
JRIS	Joint Review and Implementation Support	YCCG	Youth Community Conversation Group
JSMR	Joint-Structured Monitoring Review	YDC	Youth Development Center
KFSTF	Kebele Food Security Task Force	YLG	Youth Livelihood Groups
LSAO	Labor and Social Affairs Office		
LEW	Livelihood Extension Worker		
LICU	Livelihood Coordination Implementation Coordination Unit		
LF/LH	Lead Farmer/Lead Herder		
LG	Livelihood Group		

## i. Activity Summary

Despite COVID-19 challenges and stronger political overtones in the run-up to the elections, CRS DFSA programming has continued to implement key interventions outlined for Y5, using its contingency/business planning tool as a guide in reviewing Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) progress and in prioritizing activities (as part of routine field visits, technical working group meetings and regular inter and intra Purpose level discussions). In Q2, the focus has been on applying the sustainability and exit strategy to ensure a strong closure through sequenced steps and follow-up. For all interventions described below including meetings or group sessions, COVID-19 protocols were applied so that health risks were mitigated as much as possible.

## ii. Activity Outputs

CRS DFSA continues to support Government of Ethiopia (GoE) with its efforts to achieve timely disbursement of cash transfers even though this is not a DFSA led activity. Three rounds of Public Work (PW) client cash transfers were scheduled for January- March as normal, however, due to GoE's implementation challenges, including late funding releases to woredas and new GoE-imposed cash withdrawal limitations, only 70% of the PW January cash transfers were completed in HCS DFSA woredas. Fortunately, in MCS DFSA woredas, the January PW cash transfer was completed. The GoE-led cash transfer to PW clients is supposed to occur from January-March before food transfers begin. Table #1 below shows December's carryover PDS cash transfer that was done in January. This table reports what was not completed in Q1 but instead was completed in January due to GoE delays.

Dire Dawa PSNP officials delayed processing RPASS for food distributions. To overcome this, CRS, HCS and MCS has continued to advocate for food distributions to begin simultaneously with the remaining cash transfers. This is in line with the understanding and agreement that CRS DFSA has with regional and woreda GoE offices in previous years. CRS, HCS and MCS will continue to help expedite the pending cash transfers while leading food distributions to avoid delays and timeliness issues.

<b>Table 1: FY 2021 (Q1) PDS Client Cash Transfers</b>						
Cash transfer		October	November	December	January	Unique Participants
Male	Actual	12,303	12,303	0	12,303	12,303
	Planned	12,303	12,303	12,303	12,303	12,303
Female	Actual	15,088	15,088	0	15,088	15,088
	Planned	15,088	15,088	15,088	15,088	15,088

<b>Table 2: FY 2021 (Q2) PDS Client Food Transfers</b>					
Distribution Amounts		January (Round #1)	February (Round #2)	March (Round #3)	Unique Participants
Male	Actual	11,807	11,807	11,807	11,807
	Planned	12,303	12,303	12,303	12,303
Female	Actual	14,482	14,482	14,482	14,482
	Planned	15,088	15,088	15,088	15,088

## iii. Programming Performance

**SPX: Women and youth have increased access to and control of community and HH resources**  
**IO X.1.1 Rural women and youth have increased their ability to make meaningful decisions and choices for their lives**

**O X.1.1.1 Communities participated in events on gender equity and youth engagement**

The DFSA has completed 204 community conversation group (CCG) sessions (56% of Q2 target) focused on gender, environment, health, saving, and education. The achievement was lower due to COVID-19 restrictions but they will continue their meetings as the groups have strong foundations and ownership. As part of its secondary adoption efforts, CRS DFSA facilitated six experience sharing events (46% of Q2 target) between 499 CCG members and non-CCG members (340 females) both in PSNP and non-PSNP kebeles, motivating communities in non PSNP kebeles to establish their own CCG. To ensure CCG sustainability, CRS DFSA led consultative meetings with Women, Children Youth Office (WC&YO) and Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs (BOLSA) and 52 community leaders (25 females) in Dire Dawa. Both GoE and community participants committed to handover roles and responsibilities to GoE, including CCG performance reporting. Similarly, MCS led a CCG facilitation training to 30 youth CCG facilitators and Community Animators (CA) (14 females) (94% of Q2 target) to enhance their skills and knowledge for YCCGs support. HCS recognized 147 youth volunteers (45 female) (97% of annual target) who have been serving their communities.

**Outcomes:** Coaching and mentoring was conducted to enhance 191 youth participants' (52 females) capacity through practical learning and to help them establish their own social enterprises (106% of FY 21 target). These trained youth have identified community problems and 180 projects that can be converted into businesses. From these youth participants, 75% started businesses such as donkey cart water transportation, pond construction and poultry farming.

**Sustainability:** The same GoE woreda offices agreed to continue volunteerism under WC&YO. To further strengthen and sustain youth volunteerism, CRS DFSA led a training in the volunteer management system to 10 participants (2 females) from HCS Woreda Youth Development Centers and WC&YO experts to enhance the volunteer management system, processes, recruitment, engagement, support, retention, and performance evaluations. Similar trainings were also organized for 28 school club mentors, teachers and GoE woreda gender experts (16 females). Some key action points following the trainings include fundraising to organize trainings, events, and school management commitments to promote volunteerism.

#### **OX.1.1.2 Men, women, boys and girls trained in and mentored on improved interpersonal communication skills**

Led by CCL, an essential refresher training for 180 gender club leaders (89 females) (98% of annual target) in all targeted woredas aimed to enhance the leadership capacity of gender club leaders by improving their skills in “visioning” building methods and management practices. 99 school gender clubs were provided with essential toolkits and other materials such as sanitary pads as part of capacity building support.

**Sustainability:** CRS' DFSA is implementing an exit strategy for school gender clubs to ensure a smooth handover to schools and Woreda Education Offices. One example is to facilitate more experience sharing between school gender clubs and adolescent nutrition clubs. 1,000 students, teachers, and other school communities (520 females) participated in the experience sharing events. Further, the school clubs have been provided with boys' and girls' toolkits and other supportive materials that will help them to continue functioning, in addition to the trainings provided to the club leaders and mentors and linkages created with woreda education offices.

Following The Faithful House/Islamic Family House (TFH/IFH) beneficiary workshops (a 3-day workshop provided to volunteer couples), participating TFH/IFH couples cascaded the training to 660 couples (80% of Q2 target) in all DFSA woredas. Positive behavioral changes among participant couples have continued. These changes include improved openness and transparency between partners which facilitate, for example, harmonious relationships and joint decision making around household resources and children's education. The cascading of the training and regular meetings by couples will continue in Q3.

As a follow-on to Q1, CCL led the remaining mentoring and coaching support sessions for the CRS DFSA gender and youth team. The mentoring and coaching support targeted respective woreda gender and youth experts to ensure the quality of cascaded trainings to women and youth leaders. Accordingly, both HCS and

MCS gender and youth experts with support from CCL have also undertaken leadership and communication trainings to 174 women and youth leaders (116 females) (97% of Q2 target) to enhance their leadership, communication, problem solving and decision-making skills. To inspire more women and youth to take on leadership roles and promote leadership in their own communities, 40 successful women leaders were acknowledged at different fora.

**Outcomes:** These women leaders shared their experiences on how participating in different CRS DFSA interventions helped improve their self-confidence, their decision-making skills within their HH as well as in their groups and their problem-solving capacities.

#### **O X.1.2.2 Events held with GoE woreda level institutions and community structures to promote rural women and youth to take leadership role in community initiatives**

CRS DFSA celebrated International Women's Day with commemorations in all woredas with the key theme of "Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID-19 world". 1,006 participants (731 females) from relevant stakeholders including Woreda WC&YO Affairs, Activity participants, community leaders, and non-PSNP community members attended the events. Panel discussions on women's empowerment, GBV prevention and services, and other related topics were addressed.

In line with the recommendations laid out in the GBV assessment report, CRS' DFSA has continued training GBV service providers staff including 75 WC&YO, education, health, law enforcement (police and Justice) government officials (31 females) (83% of Q2 target); 74 school administrators (22 females) (88% of Q2 target); and 10 traditional leaders (5 females) (25% of Q2 target) in CRS DFSA woredas. The key training topics include causes and consequences of GBV, prevention measures and existing reporting and referral mechanisms.

**Outcomes:** As a result of these trainings and events, participants committed to their roles and responsibilities to prevent GBV, responding to GBV reports and supporting GBV committees. Deder has already established a GBV survivors service center at the local hospital in conjunction with the support of GoE, UN and peer NGOs for GBV related services provision. Similarly, CRS DFSA has provided trainings to school communities and community leaders on GBV causes, reporting needs and referral mechanisms. Aiming to educate communities on GBV prevention, referral systems and survivor support, CRS DFSA has established 186 GBV committees (97% of annual target) at kebele levels and provided clarity and support around their roles and responsibilities. The GBV committees will serve as a bridge between the community and woreda level GBV prevention and response task forces through information sharing and reporting as per the training they received and terms of reference.

**Sustainability strategy:** Participants of the different trainings agreed to continue meeting regularly and assess the performance of the taskforce and the status of reported GBV incidences. DFSA will continue in strengthening linkages between trained school communities, community leaders, kebele level GBV committees and woreda GBV prevention and response task forces in Q3.

#### **P I: GoE and community systems respond to reduce communities' and households' vulnerability to shocks**

Facilitators trained on the use of the Community Score Card (CSC) tool conducted 18 interface meetings in all woredas (2 kebeles per woreda) between different service providers (GoE Woreda Sector Offices & MCS/HCS) and service users (PSNP communities) to improve service delivery, efficiency, and accountability. Joint action plans were developed to address critical issues identified to increase the quality of services, efficiency, accountability, better relations and trust between service users and providers.

**Outcomes:** One example where the CSC was used addressed the small-scale irrigation (SSI) construction delays in Deder woreda (Yatu kebele). The interface meeting discussion enabled all the participants, i.e., communities and HCS and woreda irrigation office staff, to clearly identify causes of delay and drafted action

plans to addressing problems with SSI construction delays. After local consultations, these revised actions are prioritizing closer monitoring and supervision combined with renewed coordination efforts among WFSTF members, Kebele Chairpersons, DFSA Woreda Coordinators and forepersons.

HCS organized experience sharing visits in three DFSA woredas with 14 GoE Woreda Sector officials to share lessons learned and scale-up best practices. During the visits and meetings, they identified concerns such as inadequate involvement and support from Woreda Sector Offices to assist the sustainability of rehabilitated area enclosures. During MCS field visits with the GoE Public Works Technical Committee (PWTC) members including zonal and woreda experts, the monitoring team acknowledged strong achievement; they also discovered issues to improve including the lack of functionality of some SEI due to DA absences and slow WFSTF procurement processes. As immediate action points, woreda GoE Sector Offices have agreed to expedite the implementation of SEI targets by prioritizing PSNP roles and responsibilities to get work done. CRS' DFSA continues to urge GoE Woreda Sector Offices to recruit and retain DAs and HEWs for frontline positions.

The Oromia Bureau of Agriculture & Natural Resource (BOANR)-Food Security Coordination Directorate Director and 2 key staff conducted joint supportive supervision visits in 8 Oromia CRS DFSA woredas with CRS, HCS and MCS. These field visits included engagement with WFSTFs and GoE Zonal Agriculture Offices on CRS DFSA/PSNP IV achievements, coordination/relationship issues, exit processes and operational readiness for PSNP V.

**Outcome:** Notably, BOANR/FSCD appreciated the quality and effectiveness of the small-scale irrigation (SSI) and drinking water supply schemes constructed with CRS cost share supplementing woreda PSNP capital budgets.

Following a prior Oromia BoANR request to establish one model fruit tree nursery site in Babile to produce improved mango and avocado varieties, HCS organized a technical training including grafting methods for 16 participants (2 females) at Melkassa Agricultural Research Center (MARC). Afterwards, those trained cascaded the training to 34 participants (all male) including 23 farmers and forepersons, 3 DAs, 4 Woreda Government Agriculture Experts and 4 Woreda HCS Agriculture/NRM Experts.

**Outcome:** The nursery site has started grafting mango seedlings with the aspirations that it will become the center of grafted mango seedlings for Babile, Fedis, Midega Tola and other neighboring woredas. This specialized nursery for grafted mango seedling production holds a lot of promise given the Oromia BOANR (Food Security Coordination Directorate) interest and support coupled with projected market demand.

**Sustainability:** The DFSA is working to develop a business plan for the nursery. The current market price is \$6.75 per grafted mango seedling and the nursery has a capacity to manage 2 million seedlings in annual production. CRS DFSA PI and P II teams will work with the nursery team to develop a long-term business plan to support seedling sales in the region.

**Outcome:** At the mid-point of the last PW campaign of PSNP IV, 1,423 km of different physical structures and 342,281 water collecting structures such as micro basins, half-moons and micro trenches have been constructed in HCS' woredas. The total area treated including area enclosures is 1,367 ha. To support the physical structures with biological measures, 2,725,117 different tree species are being cultivated in local nurseries which will be planted during the upcoming rainy seasons. In MCS woredas, 1,146 km different physical structures and 23,656 water collecting structures similar to those in HCS areas have been constructed. 620 ha has been treated including area closures with 930,100 tree seedlings ready to be planted.

**Sustainability:** The combination of soil and water management systems and structures including water catchment and trees will form the basis of a long-term agroforestry strategy that will enable farmers to produce food and surplus for sale for many years after DFSA ends. As farmers continue to see the benefits of this agroforestry strategy, they will maintain the approach to support ongoing food security and sales.

**Outcome:** In HCS areas, all carryover SEI targets have been completed except three SSI sub-projects which are at 95% completion with formal handovers pending. In MCS areas, all carryover SEI targets have been completed except for one SSI in Negele Arsi which also requires a formal handover. MCS and WFTSF are implementing a management plan to complete it in Q3. Six HCS FY 2021 sub-projects stand at 60% completion and other five sub-projects range from 25%-50% completed. Five MCS FY 2021 SEI and three water supply sub-projects have been planned and are at either procurement, local material acquisition or early construction phases. All SEI targets will be completed by the end of Q3 and ideally end of May.

**Sustainability:** As part of the sustainability strategy and building on the findings from the discovery workshop combined with trainings on leadership and communication essential skills in Q1 for WASHCOs and Irrigation Water User Associations committee members, HCS, in collaboration with CCL, trained 10 WASHCOs and 11 Irrigation Users Management Committees totaling 105 committee members (19 females) to enhance multi-year strategic planning and leadership quality. As a result of the discussion, each Irrigation and WASHCO group drafted action plans detailing roles, responsibilities, management approaches and alignment gaps within GoE structures and other stakeholders. The emphasis on strong and sustainable O&M plans was reasserted through a quality assurance workshop in MCS woredas with 36 community participants (2 females) to strengthen local ownership, skills, and management practices to revise O&M plans to meet different needs. In Deder, Babile, Melka Belo and Dire Dawa, HCS facilitated the development of O&M plans for selected PW sub-projects which include 21 watersheds with beekeeping potential, 8 small scale irrigation sites and 5 water development sub-projects using the O&M guidelines and formats.

## **P II: Households improve their sustainable livelihood and economic well-being**

CRS' DFSA conducted review meetings with GoE Livelihood Implementation Coordination Units (LICU) in all woredas. The main objectives of the review meetings were to discuss status of livelihood activities and develop joint exit action plans. LEW review meetings focused on the performance of livelihood activities such as LF/follower farmer (FF) extension approaches and LG linkages with agro-dealers and business planning strengthening for LG/MG members. LEWs also continued to emphasize working closely with DAs and LF/LH to sustain adult-learning approaches and accompany the handover of all activities while withdrawing gradually.

As per SAVIX/MIS, 1,964 SILC groups with 45,413 members (25,590 females) continued saving and lending. Specific to Q2 only, 1,058 SILC groups with 24,350 members (13,828 females) mobilized \$113,830 and \$24,515 in their loan funds and social funds, respectively. A total of \$60,025 was disbursed to 2,893 SILC members (2,029 females). In Q2, 52 SILC groups with 1,216 members (631 females) shared out \$20,809 for different purposes including the implementation of business plans.

**Building resilience:** To calibrate these figures, the members are saving on average \$5.60 each in Q2, which is on track to save between \$20-\$30 / year. One of the critical issues to consider with these numbers is that SILC member are generally out of debt, which is a major step forward in building their resilience, i.e., their ability to cope with shocks, as they are solvent, saving and investing in productive assets.

**Sustainability and scaling:** Certified fee-for-service, PSPs formed 293 non-PSNP SILC groups with 6,933 members (4,645 female) saving \$7,804. This is a strong sign of our sustainable SILC model going to scale. In Q2, 33 PSPs earned an additional \$25 per month for SILC services. To diversify PSPs economic opportunities CRS DFSA linked 51 PSPs (3 females) with agro-dealers to become new agro-dealer agents earning a 5% sales commission. Additionally, 10 PSPs were linked with GSAP MicroFlush toilet makers to promote and demonstrate the sanitation innovation in Negele Arsi as another business opportunity. Another sustainability signal is the formation of stronger PSP networks to establish rules, governance structures and new local business relationships to spread their business potential with the identification of small new enterprises.

**Shifting from informal to formal financial services:** In Q2, 538 individuals (275 females) accessed \$67,337 in loans from financial service providers with an average loan size of \$125. CRS' DFSA continued to develop financial opportunities with Oromia Credit and Saving Cooperatives (OCSCO), Rural Saving and

Credit Cooperatives (RuSACCO), Dire Micro Finance and Metemamen Micro Financial Institution. In coordination with GoE Woreda and Zonal Cooperative Development Office experts, CRS' DFSA conducted review meetings with FSPs to enhance management and action plans. A key action point was to improve MFI coverage, knowledge, and engagement with local communities and so PSPs, LEWs and MFI Loan Officers modified their kebele-level plans so that LG/MG can access more appropriate loans.

CRS DFSA continued strengthening 309 Marketing Groups (MG) with improved bylaws and business plans to link better with MFIs and market opportunities. As an example, 15 MG with 253 members (16 females) sold 1,569 QT/\$50,888 worth of onions and 164 QT/\$5,015 worth of potatoes to Dire Dawa Custom Exporter of Djibouti and Kefira Marketplace.

To answer community demands and as part of the continuous capacity building effort of GoE and project frontline staff, Mercy Corps provided refresher technical training on livestock production and management using revised technical guides. Technical challenges and questions raised by LEWs including aspects of the four subsectors (ox fattening, small ruminants, poultry, and honey) were covered.

Mercy Corps and MCS strengthened the ability of seven Youth Livelihood Group (YLG) beekeeping technicians to improve apiary site selection, transitional beehives construction and bee colonies transfers to modern beehives. They continue to provide better advisory services to Livelihood Groups (LGs) and YLGs including queen rearing and other beekeeping management practices. Unfortunately, due to poor MFI coverage and mismatched formal financial products, the expansion of beekeeping is limited. Even if the CRS DFSA provided start-up modern beehives and accessories with linkages to FSPs, MFIs are not interested in providing loans for beekeeping businesses. This FSP disinterest is steadfast despite market analysis, businesses plans and strong YLG interest for expansion. Nevertheless, CRS' DFSA continues to advocate for more favorable business attitudes and financial reforms within GoE-led procedures and policies to promote market-based apiary inputs supply and service provisions.

In Q2, CRS' DFSA, with strengthened One Stop Centers (OSCs) and supported by LEWs and CAs, helped recruit YLG members to fill local advertised job vacancies. As a result, 708 youth (190 females) have been gainfully employed. These youth secured jobs in Dire Dawa industrial parks, government offices and private companies. This positive result is linked to DFSA's Youth Employability Skills (YES) training which is one of DFSA's best practices to build youth preparedness and capacity for employment. It was also endorsed and adopted by GoE Job Creation Office. In addition to wage employment, OSCs organized 166 youth (26 females) into different SME groups in Deder, Babile and Midega Tola to explore different employment options like construction.

**Strengthening last mile input supply:** Currently, 31 CRS DFSA agro-dealers continue supplying different agricultural inputs in all DFSA areas. In Q2, 3,658 farmers (1,004 females) - both PSNP and non-PSNP - purchased different agricultural products from the agro-dealers either by direct purchases or through their agents. All agro-dealers created business linkages with 45 PSPs (all male) to address last mile input and service delivery constraints. To leverage prior CRS DFSA investments and expand business aspirations, agro-dealers are developing relationships with FSPs.

**Outcome:** The agro-dealer in Adada, Dire Dawa, received a \$27,752 loan from Dire MFI to expand his inventory and open a second branch in Dire Dawa city. In Q2, the scale of sales continued to increase with a growing diversification of supplies and services.

CRS DFSA continued strengthening Lead Farmer/Lead Herder (LF/LH) and follower farmers (FF) in practices and scaling up of different crop, livestock and NRM technologies. 378 LF/LH (97 females) and 2,282 FF demonstrated crop residue management practices for animal feed preparation with support from LEWs and agro-dealers at FTC/PTC demos and reinforced at HH demo plots. After 60 FTC/PTC were improved last



year, in YR5, an additional 30 FTC/PTCs will strengthen their demo sites led by CRS DFSA technical support on different technologies to ensure LF/LH and FF get sustained technical support.

After awarding thirteen in Q1, MC provided a further 17 portable chicken houses and demonstrated best practice feeding systems to 17 selected best performing female LF/LH. The selection criteria for the best performing LF/LH women was: a.) regularly provided practical demos; b.) quality guidance benchmarks met for their fellow farmers/herders; c.) early technology adopter parameters; d.) active participation in chicken MGs; and e.) strong HH poultry rearing practices.

**Outcome:** This intervention enhances the adoption of more modern poultry production technologies while encouraging stronger female business leadership. The merit of this technology is particularly important because it will help mitigate child fecal contamination. In a pilot partnership with Haramaya University as a separate initiative to expand poultry technology options, different poultry house designs are being considered with higher and lower chicken capacity which cost approximately \$100 in locally available materials and are easy to construct.

To implement desert locust livelihood recovery activities, \$27,500 was allocated to purchase beehives and PICS bags from the additional BHA desert locust response funding. Currently, 70 beehives with accessories were purchased and are ready to be distributed to 70 HHs. Targeted clients will receive their beekeeping inputs in Q3 since the season will coincide with optimal seasonal timing to transfer bees to modern beehives.

### **P III: PLW and CU5 have improved nutritional status**

CRS' DFSA continued the implementation of key interventions for Maternal and Child Healthcare, Adolescent Nutrition, Health System Strengthening, Food Production (linked to P II), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Male Engagement (linked to SPX). The primary targets remain pregnant and lactating women, children under five, institutions [schools, Health Facilities (HFs)], and husbands/wives

HEW and CHNPs, trained through the CRS DFSA, cascaded the Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture (NSA) curriculum to 1,113 model households (892 females). At the same time, 45 LF/LH in HCS areas were included to integrate the promotion of nutrient dense gardens at households to enhance dietary diversity. Based on the action plans set, 476 model households planted different nutrient dense crops on their HH plots and vegetables in their backyards.

Similarly, 158 HFWs, HEWs and CHNPs (96 females) were trained on behavioral change counseling and interpersonal communication. Post training field observations indicate that they have already started using these skills to counsel mothers and caregivers of children U5, PLWs and other vulnerable persons.

Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) strengthening was conducted for 37 HF workers (7 females) to improve the early detection of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and enhance the provision of treatment for those without medical complications using ready-to-use therapeutic foods plus other nutrient-dense foods. In addition, improved counseling of home-based management of acute malnutrition as well as data management t HFs are the anticipated results.

62 new HFWs (46 females) attended an Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Program (OTP) training to improve screening and the provision of quality treatment services at the HFs coupled with better case management at community and HH levels. 74 teachers (27 females), health post supervisors, HEW and students from targeted schools in Dire Dawa participated in adolescent nutrition training. The training was delivered using the revised adolescent nutrition training manual adapted from JSI/TPHCU by CRS. Following these trainings, 56 adolescent nutrition clubs were established by trainees with 1,409 members (512 females).

Led by CRS and CCL, the use of audio toolkits helps customize an implementation strategy that centers on households teamed with a facilitation guide for frontline agents such as TFH/IFH Trainers/Couples, CHNPs,

HEWs, DAs and CAs on key themes such as harmful traditional practices (HTPs). Audio toolkits use radio dramas and a narrator to facilitate learning through integrating real life stories. CRS' DFSA conducted trainings using audio toolkits for 64 frontline agents (13 females). The audio toolkits also reinforce key MCHN messages with an emphasis on male engagement to support adoption.

CRS' DFSA purchased and distributed COVID-19 prevention supplies including Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) targeting HFs, CRS field offices, partner offices, GoE Woreda/Zonal Health Offices and CHNPs. CRS' DFSA has also continued working with VIAMO in delivering key COVID-19 prevention and control messages using the free hotline.

Using the post CLTSH triggering checklist in 54 kebeles, 85% of households have constructed and are currently using HH latrines. In Deder, Shala and Negele Arsi, layered with CLTSH, 15 previously established MicroFlush toilet makers group have been legally registered with a licensed certificate to operate as a Small Sanitation Enterprise by GoE Woreda Micro Small Enterprise Development and Job Creation Offices. There are 22 local markets (17 newly established and 5 already present locally) who are now available to supply and sell MF toilet inputs and other WASH merchandise. With this improved WASH supply chain, enhanced markets through improved availability and quality of materials will be more capable to support the construction of MicroFlush toilets. To date, 120 households are engaged in different levels of constructing MicroFlush toilets while 13 earthworm stations were established in three woredas.

CRS' DFSA conducted water quality analysis training for 36 GoE NRM experts and GoE Woreda Water Office and Health Office Experts (5 female) to develop their capacity to track and conduct biological water quality tests. As part of the trainings, CRS' DFSA conducted water quality tests for 19 water schemes and all test results confirm that the schemes fulfill WHO standards for water quality parameters.

To improve and expand Climate Resilient Water Safety Plans in four water schemes, CRS' DFSA implemented several activities to enhance water protection measures such as recommendations to GoE Woreda Water Office to install fencing at reservoirs and water points and the construction of spring boxes at water point sources by prioritizing these investments with woreda PSNP plans and linkages with ONE WASH. As part of sustainability and exit processes, CRS' DFSA provided water point management training for 23 WASHCO members (3 females) to effectively manage domestic water supply schemes. Six caretakers (all male) were also trained on O&M for scheme structures. O&M tools were also given to three WASHCOs.

CCFLS continues to be a strong community based MCHN interactive approach. HEW with CHNPs trained in CCFLS enrolled 2,005 children 6-23 months and 2,511 pregnant and lactating women in CCFLS. HDAs, HEW and Health and Nutrition Experts facilitated the 12-day sessions for children 6-23 months and 6-day sessions for PLWs in selected kebele (village) sites. Sessions include discussions based on CCFLS guide, preparing recipes, organizing cooking demonstration, communicating key messages from the job aides and providing SBC materials, etc. Overall, with secondary adoption efforts as well, 4,087 participants were reached with cooking demonstrations through CCFLS. As per joint field observations, almost all (90.1%) of the trained caregivers of children 6-23 months and PLWs have been practicing some key feeding and caring behaviors and practices in their homes.

Community based nutrition sensitive agriculture (NSA) continues to be implemented including supporting targeted vulnerable households with agriculture inputs and technical advice from DA, LEW, HEW and CHNP. As a result, in Q2, 276 households (120 FHHs) have established home gardens around their HH to ensure better availability of nutritious vegetables to improve dietary diversity.

To monitor quality of service delivery by health facilities, DFSA conducted quality verification using the Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) approach. The main indicator for analysis was the number of health facilities that scored 80% and above on using the integrated health facility supervision checklist. In addition, CRS also analyzed six other MCHN indicators related to health facility standards including ANC services,

nutrition specific interventions, nutrition-sensitive agriculture activities, minimum dietary diversity scores, and the adoption of critical moments for handwashing with soap and water. Full results analysis and recommendations will be provided in the Q3 report. A total of 93 Health Posts, 29 Health Centers and 93 PSNP HHs were surveyed in all nine woredas. Categories that were performing well by health facilities included data quality (87%), capacity building (53%), MCHN materials supply and distribution (63%) and referral and linkages (64%). Poor performing areas included WASH (15%), integration and linkages (21%). The main reason for weaker performance for integration and linkages was the poor motoring of temporary direct clients by health extension workers while WASH was affected by low investment in WASH infrastructure in most health facilities. Utilization of bidirectional referral pads is excellent. More than 90% of HFs visited were utilizing the bidirectional referral pads properly and there was also comparative feedback which suggested higher performance levels compared to non-DFSA woredas which was recognized by GoE Zonal and Woreda Health Office Experts. The recognition was expressed during the quarterly review meetings and with a certificate and medal in Dire Dawa.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning**

CRS' DFSA focused on quality improvement and verification for selected interventions. The first initiative was the assessment of quality of health facilities' performance using the integrated health facility checklist that was developed jointly by DSA and GoE. DFSA used LQAS to assess 190 health facilities. Results of this assessment were presented during the P III TWG meeting and details are captured under P III above. To verify quality of DFSA training activities, the MEAL team sampled 38 training activities (19 from HCS and 19 from MCS) reported in FY20 using LQAS and completed the data collection in Q2. Report analysis and write-up will be completed in Q3. The quality verification and improvement processes are aimed at ensuring consistency in the quality of interventions by identifying and prioritizing significant quality gaps.

As part of the annual participant-based survey, CRS' DFSA coordinated the data collection for the agriculture indicators for the Meher harvest (May to September cropping season). Data analysis is underway and will guide improvement efforts for QA in technology application and agricultural productivity indicators.

As part of revising the DFSA MIS-Data visualization process, existing data cleaning package with the SQL MIS was modified to show all flagged "unclean" data (e.g., missing value, outliers, and logical inconsistencies). The team also revisited data quality uploaded to AZURE cloud database to contain only verified data points. As one of the follow-up actions from Q1 data reconciliation needs, DFSA's MEAL team identified gaps on mismatched intervention data. DFSA PSNP client data cleaning was completed and uploaded to CommCare. The updated data was shared to all respective sector leads at partner level for project activity and data improvements. In Q3, CRS' DFSA will share the updated data with Oromia PSNP team responsible for regional RPASS implementation.

HCS and MCS continued sensitizing communities on the use of FRM especially at FDPs and strengthened Kebele Intervention Feedback Committees (KIFC). This process aims to help the KIFC better track and resolve complaints from the community. The team also identified some of the materials they need for sustainability and planned for purchase and support in Q3 for the KIFC.

As part of its CLA efforts, the CRS DFSA participated in an exhibition organized by Agency for Civil Society Organizations (ACSO) Ethiopia. CRS presented key achievements and tools developed since the inception of the DFSA. Such events offer opportunities for sharing lessons and tools, improving collaboration with diverse partners and learning from peer organizations which can result in improved outcomes.

#### **iv. Challenges and Lessons Learned**

- Due to the drought conditions in some areas, communities are migrating further in search of water. CRS' DFSA is looking into this and while we expect that the upcoming rains will see many of these households return (as has been the case with past drought like conditions), there has been some impact on the

program – for example, some members are missing from some regular SPX group meetings such as CCG and functional literacy. Activities, however, are continuing with the remaining members of the CCGs and FAL participants (and any FAL participants who have left will be encouraged to complete the sessions once they return). A couple of assessments have also been impacted where sampled households were not available. Note that this has also been reported in JEOP's March 2021 Early Warning Report.

- Dire Dawa Administrative Council passed a new circular to give priority to jobless youth living in Dire Dawa City for the job opportunities expected to be created by the new industrial parks. It is anticipated that over 20,000 jobs will be created by these industrial parks when the businesses are fully operational. However, this decision is a challenge for youth living in the East Hararghe as it suggests they will be ineligible. CRS' DFSA will engage with the Dire Dawa Administrative Council on this decision as it seems to be contrary to federal guidelines (industrial parks are under federal administration).
- Frontline government staff, namely DAs, HEWs and HDAs, are busy with additional tasks related to election mobilization and so are continually changing pre-set schedules. However, CRS DFSA is actively managing this with regular discussions with Woreda Sector Offices and amending schedules as needed.

#### **v. Market Analysis**

In HCS areas, the average prices of all crops and the prices of staple crops showed a slight decline in February as compared to January 2021 while all increased in March 2021. For instance, in Babile, the average price of all crops and the average price of staple food crops (barley, maize, sorghum and wheat) was \$37.70 per quintal in January which increased to \$38.60 per quintal in March. The average price for all staple in February 2021 was \$36.40 per quintal. In MCS areas, the prices of all crops and staple crops increased in both February and March 2021 as compared to January 2021. For instance, in Shala, the average price of all crops and average price of staple food crops (maize and wheat) was \$30.20, \$32.00, and \$37.40 per quintal respectively in January, February, and March 2021. The prices followed the same trend in Negele Arsi and Heben Arsi. In Dire Dawa, the prices of crops sharply increased in February 2021 as compared to the prices of crops in January. In Dire Dawa, the average prices of crops in January, February and March were respectively \$57.80 per quintal, \$67.80 per quintal and \$62.80 per quintal.

In general, the data in DFSA woredas shows that prices of crops have been increasing since January, in advance of the usual trend. Historical data shows that prices normally increase by 3% on average in March as compared to January. Yet this year, prices increased by 10%. The current increase in average prices in DFSA areas are generally higher than the five-year average. A combination of factors contribute to this which include below normal Meher output due to crop losses because of flooding, desert locust infestations, delayed onset of Belg rains (February to May), devaluation of ETB against USD (4% in Q2), and volatile security conditions such as in Wollega which is responsible for normally strong agricultural production. JEOP's March monthly report shows that humanitarian food assistance delays in some woredas were related to the slow roll-out of the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan have aggravated prices across markets.

Unlike the prices of crops, the average prices of shoat (sheep and goat) either showed slight increase or slight decrease depending on the location. For instance, the prices of shoats decreased in Negele Arsi, Heben Arsi and Shala in February and March as compared to January except an increase in Shoa prices in Heben Arsi in March. For instance, the average prices of shoat were \$54.10, \$51.80, and \$49.70 respectively in January, February and March 2021. This could be likely because of poor livestock conditions due to deteriorating feed stocks (below normal pasture availability) which was caused by below normal rainfall in Ethiopia since January 2021. This also negatively affected the income of herders and farmers. While in Dire Dawa, shoa prices increased from \$40.20 in January to \$50.30 in February and March 2021. This is likely due to shortages of supply from rural areas to Dire Dawa since there are no major religious or national holidays in the months of February and March.

## **vi. Planned Q3 Interventions**

### **SPX**

1. Undertake the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of CCG assessment
2. Undertake the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of TFH/IFH assessment (qualitative research)
3. Follow up and support for delivery, scaling and coaching of multi-module girls and boys-club toolkit
4. Production of 1, 3 minutes video on selected DFSA intervention
5. Conduct consultative meeting with woreda and zone WCAYO, BOLSA, education, and other stakeholders to hand over SPX established groups CCG groups (adult and youth), gender clubs, FES groups, TFH/IFH
6. Undertake experience sharing visits by trained gender champions, women and youth leaders, school gender club members within or outside of their woredas
7. Strengthen TFH/IFH activities through cascading TFH/IFH training, facilitate experience sharing facilitate networking with religious tolerance to ensure sustainability
8. Facilitate graduation and handover of second cycle FAL participants
9. Undertake refresher training for community leaders in educating community members on social norms and male engagement in promoting women and girls' empowerment by gender experts
10. Experience sharing among community leaders' husband groups, woreda women, children and youth offices using different events
11. Train community leaders on key HTP/GBV preventions and response
12. Train school community on GBV prevention and referral system (MCS)
13. Continue mentoring and coaching youth trained in project development and resource mobilization.
14. Support and strengthen youth voluntarism activities in schools, youth development centers and other stakeholders.

### **Purpose I**

1. Track participation and functionality of Woreda FSTFs on monthly basis (HCS & MCS)
2. Provide technical support to HCS & MCS to conduct seedling survival rate counts on DFSA plantation sites
3. Conduct seedling survival rate counts on DFSA plantation sites (HCS & MCS)
4. Handover of rehabilitated watersheds to organized Livelihood groups (HCS & MCS)
5. Map all FY21 PW sub-projects using Collector ArcGIS (HCS & MCS)
6. Follow up and support existing YLG organized at watershed and area enclosures (HCS & MCS)
7. Conduct monitoring on Environmental Mitigation Measures for potential public works activities and prepare Environmental Status Report
8. Ensure food transfer according to the national transfer schedule in project areas (213,134 PWs & 27,391 PDS)
9. Carry out public work activities in all DFSA woredas including construction of social & economic infrastructures

### **Purpose II**

1. Provide basic adult literacy training for LG members (2<sup>nd</sup> cycles)
2. Hold recognition, certification, and presentation of awards to best performing Lead Farmers/Lead Herders
3. Continue Strengthening FTC/PTC demonstration plot on different crop, livestock and NRM technology
4. Continue to promote PICS Bags to small holder farmers (follower farmers) though linkage with agro-dealers
5. Finalize vegetables storage options and handover to irrigation users
6. Strengthen youth linkage to OSC
7. Strengthen institutionalization and integration of activities into existing structures for sustainability
8. Conduct Project Exit and handover workshop
9. Provide technical and financial support to the franchiser and franchisee on livestock feed processing
10. Organize Cash Transfer Learning forum

### **Purpose III**

1. Continue tracking the DFSA sustainability and exit strategy plan using tracking sheet
2. Undertake phase by phase handover of activities/ materials
3. Continue wrapping up key deliverables/any remaining cascading trainings, water scheme constructions/management, etc.
4. Continue with construction of MF toilets at HH level, finalize WASH Marketing/business model
5. Continue with follow up on system strengthening activities like supportive supervisions, utilization of bidirectional referral pads, CMAM activities, etc.
6. Continue with CCFLS implementation
7. Host Religious leader forums on HTPs related Health and Nutrition
8. Continue supporting government efforts in prevention and controlling of COVID-19
9. Conduct LQAS result dissemination for the government, zonal and woredas during quarterly review meeting
10. Strengthen CLTSH post triggering follow up and verification and declaration of ODF (HCS & MCS)
11. Hold WASH sanitation event celebration with water scheme developed inauguration ceremony
12. Install roof top water harvesting tankers (HCS and MCS)

### **MEAL**

1. Document DFSA best practices
2. Conduct assessments - FRM functionality assessment, MG Quality improvement assessment, and LF/LH QI assessment, and PDM for food distribution
3. Conduct data quality assessment for selected indicators
4. Analyze Meher harvest data, and quality improvement and presentation to the team for action planning
5. Follow up and support IPs (MCS/HCS) in the closure and sustainability of MEAL activities
6. Initiate collection (assessment of functionality) of GIS data for infrastructure project

### **vii. Success Stories**

See Annexes I.i, I.ii, I.iii and I.iv

### **viii. Local and Regional Purchase Commodity (LRP)**

Not applicable.

### **ix. Cash Transfer and Food Vouchers**

Not applicable

### **x. Loss Reporting**

A total of 54.60 MT of wheat commodities were lost during this reporting period, with a total value of \$24,858.00 (\$13,533.74 commodity value and \$11,324.26 freight value). 42.05 MT were in a truck that went missing in route from Djibouti, while the other 14.35 MT were shortlanded. These losses have been filed with the shipping company and CRS has begun the claims process.

### **xi. Commodity Quality and Safety**

Not applicable this quarter.