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Acronym List

Ag/EL	Agricultural Economic Livelihoods	JEOP	Joint Emergency Operation Program
AR	Annual Report	JRIS	Joint Review and Implementation Support
ATK	Audio Toolkit	KII	Key Information Interviews
AWP	Annual Work Plan	KM	Knowledge Management
BHA	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance	LCCA	Life Cycle Costing Approach
CCFLS	Community-based Complementary Feeding and Learning Sessions	LEW	Livelihood Extension Worker
CCG	Community Conversation Group	LF	Lead Farmer
CCL	Center for Creative Leadership	LH	Lead Herder
CD	Causal Design	LQAS	Lot Quality Assurance Sampling
CFILP	Call Forward in Lieu of PREP	MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
CGM	Care Group Model	MBS	Market Based Sanitation
CHNP	Community Health & Nutrition Promoter	MEAL	Monitoring Evaluation Accountability & Learning
CLA	Collaboration, Learning and Adapting	MIRA	Monthly Interval Resilience Analysis
CLTSH	Community-Led Total Sanitation and Hygiene	NPS	Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Sulphur
CMAM	Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition	NPS-B	Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Sulphur, and Boron
CRS	Catholic Relief Services	NRM	Natural Resource Management
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture	ODF	Open Defecation Free
CTCF	Community Technical Coordination Forum	PEA	Programmatic Environmental Assessment
DA	Development Agent	PDP	Primary Distribution Point
DD	Dietary Diversity	PDS	Permanent Direct Support
DFSA	Development Food Security Activity	PIM	Program Implementation Manual
DIP	Detailed Implementation Plan	PREP	Pipeline and Resource Estimate Proposal
EGS	Early Generation Seeds	PSNP	Productive Safety Net Program
EHZ	East Hararghe Zone	PSP	Private Service Provider
EWS	Early Warning System	PTC	Pastoral Training Centers
FA	Field Agent	PW	Public Works
FCRM	Feedback, Complaints, and Responses Mechanism	Q3	Quarter 3
FGD	Focus Group Discussion	QI	Quality Improvement
FDP	Final Distribution Points	QuIPS	Qualitative Inquiry Planning Sheets
FMNR	Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration	RFSA	Resilience Food Security Activity
FSTF	Food Security Task Force	R&I	Refine and Implement
FTC	Farmer Training Centers	SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
FY	Fiscal Year	SBC	Social Behavior Change
GBV	Gender Based Violence	SEI	Social/Economic Infrastructure
GoE	Government of Ethiopia	SILC	Savings and Internal Lending Community
GYSO	Gender, Youth, and Social Dynamics	SoW	Scope of Work
H&N	Health and Nutrition	SSI	Small Scale Irrigation
HCS	Hararghe Catholic Secretariat	TFH/IFL	The Faithful House/Islamic Family Life
HEW	Health Extension Worker	ToT	Training of Trainers
HH	Household	TWG	Technical Working Group
HQ	Headquarters	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
ICT4D	Information & Comm. Technology for Development	WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
IE	Impact Evaluation	WBC	Water Benefits Calculator
<i>Ifaa</i>	Afaan-Oromo, meaning " <i>to bring forth light</i> "	WFSTF	Woreda Food Security Task Force
IWM	Integrated Watershed Management	ZFSTF	Zonal Food Security Task Force

i. Activity Summary

During Q3, *Ifaa* continued to closely monitor the drought situation through weekly updates from the Woreda Agriculture Offices to track the status of rainfall, land preparation for planting, crop performance, livestock body conditions and status of agricultural inputs availability and affordability. Although the *Meher* season rainfall was expected in April/May, a long dry spell was recorded this year. This prolonged drought affected the time of planting and growth of pastures for animal feed. However, towards late June, *Ifaa's* operational woredas, except for Midega Tola, received medium to high rainfall. In addition, CRS also submitted a Drought Response Concept to BHA on April 8 as part of the Call Forward in Lieu of PREP (CFILP) submission which proposed several interventions for BHA's review that were ultimately approved including seed, water trucking and water source rehabilitation.

Fertilizer Shortage and Price Increase: Due to the continued shortage of fertilizers, *Ifaa* woredas have not received inputs on time or in the required quantities¹. These factors have affected PSNP clients as they face critical challenges in accessing fertilizers due to limited availability, soaring prices, and their low purchasing power in 2022. During the reporting period, *Ifaa* woredas received only 45%, 34%, and 4% of the required Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Sulphur (NPS), Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Sulphur, and Boron (NPS-B) and Urea, respectively.² Farmers in affected woredas could not prepare enough compost due to the long dry spell which resulted in low vegetation and grass coverage (considering the likelihood that inorganic fertilizer will continue to be an issue given global conditions, increased engagement around organic composting will be a focus for *Ifaa* in Years II through V). Moreover, land productivity without the use of fertilizers (inorganic and organic) in East Hararghe Zone (EHZ) is extremely low compared to other zones where there is more grass and vegetation coverage which decomposes over time to improve soil fertility. The price of NPS increased in 2022 by 173% compared to 2021. Similarly, the price of NPS-B increased by 177% while the price of Urea increased by 203% in 2022 compared to the previous year. Such drastic fertilizer price increases have a negative impact on PSNP clients as they cannot afford to buy and apply to their crop field. As a result, productivity per unit area will be severely reduced leading to expected future food shortages in *Ifaa's* PSNP households.

Security: CRS continued to track access issues with implementation in five kebeles in Gursum. Under BHA's guidance, *Ifaa* agreed to only provide commodity transfers and hold all other implementation activities.

ii. Activity Outputs

During Q3, *Ifaa* staff and partners made progress on Refine Year initiatives, including all preparations for R&I formative research studies and technical adaptations of new initiatives, as well as continuing to support core PSNP activities. Key cross-cutting outputs include *Ifaa's* participation in the PSNP5 Joint Review and Implementation Support (JRIS) Mission at the Federal and Regional-levels, conducting sector-level Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings and supportive field monitoring, participation in JEOP's monthly Early Warning System TWG, engagement with JEOP to enhance commodity transfer coordination in overlapping woredas, and preparations for the drought response. Sector teams prioritized capacity building for GoE, staff, and partners, strengthening existing structures in continuing woredas, and the roll-out of key Y1 interventions.

- ***Ifaa* Staff & Partner Annual Workshop:** *Ifaa* held a three-day workshop from June 1-3 to bring together 90 *Ifaa* staff, both CRS and partners. During the workshop key topics included *Ifaa's* administrative and operational structures related to risk management (fraud, protection/safeguarding, etc.), MEAL systems, partnership principles, as well as a session facilitated by BHA to gain insight on BHA's priorities and wider PSNP issues.
- **Technical Working Group (TWG) Meetings:** TWG meetings were held to ensure high quality planning, cross and intra-sector integration, alignment with the Annual Work Plan (AWP), learning priorities, and strong partner coordination. Key takeaways from Q3 TWGs include: *NRM/Environment*: The sector

¹ Note: CRS shared these concerns with BHA in a meeting on May 13 as well as subsequent communication including a brief summary of issues (cost and availability) on May 25.

² Data from the East Hararghe Zonal Office of Cooperative Promotion and Agriculture

involved woreda-level Government NRM staff as a strategy to engage them in the process of integrating IWM and environmental compliance within their planning process; AgEL: GOAL organized the TWG meeting to share updates on AgEL’s strategies including randomized kebeles and specific interventions for the impact assessment as well as to discuss technical issues related to household profiling, agriculture production and marketing, access to finance and off-farm opportunities; WASH: The WASH team focused on team building, discussing challenges and progress, key WASH approaches, and WASH system strengthening; and MEAL: The MEAL team discussed the rollout of digitized forms, orientation on device management, planning for Annual Report (AR) data collection, documenting Most Significant Change stories, and training MEAL staff and commodity distribution supervisors on the commodity distribution quality improvement checklist.

- **Ifaa Sustainability and Exit Strategy:** To ensure high quality program quality and long-term benefits of *Ifaa’s* interventions, the team took the initial steps to develop a draft *Ifaa* Sustainability and Exit Strategy. This participatory process engaged CRS and partner staff at all levels to share DFSA’s lessons learned, as well as ways to improve *Ifaa’s* approaches to plan for sustainability after the Activity ends.
- **Drought Response:** CRS responded to follow-up issues from BHA on *Ifaa’s* drought response concept note. To address urgent seed and livestock issues in five drought affected woredas (Chinaksen, Babile, Gursum, Fedis and Midega Tola), *Ifaa* proposed support for seed/forage crops and livestock drugs and supplements. While awaiting BHA approval and seed certification documentation, *Ifaa* conducted the required targeting exercise and engaged seed vendors for availability at woreda-level. During June, the H&N team worked with EHZ and Woreda Health Offices to identify the required logistical support for Chinaksen and Midega Tola to transport supplementary feeding and ready to use therapeutic feeding (RUTF) materials to treat MAM and SAM cases at health facilities. Following BHA’s approval of the water-related response activities and after water quality testing was completed in late June, *Ifaa* began water trucking in Midega Tola and Chinaksen. The response is conducted in close coordination with the Zonal Disaster Risk Management and woredas’ Water Resource Development Offices. Preparations (site plan prep, feasibility studies, and design documents) were underway in Q3 to move ahead with rehabilitation of four water schemes in Chinaksen to address the sustainable water needs of areas affected by recurrent drought.

PSNP Systems Progress and Update:

- **Food Transfers: Public Works (PW) clients:** The first-round transfer was completed in seven woredas (Babile, Midega Tola, Chinaksen, Gursum, Meta, Deder and Melka-Belo) and the second-round transfer was completed in six woredas (Babile, Midega Tola, Chinaksen, Meta, Deder and Melka Belo). **Permanent Direct Support (PDS) clients:** The fourth-round transfer was completed in eight RFSA woredas (Babile, Midega Tola, Fedis, Chinaksen, Gursum, Meta, Deder and Melka Belo) and the fifth-round transfer was completed in seven RFSA woredas (Babile, Midega Tola, Chinaksen, Gursum, Meta, Deder and Melka Belo). The delay of food transfers in Jarso, Gursum and Fedis was due to the dispatch delay associated with significant fuel price increments resulting in refusal of transporters contracted to those woredas to dispatch food from Dire Dawa PDP to FDPs with the originally agreed rate requiring significant CRS-transporter negotiations which ultimately resolved the issue. There were also challenges in finding warehousing with sufficient storage capacity (CRS is engaging woredas to address this through their Capital Budgets and may also engage BHA around purchasing rubb halls through the Y2 PREP).

Table: Q3 Food Transfers to PW, PDS Clients, and 5% contingency beneficiaries

Food Distribution		Participants Actual/Planned			Unique Participants
		April	May	June	
Participants (Male)	Actual	16,306	39,798	96,309	96,309
	Planned	16,735	102,952	107,335	107,335

Food Distribution		Participants Actual/Planned			Unique Participants
		April	May	June	
Participants (Female)	Actual	18,094	37,717	92,199	92,199
	Planned	18,574	97,568	101,446	101,446

- **Allocation of Contingency Food (5%) to Midega Tola and Chinaksen:** In agreement with BHA and the East Hararghe Zone, *Ifaa* distributed two rounds of food (in total 280MT of wheat, pulse, and vegetable oil) at five FDPs to address the food gap of 3,551 and 4,710 drought impacted participants in Midega Tola and Chinaksen respectively, using the 5% contingency food originally allocated to all nine *Ifaa* woredas. The remaining one round of food will be provided in July.
- **Construction/Rehabilitation of Social & Economic Infrastructures (SEI):** CRS and HCS conducted regular field monitoring and provision of technical support to woreda GoE and *Ifaa* staff on the construction of SEIs to ensure timely and quality progress (so that all planned SEI schemes are completed in FY22). Below is a brief overview of the SEI status:
 - Three domestic use water supply projects in Babile, Melka Belo, and Midega Tola: 90-95% completed
 - Two drinking water supply projects in Fedis and Gursum: 80% completed
 - Three SSI projects (night storage pond in Melka Belo, canal expansion in Babile, and lined irrigation canal in Fedis): 80-90% completed
 - Two DA residences in Meta and Deder: 90% & 75% completed respectively
 - Animal health post in Midega Tola: 90% completed
 - HEW's residence and Farmer Training Center in Gursum: 80% and 75% completed respectively
 - Three ford construction in Chinaksen: 50%. These will be completed by late July.
 - Three water development and irrigation canal projects in Chinaksen and Jarso: 20-45% completed. These schemes are behind schedule due to the repeated bidding to identify contractors that fulfilled required criteria, as well as a design revision for the irrigation flume in Jarso. CRS is engaging the woreda offices to ensure completion by September 2022.
- **Technical Support during preparation of Annual Woreda PSNP Plan:** *Ifaa's* PSNP team conducted a five-day field visit from May 17-21 to five new *Ifaa* woredas and two continuing woredas to provide technical support. During this visit, discussions were held with WFSTF Chairperson, Food Security Coordinator, Technical Committee members, and other relevant experts to check in on the progress of the woreda annual planning and to ensure livelihood linkages. CRS and HCS staff also provided an orientation on the PSNP Annual Planning process to government kebele and woreda level experts with advice that plans should be completed by late May for submission to the Zone.
- **Public Works (PW) Implementation:** *Ifaa* continues to support the implementation of PW interventions, including physical soil and water conservation measures, gully control, area closures, rangeland management interventions, community road earth (gravel & footpaths) construction, and rehabilitation. Overall achievement for most physical soil and water conservation measures is over 90%. For instance, 241km of hillside, hillside terrace with trench and bench terracing were constructed in the program area, which accounts for 95% of the Q3 plan. Different moisture retention structures including trench, percolation pit, deep trenches, herring bones, half moon, eyebrow basin, and micro basin were constructed and achievement against the expected Q3 plan is at 91% (369,111 structures). Seedling planting will be carried out in Q4, assuming rainfall distribution is sufficient. The Q3 achievement for seedling production was low due to the prolonged drought which affected water sources for seedling production. For example, water discharge was significantly reduced in Midega Tola and was unable to support seedling production.
- **Leadership & Communication Essential Training and Coaching for Zonal FSTF:** Building on the findings from the Q2 discovery session, Center for Creative Leadership (CCL) designed and conducted an interactive three-day Leadership & Communications Essentials training for 13 EHZ FSTF members (10M/3F) from May 10-12 to build the capacity and leadership potential for greater accountability and

involvement of the Zonal FSTF in woreda-level PSNP implementation. Following the training, CCL provided the first coaching session for ZFSTF members for continued support in their leadership journey, including setting an agreement (plan and topics) between the CCL coach and the ZFSTF.

- **Field Review of Conflict Management Practices:** An internal review on conflict management was conducted in two new woredas, Meta and Chinaksen, using the conflict assessment and analysis tools consisting of 4Ps thematic areas: conflict profile analysis, problems analysis, actors/people mapping analysis and process analysis. In Meta, three kebeles (Felmatu Saba, Waliti kebedu Saba and Hidatu Saba) bordering a Somali region military camp have historically been considered hotspot kebeles with frequent conflicts leading to displacement (note no issues currently). In Chinaksen, a number of kebeles have experienced localized conflict over the past decade which has limited affected children's ability to attend school and receive health service provision. Based on this field review and DFSA experience, conflict management trainings will be provided to communities, religious and traditional leaders and concerned local GoE offices in October 2022.

MEAL/CLA:

- **Monitoring:** *Ifaa* continued working on the routine data collection form development including Qualitative Inquiry Planning Sheets (QuIPS) for prioritized interventions. The ICT4D team completed digitization of prioritized forms and training forms were piloted and rolled out for data entry. *Ifaa* hired and trained 51 (42M/9F) community embedded enumerators on the Monthly Interval Resilience Analysis (MIRA) approach and HH listing. Following the training, enumerators started data collection for HH listing in the sampled 44 MIRA kebeles. The HH listing will be used to select 20 sample HHs per kebele to participate in the MIRA data collection. *Ifaa* also continued to work with Cornell University and CRS HQ's ICT4D team to develop the analysis framework for MIRA data.
- **Accountability:** 30 complaints (22 programmatic and 8 sensitive) were received and closed through *Ifaa's* interactive voice response in the four continuing woredas. In Q3, *Ifaa* worked closely with Viamo to expand the FCRM hotline's access in the five new woredas and community sensitization is ongoing.
- **Collaboration, Learning and Adapting (CLA):** Building upon DFSA's experience, *Ifaa* organized a two-day integration workshop to strengthen sequencing and integration among key sectors. Each sector prioritized interventions for integration and the means required to facilitate integration. *Ifaa* will roll out the planned integration system to map and track integration efforts in Q4 as part of the comprehensive CLA plan.
- **R&I Research:** As part of the Refine Year priorities, seven formative research SoWs were reviewed by BHA and received concurrence. Data collection will start in July for six studies as *Ifaa* aims to receive draft reports by late August – the Gender Analysis and SBC Research will start in August/September. *Ifaa* is also working on desk reviews for key research questions with five topics completed and two ongoing and expected to be finalized by late August. All draft reports, except for the Gender Analysis, are expected to be ready for *Ifaa's* internal pre-culmination workshop in September. The WASH team is also working closely with PRO-WASH on RFSA's sanitation and hygiene study, including the selection of the lead consultant, participating in the pre-kick off meetings, and reviewing the research plan.
- **Knowledge Management (KM):** *Ifaa* assessed the current gaps in KM implementation and developed a strategy to improve KM practices. Among the planned KM initiatives, *Ifaa* started working on a document management system specifically designed for frontline staff with limited internet access.
- **Service Mapping:** During April-May, *Ifaa* trained 37 (8F) enumerators and 35 (6F) field coordinators on service mapping tools. *Ifaa* mapped service points in over 200 kebeles and developed PowerBi dashboards. Woreda and kebele services mapped ranged from health, nutrition, water, agriculture, finance, and social services. This information will guide *Ifaa* sector teams and GoE stakeholders to more accurately target and plan for interventions.
- **Impact Evaluation:** *Ifaa* continued to work closely with Causal Design (CD) and USAID/BHA (local Mission and BHA Washington) to manage implementation of the impact evaluation (IE). Data collection was ongoing by the end of Q3. CRS holds weekly meetings with CD and BHA to identify and

resolve any challenges that could impact the IE. *Ifaa* completed the mapping and detailed intervention descriptions and has worked to sensitize staff on the IE and kebele targeting approach.

Environment/Natural Resource Management (NRM):

- **Water Benefits Calculator (WBC) Training:** *Ifaa* conducted a training on the WBC from June 22-24 for 11 CRS, HCS, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, and Oromia Bureau of Agriculture NRM experts to build their capacity to use the tool for planning and analysis of PW interventions at watershed-level. The WBC is a decision-making tool used to provide valuable scientific analysis for planners by calculating expected water and soil benefits from NRM interventions and land management practices.
- **Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) Planning Cascade Training:** Following the completion of the IWM planning and GIS training in Q2, woreda NRM experts cascaded the two-day training to 226 DAs (197M/29F), 36 woreda experts (35M /1F), and 42 HCS staff (42M), reaching 99% of the target. The training focused on the IWM planning process and socio-economic and biophysical data collection.
- **Internal Assessments on Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), Rainwater Harvesting, and Enclosure Sites:** *Ifaa* conducted field assessments on water harvesting technologies, FMNR, and the identification of matured area enclosures to link with livelihood options. Preliminary findings show area enclosures are a promising income source for landless youth to manage and for livelihood groups to pursue income-generating activities such as livestock fattening (through cut-and-carry of forage crops), beekeeping, and sales of excess grass. Other preliminary findings show FMNR as a suitable land restoration practice mainly in midland climatic conditions. Lastly, findings suggest rainwater harvesting is sustainable in the driest operational areas affected by drought as the technology can benefit the community if properly implemented. The final report of the assessments will be ready by mid-August.
- **Environmental Monitoring and Follow-up on NRM activities:** *Ifaa* provided technical support to woreda Offices of Agriculture to ensure quality PW implementation. The team conducted environmental monitoring on interventions that may have significant environmental impacts including SSI, NRM interventions, and social infrastructure.

H&N and WASH:

- **Care Group Model (CGM) Contextualization and Roll-out:** *Ifaa* will implement the CGM, a community-based peer learning strategy with nine modules to improve coverage and behavior change related to H&N practices in target communities. The adaptation and drafting of key CGM materials (guides, training manuals, MEAL tools, etc.) as well as stakeholder engagement was a key Q3 priority. The H&N team met with the Oromia Health Bureau, Zonal and Woreda Health offices to introduce the model, gather initial input, and secure government buy-in. To begin the roll-out, a half-day CGM Consultative workshop was conducted on May 19th with 13 Participants from CRS, HCS, and EHZ Health Office to discuss the draft CGM structure, its alignment with GoE and role of each stakeholder.
- **CGM Training of Master Trainers and Level 2 Training:** The H&N team conducted two training courses for trainers. The initial Training of Master trainers, conducted June 13-18, included a total of 21 participants (2F) from CRS, HCS, Whiz Kids, and EHZ Health Office. Following the training, six participants were chosen as Master Trainers to conduct the second-level training with Woreda Health Offices and Health Centers. This follow-on training included a total of 24 participants (4F). During the training, each Woreda developed an action plan to ensure further cascading to health extension workers (HEWs) and selected Kebele, institution, and villages stakeholders. Following the trainings, a CGM-specific DIP was drafted and groups composed of different RFSA sectors, consortium, and key GoE stakeholders formed, prepared action plans, and made necessary preparations to pilot CGM in selected kebeles of Deder and Babile in August 2022. Learnings from this pilot and the R&I research on dietary diversity (DD) will then be used for the scale-up of the CGM in other woredas at the start of Y2.
- **Cooking Demonstrations and CCFLS:** 190 participants (166F) attended cooking demonstrations conducted at CCFLS sessions, health posts, and other platforms with the support of HEWs and CHNPs. During the demonstration sessions, essential nutrition/hygiene promotion messages were cascaded.

- **Adolescent Nutrition Clubs:** In Q3, 17 Adolescent Nutrition Clubs with 628 members (241F) were strengthened/established in Babile, Deder and Meta. The major activities accomplished by the clubs include providing nutrition education sessions using an adolescent nutrition guide, the construction of a home garden demonstration site at school and their home, and nutrition information dissemination at their school communities.
- **Targeting for Market-based Sanitation (MBS):** 18 kebeles were mapped and identified for MBS interventions (8 in continuing and 10 in new woredas). These kebeles were strategically selected, in line with the Impact Evaluation, to layer MBS with CLTSH interventions as most kebeles have achieved (or are on the way to achieve) Primary ODF. The team also mapped the private sector in five woredas that can supply WASH input materials for sanitation and operation and maintenance activities. Discussions were held with business owners on inputs/supply chains required by WASH entrepreneurs and their willingness to partner with WASH business operators at kebele-level. The remaining woredas' private sector mapping will be conducted in Q4.
- **Training on Life Cycle Costing Approach (LCCA):** Six *Ifaa* WASH staff started participating in an online training, consisting of five sessions, on LCCA facilitated by PRO-WASH and Water for People. The sessions will continue into Q4. *Ifaa* will apply the LCCA principles to improve water governance, especially in the collection of water tariffs from targeted water schemes.

Agriculture and Economic Livelihoods (AgEL):

- **Strengthening Existing Agro-dealers:** *Ifaa* continued strengthening 13 existing agro-dealers to supply various agricultural inputs to nearby farmers with affordable prices. In Q3, the total sale value from the 13 agro-dealers was \$50,228 with 15% profit margin. These figures highlight that agro-dealers significantly contribute to providing agricultural inputs to PSNP and non-PSNP HHs in *Ifaa* woredas.
- **SILC Group Formation and Strengthening Existing Groups:** Community mobilization and sensitization events were conducted in *Ifaa* operational kebeles to create awareness on *Ifaa* interventions including SILC. Prior to the events, respective kebele leaders, influential elders, development agents (DAs), HEWs, and school directors were informed and mobilized a total of 5,804 (2,623F) PSNP clients to introduce *Ifaa* interventions. Following the mobilization events, 152 new SILC groups with 3,090 members (1,575F, 51%) were established in 39 kebeles. In addition, *Ifaa* monitored existing groups in continuing woredas and a total of 111 SILC groups (48 in Deder, 26 in Melka Belo, and 37 in Babile) with 2,247 members (1,472 female) continued conducting SILC meetings regularly. During Q3, despite drought conditions, these groups mobilized \$2,109 loan fund and \$273 social fund.
- **SILC Induction Refresher Training:** HCS identified 60 (13F) previously certified PSPs and linked them to *Ifaa's* SILC and access to finance activities. Although both supervisors and PSPs had prior DFSA SILC experience, *Ifaa* provided a refresher training around SILC implementation at community-level. Topics included a refresher of SILC modules, FAs/PSPs coaching, reporting and record keeping, group formation and management, sector integration, etc.
- **Partnership with Haramaya University & Fedis Agriculture Research Center to Promote CSA:** In Q3, *Ifaa*, initiated partnerships with Haramaya University and Fedis Agriculture Research Center to work together in promoting crop and livestock CSA practices and technologies. Both institutions will provide early generation seeds (EGS), review of extension materials, and support in conducting ToTs to GoE specialists, DAs, and *Ifaa* field staff to promote the identified CSA practices and technologies.
- **Refine and Prioritization Workshops for Continuing Woredas:** *Ifaa's* staff and GoE specialists from the four continuing woredas gathered for a five-day participatory workshop (May 9-13) to review and refine the selection of CSA practices and technologies, labor market and off farm opportunities, and crop/livestock value chains to be promoted during *Ifaa*. A total of 45 (4F) zonal and woreda government specialists and *Ifaa* technical staff from CRS, GOAL and HCS participated in the process. The continuing woredas prioritized off farm opportunities, as well as crop and livestock value chains are included in the Annex (pg. 10) of this report in Table 1 and 2.

Gender, Youth, and Social Dynamics (GYSD)

- **Establishment of Community Conversation Groups (CCGs) and School Gender Clubs:** During the report period, *Ifaa* established 32 additional CCGs (22 adult and 10 CCGs) with 1,280 members (640F). In total, 47 CCGs are established (13 youth CCGs) reaching 47% of the annual target. The remaining target will be achieved in Q4. HCS also established 43 Gender Clubs in new *Ifaa* woredas with a total membership of 2,150 students (1,075F). In total, 55 school Gender Clubs have been established, meeting 110% of the annual target. HCS and CCL staff also provided mentoring to 22 existing Gender Clubs in continuing woredas to ensure effective use of the girls and boys club toolkit and to support 68 mentors/teachers (23F/45M) in preparing SMART action plans for the upcoming school year.
- **Establish/Strengthen local GBV Prevention and Response Platforms and Referral Systems:** HCS has continued strengthening local GBV prevention and response platforms in Deder, Melka Belo, and Midega Tola, while the establishment of referral systems started in Jarso and Fedis. The team also visited 45 GBV committees in continuing woredas and restructured the committees' membership if there were high numbers of committees' dropouts.
- **Qualitative Assessment on Existing Audio Toolkit Group (ATK) and School Gender Clubs:** CCL conducted FGDs and KIIs in Babile and Deder from April 11-15 to gain insight on the performance of existing school Gender Clubs and ATKs to inform the design of similar *Ifaa* initiatives and to improve the effectiveness and sustainability through best practices. Following these findings, CCL has worked closely with the MEAL team in developing tracking forms and a quality improvement checklist. In addition, building on the qualitative assessment findings, CCL designed and delivered a follow-up and mentoring session from June 21 -24 in four woredas (Melka Belo, Deder, Midega Tola and Babile).
- **Community Engagement:** *Ifaa* established 36 Community Technical Coordination Forums (CTCFs) (80% of the annual target) with 378 members (136F) in 36 kebeles in continuing and new woredas. The CTCF is a new *Ifaa* structure aiming to strengthen community participation in planning and implementation of development interventions for effective service delivery.
- **Adaptation of Families with Dignity Curriculum:** Families with Dignity is an innovation *Ifaa* is adopting to challenge social and gender stereotypes and harmful norms for transformational change within the family. The curriculum emphasizes just relationships, respectful dialogue between spouses and with children, and joint decision-making for the wellbeing of the family. As part of the Families with Dignity adaptation process, *Ifaa* conducted initial virtual sessions on the approach in May and June, followed by an in-person five-day ToT training for the Families with Dignity curriculum to 24 key *Ifaa* staff (7F) and 1 (1F) GoE staff who will be responsible to cascade the training to frontline staff and support the adaptation process. In August, *Ifaa* will pilot the approach in selected kebeles in continuing woredas before rolling out full implementation in November following the 14-week rollout of the pilot.

iii. Implementation Quality

In addition to work already described in the above narrative, including the Sustainability/Exit Strategy and Integration Plan, *Ifaa* continued to take advantage of the R&I period to focus on the development of process and systems to ensure quality implementation. To improve program quality of *Ifaa* interventions, the Quality Improvement (QI) team, in collaboration with PSNP Systems Sector, developed a QI checklist for commodity distribution. *Ifaa* trained 23 enumerators (5F/18M) on the commodity QI checklist approach and tools. Data was collected from 361 households and 19 FDPs using the lot quality assurance sampling (LQAS) approach. Data analysis is underway, and the report will inform intervention quality improvement initiatives for the next six months. In addition, *Ifaa* conducted post distribution monitoring to assess the overall food and cash distribution process and satisfaction of PSNP clients. The survey employed qualitative data collection methods using FGD and KIIs, where kebeles from 12 sampled FDPs were purposely selected. Report writing is underway and the results will inform future distribution.

Ifaa has also developed a community structures mapping and capacity assessment tool to assess functionality and effectiveness of community structures. This approach aims to improve implementation quality by

providing the required capacity building support based on CRS Organizational Capacity Assessment Instrument with six components including leadership and governance, operational planning and monitoring activities, physical and financial resource management, networking, and external relationships, learning and adaptation, gender, youth and PWD integration, ownership, and sustainability planning. Data collection will start in Q4.

iv. Challenges

Ifaa encountered the following challenges in Q3:

- *Drought*: The drought has also continued to affect crops and livestock in lowland woredas. Due to the exacerbated drought, many students have dropped out of school, women and girls continue to travel long distances for water, youth are migrating from their kebeles, and some harmful practices including underage marriage and child labor are being practiced.
- *Delay of agricultural inputs and high price increment*: As mentioned in the Activity Summary, the shortage and price increase of fertilizers has continued to be a major challenge for farmers. This issue will have further implications with expected low production and productivity in the upcoming year.
- *Delay in SEI construction (in two woredas)*: The repeated bidding process in support of several SEIs caused delays in Chinaksen. Some contractors struggled to provide advance guarantee bonds. In Jarso, HCS has invested considerable time engaging the woreda around the design of an aqueduct/flume. Issues with contractors in Chinaksen have been resolved and HCS is optimistic that with support from the East Hararghe Zone the design issue in Jarso will be resolved. *Ifaa* expects all SEIs in both woredas to be completed by September.
- *GoE approval for SweetSense borehole monitoring sensors/satellites*: Due to the current security situation in Ethiopia, the GoE was reluctant to allow the utilization of remote sensing technologies that use satellite networks. After a lengthy process and dialogue with the Information Network Security Agency (INSA), the GoE provided clearance to import the sensors. The WASH team is now working with the Ethiopian Communication Authority for approval to use Swarm Satellites for the 16 identified boreholes to be part of the pilot.

v. Market Analysis

In Q3, the JEOP early warning system (EWS) data showed that the average price of staple crops/grain increased in *Ifaa* operational woredas from \$69.29 per quintal in April to \$72.62 in June. The price of grains in April decreased from March (\$71.29) mainly due to the fasting period of Muslim communities. In May and June, rising prices were due to security issues hampering transportation of produce from the main sources (Wollega-West Oromia and parts of Amhara region) to *Ifaa* woredas, and the failure of *Belg* season production due to lack of rainfall. On the other hand, the average price of sheep and goats showed a constant trend for the months of April and May while it increased in June in *Ifaa* woredas. On average, the price was \$43.24, \$42.59, and \$47.37 in the months of April, May, and June, respectively. The price of sheep and goats was low in April and May due to poor body condition of the animals which resulted from the shortage of feed stock and unavailability of water due to the long dry spell. The area received rainfall (although erratic and in varying amounts) and supported pasture growth that improved the body condition of the sheep and goats, which resulted in increased prices in June. Wedding ceremonies in Muslim communities have also contributed to the increased price.

vi. Planned Interventions

In Q4, CRS and partners will conduct BHA-approved formative research assessments and analysis, facilitate Q4 TWG meetings, and continue to establish and strengthen key structures in continuing woredas. In line with the AWP, highlights of key planned implementation activities include the following:

- **MEAL/CLA**: The MEAL team will roll out the MEAL system, document management systems, and *Ifaa's* intervention landing dashboard at CRS and partner-level. The MEAL team will conduct data quality assessment, a training on data collection forms and use of visuals, collect MIRA baseline and monthly

data and produce analysis, and complete refinement period studies to prepare for the culmination workshop. M&E plan comments will also be completed and submitted to BHA for review.

- **PSNP Systems:** *Ifaa* will conduct a training on Community Scorecards for facilitators in new *Ifaa* woredas and for additional facilitators in continuing woredas. The facilitators will utilize the tool to roll-out the community scorecard process in FY23. A ToT on the PSNP5 PIM for HCS HQ and woreda *Ifaa* staff will be organized, as well as a cascade of this training to woreda GoE institutions. The *Ifaa* team also plans to familiarize *Ifaa* woreda and GoE staff on the National Policy & Strategy for Disaster Risk Management. Ongoing food distribution and SEI construction will be supported and finalized.
- **Envt/NRM:** *Ifaa* will support the implementation of seedling plantation and continue working on the IWM planning for selected watersheds. Trainings will be organized for PW foremen/forewomen on technical specification on soil and water conservation. A CRS global Senior Technical Advisor will review the effects of PW on social cohesion and conflict mitigation. CRS will complete environmental documentation such as IEE/EMMP/CRM, and SUAP will be developed and submitted to BHA. CRS is working in collaboration with RFSA awardees (World Vision and Food for the Hungry) in amending the road and small-scale irrigation programmatic environmental assessment (PEAs). The three awardees have identified a consultant and started the process of agreement to finalize the PEAs by Q1 of FY23.
- **WASH:** Prioritized activities in Q4 include the Sweet Sense training and installation, emergency response rehabilitation of nonfunctional water schemes, familiarization workshop with GoE, and WASHCo training. *Ifaa* will also conduct water quality testing, finalize the Water Quality Assurance Plan, and identify private sector WASH business partners at kebele and woreda level.
- **H&N:** The H&N team will finalize the adaptations and translations of CGM materials, conduct CGM cascading training to HEWs and remaining health workers and frontline volunteers. The CGM will be piloted in selected kebeles of Deder and Babile in Q4 and then the learnings will be scaled up in a staggered roll-out starting in Q1 FY23. The piloting of VIAMO's Infoline with H&N messaging will also be finalized, CMAM training conducted in remaining new woredas, and R&I research on dietary diversity prioritized. Adolescent Nutrition Clubs will also be established in additional woredas and existing groups will be organized H&N events in selected schools in July.
- **AgEL:** In Q4, *Ifaa* will finalize the household profiling and targeting for the livelihoods transfer and credit track using the wealth ranking PRA tools. The team will also finalize the internal CSA assessment and validation in new woredas, conduct a CSA ToT training for LEWs and DAs, and cascade the CSA practices through Lead Farmer/Lead Herds (LF/LH) to Follower Farmers, as well as conducting demonstrations on LF/LH plots and FTC/PTCs. ToT trainings on the selected crop and livestock value chains will also be held for GoE and project staff.
- **GYSD:** In Q4, the GYSD team will continue to establish and strengthen respective community structures and referral taskforces, conduct training in CC and TFH/IFH curriculum, pilot Families with Dignity curriculum, and start community visioning exercises in selected kebeles. The team will build off work done in Q3 around woreda level discussions on understanding existing volunteer initiatives and ensuring *Ifaa* alignment with local woreda plans in establishing Youth Peace Ambassador groups in selected woredas, as well as celebrate International Youth Day. The team will also undertake preliminary research for Audio Toolkit (ATK) and school Gender Clubs in the new woredas. Key SBC priorities include the selection of local SBC Content Advisory Groups and conducting Human Centered Design training for *Ifaa* project field staff, partners and GoE woreda experts.

Annexes

- **Loss Reporting:** In Q3, a total of 200 kgs (4 bags) of wheat loss was reported at the following FDPs: Fechatu (1 bag), Fungnbira (2 bags), and Midega (1 bag), as well as 11.02kg of vegetable oil loss was reported at Jaja FDP. CRS replaced the commodities to ensure continuation of distribution. CRS Ethiopia's Supply Chain Management department (logistics section) will report this loss through the quarterly Food Assistance Report submitted for Q3.

Woreda	FDP	Waybill/CR F/CDF #	Opp #	Types of loss	Food Type			Loss value (USD)
					Wheat (kg)	YSP (kg)	V.Oil (kg)	
Fedis	Fechatu	22988/22988	BRGE-4-002390-22	Transport loss	50	-	-	\$30.85
Gursum	Fungnbira	22076/121654	BRGE-4-009597-21		50	-	-	\$22.89
Gursum	Fungnbira	22069/121651	BRGE-4-009597-21	Transport loss	50	-	-	\$22.89
Midega Tola	Midega	22406/107169	BRGE-4-009597-21	Transport loss	50	-	-	\$22.89
Melka Belo	Jaja	22473/111832	FRTR-4-003410-21	Transport loss			11.02	\$31.80
Total					200 kg	-	11.02 kg	\$131.30

- **Commodity Quality and Safety:** No commodities arrived in Q3; the Phytosanitary Certificate were provided in the Q2 report.
- **Humanitarian Stories:** Not applicable this quarter.
- **Prioritized Off Farm Opportunities (Table 1) / Prioritized Crop/Livestock Value Chains (Table 2)**

Table 1: Prioritized Off Farm Opportunities

No	Deder	Melka Belo	Babile	Midega Tola
1st	Local/cultural hand craft	Bakery	Maintenance and repair of electronics (mobile phones)	Red chili pepper processing (agro processing)
2nd	Tailoring	Cultural hand craft	Retail shop	Construction
3rd	Motorbike and Bajaj washing	Weaving	Photography	Retail shop (watermelon)
4th	Tire maintenance	Beauty salon (barbery)	Cultural dress	Food catering
5th	Motor Bicycle maintenance	Motorbike maintenance	Mobile Phone Airtime distribution	Sisal rope

Table 2: Prioritized Crop and Livestock Value Chains

No	Woreda	Prioritized Crop and Livestock Value Chains (Ranking)			
		Crop: 1 st	Livestock: 1 st	Crop: 2 nd	Livestock: 2 nd
1	Babile	Groundnut VC	Goat VC	Onion VC	Chicken value chain
2	Deder	Potato VC	Chicken VC	Haricot bean VC	Goat value chain
3	Melka Belo	Potato VC	Chicken VC	Onion VC	Goat value chain
4	Midega Tola	Groundnut VC	Goat VC	Haricot Bean	Chicken Value Chain