

**Program for Emergency Seed Support (PESS)
Federal Award Number - 720FDA20GR00095
Performance Baseline Data Report
September 29, 2020**

1. Prevailing Conditions

The project areas are currently classified as Crisis (IPC Phase 3) but with indications that from October 2020 to January 2021, the food security situation will improve and the area will be classified as stressed (IPC Phase 2)¹. The project area is persistently food insecure due to factors such as environmental degradation, soil fertility problems and other socio-economic factors. The COVID-19 positive cases continue to increase, and this poses a serious challenge for the communities to attain food security. According to FEWSNET August 2020 report, the travel restrictions due to COVID-19 and declining economic activities have lowered migratory and local labor activities which consequently has decreased the cash income of poor households (HHs).² Moreover, the movement of cross border agricultural laborers, who generally move to eastern Sudan, have been limited due to border closures. The same report forecasts that the border closures will continue from October to November 2020.³ This will result in a significant decline in income for poor HHs that rely on labor migration for their livelihoods. In-country restrictions have also disrupted domestic labor migration. All of these limitations have caused serious impact on the food security of the poor HHs. As of September 20, a total of 4,696 COVID-19 tests were conducted in all woredas of the zone. 161 people tested positive for the virus and, of that, 140 people have since recovered. The pandemic has limited the mobility of local people for labor selling and commodity trading. In addition to this, it has restricted social interactions among community members.

2. Methods and Data Sources

A mixture of methods (both quantitative and qualitative) were employed to collect adequate, quality data.

HH Survey: A HH survey was conducted in the eight targeted woredas. From the total of 28,743 direct beneficiary HHs, 400 randomly selected HHs (323 male headed and 77 female headed HHs) were interviewed using Open Data Kit tools. Fifty beneficiaries from each woreda were interviewed. The enumerators for this survey included university graduates, government and project staff who currently reside in the operational areas of the project. To triangulate and enrich the findings of the HH survey, a Participatory Learning and Action approach was undertaken to collect qualitative information through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and Key Informants interviews (KIIs).

Focus Group Discussion: One male and one female FGD were undertaken in each of the eight woredas through selecting one representative kebele from each. Semi-structured discussion checklists were used. Each focus group consisted of six to eight participants. While conducting the FGDs the facilitators used the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) including facemasks and hand sanitizer. The facilitators and the discussants also remained physically distanced from one another to safeguard each other during the discussion. A total of 16 FGDs (2 in each woreda) were conducted in eight purposely selected kebeles and a total of 121 discussants (60 men and 61

¹ Ethiopia Food Security Outlook August 2020 to January 2021, FEWS NET August 2020

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

women) participated from eight woredas. The FGDs with knowledgeable people were conducted with respective woreda and randomly selected kebele food security task force members. In total 35 (24 male and 11 female) people participated in the discussions.

Key Informants Interviews: One on one key informant interviews were also carried out with respective woredas crop production experts. The total number of key informants interviewed was seven (all men).

Secondary Document Review: Relevant food security and agricultural production government documents, such as food security assessment reports of the 2019/20 Meher production seasons and crop production periodic progress reports, were reviewed from each woreda and zone.

3. Location and Timing

Both the HH survey and the qualitative assessments were conducted in all eight targeted PESS woredas in Waghimira Zone, Amhara Region. The woredas include Sekota Zuriya, Tsagbiji, Gazgibila, Abergele, Ziquala, Sehala, Sekota Zuria, and Dahana. The HH survey and the qualitative assessments were conducted from September 2-8, 2020. Orientation on the questionnaires and survey tools was given to survey coordinators and supervisors by phone. The survey coordinators in turn cascaded the training and the orientations to the respective supervisors and enumerators. Throughout the survey period the FH Addis survey team remotely provided the necessary technical backstopping and supervision.

4. Limitations

Some of the operational kebeles were not accessible due to the high rainfall and associated heavy floods that destroyed the dirt roads and bridges that connect kebeles and even some woredas (for instance, the bridge that connects Sahila woreda with Ziquala woreda was broken during this period). On top of this, some of the kebeles of Abergele woreda, which could normally be reached through the Tigray Region, were not accessible during the survey period due to travel restrictions by the Tigray Regional government amid the prevailing controversial election.

The other limitation was the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions on the movement of people, including FH staff, from place to place. FHE's Senior Leadership Team banned the movements of FHE Addis staff because of COVID-19 positive cases in Addis. The spread of the pandemic in the operational zone has also restricted gatherings of large numbers of community members.

Due to these constraints, the survey covered 23 accessible kebeles out of the 83 kebeles targeted by seeds in the eight target woredas.

5. Findings

Agriculture and Food Security

	Indicator	Baseline	Source of Information	Target
Sub-sector: Seed System Security				
Ind 1	Number of months of HH food self-sufficiency as a result of seed system security programming	5	HH survey	7
Ind 2	Number of people directly benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities (measured in terms of sex and age)	0	Project records (Master Beneficiary List)	Male: 74,211 and Female: 69,858
Ind 3	Percentage of HHs with access to sufficient seed to plant	0%	HH survey	100%
Ind 4	Increased production of major agricultural crops from seeds distributed to target HHs by 37% from the baseline as a result of the project	150,440 QT	Post-harvest assessment result of Wag Himera Zone for 2019 cropping season	206,108.82 QT

6. Analysis

6.1 Changes to Target

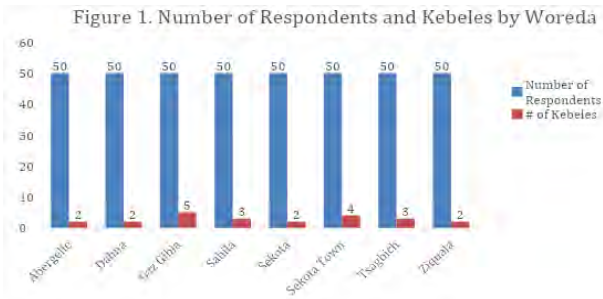
Based on the baseline data gathered for PESS, FH is proposing changes to three of its four indicators. For the first indicator “Number of months of HH food self-sufficiency as a result of seed system security programming,” FH is proposing to change the number of months from twelve to seven. FH anticipates that PESS will increase production of major agricultural crops from seeds distributed to targeted HHs by 37%. This will increase the baseline from 15,044MT to 20,610.882MT. Thus, the 37% production increase will increase the number of months with food self-sufficiency from five to seven, not twelve. For the second indicator “Number of people directly benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities,” FH is changing the cumulative target from 71,926 to 74,211 for males and from 73,087 to 69,858 for females. This adjustment in numbers is based off of the Master Beneficiary List and aligns the target with project implementation. Finally, for Indicator 3 “Percentage of HHs with access to sufficient seed to plant,” FH is proposing to change the number from 50% to 100%. PESS initially planned to cover 0.5 ha of individual HH’s arable land with adequate, quality seed. Though the average land holding

size for farmers is 0.75 ha, consensus was achieved with the local government to grant seed for the 0.5 ha of land. This is considered adequate in the emergency context thus increasing the target to 100%.

6.2 General Profile

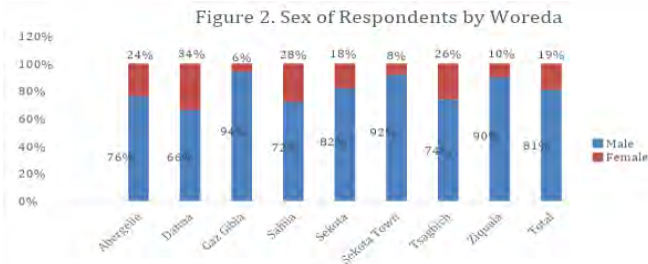
Total Number of HHs and Kebeles Covered by the Baseline HH Survey

As clearly depicted in the below graph, a total of 400 randomly selected HH heads, 50 from each woreda, were interviewed in this survey.



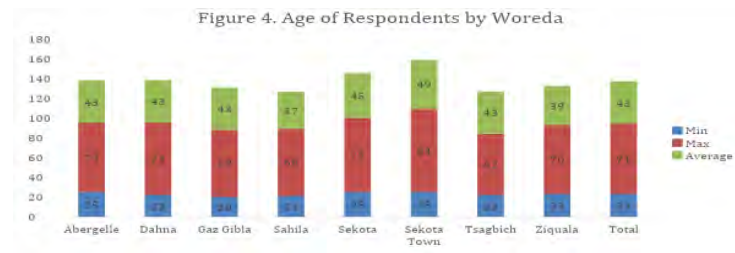
Sex of Respondents by Woreda

As shown in the graph below, among the 400 randomly selected HHs, 81% of the respondents were male and 19% of them were female HH heads. The largest proportion (34%) of female respondents were interviewed in Dahana, whereas, the smallest proportion of female respondents (6%) were interviewed in Gaz Gibla woreda.



Age of Respondents by Woreda

The age of respondents ranged from 20 (Gaz Gibla) to 84 (Sekota town). The average age of respondents was 43.



Most Vulnerable Respondent HHs in the Target Woredas

As is clearly shown in Table 1 below, 54% of the respondents constitute the most vulnerable community members, namely female headed HHs (19%), people with disabilities (10%), elderly people (22%), and critically ill community members (9%).

Table 1. Total number of respondents who are most vulnerable by woreda

S/N	Name of Woredas	People with disabilities		Female Headed HH		Elderly		Critically ill		Others		Total # of most vulnerable respondents		Remark
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
1	Abergelle	2	8%	12	50%	10	42%	0	0%	0	0%	24	46%	1 person with double vulnerabilities
2	Dehana	7	18%	17	45%	17	45%	9	24%	1	3%	38	76%	13 persons with multiple vulnerabilities
3	Gaz Gibla	5	22%	3	13%	7	30%	7	30%	5	22%	23	46%	4 persons with multiple vulnerabilities
4	Sahila	8	21%	14	36%	7	18%	5	13%	14	36%	39	78%	9 persons with multiple vulnerabilities
5	Sekota	6	25%	9	38%	16	67%	7	29%	0	0%	24	48%	14 persons with multiple vulnerabilities
6	Sekota Town	5	19%	4	15%	18	69%	0	0%	0	0%	26	52%	1 person with double vulnerabilities
7	Tsagbiji	4	17%	13	57%	5	22%	8	35%	0	0%	23	46%	7 persons with multiple vulnerabilities
8	Ziquala	2	11%	4	21%	6	32%	0	0%	10	53%	19	38%	3 persons with multiple vulnerabilities
All Woredas Average		39	10%	76	19%	86	22%	36	9%	30	8%	215	54%	52 (13%)

Note: To avoid double counting 52 cases with multiple vulnerabilities are deducted from the above calculation

Average family size of respondents by sex in the survey woredas

As depicted in Table 2 below, the family size of respondents range from 1 to 11, the average being 6. With regard to composition of sex, 50% were male and 50% were female.

Table 2. Average family size of respondents by sex in survey woredas

S/N	Name of Woredas	Family Size						
		Min	Max	Average	Male		Female	
1	Abergelle	1	10	6.4	3.2	50.5%	3.2	49.5%
2	Dehana	1	9	4.9	2.1	43.3%	2.8	56.7%
3	Gaz Gibla	1	9	5.3	2.9	54.1%	2.4	45.9%
4	Sahila	2	10	6.1	3.2	53.1%	2.9	46.9%
5	Sekota	2	10	6.3	3.2	50.3%	3.1	49.7%
6	Sekota Town	2	10	6.6	3.3	50.6%	3.2	49.4%
7	Tsagbiji	2	10	6.0	3.0	50.0%	3.0	50.0%
8	Ziquala	2	11	6.1	2.9	47.5%	3.2	52.5%
All Woredas Average		1.6	9.9	6.0	3.0	50.0%	3.0	50.0%

6.3 Major Findings

Amount of Teff seed sown in 2019 cropping seasons in the project areas

The survey result shows that on average, individual farmers have sown 15.1 kg of Teff seed in the previous season. This accounts for 51% of their annual Teff seed requirement.

Table 3. Amount of Teff seed sown in the previous cropping season by Woreda

S/N	Name of Woredas	Average amount of Teff seed sown last year (KG/HH)	Average amount of Teff seed requirement (KG/HH)	% from total required
1	Abergelle	22.1	29.9	74%
2	Dehana	12.2	31.9	38%
3	Gaz Gibla	9.6	15.1	64%
4	Sahila	24.0	50.3	48%
5	Sekota	9.9	24.1	41%
6	Sekota Town	14.1	28.4	50%
7	Tsagbiji	10.6	21.8	49%
8	Ziquala	18.3	33.2	55%
All Woredas Average		15.1	29.3	51%

Amount of Wheat seed sown in the previous cropping seasons in the project areas

The survey result shows that Wheat was not sown by all respondents in Sahila and most of the respondents in Abergele. On average individual farmers have sown 56.6 kg of Wheat seed in the previous season. This accounts to 60% of their annual Wheat seed requirement.

Table 4. Amount of Wheat seed sown in the previous cropping season by Woreda

S/N	Name of Woredas	Average amount of Wheat seed sown last year (KG/HH)	Average amount of Wheat seed requirement (KG/HH)	% from total required
1	Dehana	45.1	86.3	52%
2	Gaz Gibla	46.0	82.9	55%
3	Sekota	76.8	117.2	66%
4	Sekota Town	58.1	88.2	66%
5	Tsagbiji	62.2	109.7	57%
6	Ziquala	51.5	86.5	59%
All Woredas Average		56.6	95.1	60%

Amount of Teff and Wheat seed sown in the previous cropping seasons in the project areas

The survey result shows that on average individual farmers have sown 69.1 kg of Teff and Wheat seeds in the previous season. This accounts to 57% of their annual Teff and Wheat seed requirements.

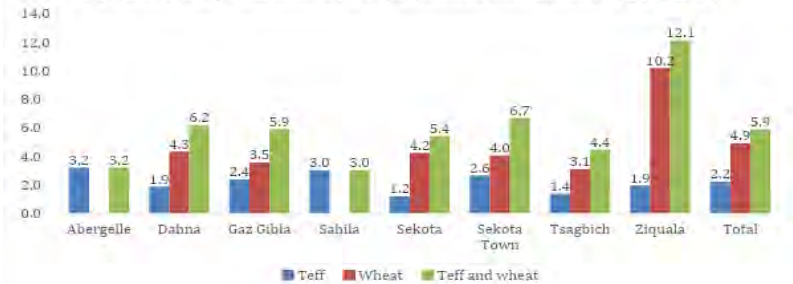
Table 5. Amount of Teff and Wheat seed sown in the previous cropping season by Woreda

S/N	Name of Woredas	Average amount of Teff and Wheat seed sown last year (KG/HH)	Average amount of Teff and Wheat seed requirement (KG/HH)	% from total required
1	Dehana	57.3	118.2	49%
2	Gaz Gibla	55.6	98.0	57%
3	Sekota	86.7	141.3	61%
4	Sekota Town	72.2	116.6	62%
5	Tsagbiji	72.8	131.5	55%
6	Ziquala	69.7	119.7	58%
All Woredas Average		69.1	120.9	57%

Yield of crops produced in 2019 production season in the project areas

The survey result reveals that on average farmers have harvested 2.2 quintals of Teff and 4.9 quintals of Wheat. The smallest amounts of Teff yield were obtained in Sekota and Tsagbiji woredas that amounts to only 1.2 and 1.4 qt/HH respectively. On the other hand, the largest yield of Teff were obtained in Abergele and Sahila woredas that amounts to 3.2 and 3 qt/HH respectively. It is also found that Wheat is not the major crop grown in Abergele and Sahila woredas. Conversely, the largest yield of Wheat is produced in Sekota Zuriya and Dehana woredas with 6.7 and 6.2 qnt/HH respectively.

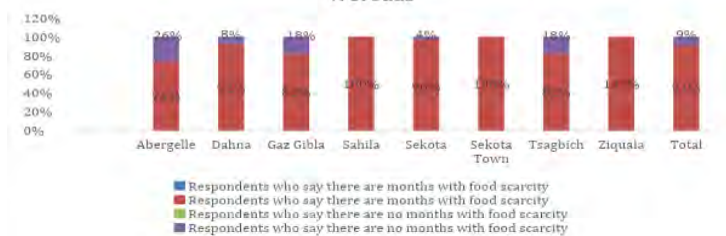
Fig 5. Average amount of crops produced last year (Qnt/HH)



Months of food and scarcity in the project areas

The survey result reveals that 91% of respondents say that they experienced seven months of food scarcity from March to September. 26% of respondents in Abergele, followed by 18% of respondents in Gaz Gibla and Tsagbiji didn't acknowledge the existence of months with food scarcity. Conversely, all respondents in Ziquala, Sahila and Sekota town indicated that there are months of food scarcity.

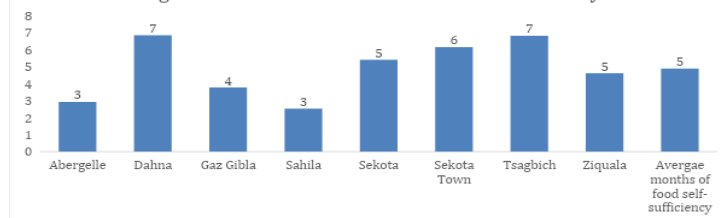
Fig 6. Months of Food Availability and Scarcity in the Project Woredas



Number of months of food self-sufficiency in the survey areas

As shown in the graph below the average number of months of food self-sufficiency in the survey area is five. It also found that respondents in Sahila and Abergele woredas said that there are only three months with food self-sufficiency, whereas, respondents in Dehana and Tsagbiji woredas indicated that the number of months with food self-sufficiency is seven.

Fig 7 Number of months with food self-sufficiency



Number of respondents who rate months of food self-sufficiency in the survey areas

As shown in the table below the five months from October through February are rated as months of food self-sufficiency by most respondents in the survey area. This period is generally characterized as the harvest time of the main rainy season. On the other hand, the period between March to September is identified by most of respondents in the survey area as the period of food scarcity.

Table 6. Number of respondents who rate months of food self-sufficiency in the survey areas

S/N	Name of Woredas	# of respondents who indicated months of food self sufficiency												
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Sum
1	Abergelle	0	2	4	6	12	20	33	33	29	7	1	0	147
2	Dehana	43	43	37	26	23	15	10	9	30	36	36	35	343
3	Gaz Gibla	4	4	4	8	11	25	35	39	35	16	5	3	189
4	Sahila	24	12	5	4	1	1	0	1	10	22	27	20	127
5	Sekota	37	36	29	20	13	10	7	3	20	31	33	32	271
6	Sekota Town	37	31	25	18	13	11	6	5	17	46	50	49	308
7	Tsagbiji	39	39	39	39	35	26	13	4	5	26	38	39	342
8	Ziquala	27	20	20	18	17	12	6	3	21	27	30	30	231
# of respondents who identified months of FSS		211	187	163	139	125	120	110	97	167	211	220	208	1958
% of respondents who identified months of FSS		11%	10%	8%	7%	6%	6%	6%	5%	9%	11%	11%	11%	

Table 7. Anticipated Yield and Months of FSS in 2020 Cropping Season

S/N	Name of Woredas	Teff	Wheat	Teff and Wheat	Anticipated months of FSS
1	Abergelle	17061.4	0.0	17061.4	October, November, December, January, February, March, April
2	Dahna	17,061.4	23,331.1	40,392.5	
3	Gaz Gibla	12,770.3	12,753.7	25,524.0	
4	Sahila	22,393.5	0.0	22,393.5	
5	Sekota	25,176.3	12,267.6	37,443.9	
6	Sekota Town	51,32.2	2,533.0	7,665.2	
7	Tsagbich	15,238.4	18,275.4	33,513.8	
8	Ziquala	22,114.6	0.0	22,114.6	
	Total	13,6948.0	69,160.9	20,6108.8	