

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia



Ministry of Finance



Ethiopia Human Capital Operation (HCO) (P172284)

**Social Assessment/Underserved Local Communities Planning Framework
(Final)**

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATION

CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CIARP	Ethiopia Conflict Impact Assessment and Recovery and Rehabilitation Planning
CoC	Code of Conduct
CBOs	Civil Society Organization
CSA	Central Statistics Agency
ECE	Early Childhood Education
EDHS	Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey
EDNA	Ethiopia Damage and Needs Assessment
ESS	Environmental and Social Standard
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
HCO	Human Capital Operation
HCPCUs	Human Capital Project Coordinating Units in the Federal Sector Organizations
IPF	Investment Project Financing
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
PWDs	People with Disabilities
SA	Sexual Harassment
SA/ULCPF	Social Assessment/Underserved Local Community Planning Framework
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SIAs	Sector Implementing Agencies
SPG	Specific Purpose Grant
SRA	Security Risk Assessment
TA	Technical Assistance
TSA	Targeted Social Assessment
UCs	Underserved Communities
ULCP	Underserved Local Community Pla
ULCPF	Underserved Local Communities Planning Framework
VGs	Vulnerable Groups
WB	World Bank
WOFED	Woreda Finance and Economic Development

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1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

The Ethiopian economy is increasingly reliant on human capital. Cognizant of this fact, the government's Pathway to Prosperity (10-Year Perspective Development Plan 2021-2030) emphasizes building human capital through equitable, quality education and health services. However, the multisectoral and concurrent crises facing the country have severely impacted Ethiopian human capital development. The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and civil conflicts in different regions disrupted education and health services and risk eroding the investments made in children's well-being. Even before the crises, Ethiopian and refugee children suffered from poor nutrition and low learning outcomes. Ethiopia's human capital is also threatened by high inflation rates and the impacts of climate change (repeated locusts, drought, flooding, and food insecurity). The new inflow of refugees due to geopolitical instability such as the civil war in Sudan further threatens the development of human capital in host communities. Thus, the Human Capital Operation (HCO) is a response to help Ethiopia address the impact of multiple shocks on human development by focusing on improving nutrition and learning outcomes for children while building climate resilient service delivery systems.

Originally, the HCO targeted 29 SPG woredas in eight regions (Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, Sidama, Southern Nation Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR), and Somali). However, the program has been restructured recently. The proposed restructuring was for two major aims. The first aim is to adjust the regional allocation of the Specific Purpose Grant (SPG) targeted woredas to account for recent changes in the overall country context, the establishment of newly formed regions, the inclusion of previously excluded regions, and to ensure a more equitable allocation of targeted SPG woredas. Hence, the SPG woredas are re-targeted from 29 to 42 selected from all regions except Addis Ababa. The second aim is to widen the program areas. Besides the 42 SPG woredas targeted earlier, the HCO included 23 conflict, drought, and high levels of refugees-affected woredas.

The HCO is designed as a hybrid Program-for-Result (PforR) and Investment Project Financing (IPF) operation. The IPF component will finance a package of interventions to improve human capital outcomes in the SPG woredas and woredas affected by conflict, droughts, and high levels of refugees. The preparation of the Underserved Local Community Planning Framework (SA/ULCPF) covered only the IPF component of the program.

1.2 Scope of the ULCPF

As per the criteria set out in ESS7, the requirement for the ULCPF applies to the underserved woredas in the HCO. The underserved woredas compose both the SPG woredas and conflict, drought, and high-level refugee affected woredas. Out of the 42 SPG woredas targeted in the HCO, 21 are the underserved woredas. Similarly, underserved woredas include 10 out of those 23 conflicts, drought, and high-level refugee affected target woredas for the HCO. For details, the list in Table 1 identifies the target underserved woredas by region and zone.

1.3 Objectives of the ULCPF

The ULCPF is prepared to meet the requirements of ESS7. The objectives of the ULCPF are:

- To ensure that the development process from the proposed subcomponent s foster full respect for the identity, social, culture, and livelihoods of the project-affected UCs.
- To ensure meaningful consultation with the UCs and vulnerable groups within the UCs to express their views and needs on the social risks, adverse impacts, and mitigation measures for consideration in the design and implementation of the subcomponent s to be implemented in the UCs.
- To avoid the disproportionate social risks and adverse impacts of the project on UCs due to unequal access of basic services supporting the implementation of the proposed

subcomponent activities, or when avoidance is not possible, to minimize, mitigate, and/or compensate for such impacts.

- To ensure that the vulnerable groups within the UCs are meaningfully consulted, have equal opportunity of access to the project services, and that any disproportionate social risks and impacts are mitigated.
- To promote sustainable project development benefits and opportunities for the UCs in a manner that is accessible, culturally appropriate, and inclusive.

1.4 Project Description

The objective of the operation (PDO) is to improve learning outcomes and nutrition services for girls and boys, and to strengthen service delivery and accountability, in all regions including areas affected by conflict, droughts, and high levels of refugees.

1.4.1 Project activities to be implemented in the UCs

As stated before, the preparation of the SA/ULCPF covered only the IPF component of the program. Potential lists of HCO related activities to be implemented in the Underserved Communities (UCs) include the following IPF sub-component activities. *Sub-component 2.1.1* support resilience and rebuilding of service delivery systems in areas affected by conflicts, drought, and high levels of refugees. Potential list of HCO related activities to be financed under this sub-component include: (a) provision of training for service delivery personnel (directors, supervisors, coordinators and frontline staff; health office staff, agricultural office staff, water desk staff, social workers) on service delivery skills; (b) provision of nutrition sensitive agricultural inputs (such as vegetable seeds, fruit seedlings, Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potato, cuttings, pulse, chicken, dairy goat to most needy and vulnerable) households in selected conflict affected, drought affected and high influx of refugees woredas; (c) finance the rehabilitation/reconstruction of basic social services (schools, health facilities, agricultural extension services, water and WASH infrastructure) in the selected woredas where those basic services damaged due to conflict; and (d) support capacity building in transparency (governance, procurement, financial management, safeguards) and citizen engagement to improve the quality of services and, in turn, education and nutrition outcomes for all children including refugees.

Sub-component 2.1.2 support the education system in high-risk woredas affected the most by the conflict, droughts, and high levels of refugees to recover learning losses. Potential list of HCO related activities to be financed under this sub-component include: (a) provision of Basic Alternative Education (BAE) with a clear path back to regular education; (b) scale-up community-based Early Childhood Education (ECE) approaches; (c) expand quality ECE and basic learning packages, which includes materials related to causes and impact of climate change, and how to mitigate its effects and adapt to those changes in daily life; (d) improve in-service teacher training based on local needs, including training on climate shock preparedness and response; (e) support classroom teaching through provision of scripted lessons and training, which includes content on climate change; (f) support classroom extension in existing school premises (no new construction or land acquisition); (g) provide financial incentives to support transition of girls to secondary schools, and their retention in lower levels; and (h) strengthen school health/nutrition (targeting adolescent girls).

Sub-component 2.1.3 support nutrition interventions in high-risk woredas affected the most by the conflict, droughts, and high levels of refugees. Potential list of HCO activities to be financed include: (a) support promotion of diversified healthy diet consumption through national and regional medias (broadcasts) with different languages; (b) pilot the remote/Phone-based parenting programs like Reach Up and Learn (RUL); and (c) establish Maternal support groups for mothers affected by the conflict to improve mental health and socio-emotional well-being of caregivers.

Sub-component 2.2.1 support to improve learning outcomes in SPG woredas. Potential list of HCO activities to be financed include: (a) developing audiovisual learning programs for young children (preschool to grade 3), and their parents and teachers, with a focus on language learning and cognitive, physical, social and emotional development; (b) establishing virtual science laboratories for secondary schools through digital platforms; (c) establish nutrition-demonstration hub including food preparations for diversified healthy diet, preservation and food hygiene practices; and (d) creating e-learning platforms for teachers' professional development.

Sub-component 2.2.2 will support activities addressing stunting in the SPG woredas. Potential list of HCO activities to be financed include: (a) developing/adapting gender-sensitive harmonized behavior change strategies to increase demand for services and promote optimal health and nutrition practices; (b) testing innovative tools to strengthen multisectoral referral systems and improvements in the overall quality of health and nutrition services; (c) improve women's access to agricultural inputs, credit and financial services; (d) promote access to labor and time-saving technologies for women; and (e) promote Implementation of integrated early childhood stimulation in the nutrition interventions.

1.4.2 Project beneficiaries

The project beneficiaries include different target groups. First, women, girls, children, students, and refugees in the SPG woredas as well as in areas affected by conflicts, drought, and high levels of refugees. The menu of interventions will vary according to the age groups and target areas of the activities, and some beneficiaries may receive benefits from one or more interventions. Efforts will be made to exclude double counting in estimating the total number of beneficiaries. For example, children aged 3 to 6 years could benefit from the interventions addressing stunting as well as interventions improving learning outcomes. Second, the staff of the respective project implementing agencies will be the beneficiaries, particularly from the project capacity building programs. The project beneficiaries range from the sector federal Human Capital Project Coordinating Units (HCPCUs) to the frontline staff at the target areas. Third, the project implementing agencies, particularly the service delivery centers/sites such as health centers, health posts, and schools will benefit from the provision of basic materials, equipment, and other logistics.

1.4.3 Project implementation areas with the UCs

The IPF component implementation includes the areas affected by conflict, droughts, and high levels of refugees. Accordingly, in the first round, 42 Specific Purpose Grant (SPG) woredas were selected from all regions except Addis Ababa. The selection of the IPF component implementation areas in the second round included 23 woredas (10 drought affected, 10 conflict affected, and 3 refugee host community woredas) from 8 regions including Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Tigray, Somali, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, and South Ethiopia. Thus, the project implementing areas included 65 woredas in total from all regions except Addis Ababa.

As per the identification criteria in the World Bank's ESS7 paragraph 7 and the provision under Article 69 Sub-article 4 of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE), the UCs include areas that meet all the selection criteria (SPG, drought, conflict, and refugee affected woredas) for the IPF component interventions. Thus, the UCs occupy in 31 out of the total 65 woredas targeted for the IPF component interventions. Table 1 presents the list of target woredas with UCs by region and zone. Given this, of those above listed IPF sub-component activities to be implemented in the UCs, the HCO interventions will be drawn from a menu of services based on area specific priorities.

Table 1: List of Woredas Targeted for the IPF Component by Region and Zone

Region	Zone	SPG Woreda
Oromia	Borena	Yabelo
		Teltale
		Dillo
	Guji	Girja
	West Guji	Suro bargudda
Somali	Degehabour	Aware
	Shinile/Sitti	Gablalu
	Liben	Deka-Sufta
	Afder	West Emay
	Korahe	Dhobewoin
Afar	Zone 1	Elidar
	Zone 3	Argoba
	Zone 4	Yalo
	Zone 5	Dewe
Gambella		Gambella woreda
		Itang Special Woreda
Benishangul-Gumuz	Metekel	Mandura
		Bulen
South Ethiopia	South Omo	Semen Ari
Southwest Ethiopia	Bench Maji	Surma
Dire Dawa		Jeldesa cluster
Region	Zone	Conflict or drought affected woreda
Afar	Zone 2	Dalol
	Zone 4	Golina
Somali	Dallo Zone	Warder
	Afder Zone	Ayun
Oromia	Borena	Elwoye
Benishangul-Gumuz	Metekel Zone	Guba
South Ethiopia	Konso Zone	Segen
Region	Zone	Refugee host community woreda
Somali	Fafan Zone	Kebribayah
Benishangul-Gumuz	Assossa Zone	Komesha
Gambella		Itang special woreda

2. Methodology for the ULCPF

The preparation of the SA/ULCPF employed different research methods and tools that allow for the collection of diverse, adequate, and valid data generation. The methods of data collection comprise both the secondary and primary sources as highlighted below.

2.1 The Desk Reviews

The desk reviews comprised diverse secondary sources pertinent to the project and the project target areas and people. First, HCO project-related documents including PAD and Program Restructuring Document (PRD) were reviewed to provide the project descriptions (background, PDO, IPF sub-components, and program implementation areas). Second, national laws and the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) pertinent to the preparation of the SA/ULCPF were reviewed. Third, the desk reviews included the social instruments (such as ESMF, SRA, SEP, LMP), and Implementation Status and Results Reports (ISRSs) prepared for the HCO to augment the data collected based on stakeholder

consultation. Fourth, review of the assessment reports in other projects including PforRs and available government assessments pertinent to the HCO project such as Ethiopia Damage and Needs Assessment (EDNA) (reported December, 2022), Ethiopia Conflict Impact Assessment and Recovery and Rehabilitation Planning CIARP (reported July, 2022) and Assessment of the Ministry of Education for Resource Mobilization (reported June, 2023) to substantiate the assessment of the impacts of conflict, drought, and refugees in the project areas with the UCs. The reviews of these available reports provided relevant data for the assessment of the status of basic services (health, education, agriculture, and WASH) in the UCs. Finally, previous assessments and empirical studies were reviewed to generate data providing the social, cultural, and economic baseline information of the project areas with the UCs.

2.2 Key Informant Interviews

The key informant interviews (KIIs) included relevant stakeholders from the federal to community level to ensure the broader stakeholders' participation in the preparation of the SA/ULCPF. First, the views of the stakeholders at the federal level were incorporated. The preparation of the SA/ULCPF used the data from the recent KIIs conducted with relevant federal level stakeholders including the respective Sector Implementing Agencies (SIAs) during the preparation of the Security Risk Assessment (SRA) for the HCO project (reported November 2024). Second, KIIs were conducted with the respective Line Implementing Agencies in the sampled project target regions and woredas. Third, KIIs were held with the community representatives such as clan leaders, elders, and religious personalities in the sampled woredas. The modality of the KIIs in the sample areas used face-to-face as well as phone interviews. The KIIs in the sampled woredas and communities were mainly managed through face-to-face interviews. Respective Woreda Finance and Economic Development (WOFED) Office Heads were coached to undertake the KIIs. Whereas the KIIs with the stakeholders in the sample regions were conducted through phone interviews. The KIIs were aimed at generating data relevant for the assessment of social issues including the impacts of conflict, drought, and influx of refugees, social organizations, and access to basic services (health, nutrition, education, agriculture, and WASH) in the UCs. **Annex 4** provides details of the KIIs following these stakeholder groups.

2.3 Community Consultations

Community consultations were conducted with the aim of engaging with the affected UCs to express their views and concerns to be factored in the preparation of the SA/ULCPF. Three community consultations were held following the sampling procedures described below. The composition of the community consultation participants included community representatives (clan leaders, community elders, and religious leaders), members of the project-affected communities, women, youth, People with Disabilities, and refugees. The first community consultation was held in Dallol woreda and was composed of 20 participants. Dallol was selected because its social assessment combines the experience of conflict and drought affected project areas. The second community consultation was held in Semen Ari woreda where 16 participants engaged. Semen Ari was selected to represent the views and concerns of the SPG woredas of the UCs. The final community consultation was held in Itang Special Woreda to capture the views and concerns of communities in the project areas affected by high level of refugees. **Annex 5** includes the attendance lists of the participants. **Annex 6** provides sample minutes on community consultation. **Annex 7** presents sample photos during community consultations.

2.4 Separate Interviews with Vulnerable Groups (VGs) and Organizations of the VGs

The Vulnerable Groups (VGs) within the UCs suffer a double disadvantage. They are marginalized within their own community with added discriminatory factors in the local, regional or national context in general. Unless with proper mitigation measures, unequal opportunity of engagement in the preparation of the subcomponent s and access to the project services or benefits would exacerbate the prevailing disadvantage for the VGs in the UCs. Given this, separate interviews were conducted with the VGs within the UCs including

women, youth, the elderly, people with disabilities, and refugees. Also, separate interviews were arranged with VG organizations including the Women and Children Affairs Office and Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) in the sample woredas.

2.5 Sampling Procedures

The methodology for the preparation of the SA/ULCPF used different sampling procedures that allow representative selection in terms of stakeholder groups, HCO target regions, and SPG woredas. First, the sample selection includes different stakeholder groups. This captured the views and concerns of relevant stakeholder groups from the federal to community level. Second, the social assessment includes all the HCO targeted underserved regions. Third, the selection of the sample woredas and communities included SPG, conflict, drought, and high level of refugees affected project areas. Finally, the sampling technique considered the disproportionate social risks and impacts for the VGs within the UCs. Thus, the sampling procedure arranged separate consultation methods with the VGs and organizations of the VGs that factored the views, concerns and special needs of the VGs into the SA/ULCPF.

3. Legislative and Regulatory Considerations for the UCs

This section provides a review of the national laws and World Bank Environmental and Social Standard (ESS) relevant to the IPF subcomponent activities to be implemented in the areas of the UCs.

3.1 National Laws Applicable to the IPF Sub-components in the UCs

The current constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia came into force in August 1995. It sets out the supreme law of Ethiopia, providing basic and comprehensive principles and guidelines for the environmental and social protection and management in the country. The review pays due attention to the provisions governing the Underserved Communities' and vulnerable groups' equal opportunities in the project engagement and access to project services and benefits.

- ◆ The provision in Article 89 recognizes the UCs and the need to undertake mitigation measures to avoid disproportionate development impacts on the UCs. The provision in Sub-article 4 is stated as follows: "Government shall provide special assistance to Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples least advantaged in economic and social development".
- ◆ Article 35 stipulate on the equal rights of women in the social and economic issues and call upon the need to mitigate historical, social, and cultural norms that discriminate against women. As per Sub-article 2, women have equal rights with men in marriage regarding ownership of property and decision-making process: According to Sub-article 3: "The historical legacy of inequality and discrimination suffered by women in Ethiopia considering, women, to remedy this legacy, are entitled to affirmative measures. The purpose of such measures shall be to provide special attention to women so as to enable them to compete and participate based on equality with men in political, social and economic life as well as in public and private institutions". The State shall enforce the right of women to eliminate the influences of harmful customs. Laws, customs and practices that oppress women shall be prohibited (Sub-article 4).
- ◆ Article 35 includes further provision that addresses the socio-cultural, economic, and political inequalities institutionalized across all the UCs in the project areas. Women have the right to full consultation in the formulation of national development policies, the designing and execution of projects, and particularly in the case of projects affecting the interests of women (Sub-article 6). Women have the right to acquire, administer, control, use and transfer property. They have equal rights with men with respect to use, transfer, administration and control of land. They shall also enjoy equal treatment in the inheritance of property (Sub-article 7).
- ◆ Article 41 Sub-article 5 set out consideration for the project-affected vulnerable groups in general: "The state shall, within available means, allocate resources to provide assistance to the physically and mentally disabled, the aged, households with children,

and children without parents or guardian to ensure their equal participation in and access of development interventions.”

3.2 World Bank Environmental and Social Standard Seven (ESS7)

ESS7 identifies the UCs as communities with distinct social, cultural, economic, political, and geographic areas. As defined in paragraph 8 of ESS7, the UCs refer to the social and cultural group possessing the following characteristics in varying degrees:

- a) self-identification as members of a distinct social and cultural group and recognition of this identity by others;
- b) collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats, ancestral territories, or areas of seasonal use or occupation, as well as to the natural resources in these areas;
- c) customary cultural, economic, social, or political institutions that are distinct or separate from those of the mainstream society or culture; and
- d) a distinct language or dialect, often different from the official language or languages of the country in which they reside.

Owing to these distinctive features, the UCs are disadvantaged by traditional models of development intervention.

The recognition in the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) is consistent with the ESS7. As stated in Article 89 Sub-article 4, UCs refer to Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples least advantaged in economic and social development.

The HCO (the program) targets the Somali, Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, and parts of Oromia (Borena and Guji areas), South Ethiopia (South Omo and Konso Zones), and Southwest Ethiopia (Bench Maji Zone) regions which comprise the underserved regions. The pastoral and agro-pastoral communities living in these regions are recognized as the UCs. The underserved woredas under these regions compose both the SPG woredas and conflict, drought, and high-level refugee affected woredas. Out of the 42 SPG woredas targeted in the HCO, 21 woredas are in the underserved woredas. Of these, 10 woredas fall under conflict, drought, and high-level refugee affected target woredas for the HCO. For details, the list in Table 1 identifies the target underserved woredas by region and zone

Therefore, ESS7 requires the assessment of the risks and disproportionate impacts associated with the project or subcomponent activities to be implemented in the areas with the UCs and develop appropriate mitigation measures.

4. Socio-Economic and Cultural Description of the Underserved Regions and Communities under the HCO

The below section provides the demographic and socio-economic baseline information of the underserved regions and communities.

4.1 Afar Region

Location and demographic information

Afar regional state is situated in the northeastern part of Ethiopia with an area of around 150,000 km² that stretches into the lowlands covering the Awash Valley and the Danakil Depression. It is divided into six administrative zones with a total of 36 woredas. Afar region is a very strategic location of the country as it is entirely situated along the Ethio-Djibouti route. The region is bordered to the northwest by the Tigray region, to the southwest by the Amhara region, to the south by the Oromia region, and to the southeast by the Somali region. The region also shares international borders to the east by Djibouti and to the northeast by

Eritrea. As estimated by the Central Statistics Agency (CSA) (2017)¹, the Afar region has a total population of 1,812,002 out of which 991,000 are males and 821,002 females. The same data revealed that the region is predominately rural, of the total population only 346,000 live in urban areas while the 1,466,000 live in rural areas.

Socio-economic description

According to the 2007 Ethiopian Population and Housing Census data, the overwhelming majority (88.7%) of the population in the region belongs to the Afar ethnic group. The Amhara (5.1%), Argoba (1.53%) and Tigray (1.3%) comprised the largest ethnic groups next to the Afar. In terms of religion, (93.83%) Muslims dominate in the region. Orthodox Christianity is the second largest religion with 3.9% while other religious groups comprised only 2.27% of the population. According to the 2019 Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey (EDHS), most of the population is illiterate: 89.1% of women and 81.3% of men cannot read and write.

In terms of livelihood, over 90% of the Afar people are pastoral. The Afar comprise 29% of the pastoral community in Ethiopia making it the second largest next to the Somali region. Increasing environmental degradation and vulnerability to drought and flooding exacerbated by climate change cause shortages of basic resources. Competition and conflicts over access to resources such as water and grazing land is a recurring phenomenon, particularly with the neighboring Somali pastoral communities. In the case of conflict with the neighboring pastoral community such as the *Isa* clan this is compounded with territorial claim and political interests.²

4.2 Somali Region

Location and demographic information

The Somali region is located in the south-eastern part of the country sharing borders with the Afar region, the Republic of Djibouti and de facto state Somaliland in the north, Kenya in the south, Oromia region in the west, and mainland Somalia in the east and south. The region has a land size of 350,000 km² comprising nine administrative zones and 53 woredas. Based on CSA estimates (2017), the Somali region has a total population of 5,748,998 (3,094,002 male and 2,654,996 female). Of the total population, only 838,000 live in urban areas as compared to 4,911,000 rural residents.

Socio-economic description

The ethnic composition in the region shows that the Somali ethnic group constitutes a large majority of the population, with approximately 95.7%. Other ethnic groups, such as Oromo, Amhara, and Gurage, make up a smaller portion. Islam is the dominant religion, with over 95% of the population being Muslim. Other religions, including Christianity, make up a very small percentage of the population.

According to the Ethiopian Livestock and Livestock Characteristics Survey (2021), the overwhelming majority (88%) of the people in Somali region subsist as pastoral or agro-pastoral. The Somali region constitutes 52% of the total pastoral communities in Ethiopia. It is the region with the largest livestock population as well. The region has 2,646,940 cattle, 9,188,394 sheep, 1,700,167 goats, and 1,213,235 camels. Vulnerability to climate impacts such as recurring drought makes critical shortage of water and pasture in the region. Given

¹ Federal Demographic Republic of Ethiopia Central Statistical Agency (2017). Population Projection of Ethiopia for All Regions At Wereda Level from 2014 – 2017. Addis Ababa: CSA.

² Solomon Desta. (2009). Pastoral Development in Ethiopia. *Economic Focus*, vol. 3 no. 3: 12-20.

this, competition to access water and grazing land often causes recurring conflict, particularly with the neighboring Afar, Borena, and Guji pastoral communities.

4.3 Gambella Region

Location and demographic information

The Gambella Peoples National Regional State is located at the western edge of the country bordering South Sudan. The region has a total land area of 29,783 km². The regional capital is also named Gambella and located at the distance of 777 km from Addis Ababa. Administratively, the region is divided into 4 Zones and 13 Woredas. As estimated by the CSA (2017), the Gambella region has a total population of 435,999 out of which 227,000 are male and 208,999 females. The same data source showed that the majority (288,000) of people in the region live in the rural areas while the proportion of urban residents is small (148,000).

Socio-economic description

Nuer and Anuak are the major ethnic groups in the Gambella region, who together make up roughly two-thirds of the population. Besides the Nuer and Anuak, other ethnic groups in the region include the Amhara, Oromo, Majanger, Komo, and Kafficho. According to a recent report³, the religious composition is predominantly Christian, with Protestants (including Mekane Yesus followers) accounting for a majority (around 60%), followed by Ethiopian Orthodox (25%), traditional faith (11%), and smaller percentages practicing Muslims (3%) and Catholicism (1%). As per the findings of the 2019 EDHS, the majority of the household heads had no education or can only read and write: 87.4% for women and 82.7% for men.

Evidence has shown that the Gambella region encompasses both agro-pastoral and mixed agriculture zones, with the agro-pastoral population moving from area to area in search of pasture, while the mixed agriculture population lives in permanent settlements. Cattle, goats, and sheep are the main livestock reared in the region. Maize and sorghum are major crops grown for both consumption and sale, with tobacco also cultivated as a cash crop for local market and sesame being a major export crop. Fishing is an important supplementary livelihood activity, particularly in the agro-pastoral areas. Some communities supplement their livelihoods through hunting and collecting wild foods like fruits, leaves, and roots. The presence of refugees in the region can also impact local livelihoods, potentially leading to increased competition for resources or new employment opportunities.⁴

Assessment of conflicts and impacts

The findings of the interviews with stakeholders at the regional, woreda and community level and the Security Risk Assessment (SRA) for the HCO (reported November 2024) reveal that the contextual security risks in the Gambella region involve an intricate web of interrelated factors pivoting around inter-ethnic identity fused with competition over basic resources, cross-border conflicts, influx of refugees, and conflicts between government and informal armed groups. The situation in the Itang Special Woreda is taken as the sample showing such an intricate web of interrelated factors for the conflict in the Gambella region. Detailed findings of the social assessment are presented below.

³ 2023 Report on International Religious Freedom: Ethiopia

⁴ Yilebes Addisu. 2017. Livelihood strategies and diversification in the western tip pastoral areas of Ethiopia. *Research Policy and Practice*, vol. 9: 1-9.

4.4 Benishangul-Gumuz Region

Location and demographic information

The Benishangul-Gumuz regional state is located in the western frontier of Ethiopia. The region has a total surface of 50,380 km². It shares borders with Sudan in the north-west, South Sudan in the west, Amhara regional state in the east, and Oromia region in the south. The region is organized into three administrative zones (Metekel, Assosa, and Kemashi) and 20 Woredas. As estimated by the CSA (2017), the total population of the region is 1,066,001 (541,002 male and 524,999 female). Out of this total, 230,000 are urban residents and the remaining 836,000 are living in rural areas.

Socio-economic description

Interestingly, the Constitution of the Benishangul-Gumuz regional state explicitly differentiates between endogenous and other peoples. *Article 2* of the Regional Constitution classifies the following five ethnic groups as endogenous: the Berta, Gumuz, Shinasha, Mao and Komo. However, none of those five ethnic groups has a numerical majority: the three most numerous endogenous groups are the Berta (25.9%), the Gumuz (23.3%) and the Shinasha (7.6%). The Mao constitute 1.9% and Komo count for less than one (0.96%) percent of the total population. Striking is the large number of Amhara (22.1%) and Oromo (8.93%), an illustration of the impact of migration (Census 2007). According to a recent study⁵, in the Benishangul-Gumuz region, the major religions are Islam (44.9%), Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity (33.4%), and indigenous religions (7.08%), with smaller percentage following Protestantism and Catholicism.

The region's economy is centered on mixed farming, where people engage in both crop and livestock production. Benishangul-Gumuz is a sparsely populated region. This, together with its fertile soil, makes the region attractive to many Ethiopian farmers from other regions who wish to leave their own small and exhausted plots behind. This inter-regional migration is clearly reflected in the ethnic composition of the region's population. According to recent study, the number of Oromo ethnic groups in the region increase from 8.93% in 2007 to 20.9% in 2021. Thus, the current number of Amhara and Oromo constitute 43% of the total population in the region.

Assessment of conflicts and impacts

All three administrative zones in the region, 17 out of the total 21 woredas in these zones, experienced violent conflict over the last five years. Informal armed groups such as the Gumuz Militia, were formed questioning the poor economic and infrastructure development in the region. Thus, such informal armed groups have fitted with the local, regional, and federal security forces over the years. The findings of the Security Risk Assessment (SRA) for the HCO project showed that the ethnic interest and inter-regional border claims attracted multiple actors to the conflicts in the Benishangul-Gumuz region. As a result, recurring ambushes, armed attacks, armed robbery, armed kidnappings, and the conflict between government and informal armed groups create serious security threats to communities and frontline staff.

Besides posing security risks to the local communities and frontline staff, the conflicts have caused huge damage and loss to basic services in the region. As reported in Ethiopia Conflict Impact Assessment and Recovery and Rehabilitation Planning (CIARP), 16 out of the total 60 health centers (26.7%) and 172 out of the total 424 health posts (40.6%) in the region have been damaged and looted completely or partially due to the conflicts over the last few years.

⁵Teferi Mokonnen. (2021). The Benishangul-Gumuz Region: A Brief Political and Social History. *Journal of Ethiopian Studies*, vol. 54: 8-32.

According to Ethiopian Ministry of Education Resource Mobilization Assessment (2023), 287 out of 678 schools (42%) in the region have been damaged or looted completely or partially putting 63,818 children out of school. Ethiopian Damage and Need Assessment (EDNA) reported a huge impact on the WASH Sector in the region. The recurring conflicts over the last years have caused damage and loss to logistics (vehicles, incl. motorcycles and cranes), office equipment and furniture, water schemes, water distribution systems, electromechanical equipment, pipes and fittings and sanitation facilities estimated to cost a total of 1,641,774 USD. Further, the findings of the EDNA reported serious impacts of the conflict on the infrastructure that supports crop production and livestock subsectors including farmer/pastoral training centers and other institutions, agricultural offices and other institutions and private farm investment with the estimated total cost of 4,905,437 3 USD. Of course, the implementation completion and results report for the PBS3, GEQIP II, and ESPES and the interventions of the projects currently under implementation such Hybrid PforR and COWASH4 have significantly contributed to restoring the conflict-affected sectors. However, informants at the regional and woreda level alike reported that there is a large vacuum to fully restore the basic services in the region.

4.5 Parts of the Oromia Region: Borena and Guji areas

Location and demographic information

The Borena and Guji areas are parts of Oromia region with UCs. Both the Borena and Guji areas are located in the southern part of the Oromia region. Geographically, the Borena borders Kenya to the south, the Guji Zone to the northeast, the Somali region to the east, and the South region to the west. Administratively, the Borena zone is divided into 10 woredas. As per the CSA estimate (2017), the Borena zone has a total population of 1,252,945. The vast majority (1,116,880) of the total population live in rural areas while only a few (136,064) reside in urban areas. Whereas, the Guji area is bordering the South region to the west, the Borena zone to the south, the Somali region to the east, and the Bale zone to the north. Administratively, the Guji area is divided into the Guji zone with 13 woredas and west Guji zone having 11 woredas. The CSA (2017) estimated that the Guji area (Guji zone plus West Guji zone) has a total population of 1,811,970 out of which 912,915 male and 899,055 female. Like in Borena, the majority (1,602,462) of the population in Guji live in rural areas and the urban residents constitute only a small proportion (209,510) of the total population.

Socio-economic description

The Borena and Guji have similar socio-economic characteristics. Both the Borena and Guji areas are primarily inhabited by the Oromo ethnic group and have smaller populations of Gedeo, Amhara, and Somali people. The Oromiffa language is spoken by all people. According to the data obtained from the desk, the religious landscape in both areas is diverse: most of the population identify as Protestant, followed by Muslims, traditional believers, Ethiopian Orthodox Christians, and Catholics. The areas are typically characterized by a high illiteracy level, 94% of women and 91.7% of men in Borena and 92.8% women and 90.3% men in Guji cannot read and write.

Both in Borena and Guji, the dominant livelihood is pastoralism, with livestock keeping, particularly cattle herding, as the primary source of income and sustenance. While the Borenas are mainly pure pastoralists, some households in Guji engage in agro-pastoralism but pastoralism remains the core economic activity. In both the Borena and Guji areas, livelihood challenges stem from different factors. Droughts are a persistent issue, severely impacting natural resources and livestock, which are the foundation of the Borana and Guji pastoralist's livelihood. Climate change impacts, rising temperatures, reduced rainfall, and water scarcity further exacerbate the challenges, leading to shortages of feed and pasture. The expansion of bush encroachment reduces grazing land, further straining the limited resources available for livestock. Yet, limited opportunities for diversification and the lack of basic infrastructure services constrain the ability of pastoralists to adapt to changing conditions.

Assessment of conflicts and impacts

Inter-ethnic or inter-clan conflicts arising from competition over scarce resources, particularly water and grazing land, is a common problem in the Borena and Guji areas. Continuous shrinkage of basic resources caused by recurring droughts, climate change impacts, and bush encroachment makes the inter-ethnic or inter-clan conflicts an endless problem in the areas. This is common between the Borena Oromo and the neighboring Digodi and Garri Somali clans and between the Guji Oromo and the neighboring Gabbra Somali pastoral communities. The recurring resource-based inter-clan conflicts include the Borena and Guji pastoral communities. The inter-ethnic conflicts, like those between the Borana and Garri, are often more devastating than intra-ethnic conflicts within the same pastoral community. Besides being valuable sources of livelihood, many natural resources, such as rivers and forests or grazing areas, serve as the boundaries between neighboring pastoral groups. Hence, conflicts over access to natural resources often transform into more protracted boundary and territorial conflicts. In some cases, like between the Borena and Garri pastoral communities, this has historical, political, and social roots as well. Also, available assessments⁶ and informants have indicated continued clashes between armed groups and government forces in some woredas (e.g., Gurja) of Guji zone and West Guji zone (e.g., Suro Bargudda) posing serious security threats.

Informants discussed that the conflicts in the areas have caused damage and impacted basic service delivery. Available assessments have shown that conflicts, particularly armed conflicts, significantly impact basic services. In some woredas of West Guji zone, Suro Bargudda woreda for example, the impacts of the armed conflict caused disruptions in health care, education, and infrastructure exacerbating existing vulnerabilities in the communities. In particular, the damage to health facilities or disruption of primary health care due to security threats exacerbate maternal, child health, and nutritional outcomes in areas with armed conflicts. Damage to schools or non-operational schools due to conflict is also leading to children dropping out of school⁷.

4.6 Parts of the South Ethiopia Region: South Omo and Konso zones

Location and demographic information

The South Omo and Konso zones make-up parts of the South Ethiopia region occupied by the UCs. The areas include two of the HCO target woredas. Semen Ari in South Omo zone is selected as a SPG woreda. While Segen in Konso zone is included as a conflict affected woreda. The South Omo and Konso zones are located in the southwest of the South Ethiopia region. South Omo zone borders Kenya in the south, West Omo zone in the west, Keffa zone in northwest, and Konso zone in the northeast. Administratively, the South Omo zone is composed of 10 woredas. As per the CSA estimate (2017, South Omo had only 722,955 people out of which 360,517 were male and 362,438 were female. The number of rural residents overwhelmingly dominates the number of urban residents in the zone, 631,197 *vis-a-vis* 91,758. Konso zone, in then Konso special woreda, is a newly formed zone in the South Ethiopia region. It is bordered by the South Omo zone in the west, Aile special woreda in the northwest, Amaro special woreda in the northeast, and Burji special woreda in the east. Administratively, the Konso zone is divided into three woredas and one town administration. As per the zonal records of 2023, the Konso zone has a total population of 323,426 out of which 158,479 were male and 164,947 were female.

Socio-economic description

The South Omo zone is known for its accommodation of ethnic diversity within a small geographic area. It is a home for fourteen pastoral and agro-pastoral communities including Ari, Benna, Hamer, Dasenech, Nyangatom, Karo, Bodi, Male, Tsemai, Dime, Arbore, and Becha. The South Omo zone is the most marginalized region, where infrastructure and social

⁶ETHIOPIA: Protection Analysis Update August 2024

⁷UNHCR: Ethiopia Projection Monitoring Report May 2022

services are very poor or non-existent in most areas. The Konso ethnic group makes up most of the population in the Konso zone. Other ethnic groups compose a small proportion including Gawwada, Amhara, and Oromo. South Omo and Konso share similar characteristics in terms of religious composition and adult literacy rates. The major religious groups include those practicing traditional beliefs, followed by Protestants, and Ethiopian Orthodox Christians. The adult literacy status in both zones is the least even as compared to other pastoral communities in Ethiopia.

Most of the ethnic groups in the South Omo zone are pure pastoralist. Livestock production is the predominant means of household livelihood, with animals raised for consumption, income generation (through selling products and live animals), and other purposes like draught power and transport. The primary livestock in these areas is cattle, with supplementary flocks of sheep and goats. The lowland areas of South Omo zone such as Dasenech, Nyangatom, and Karo support agro-pastoral groups that practice a mixed agriculture (livestock rearing supplemented with crop cultivation). The arid and semi-arid climate, with low and erratic rainfall, poses a major challenge to pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in the South Omo zone, leading to food insecurity and livestock losses. Unlike in South Omo zone, the major means of livelihood in the Konso zone is mixed crop-livestock production, particularly intensive agriculture using terracing, irrigation, and soil conservation practices. Sorghum is a main staple, along with root crops.

Assessment of conflicts and impacts

The resource and territorial based inter-ethnic conflicts described earlier for the Borena and Guji areas hold true among the pastoral groups in the South Omo zone. However, the assessment of conflicts in South Omo zone revealed additional factors. Cattle raiding is the source of recurring conflicts among the pastoral communities in South Omo. Cattle raiding is generally considered as an acceptable means to acquire assets. Retaliation or blood feuds among inter-ethnic groups are common in the area. Common to all the pastoral groups, dowry (gift) paid in kind (cattle or ruminants) is a requirement for marriage. A man has to pay several cattle or equivalent in ruminants to marry a girl. This is not affordable, particularly for the young men who have no assets to pay a dowry, but resort to cattle raiding from neighboring ethnic groups. Thus, inter-ethnic conflict is common among the pastoral communities in the area for whatever reason. Armed conflicts in Konso Zone, Ethiopia, are fueled by a complex interplay of factors including resource scarcity and inter-ethnic tensions, exacerbated by the quest for self-governance and perceived marginalization. Evidence has shown that conflicts have caused damage to and hindered basic service delivery in both zones. In particular, the findings of the EDNA indicated that the armed conflicts in the Konso zone have led to devastating impacts, including loss of life, displacement, damage to infrastructure, and disruption of basic services.

4.7 Socio-economic Description of the Sampled Woredas

Following the sampling procedures for the preparation of the framework (see the methodology section), the sample HCO project target woredas includes Itang Special Woreda, Dallol, Semen Ari, and Gablalu. The social assessment findings for these sample woredas are highlighted next.

4.7.1 Itang Special Woreda

Location and demographic information

The Itang Special Woreda is a geographically distinct area within the Gambella Region, located in the southwest, 45 km from the regional capital, Gambella. Itang is classified as a Special Woreda, meaning it operates as an autonomous administrative unit within the Gambella Region. It is bordered by the Anuak Zone, Nuer Zone, Oromia Region, and South Sudan. The woreda capital is also called Itang named after the woreda. As estimated by the CSA (2017), the woreda has a total population of 48,673 out of which 24,548 are male and 24,125 female.

Socio-economic description

As per the information obtained from the desk review in the woreda, Nuer and Anuak are the two largest ethnic groups in the Itang Special Woreda. The Nuer constitute 47.74% of the total population while the Anuak make up 46.68%. These two ethnic groups also speak their respective languages, Nuer and Anuak as their primary languages. Pastoralism is the major livelihood in the woreda. Many households in the area depend primarily on raising livestock, making it a central part of their economic activities. Agriculture, particularly the cultivation of crops, is another important aspect of the local livelihood. Some individuals find employment in various sectors, contributing to the diversity of livelihood sources.

Assessment of conflicts and impacts

The findings of the social assessment show that the contextual security risks in the Itang Special Woreda involves an intricate web of interrelated factors pivoting around inter-ethnic identity fused with competition over basic resources, cross-border conflicts, influx of refugees, and conflicts between government and informal armed groups.

First and foremost, Informants explained, there have always been clashes between the Anuak and the Nuer, the two dominant ethnic groups in the region, due to competition over basic resources such as land and water. Incompatible modes of livelihoods make the conflict between the two ethnic groups a matter of endless fact. The Anuak are agrarians who have developed permanent settlement and centralized political system, whereas the Nuer are pastoralists with a mobile mode of livelihood and traditional socio-political system. Reflecting this, during the wet season, the Nuer and their cattle move to upland settlements away from flooding, while during the dry season they move to the banks of the rivers, where the moisture provides abundant pasture. Consequently, the Nuers' crucial search for grazing land and drinking water with animals trespassing onto the territories belonging to the Anuak causes a recurring conflict between the two groups. The intensity and escalation of the conflict often goes beyond the two ethnic groups affecting the whole region.

The cross-border conflict with the South Sudan is second major factor of conflict in the Itang Special Woreda.⁸This can be assessed from different perspectives. Historically, the Sudanese civil war has negatively impacted the security of the Gambella region in general and Itang Special Woreda in particular. The civil war in Southern Sudan has never been one in which the territories of armed groups were strictly demarcated. After independence, the continued civil war in South Sudan has had spill-over effects into the Gambella region, specially through the movements of informal armed groups into Itang Special Woreda. Yet, frequent incursions among the pastoral communities in the border areas create a major source of conflict in the woreda. The Jikany-Nuer and the Lou-Nuer are from the Nuer tribe. The Jikany-Nuer people live both in Ethiopia and in South Sudan. The Lou-Nuer live in South Sudan and have a border with Jikany-Nuer in South Sudan and Jikany-Nuer in Ethiopia as well. Akobo County in the South Sudan is occupied by Lou-Nuer and Akobo district of Ethiopia is occupied by Jikany-Nuer. The Akobo River is the border demarcation of Ethiopia Jikany-Nuer and South Sudan Lou-Nuer. Owing to this, repeated Lou Nuer cross-border incursions in the woreda date back to the 1990s while the raiding and armed attacks by the Dinka and Murule pastoral group is becoming common in recent times.

The conflicts between government and informal armed groups pose the third major cause of conflict in the Itang Special Woreda. The findings of the social assessment show that the principal actors to the conflict are the armed segment of the Anuak ethnic group and the government forces (national army, federal and regional police, local militias). The Anuak

⁸Gatluak Jal (2014). The Roots Cause of Cross Border Conflict in Gambella Regional. *Public Policy and Administration Research*,4 (8): 44-59.

armed group's main areas of operation are the Pochalla–Dima corridor, along the major rivers of the region, from the north, the Baro (Uppeno), Gilo, Akobo, and Oboth, and Alwero, the tributary of the Baro, where most of the Anuak villages are found.

The impacts of refugees on the host communities

The influx of refugees into Gambella region from the civil wars before the independence of South Sudan contributes after the independence as well. The Itang Special Woreda hosts three main refugee camps: Kule, Tierkidi, and Nguenyiel (also known as Kule 1, 2, and 3). According to the desk review obtained from the RRS in the woreda, a total of 388,521 refugees have been registered in Gambella region as of February 2025. Out of this total, the three camps in the Itang Special Woredas host 85.7% of the refugees from South Sudan. Further, 80% of the refugees in the three camps constitute vulnerable groups including women, children, young girls, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

The findings, based on the key informant interviews and community consultation, reveal three major characteristics of the refugee-host community interaction. First, the majority of refugees in the three camps are Nuer, originating from areas like Nasir, Akobo, and Maiwut in South Sudan. Thus, the influx of refugees in Itang Special Woreda confluence with the ethnic identities. The big refugee camps were constructed in the Anuak's territory and only one such camp was constructed in the Nuer territory. The movement of Nuer refugees into Anuak settlements led to violent encounters. The Anuak frequently clash with the refugees when they leave their camps and cross through Anuak's villages. Occasionally, the Anuak also rob the refugee camps and kill people. In most of these killings, Sudanese Nuer were killed and Ethiopian Nuer usually sided with the Sudanese Nuer, exacerbating the ethnic violence between the two groups in Itang Special Woreda. Second, the Nuer refugees have deep connections with the Nuer host community in Itang, facilitating easier integration and assimilation. Third, while refugee-host community integration is generally positive, there are also challenges, including potential conflicts with the Anuak host community over access to basic resources such as water, firewood, and other basic services already provided in limited access in the woreda.

4.7.2 Dallol Woreda

Location and demographic information

The Dallol Woreda in Afar region is situated within the Danakil Depression, the lowest point in Ethiopia, which is about 120 meters below sea level. Dallol Woreda is bordered by Koneba Woreda in Afar region to the south, the Tigray Region to the west, Eritrea to the north, and Berhale to the east and south. Administratively, Dallol is one of the seven woredas in Zone 2 and divided into 17 Kebeles. As estimated by the CSA (2017), the woreda has a total population of 101,524 out of which 55,508 are male and 46,016 Female.

Socio-economic description

The primary ethnic group in Dallol Woreda is the Afar people who are entirely Muslim. The Afar people are predominantly pastoralists who have adapted to the harsh, desert environment, relying on traditional knowledge and a community-based system for survival. However, diversification of income activities is becoming increasingly important, with some pastoralists exploring alternative sources of income such as salt mining and transportation to supplement traditional livelihoods. Dallol is a center for traditional salt mining in Afar. Salt mining, work on salt flats provide significant income opportunities for the local population. Also, salt transport, the transportation of the "amole" salt from the salt flats to

the highlands is another important economic activity, further contributing to the livelihoods of people in the Dallol woreda.

The impacts of recurring and prolonged drought

The Dallol woreda is known for its unfavorable climate conditions making life too hard. The woreda experiences extremely hot temperatures, with irregular and critical shortage of rainfall. Also, the physical environment in Dallol woreda is characterized by highly active hydrothermal features, a volcanic landscape, and extensive salt deposits making the livelihood based on pastoral and agro-pastoral activities so difficult. Thus, prolonged drought poses critical negative impacts on the livelihoods and well-being of the people in Dallol woreda. As per the findings based on the KIIs with the sector offices and community consultation, the impacts of recurring and prolonged drought in the woreda include reduced livestock productivity, decreased crop yields, water scarcity, and increased conflicts over access to basic resources such as water and grazing land.

The impacts of conflicts

The findings based on the KIIs with the sector offices in the woreda and community consultation are summarized as follows:

- ◆ Dallol woreda is one of the remote areas among the UCs where access to basic services including transportation, communication system, health, nutrition, education, agriculture, and WASH is lacking or extremely limited even without the impacts of conflicts in this regard.
- ◆ As it shares borders, the Dallol woreda was one of the hot spot areas during the war with the Tigray region. The war has been fought in three different rounds with each lasting for months.
- ◆ The damage to basic services and health facilities severely affected the access to and the provision of basic health services, as well as health and nutrition outcomes. The readiness of the health system to deliver essential health services is still hampered owing to the damage caused to health infrastructure and widespread looting of medical equipment.
- ◆ The conflict in the woreda has damaged education facilities and disrupted schooling. This has further compounded learning losses caused by the closure of schools for an extended period and lack of basic education materials and equipment in the schools.
- ◆ The same damage has been caused to other basic services such as agriculture and WASH in the woreda.
- ◆ Women, children, young girls, the elderly, pregnant and lactating women, people with disabilities suffered more impacts owing to lack or severe limitation of access to basic services including health, education, nutrition, agriculture, and WASH associated with the impacts during the war with the Tigray region.

4.7.3 Gablalu Woreda

Location and demographic information

Gablalu is a woreda in Sitti Zone, Somali region. It is bordered on the south by Dire Dawa, on the west by Erer woreda, on the north by the Afar region, on the east by Ayesha woreda, and on the southeast by Dambel woreda and Jigiga Zone. Adigale is the woreda capital. According to the CSA population projection (2017), Gablalu woreda has a total population of 92,086 (47,187 male and 44,899 female). Gablalu is almost completely a rural woreda having only 1212 urban residents out of the total population.

Socio-economic description

Gablalu woreda is a remote area with the UCs occupied by the Somali pastoral communities. The livelihood of 98.7% of the people in Gablalu Woreda is based on pure pastoralism. The

livestock production is composed of cattle, camel, sheep, and goat herding. Contrary to the rapid growth of human and livestock population, informants discussed that there is a critical shortage of surface and underground water in the woreda. The critical shortage of grazing land goes hand in hand with the little and erratic rain in the woreda. In response to this, people use seasonal mobility as a coping strategy.

The impacts of recurring and prolonged drought

The Gablalu Woreda is impacted by climate shocks caused by increasing environmental degradation and vulnerability to recurring drought, death of livestock, and famine. Over the years, the problem seriously affected vulnerable groups including pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children. In times of drought and famine, the PLW move from their usual place where they can access primary health services to look for food. Thus, pregnant women miss the Antenatal Care (ANC) and deliver at home making the mothers and newly born babies vulnerable to complicated health problems including death. Also, mothers and newly born babies miss the necessary Postnatal Care (PNC) that increases the probability of maternal and infant mortality rate. Informants discussed that lack of school feeding that can help to manage the problem of food insecurity from sustained drought increase the under-five malnutrition and children school dropout in the woreda. To worsen the matter, Gablalu is a remote woreda with the least availability of basic facilities and poor provision of basic services. This would have an impact on the effective implementation of the project activities in the woreda.

The hostile working environment and natural disasters such as drought and famine are also assessed as a serious challenge for the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) of the project workers. Gablalu is a woreda with the least infrastructure such as roads and public transportation. Frontline staff—such as health extension workers, teachers, and development agents—are required to travel daily a long distance on foot to deliver services to the communities. This situation can present security threats to the frontline staff from the risks such as the attacks of wild animals. Specially, female frontline staff can be vulnerable to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) such as the risks of forced rape by strangers and sexual harassment while traveling for their daily duties.

The impacts of resource-based conflicts

The search for water and pasture often involves movement into the neighboring areas. For instance, people move westward up to the neighboring Afar territories that cause recurring conflict with the neighboring Afar pastoral groups. The conflict between the *Isa* clan of Somali and the neighboring Afar clans is a typical case in point. A further security risk is assessed in that the resource-driven conflict between the two groups is backed by historical, territorial, and political claims involving local government forces on both sides. There are times when such conflict escalates to non-pastoral areas such as the nearby towns and innocent people. Resource-driven and local inter-clan conflicts can pose a security threat to the project workers and activities.

4.7.4 Semen Ari Woreda

Location and demographic information

Semen Ari Woreda is in the South Omo Zone of the South Ethiopia region. It is situated in the southern part of the country, about 840 km from Addis Ababa. The Woreda's administrative seat is in the town of Gelila. Semen Ari Woreda is bordered by Basketo Special Woreda and Geze Gofa Woreda to the north, Oyda and Ubba-Debretsehay woredas to the east, and Debub Ari Woreda to the southwest. As per the estimation of the CSA (2017), Semen Ari Woreda has a total population of 82,480 out of which 40,732 are male and 41,748 females.

Socio-economic description

The Semen Ari Woreda is predominantly populated by the Ari ethnic group. The primary livelihood activity in Semen Ari Woreda is agro-pastoral. Relative rainfall in the woreda allows for two harvests per year. The main focus is on cultivating a variety of crops, including cereals, pulses, root vegetables, fruits, and spices. Livestock, such as cattle, sheep, goats, and poultry, are also important for income generation for the households in the woreda.

Assessment of access to basic services

The findings based on the KIIs with the sector offices in the woreda and community consultation show that access to basic services is limited including electricity, health, nutrition, education, agriculture, and WASH. Likewise, women, children, young girls, the elderly, pregnant and lactating women, people with disabilities suffered more impacts owing to lack or severe limitation of access to basic services.

4.8 Description of the Socio-cultural, Institutional, Historical and Political Contexts of the UCs

The socio-cultural, institutional, historical, and political contexts of the UCs in the SPG, drought, conflict affected, and high-level refugee host communities exhibit distinctive features that may have implications for the project implementation. The description that follows focuses on the key features in this regard.

4.8.1 Social organization

Social organization describes the structured patterns of relationships, roles, norms, and institutions that shape social interactions and guide behavior within the UCs. The social organization of the UCs in the project areas also includes the political system, informal system of decision making embedded in the socio-cultural institutions, norms and standards.

The *clan system* is the most important form of social organization in all the project affected UCs. The clan system in all the UCs is formed as a social structure where people are organized into groups based on perceived or actual kinship and descent, often tracing lineage through a common ancestor. More importantly, the mechanisms of membership and exercise of the clan system are embedded in the territorial, social, economic, political, and spiritual collective attachment. Collective attachment signifies that the UCs generally consider their lands and resources to be collective assets, and that they see their culture and identity as a function of the group rather than as individuals.

The case of the clan system in the Borena and Guji pastoral communities can illustrate the social organization among the pastoral communities in the project target areas. The clan system in the Borena and Guji pastoral communities is a deeply ingrained social structure. It is the primary unit of social organization that defines the holistic lives of the members. Clan affiliation is a fundamental aspect of identity, influencing social interactions, marriage patterns, and decision-making processes. In Borena and Guji, clans often have specific grazing areas or water sources they control, and access to these resources is determined by clan membership. Clan leadership is typically held by elders who are respected for their wisdom, experience, and ability to resolve conflicts. Disputes are typically resolved through clan elders, who act as mediators and arbiters, ensuring that conflicts are settled peacefully within the clan framework. Clan members are expected to provide mutual aid and support, particularly during times of drought or other hardships.

4.8.2 Vulnerable Groups within the UCs

The social assessment findings reveal that the vulnerable groups within the UCs suffer a double disadvantage. They are marginalized within their own community as well as due to discriminatory factors in the local, regional or national context in general. Unless properly mitigated, unequal opportunity of engagement in the preparation of the subcomponents and

access to the project services or benefits would exacerbate the prevailing disadvantage for the vulnerable groups in the UCs. The description below identifies the vulnerable groups and assesses the underlying factors that contribute to their vulnerability.

Women

The findings of the social assessment show that the prevailing socio-cultural, economic, and political system of the UCs exclude women. In particular, women are excluded from the crucial decision-making process in the family as well as in the community. Hence, the existing system of gender inequalities may be reflected in the women's engagement in the planning and implementation of the project mitigation measures limiting women's access to the project services and benefits. This may exacerbate existing gender inequalities resulting in the project's disproportionate impacts for the women. Also, the project-related SEA/SH risks for women in the UCs for the different instances described earlier in the social risk assessment.

Girls

The findings obtained from the underserved regions in general and sampled woredas in particular assessed the disparity between girls and boys in terms of school enrolment. The gender disparity is wide as the level of school moves from lower to higher grades. In general, girls in the project areas with UCs play an active role in taking care of the children and family, preparing food and drink, collecting water and firewood, grinding grain, caring for young animals at home, and milking sheep, goats and cattle. Given this fact, project interventions such as support to improve learning outcomes (subcomponent 2.2.2) can further widen the gender disparity in schooling. subcomponent 2.1.2 supports activities that promote girls' high school education and their retention at lower grades. Yet, as described above for the project social risk assessment, such subcomponent activities can increase the vulnerability of project-related SEA/SH for girls and children using the project services or support.

Students in the UCs in general

subcomponent 2.1.2 includes activities that assume the existence of good school facilities. However, the findings of the social assessment in the sample woredas indicate that the kind of school facilities required for the implementation of the subcomponent activities are damaged in high-risk woredas affected the most by the conflict. Similarly, subcomponent 2.2.2 includes the establishment of virtual science laboratories and e-learning digital platforms that necessitate access to effective and stable services such as the Information Communication Technology (ICT) system. On the other hand, remote SPG woredas such as Teltele in Borena zone have no access to the required services and facilities to implement the proposed subcomponent activities. Without developing appropriate mitigation measures, the implementation of such subcomponent activities would have disproportionate impacts for the students in the project areas with the problem.

The elderly and people with disabilities

The elderly and people with disabilities (PWDs) have various special needs that differentially impact their equal engagement in the project and access to the project services. The elderly and people with mobility impairment may be particularly difficult to engage in the project or access services including lack of accessible transport, lack facilities in the schools and health facilities that accommodate for the special needs, and lack of information on the availability of the project services. Meaningful stakeholder engagement depends on timely, accurate, accessible, and comprehensible information. People with visual and hearing impairment may have difficulties accessing the project information in this regard differentially impacting their engagement in the project decision making process.

Minority groups within the UCs

The *clan system* is the most important form of social organization in all the project affected UCs. The clan system in all the UCs determines not only one's group membership but also one's access to basic resources and inclusion in the social and economic benefits and decision-making process. This may have the risk of exclusion for the minority non-clan members to engage in and access the project services and benefits resulting in disproportionate impacts for such minority groups in the UCs.

4.8.3 Institutions

Institution refers to a structured group of people who work together to achieve common goals. Also, institutions can refer to durable social rules and procedures that structure the social, economic, and political interactions and relations in the community. The existence and operation of informal and formal institutions, particularly at the local level, can be a good opportunity to create a cooperative effort for the effective implementation of the HCO. Thus, the assessment below describes the informal and formal institutions operating in the project target areas with the UCs.

A. Informal or traditional institutions

Informal institutions are behavioral regularities based on cultural-shared or unwritten rules, created, communicated, and enforced outside of formal, and officially sanctioned structures. The findings based on the stakeholder consultation and review of available evidence reveal the existence and effective functioning of the informal institutions among all the project affected UCs. Each UC has long-established conventions, norms, values and accepted ways of doing things, whether economic, political or social issues. The most common traditional institutions are described as follows.

Traditional institutions, such as Gada and Marro, are common among the Borena and Guji pastoral communities. **Gada** is an indigenous institution that plays a role in regulating political, economic, social, and religious activities, enforcing moral conduct, building social cohesion, and resolving conflicts through customary laws. **Marro** is a traditional self-help institution. It is a voluntary social support network where women share resources like food, labor, and cash, especially during times of need or drought, to improve household food security.

Key traditional institutions among the Afar pastoral communities include the *Mada'a*, Edo, Daggu, and Adda. **Mada'a** is the Afar customary law and judiciary system that plays a crucial role in preventing deviance and crime in the community. Mada'a is the customary court of arbitration classifying criminal acts into five types, namely: crime against life, crime against the body, crime against property, crime related to adultery, and crime of insult. **Daggu** is a traditional, interactive, and multi-way communication network where the Afar people exchange information and news, acting as a vital source of information and a key social practice. The **Adda** represents a group of village elders in the traditional Afar governance system who evaluate information, particularly weather forecasts, before making decisions that the community follows. The **Edo** are traditional rangeland scouts who assess rangeland conditions, security, and other spatially variable attributes using indigenous knowledge passed down through generations.

Major traditional institutions among the Somali pastoral communities include Xeer and Guurti. **Xeer** is a traditional, oral customary law system, passed down through generations, that governs clan members, focusing on conflict resolution, social conduct, and ensuring peaceful coexistence. **Xeer** emphasizes reconciliation and compensation, aiming to resolve conflicts peacefully within the community. Also, **Xeer** encompasses a code of social behavior, regulating collective and individual actions based on traditional values and principles. The **Guurti** (a council of elders) is a traditional institution among the Somali pastoral communities playing several vital roles. The **Guurti** plays a vital role in conflict

resolution and peacemaking, often serving as a bridge between formal and informal systems of governance. The *Guurti* comprises clan elders, selected for their knowledge, wisdom, and ability to mediate and persuade. The *Guurti* serves as a decision-making body, particularly during times of conflict, crisis, or when negotiations are needed. Decisions are made through consensus based on meetings with community members. The *Guurti* are also involved in enforcing laws and judicial decisions, and in making agreements regarding everything from marriage practices to resource allocation.

The effective function of the traditional institutions is common among all the UCs in Benishangul-Gumuz region. The Mangima or Siyaha among the Gumuz and Nemo among the Shinasha can be described as illustrative. ***Mangima or Siyaha*** (meaning assembly) among the Gumuz communities is the most important traditional institution for conflict resolution, particularly for intra-clan and lineage-level disputes, involving community elders and a process of reconciliation. ***Nemo*** is an equivalent traditional institution in Shinasha people. It is a traditional conflict resolution mechanism with four hierarchies: Burra (one elder), Nemma (two elders), Terra/Tsera (three elders), and Falla (the highest judicial organ).

Pastoral communities in the Gambella region, like the Nuer, have developed systems for managing communal resources, with customary laws and institutions governing access to grazing lands and water sources. These systems are flexible and adaptable to the variable and harsh conditions of the environment, allowing for strategic mobility of livestock and selective feeding to enhance ecosystem resilience. Pastoral communities such as the Nuer engage in seasonal livestock mobility or migration patterns, moving between home ranges, wet season rangelands, dry season rangelands, and drought reserve areas to access better pastures and water sources.

B. Formal institutions

In contrast to informal institutions, *formal institutions* are officially established entities with codified rules and procedures and formal organizations that work for the betterment of the UCs or govern human interactions to achieve the common goals. The social assessment findings reveal that there are opportunities to utilize the potential of existing formal institutions to strengthen the HCO implementation capacity. Potential formal organizations are assessed from different categories.

Development partners and NGOs: Interviews with stakeholders at the federal, regional and woreda levels mentioned that there are numerous development partners, international and local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) operating in the HCO target areas with the UCs. Generally, these organizations operate in the areas of health, education, livelihoods, water resources, GBV, and relief and humanitarian assistance. UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR, Oxfam, Care Ethiopia, World Vision, Save the Children, and Mercy Corps, are among these organization. The existence and function of these development partners and NGOs could be opportunities to work with and coordinate efforts to strengthen the implementing capacity of the IPF program.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs): The are CSOs working in the HCO target areas focusing on promoting and coordinating education and health for pastoralist communities aiming to address their unique needs and challenges through a holistic, livelihood-based approach. For instance, National Council for Pastoralist Education (NCPE) is a national CSO working in the Afar, Somali, and South Omo zone on education integrating with issues like WASH and livelihoods. There are also regional based CSOs. Another CSO, Afar Pastoral Development Association, is working in the Afar region. The operation of such CSOs can provide an opportunity to create a cooperative effort for the better implementation capacity of the HCO.

Private institutions: The existence and function of private institutions such as private health facilities, drugstores, medical equipment suppliers, private schools, and educational material

suppliers is a good opportunity to strengthen the public-private partnerships in implementing the health and education interventions and outcomes for the target UCs.

Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) In pastoral community areas are diverse and take the form of groups focused on specific needs. The common types of CBOs in the pastoral community areas include the following: pastoralist groups formed by herders to address issues related to livestock management, grazing rights, and resource access operate in several project target areas with the UCs. Many Kebeles with the UCs have village development committees for collective economic activities. The youth groups that engage young people in community development initiatives are common in the project areas with the UCs. Self-help women's groups such as *Marro* exist and effectively function among the Borena and Guji pastoral communities in promoting mutual economic support and social networks or social cohesion. Water user associations exists in pastoral communities such as Borena managing water resources, ensuring equitable access and sustainable use. The existence and effective function of such CBOs can be utilized to strengthen the implementing capacity for the HCO.

4.8.4 Social diversity and gender

The social assessment explored the UCs in the project areas that have developed distinctive patterns of ideas, beliefs, and cultural norms that organize people into different social groups. The key factors of the social diversity across the UCs in the project areas are clan, age, and gender.

Inclusion or exclusion of clan membership

As described earlier, the *clan system* is the most important factor of social diversity across the pastoral communities in the project areas. Clan affiliation is a fundamental aspect of identity, influencing social interactions, marriage patterns, decision making processes, and access to basic resources such as water and grazing land. Hence, inclusion or exclusion of clan membership is a matter of inclusion or exclusion of social, economic, and political privilege. For this reason, the mechanism of clan membership is not open for all. Instead, clan membership is primarily determined by patrilineal descent, meaning membership is traced through the father's line. Thus, individuals' exclusion based on clan causes the risk of exclusion from the engagement of project related decision-making process, access to project services and project benefit sharing.

Social grouping based on age

Social grouping based on age set is a common practice in all the pastoral communities in the project areas. An age set is a means of social grouping consists of people of similar age who share a common identity, maintain close ties, and collectively move through a series of age-related statuses or age grades. Each age-set typically has specific social roles and responsibilities, with younger age sets often having duties related to herding, scouting, and defense, while older age sets take on leadership and decision-making roles. Social grouping based on age-set is often marked by specific initiation rites or ceremonies that signify a transition to a new phase of life and responsibilities.

System of gender inequalities

The findings of the social assessment show that gender is the key factor of social diversity across the UCs in the project areas. The findings based on stakeholder consultation and reviews of the available evidence explored how the socio-cultural, economic, and political systems operate to institutionalize gender inequalities. Economically, women are often excluded from the ownership of basic resources and household assets because the system of property inheritance is patrilineal, particularly as key resources such as land and livestock are passed down from father to son. Socially, the UCs in the project areas practice a patrilineal kinship system; affiliation to family and clan is traced through the male line or the father's lineage. Politically, women are excluded from the decision-making process in both

the domestic and public spheres. Major household issues (e.g., household economic decisions such as sales of livestock) are often decided by the husband. Sometimes, women are not even involved in the decision-making process regarding the issues (e.g., marriage) that concern their lives. In the public sphere, clan leaders and the council of elders are the traditional authorities entrusted with the power to make decisions regarding critical issues in the community such as community leadership and control of access to and use of land and natural resources. Hence, the existing system of gender inequalities may be reflected in women's engagement in project implementation and access to project services. This may exacerbate existing gender inequalities resulting in the project's disproportionate impacts on women.

4.8.5 Key local community stakeholders relevant for the project

The *clan system* is the most important form of social organization in all the project affected UCs. The mechanisms of membership and exercise of the clan system are embedded in the territorial, social, economic, political, and spiritual collective attachment. Given this, key local community stakeholders relevant for the project implementation are identified.

- ◆ *Clan leaders:* Clan leaders play a crucial role in traditional leadership, resource management, conflict resolution, and maintaining social cohesion, often acting as arbitrators and judges in clan affairs, while also representing their communities in the development issues such as the HCO. Thus, the clan leaders can play a vital role in the mobilization and coordination of the community members for the successful implementation of the project activities at the local level.
- ◆ *Elders and the council of elders:* In all UCs, elders are respected for their knowledge of traditions, customs, and social norms, which they use to guide community behavior and maintain social cohesion. Elders and the council of elders closely work with the clan leaders on issues crucial for the local community. They play a role in leadership and decision-making, ensuring that community needs are addressed and that resources are managed sustainably. Elders have knowledge of the environment and sustainable grazing practices, which they use to guide community members in managing rangelands and other basic resources. The council of elders often acts as a bridge between the community and external authorities, representing the interests of the pastoral community. With such roles in the community, elders and the council of elders are the key stakeholders strengthening the project implementation capacity.
- ◆ *Religious leaders:* In all the UCs, religious leaders are revered within their communities and possess the power to shape social values and attitudes in accordance with their faith's teachings. Thus, the religious leaders are among the key stakeholders to strengthen the project implementation capacity at the local community level.
- ◆ *Village development committees:* Many Kebeles with the UCs have village development committees for the coordination of community development activities. These can be a useful stakeholder to work with for the successful implementation of the project activities in the local community.
- ◆ *Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):* There are CSOs working in the HCO target areas focusing on promoting and coordinating education and health for pastoralist communities aiming to address their unique needs and challenges through a holistic, livelihood-based approach. Such CSOs are the key stakeholders for the project to work with in addressing the special needs of the UCs.
- ◆ *Local associations and self-help groups:* The existence of vulnerable associations and self-help groups is common in the UCs (see section 4.4.2 (B)). Such CBOs are formed to promote the interest of individuals and groups with specific needs such as women, children, youth, poor households, and people with disabilities. These are relevant stakeholders to work with in the project, particularly to address the needs of vulnerable individuals and groups in the local community.
- ◆ *Local government agencies:* Kebele and woreda administrations have the responsibility to facilitate and cooperate with development interventions such as the HCO. Therefore, these are readily available stakeholders relevant for the successful implementation of the project at the local community level.

- ◆ *Private institutions:* Private institutions such as private health facilities, drug stores, medical equipment suppliers, private schools, and educational material suppliers can be relevant stakeholders to strengthen the project implementation capacity through strengthening the public-private partnerships.

5. Potential Positive and Adverse Social Impacts of the Project

The IPF component will finance a package of interventions to improve human capital outcomes for the UCs in the SPG woredas and conflict, drought, and high level of refugees affected woredas. The IPF component activities to be implemented in the UCs will be drawn from a menu of services based on area specific priorities. As a backdrop to this, potential positive and adverse social impacts of the project are assessed below.

5.1 Potential social benefits or development outcomes

Depending on the IPF component activities drawn from a menu of services based on the UCs' specific priorities (SPG, conflict, drought, and high-level refugee affected woredas), potential positive social benefits or development outcomes include the following.

Rebuilt and resilient service delivery systems: Rebuilt and resilient service delivery systems for the UCs in the SPG, conflict, drought, and high level refugee affected woredas as the result of: (a) training provided for service delivery personnel (directors, supervisors, coordinators and frontline staff; health office staff, agricultural office staff, water desk staff, social workers) on service delivery skills; (b) provided nutrition sensitive agricultural inputs such as vegetables (e.g., seeds, fruit seedlings, sweet potato), pulses, chicken, and dairy to the needy and vulnerable HHs in selected conflict, drought, and high influx refugee affected woredas; (c) financed basic service delivery units (finance, operational budget units, etc.); (d) capacity building supported in transparency (governance, procurement, financial management, safeguards) and citizen engagement; and (e) logistics support provided to schools and health centers.

Restored effective, inclusive, and quality education system: Restored effective, inclusive, and quality education system for the UCs in the woredas affected the most by the conflict, droughts, and high levels of refugees as the outcome of: (a) provided alternative education (ABE) with a clear path back to regular education; (b) support provided for inclusive education including children in need of socio-emotional support; (c) scale-up community-based Early Childhood Education (ECE) approaches; (d) expanded quality ECE and basic learning packages; (d) improved in-service teacher training based on local needs; (e) classroom teaching supported through provision of scripted lessons and training; (f) strengthened school management committees, community outreach, and sensitization campaigns; (g) rehabilitated WASH infrastructure in existing school premises, (h) financial incentives provided to support transition of girls to secondary schools, and their retention in lower levels; (i) cluster schools supported for teaching and learning demonstrations; (j) strengthened school health/nutrition (targeting adolescent girls); (k) established Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) to provide children with a protected environment; (l) caregiver's support Interventions provided on Care for Child Development/parenting programs; and (m) Read@Home program provided to improve early literacy mainly for children out of school due to disruption of school.

Improved nutrition status for mothers and children: Improved nutrition status for the mothers and children of the UCs: in high-risk woredas affected the most by the conflict, droughts, and high levels of refugees as the outcome: (a) promotion of diversified healthy diet consumption supported through national and regional medias (broadcasts) with different languages; (b) pilot remote/Phone-based parenting programs supported such as Reach Up and Learn (RUL) focusing on caregivers of infants and toddlers; and (c) established maternal support groups for the mothers in the conflict affected areas of the UCs.

Improved learning outcomes in the SPG woredas: Improved learning outcomes in the SPG woredas as the result of the project intervention: (a) Developing audiovisual learning programs developed for young children (preschool to grade 3) and their parents and teachers focusing on language learning and cognitive, physical, social and emotional development; (b) established virtual science laboratories for secondary schools through digital platforms; (c) established nutrition-demonstration hub including food preparations for diversified healthy diet, preservation and food hygiene practices; (d) e-learning platforms created for teachers' professional development; (e) established demonstration schools for innovative teaching and learning; and (f) enhanced early learning through established engaging and interactive pre-primary classroom environments.

Reduced stunting in the SPG woredas: Reduced stunting in the SPG woredas as the outcome of the project interventions: (a) increased demand for services and promoted optimal health and nutrition practices as gender-sensitive harmonized behavior change strategies developed/adapted; (b) TA provided on the introduction of innovative, climate-smart nutrition-sensitive agriculture and Baby WASH (child-centered) interventions; (c) empowerment and engagement of women, youth and peoples with special need in the nutrition-sensitive interventions; (d) improved women's access to agricultural inputs, credit and financial services; (e) promoted access to labor and time-saving technologies for women; (f) promoted demonstrations of complementary foods preparations and young and child feeding practices; and (g) promoted Implementation of integrated early childhood stimulation in the nutrition interventions.

Better preparedness for mitigation and adaptation of climate-related shocks: Better preparedness for mitigation and adaptation of climate-related shocks in the drought affected areas of the UCs as the outcome of: (a) TA provided for finance capacity building of key sectors for drought response; and (b) promoted drought resistant, low moisture, early maturing school and home garden demonstrations.

Better preparedness for mitigation and adaptation of climate-related shocks: Better preparedness for mitigation and adaptation of climate-related shocks in the drought affected areas of the UCs.

5.2 Social risks and adverse impacts

Potential adverse or disproportionate social risks and impacts of the project on the UCs could arise from the distinctive social, cultural, and political characteristics described in Section 4.4. Potential social risks, impacts and concerns that require attention for the project mitigation measures are stated below.

Exclusion of the UCs: The language/communication barrier can limit the consultation with the UCs. Also, the cultural norms of the UCs such as cultural intact, undesired contact of non-community members with women and girls, and exclusion of minority groups such as non-clan members may restrict their engagement in the project. The clan system in the UCs determines not only one's group membership but also one's access to basic resources and inclusion in the social and economic benefits and decision-making process. This may have the risk of exclusion for the minority non-clan members to engage in and access the project services and benefits resulting in disproportionate impacts for such minority groups in the UCs. Thus, the UCs in general and vulnerable groups within the UCs such as women, girls, and non-clan members need to be adequately consulted throughout the project.

Risks of unequal opportunity to access by UCs due to limited capacity related to basic services under UCs: The assessment of the findings based on the consultation with the sector offices, community representative and members in the sampled woredas reveal that access to basic services is a critical problem in the project areas with the UCs. The provision of basic

services such as health and school facilities, essential equipment and materials, water, and electricity is normally limited in the project areas with the UCs. To worsen the matter, in the areas affected by conflicts (Yallo and Segen woredas for example) existing basic services were damaged and adequate restoration is not yet done. The limitation of basic services in some of the project areas with the UCs (Dalol woreda for example) combine the impacts of conflict as well as drought. Already poor access to basic services is overburdened in the areas affected by the high level of refugees. Unless appropriate mitigation measures are put in place, the limitation of basic services will create unequal opportunity for the UCs to access the project services. The risk is expected for all the subcomponent s to be implemented in the UCs (subcomponent 2.1.1, subcomponent 2.1.2, subcomponent 2.1.3, subcomponent 2.2.1, and subcomponent 2.2.2).

Risks and disproportionate impacts of unequal opportunities of engagement in and access to the project services by the women in the UCs: Women in the UCs suffer double disadvantages. The gender relations in the UCs communities is a hierarchical power relation between men and women in that women are often excluded from critical social and economic decision-making processes in the family as well as the community. Also, women in the CUs have frequently been marginalized as the result of the discriminatory factors operating in a region or nation in general. This can significantly limit women's engagement in project implementation. More importantly, women's opportunities of access to, and benefits from, the project services may be limited. This can exacerbate existing gender inequalities resulting in the project's disproportionate impacts for women.

Risks related to unequal access to the project services and benefits for the students in the UCs due to limited capacity at UCs: There are subcomponent activities with the risks and disproportionate impacts for the students in the areas of the UCs. Subcomponent 2.1.2 supports the education system in high-risk woredas affected the most by the conflict, droughts, and high levels of refugees. Subcomponent 2.2.2 supports improving learning outcomes in the SPG woredas. Both subcomponents include activities that require the existence of basic infrastructure and services. The establishment of virtual science laboratories and e-learning through digital platforms for instance necessitate access to effective and stable basic services such as electricity, water, and ICT. However, access to such basic services in some remote target areas (Dalol woreda of the Afar region for example) is none. This will make unequal opportunities of access to the project services and benefits with differential learning outcomes for the students in the areas of UCs.

Risk of project-related SEA/SH for the women and girls in the UCs: The project includes several subcomponent activities that primarily target services for women and girls in the UCs. For example, provision of nutrition sensitive agricultural inputs under subcomponent 2.1.1; financial incentives to support transition of girls to secondary schools/their retention in lower levels and school health/nutrition (targeting adolescent girls under subcomponent 2.1.2; Reach Up and Learn (RUL) and maternal support groups under subcomponent 2.1.3; and access to agricultural inputs, credit and financial services in subcomponent 2.2.2. Project workers or management may use access to or benefit from such project services in exchange of the sexual favor or exploitation of women and girls needing the services. Project staff may use unequal power (poverty/income difference, low awareness/mental maturity of the young girls) to have a sexual relationship with an underage girl. Regular contacts of such instance may also facilitate the risk of SE, project worker befriending an underage child, supports her and/or her family in exchange for sexual favors, and or commit acts of sexual assault against adolescent girls and women on a rural road.

Risk of exclusion from the project services and benefits for the UCs due to their distinctive socio-cultural characteristics: The UCs have cultural, social, and economic organizations that are distinct from the communities in non-pastoral areas of the project. Thus, if not targeted services for UC for instance on the nutrition interventions that support for diversified healthy diet consumption appropriate to the food habits of the UCs, educational system and Interventions on care for child development/parenting programs, socio-cultural and lifestyles of the UCs may cause inequitable access to the project services and benefits.

5.3 Proposed Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures to ensure equitably participation and access of services in the project for the UCs and vulnerable groups within those communities are proposed in line with the social risks and adverse impacts identified in Subsection 5.2.2.

Proposed measures to mitigate the limited opportunity for project engagement for the UCs include:

- ✓ Disclose project information in relevant local languages and in a manner that is accessible and culturally appropriate, taking into account any group with specific needs such as people with visual and hearing impairment.
- ✓ Undertake meaningful consultation tailored to the UCs. The process of meaningful consultation shall be carried out in a manner that provides the UCs with opportunities to express their views on the social risks, adverse impacts, and mitigation measures in the preparation and implementation of the subcomponent activities.
- ✓ Include in the SEP the strategies for meaningful consultation with the project-affected UCs such as arranging separate interviews with clan leaders and elders, people with special needs such as women, non-clan members and people with disabilities and separate focus discussion with members of the UCs.
- ✓ Carry out meaningful consultation with the UCs and vulnerable groups and individuals within the UCs on an ongoing basis as the nature of issues, impacts, and opportunities evolves during the project implementation.

Proposed measures to mitigate risks of unequal opportunity of access to the project services for the UCs in general include:

- ✓ Strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration, coordinate health programs with other sectors, such as education, agriculture, and social protection, to address the root causes of access inequalities in the UCs.
- ✓ Provision of capacity building training for service delivery personnel (directors, supervisors, coordinators and frontline staff; health office staff, agricultural office staff, water desk staff, social workers).
- ✓ Consider innovative approaches such as piloting the remote/phone-based parenting programs and establish support to nutrition interventions in high-risk woredas affected the most by the conflict, droughts, and high levels of refugees. Such supports include Provision of nutrition sensitive agricultural inputs (vegetable seeds, fruit seedlings . . . etc), and pilot the remote/ phone-based parenting programs like Reach Up and Learn (RUL).
- ✓ Provision of nutrition sensitive agricultural inputs to the most needy and vulnerable households in the selected conflict affected, drought affected and high influx of refugees woredas.
- ✓ Support household economic empowerment initiatives such as such as provision of nutrition sensitive agricultural inputs, access to credit and services for voluntary women self-help groups.

- ✓ Develop/adapt gender-sensitive harmonized behavior change strategies to increase demand for services and promote optimal health and nutrition practices.
- ✓ Utilize technology-based platforms such as implementing mobile health technologies to provide remote consultations and support.
- ✓ Strengthen community-based services such as expanding community-based health services, including community health worker (CHW) programs, to reach remote areas and underserved populations.
- ✓ Ensure sustainable and adequate essential supplies in the primary health facilities and schools.
- ✓ Strengthen supervision and accountability, implement mechanisms to ensure proper supervision and accountability of the frontline staff on the delivery service in the respective sectors.

Proposed measures to mitigate the risks and disproportionate impacts of unequal opportunities for engagement in, and access to, project services for the women in the UCs include:

- ✓ Consider consultation strategies such as arranging separate interviews and focus group discussions with women, representatives of women, and women's groups in the UCs to promote the active engagement of women in the sub-projects' preparation and implementation.
- ✓ Integrate gender considerations into the development of the subcomponent services and benefits. For instance, target wives in the provision of nutrition sensitive agricultural inputs, improve women's access to credit and financial services.
- ✓ Ensure the active participation of women, representatives of women, and women's groups in the GBV awareness raising training.
- ✓ Address the traditional gender norms through community awareness campaigns, community dialogue/facilitate discussions within pastoral communities, engage with clan leaders, local elders, religious leaders, and youth.
- ✓ Support the formation and strengthening of women's groups such as traditional-based women's voluntary self-help and social groups to empower them and provide a platform for collective action.
- ✓ Community-based solutions, for instance, encourage communities to develop and implement their own solutions to gender inequality challenges, respecting local contexts and traditions
- ✓ Establish a robust monitoring system to track progress on gender equality and ensure that project services and benefits are provided as desired in the project.

Proposed measures to mitigate risks and disproportionate impacts of unequal access to the project services and benefits for students in the UCs include:

- ✓ In the project areas where school facilities are unavailable or have been damaged due to conflict, provide support for classroom extension, rehabilitation (including installation of solar power), and WASH infrastructure (structured to be resilient against climate shocks) in existing school premises.
- ✓ Consider innovative learning-teaching approaches such as establishing virtual science laboratories for secondary schools through digital platforms, creating e-learning platforms and cluster schools.
- ✓ For schools lacking basic educational materials and equipment necessary to implement the subcomponent activities in the education delivery system and learning outcomes such as desktops and ICT equipment, support virtual science laboratories, e-learning, and audiovisual learning platforms.

- ✓ Consider alternative educational system for the areas of the UCs with limited access to education or customary lifestyles unsuitable for the regular schooling system such as provision of the alternative basic education with a clear path back to regular education
- ✓ Support inclusive education, including children in need of socio-emotional support.
- ✓ Strengthen school management committees, community outreach, and sensitization campaigns.

Proposed measures to mitigate high risk of project-related SEA/SH for the women and girls in the UCs include:

- ✓ Conduct awareness raising activities emphasizing the key actors in the UCs such as clan leaders, women, girls, youth, representatives of women, and local women's groups (such as voluntary women self-help and social network groups) on SEA/SH, GBV, and the project's accountability and response framework, including reporting and referral processes.
- ✓ Conduct awareness raising campaigns for the local community in general, in local schools and health facilities such as distribution of brochures and leaflets emphasizing that the project is a GBV free zone and providing information on available services including the project level GRM.
- ✓ Conduct comprehensive training for the project service delivery personnel (directors, supervisors, coordinators and frontline staff; health office staff, agricultural office staff, water desk staff, social workers) on SEA/SH, GBV, CoC and the project's accountability and response framework, including reporting and referral processes.
- ✓ Develop and implement clear Codes of Conduct (CoCs) that address project-related SEA/SH and have them signed by all project personnel and relevant stakeholders.
- ✓ Establish a grievance mechanism with multiple channels for reporting SEA/SH concerns, ensuring safe, confidential, and survivor-centered handling of complaints.
- ✓ Integrate SEA/SH risk management into project Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) and contracts, including specific requirements for contractors
- ✓ Develop clear and accessible procedures for reporting SEA/SH incidents, ensuring safe and confidential reporting channels. Establish referral pathways to appropriate service providers for survivors.
- ✓ Establish partnerships with local communities and key stakeholders including clan leaders, community elders, religious leaders, representatives of women, women groups, and girls school gender clubs, informing them about project-related SEA/SH risks and seeking their input in planning and implementation.
- ✓ Periodically monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the SEA/SH Action Plan, incorporating feedback from stakeholders and adapting the plan as needed.

Proposed measures to mitigate risk of exclusion from the project services and benefits for the UCs due to their distinctive socio-cultural characteristics include:

- ✓ Disclose project information in relevant local languages and in a manner that is accessible and culturally appropriate, considering any group with specific needs such as people with visual and hearing impairment.
- ✓ Undertake meaningful consultation tailored to the UCs to assess the social, cultural and economic life of the UCs that can affect the nutrition/health interventions of the project. Accordingly, consider the preparation of the nutrition/health subcomponent activities to be appropriate to the social, cultural, and economic features distinctive to the UCs.

Proposed measures to mitigate risks of exclusion from the project services and benefits for vulnerable groups in the UCs include:

Target vulnerable groups, and implement targeted interventions for these groups in the UCs such as women, girls, pregnant and lactating women, poor households, the elderly, non-clan members, people with disabilities, and refugees. Such actions to ensure their equal opportunity for engagement in, and access to, the project services and benefits include:

- ✓ Provide access to ICT facilities and training for the female students, students with disabilities, and refugee students to ensure their equal participation and access to the project educational and learning outcomes services.
- ✓ Implement inclusive educational interventions within schools, address school-related factors like resource availability, teaching quality, and school infrastructure, is essential for fostering an environment conducive to the educational engagement of all children, including those from the UCs and vulnerable groups within the UCs.
- ✓ Ensure consultation with and participation of people with special needs such as women, girls, people with disabilities, and refugees in the planning and implementation of the WASH interventions.
- ✓ Target vulnerable groups such households led by women, people with disabilities, the elderly, and refugees in the selected conflict affected, drought affected and high influx of refugees woredas for the project interventions such as the provision of nutrition sensitive agricultural inputs.

5.4 A Framework for Social Risk Management in the UCs

The social risk assessment and management approach for the UCs depend on proactively addressing vulnerabilities and building resilience to various social risks, going beyond traditional, reactive social protection measures. This involves the following hierarchical mitigation procedures.

5.4.1 Conduct meaningful consultation tailored to the UCs

The findings of the social assessment indicate that the UCs in the project areas exhibit distinctive social, cultural, economic, political, and geographic features that can significantly limit their equal opportunity of engagement in the design and implementation of the project. Hence, the first step in the social risk assessment and management for the UCs is ensuring the meaningful consultation tailored to the project-affected UCs. A framework for ensuring meaningful consultation with the UCs requires the following procedures.

- ◆ Address the socio-cultural and language/communication barriers common across all the project-affected UCs. This begins by providing the project information for the affected UCs in relevant local languages and in a manner that is accessible and culturally appropriate to the UCs. Then, meaningful consultation shall be carried out in a manner that provides the UCs with opportunities to express their views on the social risks, adverse impacts, and mitigation measures for consideration in the design and implementation of the subcomponent activities to be implemented in the UCs.
- ◆ Use consultation strategies and methods tailored to the socio-cultural organization of the UCs. The clan system is the primary social organization across all the UCs. Thus, among others, meaningful consultation strategies and methods tailored to the UCs include: (a) identify and establish regular means of engagement with the traditional leadership such as clan leaders, council of the elders, local pastoralist groups, and village development committees representing the collective interest of the UCs in key social, economic, and political decision making processes; (b) identify and establish regular means of engagement with leaders of various community-based associations such as youth age groups, self-help women's associations and local social networks representing the mutual interest of specific vulnerable groups within the UCs such as the poor households, women, youth, people with disabilities, and the elderly; and (c) use customary methods of communication/consultation such as community gatherings, indigenous means of

communication (such as the “*degu*” among the Afar pastoralist communities), and oral and visual communication.

- ◆ Use differentiated consultation methods addressing the risk of exclusion for the vulnerable groups within the UCs. Among others, inclusive consultation strategies include consider the special needs of vulnerable groups (such as addressing the barriers of inclusive consultation with the people having visual, hearing and mobility impairments) and arrange separate interviews and focus group discussion with vulnerable groups including women, households with children, girls, people with disabilities, the elderly, refugees and other minority groups within the UCs.
- ◆ Additional inclusive consultation strategy includes arranging separate interviews and focus group discussion with vulnerable groups such as women, households with children, girls, people with disabilities, the elderly, refugees and other minority groups within the UCs. Assess the views and special needs of each group on the social risks, adverse impacts, and proposed mitigation measures as inputs in design and implementation of the proposed subcomponent activities in the UCs.

5.4.2 subcomponent social risk screening for the UCs

The decision for subcomponent screening depends on the site-specific priorities for project interventions and proportionate to potential social risks associated with each subcomponent’s activities to be implemented in the UCs. subcomponent screening is a preliminary assessment that uses checklists or other methods to quickly identify potential social risks associated with the project. The findings of the social assessment for the UCs presented before informing the focus of the social risk screening checklists including assessment of the availability or access of basic services (such as health, nutrition, education, agricultural, WASH, and social protection) that are necessary for the implementation of the proposed subcomponent s activities to be implemented in the UCs. The subcomponent screening results determine the next step of the social risk assessment and management for the UCs if a more detailed site-specific or Targeted Social Assessment (TSA) is needed or not.

5.4.3 Conduct Targeted Social Assessment

If the subcomponent screening identifies specific social risks, a more detail site-specific or Targeted Social Assessment (TSA) will be conducted. The purpose of the TSA is to ensure that the subcomponent s activities to be implemented in the UCs are designed and implemented in a way that benefits those communities and the vulnerable groups within the UCs and avoid, if not minimizing, or mitigate the residual project’s disproportionate social risks and development outcomes for the UCs. Thus, the TSA goes beyond a general social assessment to specifically assess the unique needs, vulnerabilities, and preferences of the affected UCs including vulnerable groups within the UCs, ensuring the project is relevant, inclusive, and sustainable for them. **Annex 2** provides proposed outlines of a Targeted Social Assessment for the UCs.

5.4.4 Preparation of the Underserved Local Community Plan (ULCP)

The findings of the TSA inform the preparation of the ULCP. The TSA includes the views and special needs of the UC in target and the vulnerable groups within that UC to be incorporated into the design and implementation of the ULC. In such a way, the ULCP aims to ensure that the project services and benefits are equitably distributed and address the specific needs of the UC in question including the vulnerable groups within that UC. Enhance equal access to the project services and benefits for such communities and groups in target UCs. Proposed outlines for the ULCP are provided in **Annex 3**.

6. Institutional Arrangements

The Ministry of Finance, along with the regional and woreda bureau of finance, will lead implementation with active implementation by the target sectors engaged under the IPF component. Appropriate, effective, and competent institutional capacity is a crucial risk management strategy ensuring that the project is implemented effectively, efficiently, and

sustainably in the areas with the UCs. The findings of the assessment during preparation indicate critical institutional gaps for the project areas with the UCs. Therefore, appropriate measures are necessary to mitigate the disproportionate impacts that such institutional gaps may cause the implementation in the UCs including the following.

Human capacity building: Provision of capacity building training specifically targeting the special needs of the sector office and frontline staff in the areas of the UCs. The areas of institutional gaps for the focus of capacity building including project social risk management (subcomponent social risks screening, preparation and implementation of social risk management plans, monitoring and evaluation, GBV, SEA/SH, GRM), service delivery skills (e.g., socio-emotional support, inclusive education, gender sensitive methodologies, refugee integration, community mobilization, climate shock emergency preparedness and response etc.), in-service professional development (e.g. subject area short term training, access and use of digital data management system, etc.), and transparency (governance, procurement, financial management, and safeguards are among the areas noted during the assessment.

Support for basic logistics, materials, equipment and supplies: The institutional gaps were also assessed in terms of lack of or critical shortage of basic logistics, materials, equipment, and supplies, particularly in the health facilities, schools, agricultural services, and social protection supporting the project service delivery at the local level. This is assessed with significant disproportionate risks and impacts for the design and implementation of the subcomponent 's activities in the UCs. Therefore, support for basic logistics, materials, equipment, and supplies is necessary to mitigate the disproportionate risks and impacts such institutional gaps might have for the project service delivery in the areas with the UCs. Critical institutional gaps for support could include basic health equipment and supplies in the health centers and health posts, basic educational materials and supplies in the schools, ICT equipment and supplies, office materials and furniture (in the woreda sector offices, health centers, health posts, schools, and FTCs), transpiration logistics, teaching aids and demonstration kits in schools, school classroom furniture, and medical room furniture.

Establish and strengthen institutional capacity for the GRM at the community or service delivery center level: Institutional arrangements with accessible and effective GRM is a necessary strategy for the project social risk management, particularly in the lower-level project implementation arrangements such as health facilities and schools. GRM at the community or service delivery center level such as health center or school is necessary. Strengthening the institutional arrangement for the GRM includes engaging dedicated GRM staff at the woreda level and focal person at the service delivery center level such as health center and school.

Technical Assistance (TA): The provision of TA for the project in general is important. However, the institutional capacity gaps in the project areas with the UCs are more critical, necessitating special consideration. The findings of the social assessment show that the institutional systems that support the implementation of multisectoral coordination and data measurement for improved service delivery and digital and e-learning platforms are virtually non-existent in the woreda sector offices and service delivery centers such as health facilities, schools, FTCs, and WASH. Therefore, the provision of TA is necessary to enhance the institutional arrangements for equal opportunity of the implementation in the areas with the UCs.

7. Monitoring and Reporting Arrangements

Respective sector institutional arrangements from the federal to local (woreda/kebele/community) levels will carry out regular monitoring of the implementation of the subcomponent (s) activities under own responsibility. Whereas a joint monitoring and reviews will be used for cross-cutting issues or as may be needed for the project implementation.

7.1 Monitoring Mechanism

A Results Framework is used to monitor and report on the implementation of the project at different levels of results expected from the subcomponent activities, including sector core indicators and direct project beneficiaries. A Results Framework involves the following mechanisms:

- ◆ Monitoring within this framework involves regularly assessing progress against the monitoring indicators stated next to ensure the project is on track and making necessary adjustments to activities or resources if needed.
- ◆ Monitoring the social risk management for the UCs will depend on a proactive and participatory approach to identify and address potential risks and impacts, ensuring that individual subcomponent activities are implemented in a way that is equitable, inclusive, and sustainable for the UCs in general and vulnerable groups within the UCs in particular.
- ◆ A risk-based, proportionate approach to monitoring and managing social risks will be applied. These strategies include assessing and managing potential social risks at each stage, promoting stakeholder engagement, and establishing accessible grievance mechanisms.
- ◆ Flexible social risk management monitoring adaptable to changing circumstances will be used.

7.2 Monitoring Indicators

Monitoring the social risks management for the UCs includes multiple indicators that can be measured based on the assessment of quantitative as well as qualitative aspects. These monitoring include:

Project development outcomes: These monitoring indicators focus on measurable outcomes and intermediate results related to project development outcomes. The assessment of the project development outcomes tracks the progress of the project implementation and assesses whether it is on track to achieve the desired development outcomes related to the individual subcomponent s. Specifically, monitoring assess to what extent the project implementation achieved:

- ✓ Rebuilt and resilient service delivery systems.
- ✓ Restored effective, inclusive, and quality education system.
- ✓ Improved nutrition status for mothers and children
- ✓ Improved learning outcomes in the SPG woredas
- ✓ Reduced stunting in the SPG woredas
- ✓ Better preparedness for mitigation and adaptation of climate-related shocks
- ✓ Better preparedness for mitigation and adaptation of climate-related shocks

Risk management plans: Targeted Social Assessment and related ULCP can be used to identify specific monitoring indicators and track the implementation. By tracking the performance status of each mitigation measure proposed in such social management plans, assess whether the project is on track to achieving its goals and to identify any areas where further action is needed.

Access to project services and benefits: Monitoring can identify and address any social inequities that may arise from the project implementation, ensuring that the services and benefits of the project are distributed fairly and that the UCs and vulnerable groups within the UCs are not left behind. Recording and progress report from the project services provision centers such as schools and health facilities can serve as the means of verification.

Meaningful consultation: As a monitoring indicator in social risk management for the UCs, meaningful consultation signifies that the UCs in general and vulnerable groups in the UCs in particular are actively involved in the design, implementation, and evaluation of risk management strategies. This ensures that interventions are relevant, tailored to community needs, and address local priorities, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness of social risk

management efforts. Number, type, and composition of consultation carried out can be used as the source of information in this regard.

Grievance Redress Mechanism: GRM can serve as a valuable social risk monitoring indicator. By providing a structured process for individuals and communities to voice their concerns and receive redress, a GRM helps identify and address social risks associated with project implementation, ultimately enhancing accountability and improving project outcomes for the UCs and vulnerable groups within the UCs. Availability of GRM at the project service center level, and assessment of the number and appropriateness of the GRM channels can be used as the means of verification.

7.3 Reporting arrangements

The sector organization responsible for the implementation of the respective subcomponent activities will develop a system for regular monitoring and reporting on the social risk management performance throughout the project life cycle, including for the performance of social risk management in the UCs. The contents of the monitoring report include gathering data that help track the project's social performance on key monitoring indicators as describe above, identify areas where it deviates from expected outcomes or compliance with the relevant ESSs, and measures taken or proposed to address the issues.

The reporting arrangements are proposed as follows. Respective sector implementing entities at the Kebele level report to the woreda level which in turn reports to the regional and federal levels. The PIUs at the respective sector ministries will compile monitoring reports from individual SPG woredas, and conflict, drought or high-level refugee affected woredas and submit it to the HCO Project Coordination Department in the Channel One Programs Coordinating Directorate (MoF). The HCO project Coordination Department will consolidate the reports from the respective sector ministries and submit them to the World Bank.

The frequency of monitoring and reporting depends on the nature of the project and the significance of its social risks and impacts. However, a weekly report from the kebele to woreda, a biweekly report from woreda to region, a monthly report from region to respective sector ministry, a bimonthly report from respective sector ministry to HCO Coordination Department, and a quarterly report from the HCO Coordination Department to the Bank is expected at a minimum.

Annexes

Annex 1: Consultation Guiding Checklists

A. KII Guiding Checklists

- ◆ The effects of conflict, drought, and/or high influx of refugees in the region/woreda
- ◆ Availability and access to basic infrastructure such as electricity and ICT system in the region/woreda
- ◆ Major challenges (material, human, logistics gaps) hindering effective health service delivery system in the Region/Woreda.
- ◆ Major challenges (material, human, logistics gaps) hindering effective education service delivery system in the Region/Woreda.
- ◆ Major challenges (material, human, logistics gaps) hindering effective agriculture service delivery system in the Region/Woreda.
- ◆ Major challenges (material, human, logistics gaps) hindering effective WASH service delivery system in the Region/Woreda.
- ◆ Opinion, concerns and/or proposed mitigation measures to be considered in the SA/ULCPF.

B. Community Consultation Guiding Checklist

- ◆ The effects of conflict, drought, and/or high influx of refugees in the community.
- ◆ Assess availability, problems and challenges of access to basic health service for the community in general
- ◆ Availability, problems and challenges of access to education service.
- ◆ Availability, problems and challenges of access to water service.
- ◆ Assess availability, problems and challenges of access to agricultural extension service
- ◆ Gender norms and power relations in the community
- ◆ Opinion, concerns and/or proposed mitigation measures to be considered in the SA/ULCPF.

C. Interview Guiding Checklist for VGs and Organization of the VGs

- ◆ Differential impacts of conflict, drought, and high influx of refugees for the VGs.
- ◆ Socio-cultural factors affecting equal opportunity of access to basic services (health, nutrition, education, agriculture, and WASH) for the VGs within the UCs.
- ◆ Differential impacts of unavailability or inaccessible basic services such as health, education and water on women, pregnant and lactating women, girls, children, the elderly, people with disability,
- ◆ Concerns and proposed mitigation measure specific for the vulnerable groups to be considered in the SA/ULCPF

Annex 2: Proposed Outlines of the Targeted Social Assessment for the UCs

The breadth, depth, and type of analysis of the social assessment are proportionate to the potential risks and impacts of the proposed subcomponent activities on the affected HUCs. The outlines of the targeted social assessment include the following elements, as needed:

- A review of the legal and institutional framework applicable to HUCs.
- Gathering of baseline data on the demographic, social, cultural, and political characteristics of the project-affected HUC, the land, and territories that they have traditionally owned or customarily used or occupied; and the natural resources on which they depend.
- Taking the review and baseline data into account, the identification of project-affected parties, and the elaboration of a culturally appropriate process for involving and consulting with the project-affected HUC at each stage of project preparation and implementation.
- An assessment, based on meaningful consultation tailored to the HUC, of the potential adverse and positive effects of the project. Critical to the determination of potential adverse impacts is an analysis of the relative vulnerability of, and risks to, the affected HUC, given their distinct circumstances and close ties to the land and natural resources, as well as their potential lack of access to opportunities relative to other social groups in the communities, regions, or national societies in which they live. The assessment should consider differentiated gender impacts of project activities and impacts on potentially disadvantaged or vulnerable groups within the HUC.
- The identification and evaluation of measures necessary to avoid adverse impacts, or if such measures are not feasible, the identification of measures to minimize, mitigate, or compensate for such impacts, and to ensure that the HUC receives culturally appropriate benefits under the project. This is based on meaningful consultation tailored to the HUC and, where relevant, under the requirements of the UCP described above in the guidelines on Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
- Designing plans to promote access to benefits or measures to mitigate adverse impacts on HUC. It is important to include, in an analysis of vulnerability, factors such as HUCs' economic, social, and legal status; tenure security; their institutions, customs, culture, and/or language; their dependence on natural resources; their prior experiences with development activities; and their past and ongoing relationship to the authorities, the mainstream economy, and other groups in the area.

Annex 3. Proposed Outlines of the Historically Underserved Peoples Plan

- A summary of the Targeted Social Assessment, including the applicable legal and institutional framework and baseline data.
- A summary of the results of the meaningful consultation tailored to the affected HUC, and if the project involves the three circumstances specified in paragraph 24 of ESS7, then the outcome of the process of FPIC carried out with the affected HUC during project preparation.
- A framework for meaningful consultation tailored to HUC during project implementation.
- Measures for ensuring HUC receive social and economic benefits that are culturally appropriate and gender sensitive and steps for implementing them. If necessary, this may call for measures to enhance the capacity of the project implementing agencies.
- Measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate, or compensate HUC for any potential adverse impacts that were identified in the social assessment, and steps for implementing them.
- The cost estimates, financing plan, schedule, and roles and responsibilities for implementing the HUC Plan.
- Accessible procedures appropriate to the project to address grievances by the affected HUC arising from project implementation, as described in paragraph 35 of ESS7 and in ESS10.

- Mechanisms and benchmarks appropriate to the project for monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on the implementation of the HUC Plan, including ways to consider input from project-affected HUC in such mechanisms.

Annex 4: List of Organizations and Stakeholders Consulted

Name of Informant	Organization	Position	Phone
Getahun Desalegn	Ministry of Education	Project management and resource mobilization Senior Expert	+251911566975
Dr. Wubshet Asnake	Ministry of Agriculture	Food Staff and Quality Desk Head	+251921034094
Alemtsehay Sergawi	“	Head, Food and Nutrition Office	+251980223500
Fesseha Tekele	Ministry of Health	Senior Program Manager	+251911104339
Kebede Mamo	“	Senior M&E Advisor	
Siham Worku	Amhara Bureau of Finance	Channel One Programs Coordinator	+252918134989
Hussein Ali	Afar Region Bureau of Finance	Channel One Programs Coordinator	+251911809951
Obong Oboya	Gambella Region Bureau of Finance	Channel One Programs Coordinator	+251917907908
Bikiltu Ketema	Oromia Bureau of Finance	Channel One Programs Coordinator	+251911866629
Wubishet	South Ethiopia Region Bureau of Finance	Channel One Programs Coordinator	+251913676991
Amare Zerihun	Tigray Region Bureau of Finance	Channel One Programs Coordinator	+25192539881
Ismael	Tigray Bureau of Education	Vice Bureau Head	+251924849518
Misganaw Amare	Amhara Bureau of Education	Expert	+251912190919
Kishin Wolde	Amhara Bureau of Health	Vice Bureau Head	+251975757033
Abatenaw Adane	Amhara Bureau of Agriculture	Expert	+251924398518
Ebrahim Idris	Dallol Woreda, WOFED	Office Head	+251929339306
Kadir	Dallol Woreda, Agriculture Office	Office Head	+251920098365
Fatuma	Dallol Woreda, Women Affairs Office	Office Head	+251921556151
Abdella	Dallol Woreda, Education Office	Office Head	+251912838118
Abdu	Dallol Woreda, Health Office	Office Head	+251914145128
Habtamu	Semen Ari Woreda, WOFED	Office Head	+251931771455
Metekiya	Semen Ari Woreda, Health Office	Health Planning Expert	+251912123018
Dejene	Semen Ari Woreda, Agriculture Office	Agricultural Expert	+251926005813
Melese	Semen Ari, Education Office	Education Planning Expert	+251926905522
Dagnachew	Semen Ari, Women Affairs Office	Planning Expert	+25136538884
Abebe	Itang Woreda, WOFED	Office Head	+251962716225
Berhanu	Itang Woreda, RRS	Expert, Refugee Social Management	+251913981478
Mohammed	Gablalu Woreda WoFED	Office Head	+251915005446
Seid Ali	Ambassel Woreda, Agriculture Office	Office Head	+251921790972
Wondu G/Maria	Ambassel Woreda, Health Office	Office Head	+251914331967
Seid Ahimed	Ambassel Woreda, Education Office	Office Head	+251913751021
Atsede Abate	Ambassel Woreda, Women Affairs Office	Office Head	+251912860977

Annex 5: Community Consultation Participants' Attendance

A. At Dallol Woreda

Community Consultation Participant Attendance

I. Composition of the Community Consultation Participants

The composition of the community consultation participants will include community representatives (clan leaders, community elders, and religious leaders), members of project-affected communities, women, IDPs, and People with Disabilities, and pastoral communities. The total number of participants per community consultation session is expected to be 15-20.

II. Basic Information

- Name of selected region: Afar
- Name of selected zone: Abala (2)
- Name of selected woreda: Dallol
- Name of selected kebele(s): 17 kebeles
- Date of consultation conducted: 11-8-2017
- Consultation start time: 2:00
- Consultation end time: 5:30
- Venue: _____
- Name of consultation moderator: _____

III. List of Participants

S/No	Name	Sex	Social Status	Signature
1	Hussen Nur	M		
2	Ahmed Mahamada	M		
3	Darsa Ahmed	M		
4	Usman Ebrahim	M		
5	Usman Adem	M		
6	Darsa Edris	M		
7	Husen Ebrahim	M		
8	Ali Ahmed Ali	M		
9	Amir Usman	M		
10	Esmail Dataniwala	M		
11	Fatuma Amete	F		
12	Halima Husen	F		
13	Fatuma Ahmed	F		
14	Esmail Edris	M		
15	Edris Ahmed	M		
16	Husen Abdu	M		
17	Esmail Ali Ehim	M		
18	Ebrahim Edris Ehim	M		
19	Abdu Ali Ehim	M		
20	Edris Mohammed	M		

Annex 6: Sample Minutes with Community Consultation

Community Consultation Participant Attendance

I. Composition of the Community Consultation Participants

The composition of the community consultation participants will include community representatives (clan leaders, community elders, and religious leaders), members of project-affected communities, women, IDPs, and People with Disabilities, and pastoral communities. The total number of participants per community consultation session is expected to be 15-20.

II. Basic Information

- Name of selected region: 2 (Afar)
- Name of selected zone: 2 (kilbati Rasu)
- Name of selected woreda: Dallol
- Name of selected kebele(s): 17
- Date of consultation conducted: 11/08/2017
- Consultation start time: 2:00
- Consultation end time: 5:30
- Venue: fainance office
- Name of consultation moderator: Ibrahim Idriis Osman

Communis Consultation Checklist

- ◆ Assess availability, problems and challenges of access to basic health service
- ◆ Availability, problems and challenges of access to education service.
- ◆ Availability, problems and challenges of access to water service.
- ◆ Assess availability, problems and challenges of access to agricultural extension service
- ◆ Impacts of unavailability or inaccessible basic services such as health, education and water on women, pregnant and lactating women, girls, children, the elderly, people with disability,

ለውይይት (እንደ አጀንዳ) በቀረቡ ነባራዊ ችግሮች ላይ የ ተሰጡ ዝርዝር (ተጨማሪ) ምክረ ሀሳቦች

❖ በ ጤና አገልግሎት:-

- ✓ ወረዳችን ካለው የ ህዝብ ቁጥር አንፃር እና ካለን መልክአምድር ስፋት አንፃር የ ጤና አገልግሎት የሚሰጡ ተቋማት በጣም አናሳ ነው።
- ✓ አገልግሎት እንዲሰጡ የተገነቡ የ ጤና ተቋማት ሙሉ በሙሉ (በአብዛኛው) በውስጥ ግብአት (ማቴሪያል ፣ መድሀኒት) እና በሰው ሀይል (አስፈላጊ በሆኑ ባለሙያዎች) ችግር አለባቸው።
- ✓ የ ጤና አገልግሎት ልማግኘት ወደ ወረዳ ማእከል ይሁን ወደሌላ ጤና ተቋም ለመገባቀስ በወረዳችን ያለው ወደ ተለያዩ አቅጣጫ የሚያስኬዱ የመንገድ ችግር እና የ ትራንስፖርት አገልግሎት አለመኖር።



✓ በወረዳችን በሰው ሀይልም በማቴሪያልም ደረጃውን የጠበቀ የህክምና አገልግሎት የሚሰጥ ተቋም ባለመኖሩ ሴቶች፣ እናቶች፣ሀፃናት፣አረጋውያን፣ አካል ጉዳተኞች እና ፅኑ ህሙማን የተሸለ ህክምና ወይም አገልግሎትን ለማግኘት ወደ አጎራባች ወረዳ እና ወደ ተለያዩ ቦታዎች እንዲሄዱ ይገደዳሉ። ይህ ደግሞ ለታማሚው እና ማህበረሰቡ የ ኢኮኖሚ እና ማህበራዊ ቀውስን ያስከትላል።

✓ ህብረተሰባችን ያሉበትን የተለያዩ የጤና ችግሮች በወቅቱ ወደ ህክምና ሰጪ ተቋማት በመሄድ አስፈላጊና ተገቢውን ህክምና በጊዜው እንዲያገኝ ለህብረተሰቡ አስፈላጊ የሆኑትን የግንዛቤ እና የ ምክር እና የውይይት መድረኮችን በመፍጠር ስልጠናዎችን መስጠት ።

❖ በ ትምህርት አገልግሎት፡-

✓ አገልግሎት እንዲሰጡ የተገነቡ ትምህርት ቤቶች ሙሉ በሙሉ (በአብዛኛው) በውስጥ ግብአት (ወንበር፣ብላክበርድ ችክ እና ሌሎችም....) እና በሰው ሀይል (መምህራን) እጥረት ችግር አለባቸው።

✓ በወረዳችላ ተገንብተው የነበሩ አብዛኞች ትምህርት ቤቶች በውስጥ ማቴሪያል እጥረት፣ ግድግዳ እና ጣሪያቸው በመፍረሱ ምክንያት አገልግሎት እየሰጡ አይደሉም።

✓ የማቴሪያል እጥረት ላለባቸው ትምህርት ቤቶች የማቴሪያል ድጋፍ ቢደረግላቸው ፤ እና የወደሙ(የፈራረሱ) ትምህርት ቤቶች እድሳት እና ጥገና ስለሚያስፈልጋቸው በአፋጣኝ ጥገና ቢደረግላቸው።

✓ አብዛኛው ማህበረሰባችን አቅመ ደከማ እና ኢኮኖሚ ችግር ያለበት ስለሆነ በዚህም ችግር ምክንያት ልጆቹን ለማስተማር ስለሚችገር ለተማሪዎች የመማሪያ (የትምህርት ቁሳቁስ) እና የምግብ ድጋፍ ቢደረግ ።

✓ ማህበረሰባችን በተለያዩ ችግሮች ምክልያት እራሱ ለመማር አንዲሁም ልጆቹን ወደ ትምህርት ለመላክ ያለው ምልከታ እና ግንዛቤ እንዲስተካከል የንቅናቄ እና ግንዛቤ ፕሮግራሞች ያስፈልጋሉ

❖ በ ውሃ አገልግሎት፡-

✓ በወረዳችን የ መጠጥ ውሃ ተደራሽነት በጣም አናሳ ነው ።

✓ ካለን የውሃ ችግር አንጣር ለጥራትም ለተደራሽነትም በብዙ ቦታዎች ጥልቅ የውሃ ጉድጓድ ቁፋሮች ያሰፈልጋሉ

✓ አሁን ካለው የነዳጅ አቅርቦት እና የ ዋጋ ውድነት አንፃር እንዲሁም ለተሻለ አገልግሎት የ ወሃ መሳቢያ ሞተሮች በ ታዳሽ ሀይል (ሶላር) ቢቀየሩልን።

❖ በ ግብርና ዘርፍ አገልግሎት ፡-

✓ ለ እርሻ ስራዎች የሚሆኑ የእርሻ መሳሪያ እቃዎች (አካፋ፣ዶማ፣ዛቢያ፣ማለሻ ፣) ድጋፍ ቢደረግልን።

✓ በወረዳችን በአጠቃላይ ማለት ይቻላል በጎርፍ ችግር ምክንያት የመሬት መሸርሸር፣ የመንገዶች መበላሸት(መቆረጥ)፣የእርሻ ቦታዎች በጎርፍ መወሰድ እና ሌሎችም በዚህም ምክንያት ለጎርፍ መከላከል እና አፍርናውሃ ጥበቃ ስራ የ ሚሆን የ ጋቢዮን እገዛና ድጋፍ በጣም ያስፈልገናል።

✓ አርብቶ አደር ማህበረሰብ እንደመሆናችን የ እንስሳት ህክምና ተቋማት በስፋት ያስፈልገናል።

✓ የ አካባቢያችን የ አየር ንብረት እና የ መሬት(አፈር) ሁኔታ ያማከለ ለ እርሻ የሚሆኑ ግብአቶች (ምርጥ ዘር፣ ኬሚካል) እገዛና ድጋፍ ያስፈልገናል።



Annex 7: Sample Photos During Community Consultation

At Dallol Woreda



At Semen Ari Woreda

