

**Gender, HIV/AIDS and Food Security
Linkage and Integration into Development Interventions**

By Dawit Kebede and Solomon Retta

December 2004

DCG Report No. 32

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The Drylands Coordination Group (DCG) is an NGO-driven forum for exchange of practical experiences and knowledge on food security and natural resource management in the drylands of Africa. DCG facilitates this exchange of experiences between NGOs and research and policy-making institutions. The DCG activities, which are carried out by DCG members in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Mali and Sudan, aim to contribute to improved food security of vulnerable households and sustainable natural resource management in the drylands of Africa.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ASCI	Amharic Saving and Credit Institution
DCG	Dry land Coordination Group
DICAC	Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission
DPPC	Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission
EARO	Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organization
EOC	Ethiopia Orthodox Church
ENCCD	Ethiopian NGOs/Cobs Committee for Combating Desertification
EPRDF	Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
FFW	Food – For – Work
Fads	Focus Group Discussions
FGM	Female Gentile Mutilation
Ha	Hectare
HIV	Human Immuno Deficiency Virus
HTP	Harmful Traditional Practices
IDP	Internal Displaced People
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IIRR	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
Kg	Kilogram
m.a.s.l	Meters Above Sea Level
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOH	Ministry of Health
NCA	Norwegian Church Aid
NGOs	Non – Governmental Organizations
PLWHA	People Living With HIV/AIDS
REST	Relief Society of Tigray
SDPRP	Sustainable Development and Poorly Reduction Program
SDWW	Sustainable Development

SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Joint Program for AIDS
VCT	Voluntary Counseling and Testing
WAT	Women's Association of Tigray

Executive Summary

1. The study considers three objectives: to raise awareness on how gender and HIV/AIDS are linked to food security; to give recommendations regarding how HIV/AIDS and gender issues can be integrated into development interventions; and to improve the mainstreaming of gender and HIV/AIDS issues in development interventions in the study area.
2. A larger number of poor people live in Amhara and Tigray regions than anywhere else in Ethiopia. The protracted civil war, drought and famine, including deaths and displacements, have arguably been responsible for the downturn situation. The most serious development challenges in these regions concomitant to this disaster are ecological degradation, drought, food insecurity, land fragmentation, and lack of land.
3. The areas under study are Dahana and Kiltawlallo Woreda. These areas (*woreda's*) have been subjected to frequent episodes of drought through the last decades, leading to food insecurity. EOC/DICAC and REST, through the support of Norwegian Church Aid–Ethiopia (NCA), work in Dahana and Kiltawlallo woredas. The study instruments employed were household-survey, focus-group discussions, observation and secondary data.
4. Both areas under study face chronic food insecurity. The increasing population has increased the pressure on the available land; besides, the land has been degraded and has lost its fertility, producing very low crop yields, not enough to feed the family for the whole season. This has left the people dependant on food aid for the last years. Resettlement is one of the key ways to insure food security, but it should be implemented voluntarily with full participation of the target groups and hosting communities. The suitability of the resettlement areas should be well assessed; accompanying services should also be followed (like health, water, schools, etc). Care should be taken in resettlement programs not to destruct the natural resources.
5. Only a few extension workers have been assigned in Dahana Woreda while the Kiltawlallo Woreda has a better extension service. It is important to assign more extension workers close to the rural community to train farmers in various

technologies and conduct demonstration sites. The government has currently (2003) embraced a strategy to train a number of development agents.

6. Irrigation is an agricultural activity useful for sustainable food security. Nevertheless, agriculture in areas under study is mainly subsistence and smallholder agriculture, which is totally dependant on rain-fed cultivation. Irrigation therefore, plays a great role in achieving sustainable food security if properly planned, developed and managed. Various types of methods could be used for practicing irrigation, which includes water harvesting, construction of diversion dams and reservoirs, as well as using irrigation pumps.
7. The issue of land tenure has been a discussion agenda and a debate for the last decades. Measures should be taken to assure farmers land ownership so that they can use their land for various purposes freely and develop it with long -term investment, resource allocation and give possibilities for loans and collateral arrangements to lead sustainable livelihood.
8. It is important that farmers should be engaged in some other activities developing their skills and trading abilities. In the study areas livestock breeding, modern bee keeping, poultry farming are feasible interventions to bring sustainable food security.
9. Efforts should be made to introduce environmental-friendly energy resources such as wind and solar energy, small hydro-powers. The energy obtained from these untapped sources could be used for cooking, lighting, communication, water pumping, etc. In the meantime, this will alleviate the problem of land degradation and long distance traveling by women and children to get firewood and water, giving them an opportunity to involve themselves in other socio-economic activities.
10. Training skills should be given to farmers so that they can be involved in off farm activities. This may include wood works, metal works and engaging in small -scale industries and handicrafts.
11. Women constitute about half of the population of Ethiopia. Their contribution to both the welfare of the family and the household economy is enormous. However, in spite of their indispensable contribution, women are conspicuously scarce in leadership positions. They are concentrated at the bottom of the ladder in terms of

employment, income, education, etc. Particularly in the rural areas, due to traditional and cultural gender socialization patterns, women are ascribed an inferior social and economic status. They are subordinate to the male counterparts.

12. Both women and men have gender-defined roles and capacities that must be taken into consideration when planning and implementing development programs. The women decision making in development activities should be encouraged through broadening female participation in local organizations.
13. Women participation is very important as it induces self-confidence, pride and the satisfaction of having made significant achievements. They can also develop the creativity that will enable them to continue improving the life of their families and communities.
14. The representation of women in decision-making fora in the regions is almost negligible. Women access land mainly through their husbands. Normally, women do not determine what crop is planted, or whether domestic animals should be sold or not. The males make almost all the decisions and the females follow their decision. Within the household, women have limited access to and control over household income. Moreover, women depend on the approval of the male head of households in order to participate in community organizations and meetings.
15. There are harmful traditional practices and barriers that affect the participation of women in development activities, which should be tackled in collaboration with all concerned.
16. There is a need to design, introduce and maximize activities which reduce women's workloads. This includes facilities such as access to potable water, grinding mills, improved technologies. In addition, economic opportunities for women should be introduced through facilitating access to credit facilities to undertake income-generating activities.
17. AIDS is not only one among the many health challenges, it is a killer disease of unprecedented proportion that will have a devastating impact on the country unless appropriate measures are taken urgently. The scope of the problem is so wide-ranging and requires manifold partnership and collaborative effort. Therefore it is very important to promote and strengthen the integrated efforts of HIV/AIDS prevention and control secretariat offices of the *woreda's* under study with

government, non-government and community based organizations. Coordination of efforts will help to avoid overlapping and resource waste. There should be systematic sharing of information, experience and ideas among officials, experts, community and religious leaders, lawyers, and other stakeholders.

18. AIDS is found to be more devastating and a great misfortune to families where only one person in the family has a job. Most women in areas under study do not have formal employment. In such circumstance, when husbands with jobs pass away, the wives with no jobs are left to destitution. Therefore, without economic independence women often are not in a position to follow safe prevention techniques that are needed for reducing the spread of HIV infection.
19. Poverty is detrimental to health because it restricts access to medical care and healthy living conditions. Furthermore, since both prevention and effective treatment of adverse health events cost money, the poor are likely to suffer from ill health more often, with more severe consequences. Economic problems may lead women into prostitution, sex workers often having no alternative livelihood. The death of the breadwinner forces women to sell assets as coping strategy making them vulnerable to food insecurity. Food in-secure women are more likely to die when infected with HIV. Workload in household and child bearing decreases resistance to HIV virus. Women-headed households are poorer and have less control over productive resources.
20. The study indicates that the perceptions and attitudes to the spread of HIV/AIDS are linked to natural phenomena/ God's punishment. People think that they are immune to HIV/AIDS; they attribute the cause to God; they are not certain about the effectiveness of condoms. It appears that many have heard about the disease and its detrimental effect but with misconceptions about its cause and transmission.
21. There are serious fallacies and misunderstanding. Some think that children with HIV/AIDS should not be allowed to attend public schools; people with HIV/AIDS should not be allowed to attend public meetings. This perception, alienating people living with HIV/AIDS, has not yet been addressed properly.
22. In general, the issues of food security, gender and HIV/AIDS are inter-linked very much and should be treated in a holistic manner. Gender inequality affects food security at household level. The trend of food insecurity in most parts of Ethiopia is

of crucial concern and needs serious consideration by various stakeholders. Development programs being implemented by government and NGOs should play a great role in assuring that women and men participate equally in planning and implementation of development interventions in general and food security in particular, so that they benefit equally.

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CHAPTER I

1.1. Introduction

This report is an outcome of the study on the linkage of food security, gender and HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia. The study was commissioned by Drylands Coordination Group (DCG).

The study was undertaken from July to November 2003. The findings are based on primary and secondary information collected from different sources.

The report is organized into seven chapters. **Chapter I** includes introduction, purpose of the study, objective of the study, scope of the study and study methodology. **Chapter II** describes the background of Dahana and Kiltawllalo *woreda* (areas under study). **Chapter III** describes the study on food security. **Chapter IV** describes the study on gender. **Chapter V** describes the study on HIV/AIDS. **Chapter VI** describes the linkage of gender, HIV/AIDS and food security, while recommendations are outlined in **Chapter VII**.

1.2 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to address the challenges that HIV/AIDS and gender inequality pose to development efforts in relation to food security in Ethiopia. The study focuses on the links between gender and HIV/AIDS and food security, particularly on the coping mechanisms related to food security among men and women, suffering from HIV/AIDS. The aim of the study and the follow-up workshop is to come up with recommendations related to how this knowledge could be integrated to food security interventions.

1.2.1 The Objectives of the Study

- To raise awareness on how gender and HIV/AIDS are linked to food security.
- To give recommendations regarding how HIV/AIDS and gender issues can be integrated into development of interventions.
- To improve the mainstreaming of gender and HIV/AIDS issues in food security and development interventions in Ethiopia.

1.2.2 Scope of the Study

The study team undertook an extensive document review to avoid overlapping with work done by others. In particular the team looked at how to ensure links to the experiences made by REST, EOC and other organizations working with these issues in Ethiopia. The study was carried out in Tigray Region Kiltawlallo Integrated Rural Development Project operated by REST, and Dahana Rural Development Project operated by Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter Church Aid Commission (EOC/DICAC) in Amharic Region.

1.2.3 Methods Used in the Study

The method utilized both quantitative and qualitative methods to gather information about concerned communities and stakeholders. The participatory approach emphasizes the importance of involving the community in the study, as they have clear ideas about the real situation as well as the crucial problems, concerns and issues in their areas.

A study team comprising the national consultants was fielded to undertake the study in Kiltawlallo and Dahana *Woreda* of Tigris and Amharic Regional states respectively. The method of data collection adopted for this study is: formal sample survey, focus group discussions (Fads), observation and review of secondary data.

A series of interviews with key informants, representatives of government various ministries offices found in the *woreda*, anti-AIDS club members (AAC) and some individuals were conducted.

1.2.3.1 Recruiting and Training Data Collectors

The consultants recruited a total of six data collectors for each of the Kiltawlallo and Dahana regions (from local areas in order to avoid problems such as language, travelling time etc.) to collect data from the sample households. The data collectors were either college- graduates or colleges students.



Trained data collectors ready for field survey (Photo: Dewit Kebede, 2003)

These data collectors were given intensive training/orientation by the consultants for one day. The data collectors were then deployed to selected *Kebeles* to undertake household interviews and stayed in the field for 5 days in each area under study. During this period of data collection, the consultants visited the data collectors to check the quality of data being collected.

1.2.3.2 The Study Instruments

Qualitative and quantitative instruments were used to complement each other and be integrated into the overall study strategy. The types of instruments include:

- In order to collect the necessary data, appropriate survey instruments (questionnaires, formats, etc) were prepared to meet the specifications of the study.
- Direct interviews of heads of household and household members, which includes husband or wife or children were employed for data collection.

Household Survey

This survey instrument was developed to collect household socio-economic data in the study areas. Considering the relative homogeneity of the population, a sample of 157 from Dahana

Rural Development Project area (Amhara Regional state) and 251 from Messanu and Surroundings Integrated Rural Development Project (in Kiltawlallo *Woreda- Tigray*) was taken.



Figure: 1 Household interview (Photo: Dawit Kebede, 2003)

Focus Group Discussions

The group discussions used participatory approach to facilitate open discussions on various issues. The focus group discussions had the advantage of exploring the problems through divergence and convergence of ideas of participants. The participatory discussions created a forum for participants to suggest solutions to the issues raised in the discussion.



Figure 2: Focus Group Discussion (Photo: Dawit Kebede, 2003)

The participants of focus group discussion comprised women, men, clubs, etc. The number of participants present in the discussions was 248, out of which 59 were women.

In summary, the instruments were to be complementary as well as to compare and crosscheck the information obtained.

Secondary Data

Secondary data was used to complement the household survey and focus group discussions. Secondary data were obtained from reports and records of pertinent *woreda* line offices including agriculture, health, education, *woreda* council EOC/DICAC, and REST. Secondary data were also obtained from other sources. These data were carefully reviewed and included in the report.

Data Processing Method

The questionnaire designed for the household survey was properly coded for ease of electronic data analysis. The collected data were carefully reviewed for possible errors in enumeration including missing data. Following cleaning and editing of the responses in the questionnaire, the data were entered in a computer in text format using SPSS.

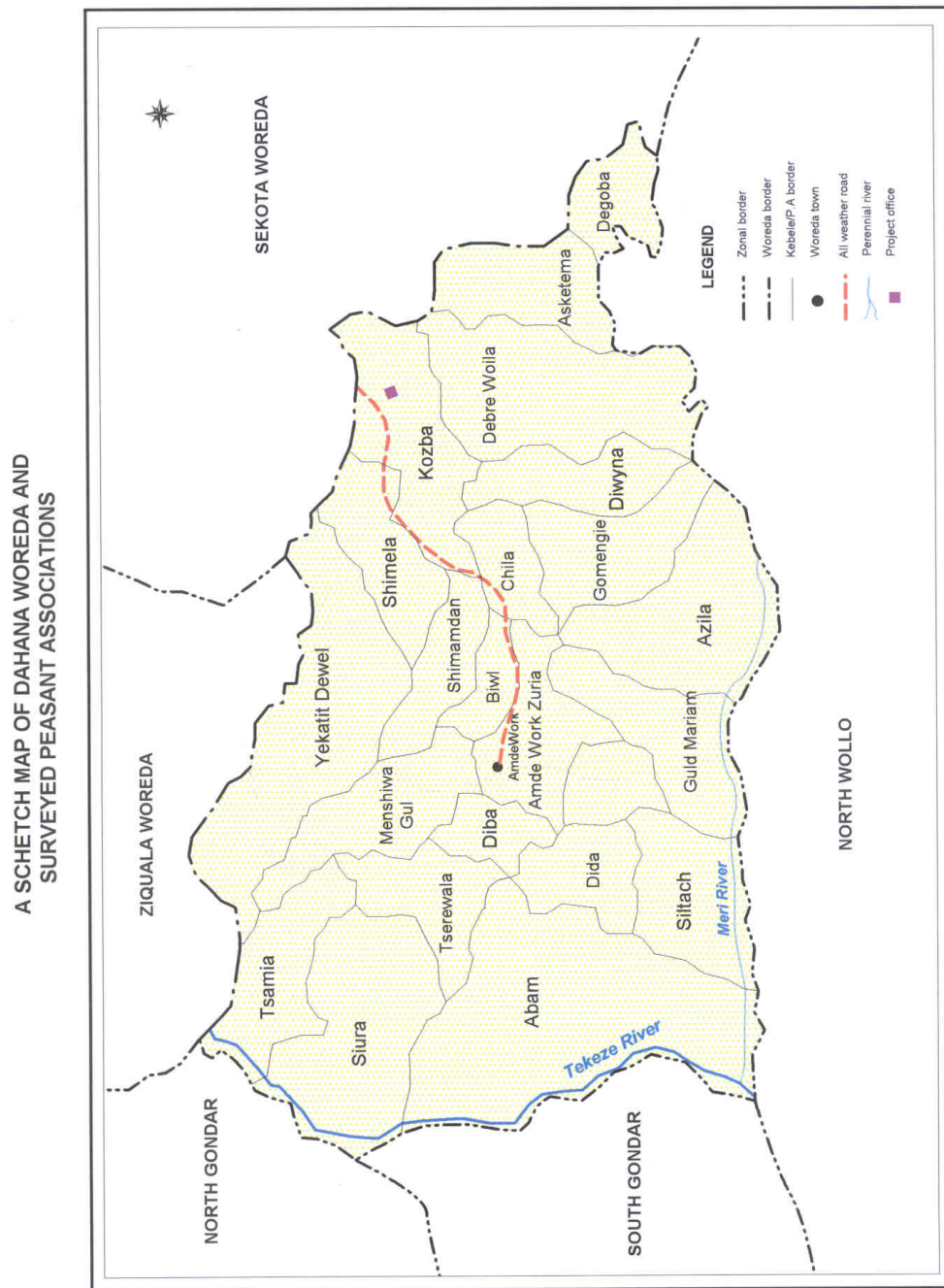


Figure 4: A sketch map of Dahana woreda and surveyed peasant association

Fragmentation of land is common. Deforestation through expanding cultivation, poor farming practices and cultivation of steep slopes, etc. are some of the causes of soil erosion and constraints to sustainable soil and water management. The main constraints of increasing production are shortage of cultivable land, lack of oxen, problems of pest and rodents and soil

erosion. Very few families practice irrigation. The use of fertilizers and agro-chemicals against weeds is very low. Moreover weeding of crops such as wheat, barely, sorghum is uncommon.

The population of Dahana *Woreda* is 119,803 out of which 97% live in rural areas. Out of 29,352 households, 925 (3%) are female headed (Dahana *Woreda* Agriculture office). As it was mentioned by the head of agricultural office, the role of women in decision making to household issues is almost non-existent. Agricultural products are the main source of income, followed by very few cases of labor and trade. The main animal feed in the *woreda* is natural pasture. The main animal diseases are anthrax, endo- parasites, sheep/goat pox, black leg, foot-and-mouth disease and ecto-parasites.

Rivers/ streams are main sources of drinking water for both humans and animals. Access to adequate supply of safe water is one of the major problems in the community, women spending their time in fetching water from rivers. People are thus exposed to water-borne and sanitation related infectious diseases.

Church is the only service available nearby. All other services including markets, health stations, schools, grinding mills, etc. are relatively far from residential areas.

2.1.1.1 Dahana Integrated Rural Development Project

The EOC/DICAC –Dahana Integrated Rural Development Project (DIRDP) is located in Wag Hemra Zone in Amhara Region, approximately 755 km north of Addis Ababa.

The project is in an area frequently struck by drought. Over the past 40 years, records of drought have recurred with predictable regularity. The project engages in activities aimed at developing the agro-economic infrastructure necessary to make the area less susceptible to the effects of drought.

As indicated above, the project area has been subject to frequent episodes of drought through the last decades, leading to tenuous food security. This food insecurity has been exacerbated by environmental degradation from extensive deforestation and land over-exploitation. The area suffers from poor infrastructure as well, including lack of schools and health services, and inadequate sources of potable water.

EOC/DICAC through the support of Norwegian Church Aid- Ethiopia (NCA/E) works in Dahana *Wereda* to support communities in combating the challenges of drought and underdevelopment and empowering them to deal with centuries-old problems of poverty, injustice, and isolation.

The project operates in Dahana administrative *wereda* with a target population of 40,763 (18,470 female & 22,293 male) in 5 peasant associations. Ninety-eight percent of the target population are Orthodox Christians. Direct beneficiaries are selected from within this larger population, according to the level of household needs, with clear gender equity in the selection procedures.



Figure 5: Typical village in Dahana and terracing for soil and water conservation (Photo: Dawit Kebede, 2003)

2.1.1.2 Basic Data Collected from Areas Under Study in Dahana *Woreda*

Table 1: Households Interviewed

	N	%
Male headed households	110	70.1
Female headed households	47	29.9
Total	157	100.0

157 households were interviewed out of which 29.9% were female headed households.

Table 2: Marital Status of Households

	Male	%	Female	%	N	%
Single	-		8	17	8	5
Married	102	94	10	21	112	71
Divorced	7	6	21	44	28	18
Widowed			9	18	9	5
Total	109	100	48	100	157	100

With respect to marital status of population under study (Table 2), about 63% of female households were either divorced or widowed. On the other hand majority of male households were married.

Table 3: Household Heads by Age

AGE	SEX		Total
	Male	Female	
20-24	3	3	6
25-29	12	9	21
30-34	16	7	23
35-39	15	10	25
40-44	18	5	23
45-49	18	1	19
50-54	11	7	18
55-60	10	5	15
Above 60	7		7
Total	110	47	157

With respect to the age of household heads (Table 3), 71% of them were between 25 and 49 years of age. The proportion of female-headed households is in the age group of 35- 40 was 32% of total female households.

Table 4: Households by Occupation

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Farmer	96	91	22	49	118	78
Daily labor	1	1			1	1
Petty trade	7	7	9	20	16	11
Priest teachers	1	1			1	1
Selling tella and Korefe			13	29	13	7
By selling tella and injera			1	2	1	1
Pension	1	1			1	1
Total	106	100	45	100	151	100

**tella and korefe are local drinks. and injera is a national food*

With regard to occupation of households (Table 4), 91% of male households and 49% female-headed households are engaged in farming.

2.1.2 Kiltawllalo Woreda

Kiltawllalo Woreda is found in the Tigray Regional State of Eastern Zone. The woreda includes *dega*, *woina dega* and *kola*. It is one of the drought prone and chronic food deficient woredas in Tigray. According to the REST Messanu Integrated Rural Development Project Annual Report (2002), the majority of the population in the woreda is represented by smallholding farmers. The farmlands are characterized by high fragmentation, which results in continuing decline of agricultural productivity. Landholding is on average 0.5 hectare, which is too small for a household of up to 5 heads on average, as average production and productivity per hectare ranges from 2.7 to 5.94 quintals (1quintal equals 100Kg). The types of crop most often cultivated include *teff*, sorghum, barely, wheat, maize, etc.

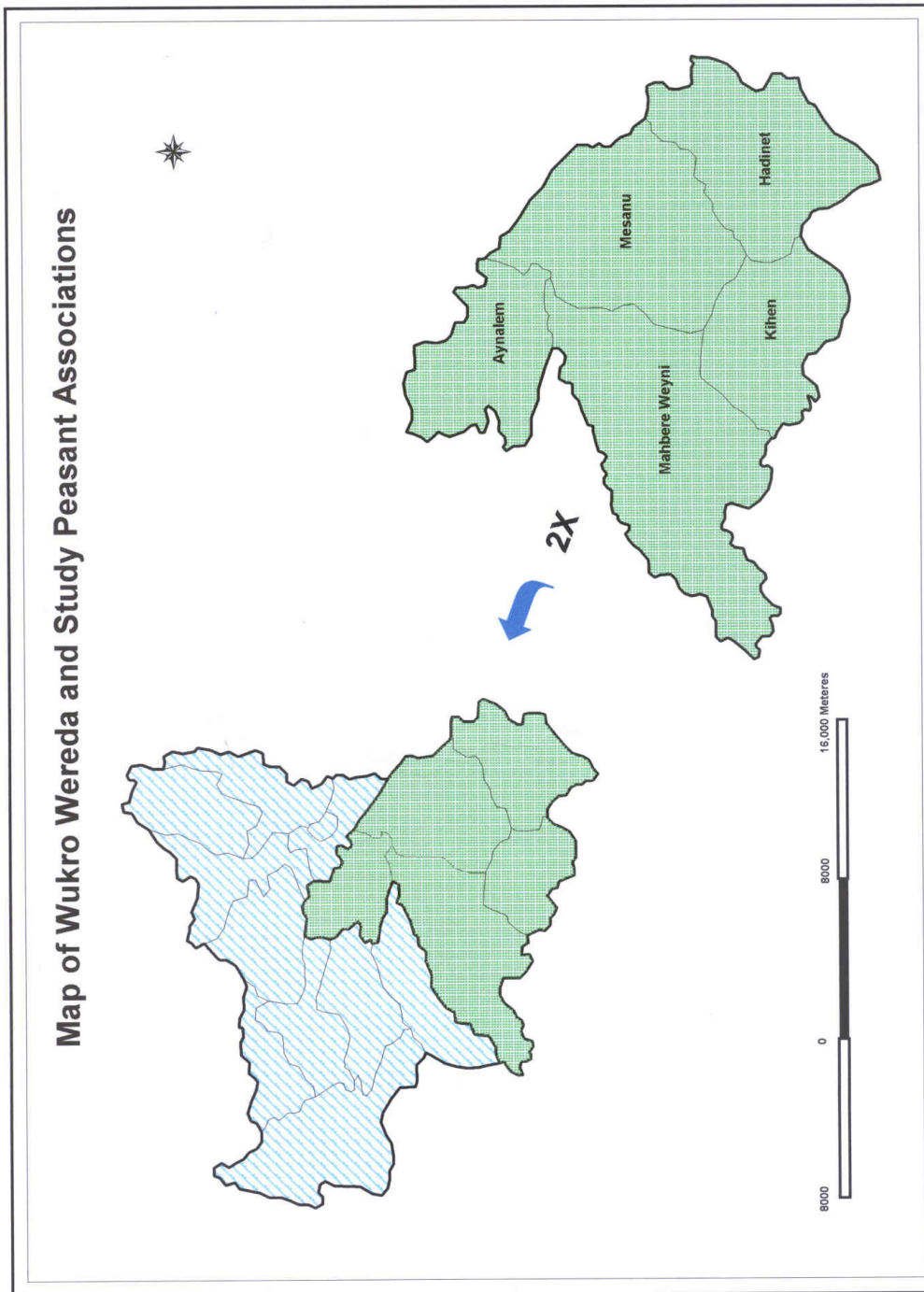


Figure 6: Map of Kiltawlallo *Woreda* and Surveyed Peasant Associations

Access to improved agricultural inputs and services is low, farmers opting to use inappropriate farm implements and practices. Food assistance has been the major intervention for many years to avoiding migration, famine and starvation. The access and availability of the rural water supply for human as well as animal consumption is unsafe and inadequate.

2.1.2.1 Messau and Surrounding Area Integrated Agricultural Development Project

The REST - Messau and Surrounding Area Integrated Agricultural Development Project is located in the eastern part of Tigray National Regional State, in Kiltawlallo *Woreda*. The Project area consists of five of the 15 *tabias* (villages) of the Kiltawlallo *Woreda*.

The landscape of the area is rugged. Due to continuous cultivation and forest utilization, the land has been degraded and lost much of its fertility, frequent drought resulting in decline of crop production. The target population lives in a moisture-deficient and fragile environment and is currently unable to produce sufficient food for survival.

Therefore, it is necessary to assist the community in promoting environmental rehabilitation, crop production and human resources development in the project area, and to assist them to build their capacity for future, self-sufficient development efforts.

The total targeted beneficiary population includes 30,700 people. Female-headed households and landless are particularly vulnerable and are among targeted groups.

The project components include environmental rehabilitation, agricultural extension, livestock development and capacity building.

2.1.2.2 Basic Data Collected from Kiltawllalo Woreda

In the following sections basic data gathered from government offices, secondary records and discussions made with individuals and groups, are presented.

Table 5: Population of Kiltawllalo Woreda

Population	Location				Total	
	Rural		Urban			
	Number	%	N	%	Number	%
Male	40474	51	9493	43	49967	49
Female	39366	49	12695	57	52061	51
Total	79840	100	22188	100	102028	100

Source: *Kiltawllalo Woreda Agriculture Office (1990 E.C.)*

The total population Kiltawllalo Woreda is 102,028, with 78% living in the rural area. As shown in Table above 52,061(51%) of the total population are females. The proportion of females is larger in urban areas than in rural areas.

Table 6: Households in Kiltawllalo Woreda

Household	Location				Total	
	Rural		Urban			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Male headed households	18600	90	2000	35	20600	85
Female headed households	2066	10	3713	65	5779	15
Total	20666	100	5713	100	26379	100

Source: *Kiltawllalo Woreda Agriculture Office*

As it can be seen from Table 6, 5,779 (15%) of households in the *woreda* are female-headed. The table also indicates that 65% are found in the town, which needs focused approaches to development program by various organisations targeting women for their development programmes.

Table 7: Households in Study Areas Kiltawllalo Woreda

	Number	%
Male households	157	63
Female households	94	37
Total	251	100

251 households were interviewed out of which 37% were female households.

Table 8: Marital Status of Households under Study

Marital status	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
Single	3	2	7	8	10	4
Married	139	91	40	43	179	73
Divorced	8	5	21	23	29	12
Widowed	3	2	25	6	28	11
Total	153	100	93	100	246	100

With regard to marital status, 39% of female households (Table 8) were either divorced or widowed.

Table 9: Households under Study by Occupation

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Farmer	150	97	84	94	234	96
Petty trade	1	1	5	6	6	3
Daily labor	3	2			3	1
Total	154	100	89	100	243	100

With respect to occupation of households, almost all (96%) respondents were farmers.

Table 10: Reasons for Not Sending Children to School

Reasons	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Lack of learning material	37	45	20	42	57	44
Lack of food	29	35	17	35	46	35
School distance	5	6	8	17	13	9
Attending livestock	8	9	-		8	6
Health problem	4	5	1	2	5	4
Marriage	-		2	4	2	2
Total	83	100	48	100	131	100

The major reasons for not attending or dropping out of school were lack of learning materials, lack of food, marriage and distance to school (Table 10 and Table 11). Dropouts are more common for girls, with 60% of them engaged in early marriage (Table 11).

Table 11: Reasons for Dropping out Schooling

Reasons	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Lack of food	7	35	2	20	9	30
Lack of learning materials	5	25	1	10	6	20
Marriage	4	20	6	60	10	33
Health problem	4	20	1	10	5	17
Total	20	100	10	100	30	100

2.1.3 Focus Group Discussions

As it was confirmed by FGDs of both places, distance is an obstacle for female students as it means spending much needed time and a consequent fatigue or exhaustion, impinging on actual school time expenditure. Fatigue may mean reduced academic effectiveness because of travel exhaustion and a compensatory need for relaxation. The main reason why parents do not send their children to school has been low household income or economic status. Families do not

send their children to school due to the fact that they need their children to work on farm and at home. Hence, the probability of going to school declines for households with fewer children, especially where children are needed to look after livestock.

CHAPTER III

Food Security

3.1 Background Information on Food Security

Food security is the current topic of discussion and major engagement of the government and Non -Governmental Organizations in Ethiopia. Presently it is dealt with in the Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program (SDPRP) as well as in the New Coalition for Food security program.

It is essential to have a clear understanding of the concept of food security to explore the underlying causes and dimensions of food insecurity.

3.1.1 Definition and Review of Food Security Concept

Different institutions and organization define food security differently without much change in the basic concepts.

According to the World Bank (1996) food security means ‘access by all people at all times to enough food, for an active and healthy life’. Food security is further defined as the availability of adequate food whether it be through local production, commercial inputs or food aid. Food security requires access to food both in terms of the ability to get food to the people, and for the people to be able to purchase this food. Food security also requires that the available food provide effective nutrients (Gebru Mersha, 1997).

The World Food Summit 1996, defines food security as: "Food security exists when all people at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet the dietary needs and food preferences for an active, healthy life" (FAO 1996).

FAO has defined food security not in terms of access to, and availability of food, but also in terms of resource distribution to produce food and purchasing power to buy food, where it is produced (SDWW, 1998).

The conceptual framework of food security has progressively developed and expanded along with the growing incidence of hunger, famine and malnutrition in developing countries.

In the mid-1970s food security was conceived as adequacy of food supply at global and national levels. This view focused merely on food production variables and overlooked the multiple forces that in many ways affected food access. In the 1980s, the concept of food security attained wider attention that shifted from global and national level to household and individual levels.

The risk of food insecurity has three dimensions (Bohle 1993). It is a function of the risk of exposure to crises or shocks, the magnitude or consequences of crises and households vulnerability to these crises. The latter dimension is determined by the adequacy of household capacity to cope with crises.

An understanding of food security also includes the time dimension, which explicitly describes the intensity and characteristics of household's food insecurity. Food security can be "chronic" or "transitory". A constant failure to "access" food is distinguished as chronic, while a temporary decline is considered as transitory food insecurity. The former is a sign of poverty and shows a long-term structural deficit in food production and lack of purchasing power. Transitory food insecurity, on the other hand, implies a short-term variability in food prices, production and income (Maxwell and Smith, 1992; NGDO-EC, 1995).

Food security in general is a concept that integrates a number of important issues the magnitude of which ranges from micro to macroeconomics. Its attainment requires an overall consideration in terms of policy and program development in all aspects of the food system. Hence, the success in production and distribution plays an important role in influencing the food security status of an individual, a household or a society at large (Maxwell and Smith, 1992).

3.1.2 Food Security Components

According to FAO (CRDA, 2002) food security could be indicated using four components; namely access, availability, utilization and asset creation.

Access is referred to as the stock of food in the market, as well as the purchasing power created by saving money or in the form of assets such as cattle and other possessions. Securing access to enough food at all times for an active and healthy life is a prime objective of all modern society because of the role played by food in economy, culture, and politics. The major attempt made so far to create access to food in Ethiopia is through an increase in production and productivity. Creating access through product and income diversification is not yet well developed.

Availability refers to own production and capacity to produce enough food. On the supply side, cereal output is the key indicator, as cereals provide about 60% of dietary energy in developing countries, the figure being higher in the least developed countries. At micro or household (HH) level, availability is taken as the capacity of the HH to produce the food they need. In the study area, the households cannot feed their family members for more than six to nine months. In 2001 and 2002 more than 95% of the study area was supported through food aid during the whole year.

Utilization is related to changes in household consumption pattern, which include eating habits or creating strategic mix in feeding patterns to stabilize the availability of food, food stocks and income management (Desalgn, 1998). Utilization of food will be improved through the expansion of safe water supply and sanitation, and promotion of community health services and prevention. The dimension of food utilization underlines the importance of such processes, including marketing, storage, processing, cooking practices, feeding practices and nutrition to the attainment of food security (UN 2001).

Asset creation is a very important component of the food security indicator. In times of shocks, households adopt specific kinds of coping mechanisms. In times of emergency, vulnerable households begin to sell their belongings or assets, such as livestock, tools, personal possessions or household goods.

3.1.3 Food Security Situation in Ethiopia

Food security situation in Ethiopia is highly linked up to severe, recurring food shortage and famine, which are associated to recurrent drought. Currently there is a growing consensus that food insecurity and poverty problems are closely related in the Ethiopian context.

The minimum average calories requirement is estimated at 2100 kcal per person per day. More than 50% of the population does not have access to this minimum, the current average figure for the country being not more than 1,700 kcal. The food insecure social groups in Ethiopia include: the urban unemployed, people in areas of conflict, destitute peasants, pastoralists who depend on markets for cereal supply and the refugees from neighbouring countries, mainly from Somalia and Sudan. A number of studies have confirmed that there is severe food insecurity in Ethiopia covering a wide range of areas and affecting a large number of people (FDRE 2002).

In general, a complex combination of factors has led to an increased level of vulnerability of food insecurity for a great number of Ethiopians. The factors include change in climate leading to more frequent droughts, widespread land degradation, limited alternative income, increased population pressure (population growth rate in Ethiopia is 2.9% per annum), poor market integration, and limited access to basic services, inputs, credit, information technological issues, and national policy as well as implementation constraints. As indicated in the Food Security Strategy (2002), it is reported that up to 45 percent of Ethiopia's population is food insecure or below the poverty line.

Both chronic and transitory problems of food insecurity are severe in Ethiopia. Chronic food insecurity exists due to the high ratio of urban unemployment and limitation of rural landholdings. More than one third of the households have less than 0.5 hectares, which under rain fed agriculture, is adequate for subsistence production of food crops. Lack of draft animals like oxen intensifies the vulnerability associated with excessively smallholdings.

This chronic situation is frequently aggravated by (unexpected) shocks such as drought. During the normal years, on average, over 5 million people have been affected by drought related factors.

On the other hand the transitory food insecurity is aggravated by a sharp reduction in domestic or imported supply of food because of crop failure, civil war and interruptions in food trade.

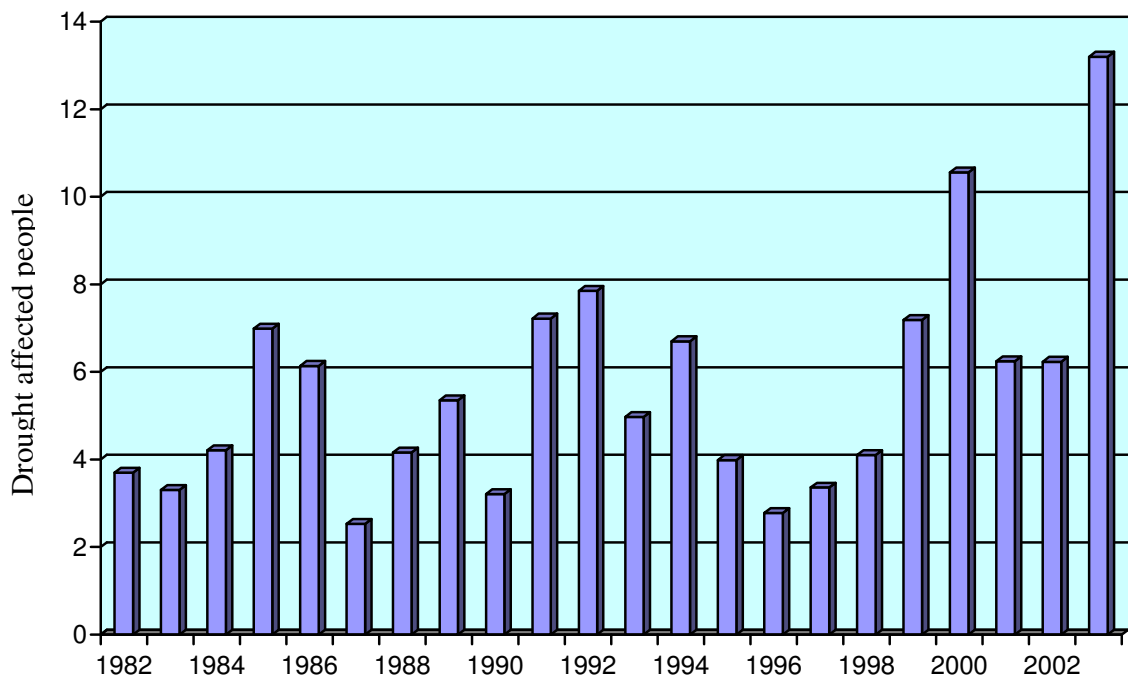
Crop failure and acute food shortages related to droughts have been frequently occurring in Ethiopia (Table 12 and Figure 7). From the table and the graph one can observe that the Ethiopian population has never been spared by drought for the last three decades. The peak proportion of drought- affected people is registered in 1985 and in 2000 with the percentage of 17 and 16.6 respectively. The most drought prone and affected areas of the country are its northern, eastern and southern parts. Total failure or shortage of rainfall is often cited as the major cause for the recurring droughts and harvest failures. Such a problem or situation is further exacerbated by the social, economic and ecological situations (DPPC, 2003).

Table 12: Drought/Disaster Affected Population in Ethiopia, 1981-2001

Year	Total Population (Million)	Disaster/Drought Affected Population (Million)	Proportion Affected %
1981	36.67	2.82	7.70
1982	37.77	3.70	9.80
1983	38.90	3.30	8.50
1984	40.07	4.21	10.50
1985	41.21	6.99	17.00
1986	42.39	6.14	14.50
1987	43.40	2.53	5.80
1988	44.84	4.16	9.30
1989	46.12	5.35	11.60
1990	47.44	3.21	6.80
1991	48.79	7.22	14.80
1992	50.18	7.85	15.60
1993	51.61	4.97	9.60
1994	53.09	6.70	12.60
1995	54.65	3.99	7.30
1996	56.37	2.78	4.90
1997	58.12	3.36	5.80
1998	59.88	4.10	6.80
1999	61.67	7.19	11.70
2000	63.50	10.56	16.60
2001	65.34	6.24	9.60
2002	67.50	6.23	4.20
2003	70.00	13.20	9.24

Source: Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission 2003

Figure 7: Drought Affected Population in Ethiopia, 1981-2003



The Ethiopian Government Food Security Strategy Document (1996, 2002) indicated that 52% in the rural areas and 37% in the urban areas of the country's population is estimated to be food insecure and below the poverty line.

Food aid in Ethiopia is not a recent phenomenon. The country has received food aid for the last four decades. It has also been the major recipient of emergency and project food aid in sub-Saharan Africa.

Currently, the country is facing a serious food shortage problem, mainly due to crop failures for many consecutive seasons and eroded coping strategies. The food aid need in 2003 was estimated at about 1.8 million metric tons (which includes cereals supplementary food, pulses and oil) for about 13.2 million drought affected population including internal displaced people (IDP). The need in the year 2003 is the highest among the last 10 years and shows an alarming situation (Figure 8) of food insecurity in the country.

Future prospect are not better, given the current problems. The food shortage problem is expected to continue for years to come unless some measure is taken which would enable many households rebuild their assets and livelihoods.

Records show that 1984/85 external food aids made up just over 26% of the volume of national cereal production (Table 13). There is a clear indication that Ethiopia has the potential to produce more food, as excellent harvests have been observed in 1996, 1997 as well as in 2000. However, this high production led to a collapse of price in the market, showing the need for a policy of market stabilization and regulation. Even though the production has increased during recent years it did not match the fast growing population of the country, and the additional challenge of frequent drought occurrence, as demonstrated by the still high proportion food aid: 10.7 % (Table 13).

Food aid has shown both positive and negative impacts on food security. Among the positive impacts were food for work (FFW) programs in Ethiopia and other various activities (such as development of irrigation schemes, construction of rural roads and water supply schemes, soil and water conservation and afforestation activities), widely undertaken.

Table 13: Domestic Production and Food Aid

Year	Food Aid, 000 tons	Food Grain Production, 000 tons	Food Aid Proportion to Prod. (%)
1985	1272	4855	26.2
1986	926	5404	17.1
1987	277	6684	4.1
1988	1096	6902	15.9
1989	461	6676	6.9
1990	657	6579	10.0
1991	925	7078	12.0
1992	840	7055	11.9
1993	519	7619	6.8
1994	980	6945	14.1
1995	683	7492	9.1
1996	334	10328	3.2
1997	8970	83617	10.7

Source: Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation, 1999

Attempts have been made to link relief/ rehabilitation efforts to development by many NGOs and government. Various evaluations showed that food aid has also negative impact, like the

creation of dependency and decline in coping mechanisms. This leads people categorized in transitory food insecurity to turn into chronic food insecurity. Care should be taken in dealing with food aid implementation and a clear strategy should be designed not to erode the coping strategies of the affected people (Fasil, K., Tsegaye & G.Synnevag, 2001).

3.2 Studies on Food Security in Areas under Study

3.2.1 Natural Resource Base

The natural resource base in both study areas is very poor. Land degradation has reached its peak. A large part of the area is covered by shallow soil or bare rocks, and is unproductive for agricultural purposes. The natural vegetation has been reduced to scanty remnants of bushes, scattered in some places. The seriousness of the problem of soil erosion and land degradation has been recognized by resource users and development workers at different levels. In Tigray, a vast area of land is covered with soil and water conservation measures (terraces, area enclosure, tree plantation, gully reclamations, etc) to rehabilitate the degraded land (REST.1, 2002.)

3.2.2 Water Supply

The problem of water supply shortage in both areas is widespread. Only 22% of rural population has access to safe water. There is limited water supply for consumption, washing and bathing and this affects the sanitation and hygiene of the households. The study indicates that the water supply system in the study areas is very poor. One study shows that in Dahana only 3% of the people have access to clean water from hand dug wells or protected springs. The rest get water from streams and unprotected springs. Generally, women and children are largely responsible for fetching water. According to the *Woreda* health office discussion it is found out that water-borne diseases are common. The main water borne diseases include *jarda*, *bilharzias*, *schistosomiasis*, and cholera and gastro enteritis. The long walking distances to collect water represent a burden on women and children living in the area, depriving them from various opportunities to engage themselves in social and economic activities and negatively affects childcare and agricultural outputs.

3.2.3 Crop Production

Table 14: Land Size in Kiltawlallo Woreda

Land Size (household)	No. of Household	%
< 0.5	3877	18
0.5 – 1.00	13166	61
1.00 – 2.00	3009	14
> 2.00	1625	7
Total	21677	100

Source: *Kiltawlallo Woreda Agriculture Office*

Table 14 shows the general land holding in Kiltawlallo *Woreda*. The majority of the households in the study area (61%) possess land plots of 0.5 – 1 hectares. Most of the cultivated land is located in the *Woina-Dega* zone, mainly between 1500 – 2300 m.a.s.l. *Meher* (main rainy period) is the main crop growing season and main crops grown in the *Woreda* are: *teff*, wheat, barely, maize, sorghum (Table 15 and 16).

Table 15: Crops Grown During Meher Season in Kiltawlallo Woreda (2000 – 2002)

Type of crop	2000		2001		2002		Average		Productivity Qt/Ha
	Ha	Qt	Ha	Qt	Ha	Qt	Ha	Qt	
Cereals									
Teff	2220.75	6785.00	2587.71	11376.00	2230.00	1928.80	2346.17	6696.60	2.85
Wheat	4105.75	10845.00	4239.25	14377.00	3752.50	6119.80	4032.50	10447.26	2.59
Barely	3240.75	7967.00	3393.75	30326.00	3370.50	5816.40	3335.00	14703.00	4.40
Maize	119.00	541.50	119.50	430.00	130.75	267.00	123.00	412.80	3.40
Sorghum	314.50	1563.50	150.00	802.50	-	-		1183.00	5.10
Pulses									
Horse bean	183.50	998.50	152.25	205.00	181.00	644.60	172.25	616.00	3.58
Field peas	90.00	304.00	11.00	16.50	15.00	10.50	38.60	110.30	2.85
Lentil	134.50	168.00	102.00	153.00	74.00	3.00	103.50	108.00	1.00
Oil Seed									
Linseed	290.00	413.25	2295.00	344.00	241.50	44.00	253.70	267.00	1.05

Source: Kiltawlallo Woreda BOA, 2003

As shown in the table above, various crops are grown in the study area, despite the natural limitations of climate and landform. The main crops (*teff*, wheat and barely) account for more than 90% of the *Woreda* coverage (Table 15).

Table 16: Average Crop Production of Major Crops

Type of crop	Yield/Ha		
	National	Dahana Woreda	Kiltawlallo Woreda
<i>Teff</i>	7.48	-	2.85
Barely	11.53	2.69	4.40
Maize	17.53	1.12	3.40
Sorghum	11.20	2.98	5.10

The average grain production at the National level reaches 11 qt per hectare, whereas the productivity in the study area is extremely low: between 2.5 – 4.5 qt/ha (Table 35 and Table 16). According to the discussion with Woreda Agricultural development office, low soil

productivity and unreliable rainfall, as well as low supply of improved seed and fertilizer, contributed to the low crop productivity. In Dahana *Woreda*, weeding of crops is not well practiced, affecting crop production.

3.2.4 Livestock Production

There are different types of livestock raised in both *woredas*. This is shown in the following table.

Table 17 Type of Livestock in the Study area

Type of livestock	Kiltawlallo	Dahana
Cattle	52579	69655
Sheep & Goats	37660	8582
Poultry	36055	NA
Equines	11138	7911
Beehives	4289	NA

Source: Kiltawlallo & Dahana *Woreda* Agricultural development Offices

The livestock production is constrained by diseases such as black leg, anthrax, pastorellosis and internal and external parasites. Feed shortage, grazing land, adequate veterinary services, and adequate water are also main problems in this sector. It was reported that in Dahana *Woreda* feed shortage is encountered from February to July, when animals are given crop residues and hay with limited supply.

3.3 Food Security Situation in the Project Areas

In Tigray and Amhara regions in general, and the study areas in particular, both chronic and transitory food insecurity problems are the characteristic features. Agricultural production in the region is highly dependent on rainfall, which is erratic both in terms of quantity and periodicity.

Drought is the most catastrophic natural event affecting food security and widespread periodic famine in both study areas. The drought condition has extended over several seasons and has caused extreme stress on coping mechanisms and the general health status of the people.

The drought situation is not the only reason for the food insecurity. The civil conflict for the last 2 -3 decades has contributed to severe food shortage as well as loss of herds. Thousands of people were forced to migrate and sell key household assets as well as productive means such as oxen to overcome hunger. The depletion of assets has affected rural livelihoods by diminishing the production means on which the majority of the population is dependent and has made the process of recovery very difficult. The recent war with Eritrea has resulted with displacement of over 350,000 people in Tigray region.

3.3.1 Agricultural Production and Productivity

Land security as a major productive resource for the farming community has been an issue in Ethiopian agricultural policy and economy for the last two decades. Before the revolution of 1975 about 40 - 50% of farmers were tenants, whereas a large number of households were landless. The Land Proclamation of 1975 declared all land to be the collective property of the Ethiopian people. Land-use rights were distributed among households living on the land, according to family size, with an upper limit of 10 hectares. According to the proclamation, land could not be sold, exchanged, mortgaged, rented or leased; but land-use rights could be inherited. Following this land proclamation, every rural household in the peasant Association, including new household joining the peasant associations, were provided with a plot of land for cultivation. As a result of this Land Distribution Policy, the holding size became progressively smaller and fragmented. This Land Policy resulted in disincentive effects for peasants, prohibiting them to improve and conserve their land and plant trees and perennial crops. It also deprived them of the right to use the land as collateral for credit for land development purposes, land remaining the major natural resource base for poor farmers to depend on for their livelihood. The process of land distribution has altered the land management system (like fallowing of land), which was practiced by farmers.

Currently the government has recognized this problem and is introducing the land administration policy, which aims to achieve household land security through a certification process, which may guarantee land use and transfer rights.

The present restructuring and decentralization process of decision-making to the local level will empower and create an enabling environment at grass-root for the implementation of food security program in the country.

The practice used in the agricultural production system is “backward”, with inadequate access to improved agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizer, and extension service.

Productivity per hectare and per person employed is low and constrained by a lack of knowledge, capital and market. In both study areas, farmers live on the verge of subsistence, farming with an average smallholder yield of 5-6 quintals (500 – 600kg) per hectare and small and fragmented land holdings.

3.3.2 Households Income

Table 18: Average Farm Size in Areas under Study

land size (Ha)	Dahana		Kiltawlallo	
	No. of Household	%	No. of Household	%
<0.5	48	36	5	2
0.5-1.0	56	42	126	54
1-2	21	16	87	38
>2	8	6	14	6
Total	133	100	232	100

Sample survey taken in Dahana and Kiltawlallo shows that 42% and 54% of households, respectively, possess land plots that ranges between 0.5-1.0 ha.

Table 19: Annual Household Income off -Farm from Activities (Birr)

	Kiltawlallo		Dahana		Average	
		%		%		%
<100	3	7	10	32	13	17
101-300	11	24	10	32	21	28
301-500	16	36	3	10	19	25
>501	15	33	8	26	23	30
Total	45	100	31	100	76	100

Responses of households presented in Table 19 reveal that reliable and lucrative non-farm employment opportunities are rare, leaving the majority of the population to depend on agricultural production as the main occupation. More than 95% of the households are engaged in farming.

Agriculture in the study area is the mainstay of the household economy. More than 97% of the households are engaged in farming. Less than 3% of the households are employed outside the agricultural sector.

Table 20: Annual Household Income from Farm Activities (Birr)

	Kiltawlallo		Dahana		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<100	3	2	14	27	17	10
101-300	58	49	15	28	73	43
301-500	38	32	3	6	41	24
>501	20	17	20	39	40	23
Total	119	100	52	100	171	100

Although agriculture is still the mainstay for the majority of the population, it is dominated by smallholder peasant producers and high farmland fragmentation (0.5 hectares/household on average). The major annual agricultural output is 4 – 7 quintals (400 – 700kg) per household in drought-prone areas, which can feed a family for only 5 – 8 months at best.

The focus group discussions with farmers emphasized the shortage of rain in the area and its untimely and erratic distribution for the last 4 years, which resulted in minimum to nil crop production. Consequently farmers in the area have to participate continuously in Food-for-Work projects to get food.

The number of meals and their nutrient quality that a household can afford in a day are important indicators among the basic parameters in the verification of a household's food security situation.

3.3.3 Wealth Ranking of Households Incomes in Areas Under Study

According to the tangible circumstance of the area, the consultants conducted discussions in order to find out who is rich, poor and very poor.

On the concrete basis of the areas under study in Dehana, a rich person is defined by participants of FGDs as a person who owns 2 oxen, 2 cows, land, sheep, goats and a donkey, a grinding mill and who can feed his family for 12 months. In Kiltawlallo a rich person is defined as a person who owns 2 oxen, 2 cows, a donkey, goats and who can feed his family for more than 8 months. A poor person is defined as a person engaged in everyday routines and who manages to earn his/her daily bread (i.e., whatever is found today is for today and whatever will be found tomorrow will be for tomorrow) and who leads a living from hand to mouth.

It was mentioned by the participants of FGDs that households in this group can hardly feed their families, at least once in a day. Such people may buy used clothing and cannot afford medical expenses if they get sick.

In both *woredas*, a person defined by participants as the poorest of the poor (completely penniless) is a beggar, an elderly person who has no help, the disabled and the homeless. Such people depend on others, or in most cases turn to begging. Many of them sleep on the streets or churchyards and usually spend several days without food.

The annual household income could be obtained from both on-farm and off-farm activities. The overall average shows that nearly 90% of the income is generated from farm activities with amount of Birr 100 – 500 per year. On the other hand 82% of farmers generate income from off-

farm activities and raise between Birr 100 and 500, which is the same amount as for farming activities.

3.3.4 The Number of Working Days in a Month

The number of working days in a month is another important issue to be considered while discussing the issue of food security and development activities in the rural areas of Ethiopia in general and in the study areas in particular. There are between six and eight religious holidays a month, when agricultural activities and grinding and pounding are not allowed. These are 5th, 7th, 21st, 27th, and 29th days. During the 30-day Ethiopian month in Amhara and Tigray, Saturday and Sunday are also non-working days. Besides these, a village will have one or two additional minor saints' days, which have been raised to a major status for local religious reasons (for example, because they are patron saints of the village or the family). During these days farmers are not supposed to carry out any farming activities and they spent them with idle labour forces. Women are engaged in preparing various types of food items for the celebration of the saints' days and the food is shared among neighbours and relatives. This has an implication in affecting the food reserve situation at the households level.

3.3.5 Access to Agricultural Inputs

Information on agricultural inputs such as improved seed, fertilizer, extension services and credit opportunities are inaccessible to women. In particular, women of the male-headed households do not have access to information since their husbands do not share information on new technology (such as fertilizer use, improved seeds, pest control, etc.) with their wives. Extension workers do not attempt to involve married women in such programs. These input supplies to Dahana *woreda* are very much limited due to the weak extension services and lack of credit availability. It is relatively good in Kiltawlallo *woreda* but challenged by climatic variation.

3.3.6 Access to Training and Extension

Development Agents are assigned in the rural areas to promote modern agricultural practices. It has been reported that extension services reached Dahana *woreda* in 1993 after EPRDF came to

power. The people of Dahana were marginalized from most development interventions, and more efforts are still needed to bring development programs in this area.

Rural women in Ethiopia in general, and women in the study areas in particular, have limited access to skill training and extension services. In some places, women have direct access to land but they do not use it properly because of lack of skills. They depend on their grown-up sons or male close relatives. The use of the land is also based on crop sharing. Usually, female-headed households owning the land get 25% of the produced crop if they lend the land for cultivation to a male farmer (who will take 75% of the crop). The farmer does not only take his share of the produce and biomass needed for the house construction or as firewood included, but also decides when to plough the land and what is to be grown.

The extension program for women in the study areas focused on home economics subjects and small-scale income generating activities.

3.3.7 Access to Credit

Provision of credit can play a vital role in supporting the production and income generating activities of farmers. Opportunity to credit exists in both study areas. The main actors or organization providing credit in the rural areas are Amahara Credit Service Institute (ACSI) and *Dedebit* Credit Service in Tigray region. The credit is available mainly for agricultural inputs, small-scale trade and livestock production. The table below shows credit disbursement in Dahana *Woreda* by ACSI as compared to other two *Weredas* in Wag Hamira Zone, Amhara region.

Table 21: Provision of Credit in Wag Himira Zone

Year	Dahana		Sekota		Ziquala	
	male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2001	1076	289	1941	675	831	305
2002	2706	390	3447	763	1160	296
2003	3868	612	5276	1273	1555	312
Total	7650	1291	10664	2711	3546	913

Source: ACSI - Sekota Branch 2003

It is reported that 90% of the credit is used for livestock production, mainly for bee keeping, goats & sheep, as they are able to repay the loans quickly. The interest rate is 18%. The criteria for disbursing credit aims at those who participate in various development activities, who are able to payback, voluntary, and accepts rates as regulated by ACSI. The credit is given to groups of 5-7 members which can divide the funds within the group.

In 2001, out of 1365 clients, 289 were women (21%). In 2002 out of 3096 clients, 390 were women (13%). In 2003 out of 4480 clients, 612 were women (14%). The credit is male dominated. Moreover, women have less chances of using the credit even if it is accessed by women. In some cases women are forced to give their credit to their husbands since the decision is in the hands of male partners. This indicates that women do not have equal access to credit services. Therefore, they are unable to participate in and benefit equally with their male counterparts. There is, therefore, a critical need to constantly expand the availability and accessibility of credit by promoting cooperatives, and revolving fund which should have greater flexibility in offering loans for a variety of purposes - particularly for acquiring seed, fertilizer, draught power, reproductive animals and trading. The loan should also have flexible entrance criteria, duration and interest rates suitable to households who have different needs and capabilities. The limitation of loans availability results in little use of fertilizer in the rural areas, which, of course, centailed difficulty in paying back the debts if the crop production failed due to drought and disasters. Table 22 shows the utilization of fertilizer in Kiltawlallo *Woreda*. The amount of fertilizer used for crop production as compared to the cultivated area of land (Table 35) is too small according to *Woreda* agricultural development office.

Table 22: Fertilizer Consumption in Kiltawlallo *Woreda*

Year	Quantity (Qt)		Total
	DAP	UREA	
2000	9800	700	10500
2001	10300	9600	19900
2002	13800	1500	15300

3.3.8 Access to Market

The market centres of the households being cooperatives, small markets exist in the near-by peasant associations and main markets are located faraway from the their localities. Main markets in Kiltawlallo *Woreda* are located in the Agluae and Wukiro towns. But Dahana *Woreda* people should walk 3 hours to Sequoia town, which is a market centre. As indicated in Table 23 the time taken for cooperatives and small market ranges 0.5 – 1 hour while it takes about 3 hours for the main market.

Table 23: Distance to Market Centres

Market Type	Time Taken (hr)	Means of Transportation
Cooperative	0.5 – 1	Foot
Small market	0.5	Foot
Main market	3	Foot

Wherever, drought occurs, there is high fluctuation of livestock and agricultural products in the market. During the study period, the cost of a medium sized ox was estimated to be Birr 400, while in normal years it is Birr 800. The drought causes the migration of labour force to towns. This increases competition for employment, favourising employment of cheap daily workers.

3.3.9 Diseases and Insects Problems

Table 24: Major Disease and Pests (Livestock and crop)

Crop		Animal
Disease	Pests	
Rust	Army worm	Anthrax
Root Sot	Africa Ball worm	Black leg
Smut	Stock borer	Pastorellosis
Blight	Scale insect	Internal/external parasites
Aphid	Cut worm	

The interview obtained from farmers and information from Kiltawlallo *Woreda* Agriculture Office indicates that plants and animals have been affected by various diseases and insects. The list of diseases and pests that exist in the study area is shown in Table 24.

3.3.10 Household Food Situation

The main staple food is ‘*injera*’ made up of wheat with ‘*shero*’ a sauce made out of peas. They eat *injera* from *teff* in good harvest years, but for the last years this was not possible. The interview has also revealed that 1/5 of farmers feed themselves for the whole year and keep seed for the next cropping season. In 2000 and 2001 the harvest was said to be good, which supported food supply for only 1/5 of the population. Yet, in 2002 and 2003 there was no significant harvest and almost all the population of the *Woreda* has been dependent on food aid.

Table 25: Do Households Experience Food Shortage?

Response	Kiltawlallo		Dahana	
	No. of respondents	%	No. of respondents	%
Yes	243	98	113	100
No	4	2	-	-
Total	247	100	113	100

Respondents were asked about experience of food shortage in their areas. The main cause of food shortage repeatedly mentioned was failure of rain, and drought in the areas. They were also asked about the most recent food shortage years. They reported that there were food shortages in the years 1984, 1985, 1986, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2003 (see Table 12). Almost all the interviewed in Dahana *Woreda* and Kiltawlallo *Woreda* have an experience of food shortage (Table 25).

Table 26 indicates that the majority (about 53% in Kiltawlallo *Woreda* and 72% in Dahana *Woreda*) of the households can afford 2 meals per day for all their members. The common experience in Ethiopia is three meals in a day.

Table 26: Number of Meals per Day

No. of Meals	Kiltawlallo		Dahana		Aggregate	
	No of respondents	%	No. of respondents	%	No. of respondents	%
One	101	42	39	27	240	37
Two	128	53	101	72	229	60
Three	11	5	1	1	12	3
Total	240	100	141	100	381	100

Households in the study areas were asked about the number of meals and their nutrient quality that a household can afford per day. They indicated that almost all households interviewed responded that they experienced food shortage for the last 3 to 5 years as well as currently, and served food 1 or 2 times a day (Table 25 & Table 26).

Table 27: Cutback Quantities Served Per Meal

	Kiltawlallo		Dahana	
	No of respondents	%	No of respondents	%
Yes	226	91	117	77
No	23	9	35	23
Total	249	100	152	100

Table 28: Do People Eat Food Not Eaten in Normal Years

	Kiltawlallo		Dahana	
	Respondents	%	Respondents	%
Yes	28	11	54	36
No	217	89	97	64
Total	245	100	151	100

84% of the respondents said that they do not eat the type of food that is not eaten during normal years.

The overall nutritional status of the two *Woredas* does not appear to be encouraging. Cereals dominate the composition of daily meals. The consumption of high nutrient quality food like meat and animal products on regular basis is not common. Most of the HH consume these foods on occasional basis mostly during annual festivals such as Easter celebrations. Pulses are included in daily dietary intake as alternative sources of proteins as sauce with *injera*. Fish is not well known in the study area.

The main reasons for shortage of food is mentioned to be shortage of rainfall and recurrent drought which affect the production system as well as coping mechanisms of farmers in the study area. The situation has left the people in the study area to cut back quantities of meals served (Table 27) and some households responded that they eat unusual type of food from normal years (like mushrooms, cactus). In Dahana *Woreda* about 36% of the interviewed farmers (Table 28) said that they eat wild fruits, *Woshewosh* and cabbage during the worst years. These food types are not eaten in normal years.

Many of the household (more than 75%) interviewed, responded that they are more food insecure at present as compared to five years ago due to growing number of population, drought situation and lack of alternative sources of income. According to the study most of HH are engaged in farming activities.

3.3.11 Coping Strategy

There were focus group discussions on this issue. Participants mentioned some of coping mechanisms during drought period are as follows. Farmers sell their important possessions like farm implements and livestock assets, which do not bring much money. However, the price of livestock during drought seasons drops because of their physical weakness and the demand is very low at market centres. Some farmers, especially young people, go to the town to sell their labour. But the possibility of getting employment is very rare. Some eat food that is not eaten in normal years. It is very common to eat cactus during drought and normal time in Kiltawallo *Woreda*. Here chopped cactus is also used as animal feed by removing the thorny parts. In some cases people in both *woredas* under study go for begging. In the worst case, people migrate to other places.

Table 29: Do Households Migrate from Dahana to Other Places During Drought Period?

	Male	Female	Total
Yes	19	3	22
No	60	31	91
Total	79	34	113

Households were asked whether or not they migrate to other places during drought period. Only 19% of interviewed households responded that they migrate from Dahana to other areas in search of employment. Most of them go to Sekota town and North Gondar (Metama area) where they could get employment. As it is indicated in section 3.3.10 experience of cutting back the number of meals in a day and quantity of meal as well as eating unusual food types are practiced as coping mechanisms.

According to the discussions made with DPPC and Agricultural development Officials of each *Woreda*, people in the study area are very much dependent on food-relief aid. In most of the cases, food is not given freely. People work for food or for cash. They have to participate in various types of development activities such as soil and water conservation, road construction, water development works. Every household member gets 12.5kg of wheat and 0.5 litres of cooking oil.

Table 30: The Type of Household that Suffered Most during the Drought

	Kiltawlallo		Dahana		Total	
	No of respondents	%	No of respondents	%	No of respondents	%
Women	41	17	43	33	84	23
Poor people	53	23			53	15
All People	35	15	4	3	39	11
Children	63	27	9	7	72	20
Man	5	2	11	9	16	4
Father and Mother	6	3			6	2
Old	26	11			26	7
Mother	5	2			5	1
Big female size (family members)			11	9	11	3
Women and children			51	39	51	14
Total	234	100	129	100	363	100

During the worst drought years children and poor people were the most affected community members. Table 30 shows this clearly with about 23% and 27% of poor people and children affected in Kiltawlallo *Woreda* while in Dahana *Woreda* women and children are most affected community members with 30%.

Table 31: Groups Most Vulnerable to Food-Security

	Kiltawlallo		Dahana		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Men	10	4	19	14	29	8
Women	117	47	59	45	176	46
Children	121	49	55	41	176	46
Total	248	100	133	100	381	100

Table 31 shows that children and women are more vulnerable than men in both the study areas.

3.3.12 Food Aid

**Table 32: Number of People Who Got Food Aid Support in Areas Under Study
(2001 - 2003)**

Year	Dahana	Kiltawlallo	Total
2001	62,187	46,300	108,487
2002	54,784	34,000	88,784
2003	64,000	95,761	159,761

As it can be seen from the table above 64,000 people out of the total population of 119,803 in Dahana and 95,761 people out of 102,028 in Kiltawlallo get relief food aid (Table 32)

The main intervention areas for the drought-affected people include free distribution of food, or food-for-work through employment-generation schemes (such as rural road construction, soil conservation activities). In Kiltawlallo *Woreda* school-feeding program is being implemented in 8 schools. The relief work is coordinated by Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission branch office, which is responsible for carrying out the early warning system, identifying the vulnerable groups and affected areas. The office is also responsible to raise food aid and follow-up the distribution of relief food to the target groups.

3.4 Main Conclusions

On the basis of the findings of the study in the field and discussions made with various institutions, the following conclusions are drawn.

- a. **Recurrent Drought** – the regions in general and the *Woredas under study* in particular have been affected by moisture stress for the last years. If the rain comes it starts late, it is in small amount, with poor distribution and long gap periods (7 to 10 days). Using water resources and water harvesting for irrigation is less practiced, hence, food production has seriously been affected.
- b. **Population pressure** - Rapid population growth, which is 2.73% per annum, leads to a demand for additional land and clearing of new areas (grazing and forest) for expansion

of farmland and settlement. Population pressure is one of the key causes of land degradation (MOFED, 2003). This is a challenge for households to feed large families. It is also projected that under normal conditions the annual growth rate will increase unless population control policy measures are taken.

- c. **Land tenure system** - Lack of clear land ownership resulted in disincentive for peasants to improve and conserve their land and plant trees and perennial crops. This has deprived them on the right to use the land as collateral for credit for land development purposes. Land remained to be the major natural resource base for poor farmers to depend on for their livelihood.
- d. **Food shortage** – crop production is very low because of shortage of rainfall and absence of technologies as well as poor extension system. The food aid distributed through FFW, which amounts 12.5kg to 15kg per person for one month, is not enough for specific households.
- e. **Livestock production** is constrained by feed shortage, lack of grazing land, prevalence of various types of diseases and poor market. The main livestock diseases are trypanosomiasis, foot-and-mouth disease, sheep and goat pox and parasitic helminthes. These are rampant in all livestock species causing indirect and direct losses.
- f. **Water and fire wood shortage**- Water for domestic use and fire wood shortage are critical necessities encountered in the study area and they are common constrains nationally. Women and small children have to travel long distances (1 to 4 hours) to fetch water and fire wood from their homes. The daily routines affect children who are forced not to attend schools, and expose them to violent actions like abduction and sexual harassment. Fetching water and firewood takes long hours and results in heavier workload on women, which adversely affects household food security.
- g. **Poor health situation** - Disease such as Diarrhoea, Malaria, Tuberculosis are common diseases in the study areas. The poor sanitation practices have been observed as a major cause for human disease and death.
- h. **Degradation of the natural resource base** – very poor vegetation cover, soil fertility and poor farming practice on steep slopes, continuous cropping without nutrient

recycling, over-grazing, improper land use practices have been major causes for accelerated soil erosion and land degradation and have put the natural resource base in poor condition. Deforestation and encroachment are responsible for loss of biodiversity and heavily affecting the water resources as well as wild life.

CHAPTER IV

GENDER

4.1 Background Information on Gender

Economic growth, social development and poverty eradication are the major priority issues in the development agenda of many of the developing countries. Gender is a cross-cutting issue in those priorities. Hence, in relation to these priorities, it is critical to analyse gender relations, vis-à-vis access to and control over resources, benefits and opportunities and roles and responsibilities of men and women. Similarly, there is a need to assess the social, economic, environmental, and political factors that influence the positions and conditions of women before and after intervention.

It should be noted here that the rural communities, farmers on marginal lands, pastoralists in the lowland areas, in particular women and children, have been the most food insecure social groups. As it has been seen stated in Chapter 3 these groups could not maintain their livelihoods due to a continuous shortage of food and distresses.

In this chapter, are assessed and presented the general gender issues in Ethiopia, women's roles as food producers and providers to promote sustainable livelihood and food security at family level. The report also touches some of the challenges faced in this respect.

4.1.1 Gender Issues in Ethiopia

Women constitute about half of the population of Ethiopia. It is evident that their contributions to both welfare of the family and the household economy are enormous. However, in spite of their indispensable contributions, women are conspicuously scarce in leadership positions. They are concentrated at the bottom of the ladder in terms of employment, income, education, particularly in the rural areas. Due to traditional and cultural gender socialization patterns, women are neglected to inferior social and economic status. They are subordinate to their male counterparts.

In Ethiopia, as in most of developing countries, the participation of women in the political, social and economic development spheres is limited. Some of the factors contributing to women's inequality are:

- Limited awareness about the symptoms and causes of the prevailing economic, cultural, familial, legal and religious problems and their impacts;
- Lack of access to and ownership of basic productive resources inputs and services;
- Limited decision-making power on economic matters;
- Lack of access to appropriate technological devices which could save women's labour time and relieve them of burdensome chores and allow them more time to be engaged in other productive activities;
- Limited representation in different important areas and few job opportunities;
- Inadequate access to basic education, healthcare, sanitation and water supply services;
- Lack of proper valuation of women's contributions to the social welfare in national account, as most of their activities is unremunerated.

There have been male biased laws and regulations in the country. Moreover, the social structures in both Muslim and Christian families are such that properties are transferred to the male heir in the family. The male makes all the decisions. Employment is limited for women.

The government of Ethiopia has committed itself to women's advancement through different policy declarations. These are reflected in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's (FDRE) Constitution, New Economic Policy and Development Strategies, National Policy on Ethiopian Women, National Population Policy, health and education policies and other sector policies and strategies.

The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has recognized the need for affirmative and remedial measures to eradicate the legacy of discrimination against women. It

also has incorporated corrective legal principles in particular areas where women were subject to direct discrimination, including citizenship, pension rights and access to land use.

The Constitution is clear about the equality and the rights of women. But in order to ensure its effective implementation, there is a need to increase public concern. This also required that the law is sensitive to the larger community members and the monitoring of the implementation at various levels by different human rights organizations. In addition, more research regarding women's participation in the governance of the country, and enhancing public and official awareness of the constitutional requirements regarding the legal treatment of all Ethiopian Citizens equally, are needed.

The National Policy on Ethiopian women was issued in March 1993. The objectives of the policy are as follows:

- To ensure and respect women's rights to equality in every aspect of life;
- To create an environment which will enable women to equally initiate ideas and participate in the formulation and implementation of development and economic plans;
- To eliminate, step by step, prejudices as well as customary and other practices that are based on the idea of male supremacy and enable women to hold public office and to participate in the decision making process at all levels;
- Facilitating the necessary condition whereby rural women can have access to basic social services and to ways and means of diminishing their work-load

The Policy stresses three major areas, which must be part of all other policies, plans or laws.

- Laws, regulations systems, policies and development plans that are issued by the government shall ensure the equality of men and women; special emphasis shall be given to the participation of rural women;
- Economic, social and political policies, programs and activities shall ensure the equal accesses of women and men to the country's resources and in the

development process, so that they can fit fully in the activities carried out in the central and regional institutions,

- Development institutions, programs and projects shall ensure women's access to and involvement in all interventions and activities.

The Policy on Ethiopian women had been adopted and Women's Affairs Office has been established within the Prime Minister's Office. Moreover, Women Affairs Offices at ministerial, regional, and zonal levels have been established. These organs can alter the attitudes of the public towards women through awareness-creation campaigns. If such campaigns can be consistently materialized, they can contribute towards attitude change in the long run.

According to the 1999 National Labour Force survey, 3,262,616 (6%) of the total population of the country lived in Tigray, out of whom about 52% were women. 14,217,453 (26%) of the total population of the country lived in Amhara out of whom about 50% are women. According to REST, out of the 21,925 permanent employees working in different government offices of Tigray region. In 2001 the proportion of female employees was only 39%. In addition, out of 263 decisions-making positions existing in 2001, women held only 2% of the top management level. In terms of educational level, women constituted 44% of those below diploma holders, 21% of the diploma holders, 5% of first-degree holders and 5% of those above first-degree holders. Women's representation and decision making positions within the bureau of Agriculture and natural resource was nil.

4.2 Study on Gender in Area Under Study

In this section it is attempted to present the findings of field visits and interviews with households, as well as discussions made with different key informants. It focuses on issues related to women's daily life and contributing factors to food insecurity and health situations.

4.2.1 Traditional Practices in Areas Under Study

Traditional practices reflect values and beliefs held by members of a community for periods often spanning generations. Every social grouping in the world has specific traditional practices

and beliefs, some of which are beneficial to all members, while others are harmful to specific groups, like that of children and women.

Harmful Traditional Practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early marriage are considered a sensitive cultural issue in Ethiopia. These practices affect the psychosocial situation of girls and women in the community and their involvement in development activities. For a long time, the government and international communities had not given due attention to children and women who, due to ignorance or lack of awareness of their rights, endured pain, suffering, and even death inflicted on them.

4.2.1.1 Female Circumcision

Female circumcision, also called female genital mutilation has been practiced for centuries in many areas of the country. According to available statistics 85-90% of the girls in North Gonder Zone (Amhara region) are victims of FGM, which is performed seven days after the birth of the girl child. The following are some of the reasons for mutilating parts of the female organ: -

- It is believed that FGM controls women's sexual desire.
- The part removed is an extra thing just like the foreskins of the male sex organ.
- It is also believed by the community that girls who are not circumcised make sexual intercourse difficult to their husbands (that female sexual organs, if not circumcised, hamper penetration when the female is sexually excited).
- Some, especially the practitioners, find that the appearance of uncircumcised female organ is ugly.

The negative consequences of FGM and other harmful traditional practices (HTP) are diverse and complicated. They affect the overall development of children and women by causing physical and psychological problems, short and long-term health problems (NCTPE 2003).

In this aspect the practice in areas under study is not different from this situation. This is illustrated in the following tables.

Table 33: Is Female Circumcision Prevalent?

Location	Households Interviewed	Yes		No	
		Number	%	Number	%
Kiltawlallo	251	14	6	237	94
Dahana	157	98	62	59	38

As seen in Table 33 out of the total (408) respondents interviewed, 27% (112) said that female circumcision is prevalent in their respective areas. It is found out that female circumcision more prevalent in Dahana than in Kilitawllalo. From the group discussions made in Kiltawlallo female circumcision is low due to long term awareness and teachings in the schools as well as in the community meetings. Group discussions in Dahana, revealed that FGM has been practiced for many years and it has been accepted by the community, which is not aware of the problems created due to this practice.

The above question is relevant because traditional practitioners use unprotected tools for circumcising different persons. Consequently, there is a possibility of transmitting HIV.

4.2.1. 2 Early Marriage

Early marriage is one of the common practices in Ethiopia. Female children are getting married between the ages of 9 to 15 to much older men. In Ethiopia, the legal age for marriage has been 15 years for girls but now it is raised to 18, which also fits to definition of child – up to 18 years in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (NCTPE, 2003).

Table 34: Is Early Marriage Prevalent in Areas under Study?

Location	Households Interviewed	Yes		No	
		Number	%	Number	%
Kiltawlallo	251	41	16	210	84
Dahana	157	111	71	46	29

As shown in Table 34, out of 408 households 152 (37%) said that early marriage is prevalent in their respective areas. Early marriage is more prevalent in Dahana than in Kitawlallo *Woreda*.

According to the discussion made with key informants, Dahana Woreda people accept early marriage as a tradition. Families of girls let their child daughters get married to older men in order to get economic gains as dowries. It is noted that in Tigray, in general, and in Kiltawllalo *woreda* in particular, Tigray Peoples’ Liberation Front passed a law against the early marriage, which has been enforced for many years. The law provides a minimum age of 15 years for girls and 22 years for boys. This gives children an opportunity to attend school. Moreover, they will have time to choose their partners voluntarily. This practice has a positive impact in reducing the number of divorces.

Participants in both areas said that female children are preferred as wives in their young ages. Some participants said that girls are forced to get married against their will. It is considered a taboo: parents do not refuse the words of elderly people whenever marriage of someone’s daughter is proposed. If the words of elderly people are not respected, rural communities believe that the denial may bring a curse.

4.2.1.3 Education

The spread of education facilities are in smooth move in the rural areas. It is one of the basic services that should be provided to all members of the nation in order to participate in the development activities and also be responsibly for future developers and leaders of this country. It is a challenge in the rural areas to send children to distant places to attend schools. Particularly, girls having this challenge do not continue their education beyond primary schools due to the reasons as they face abduction and rapes on the way from school to home. Equal opportunities are not given for girls and boys to attend schools. Girls are more engaged in various activities. Moreover, they are also forced to be engaged in marriage at an early age.

Table 35: Is Priority of Education Given to Female Children?

Location	Households Interviewed	Yes		No	
	Number	Number	%	Number	%
Kiltawllalo	251	24	10	227	90
Dahana	157	7	4	150	96

408 Households were asked about the priority of education (Table 35) 377 (92%) said that priority is not given to female children.

On the other hand, according to the information obtained from the Ministry of education of Ethiopia the gender gap between male and female in primary schools in Tigray and Amhara regions is 3.1% and 8.7% respectively. This gap is one of the lowest gaps compared to most regions in the country. Gender Parity Index for Tigray and Amhara regions is 1.0 and 0.9 respectively. This indicates that the gender gap in education is wider in Amhara than in Tigray due to low enrollment of girls in Amhara region.

4.2.1.4 Land Access

Land tenure system in Ethiopia was very complex and complicated prior to the 1975 Land Reform Act. There were many land tenure systems, among which “*rist*” (lineage) and private ownership were the major ones. The most common form of land holding in the study areas is *rist*, by which a person could claim land through both male and female ancestors, and if married, could also gain access to the *rist* rights of his wife. The Land Proclamation No. 31 of 1975 entitles both men and women to use rights to land. The Proclamation states that with out differentiation of the sexes, any person who is willing to personally cultivate land shall be allotted rural land sufficient for his maintenance and that of his family (A.Abate and F. G/Kiros edited by Ghose 1983:146).

Land is one of the most fundamental and important means of production. Land is a crucial productive resource particularly for the rural community. People in the area have obtained land either from their parents or from the local *Kebele* during the land redistribution six years ago .

Whether the households acquired their plot from their parents or from the local administration, both men and women have access to work on the land or to make use of it as long as they are together.

It is the husband who is registered as occupier of the land that was allotted to the family and married women have no access to and control over land. Female headed households due to various reasons do not own their own land (Dessalegn, 1989).

Table 36: Do Women Access Land?

Location	Households Interviewed	Yes		No	
		Number	%	Number	%
Kilitawlallo	251	32	13	219	87
Dahana	157	4	3	153	97

Most of the households (91%) interviewed said that women do not have access to land. It can be seen from the table above that only 36 (9%) of the respondents said that women access land. This confirms the study made by Dessalgen (1989), which shows that it is the husband who is registered as the occupier of the land allotted to the family, and married women have no access to and control over land. Female headed households, due to various reasons, do not own their own land.

4.2.1.5 Gendered Division Labour

In the following table it is attempted to show the role of men and women as well as children at household level.

Table 37: Gendered Division of Labour in Areas under Study

Activity	Kiltawlallo				Dahana			
	Male adult	Male child	Female adult	Female child	Male adult	Male child	Female adult	Female child
Preparation of land for planting	x		x		x			
Sowing	x				x			
Weeding	x	x	x		x	x	x	
Harvesting	x	x	x		x		x	
Threshing	x				x			
Selling the farm produce	x	x	x		x		x	
Fetching fire wood			x	x	x	x	x	
Fetching water for the home		x	x	x		x	x	x
Cooking food			x				x	
Caring of children			x	x			x	x
Ownership of the land	x		x		x		x	
Ownership of goats and sheep	x		x		x			
Responsibility of selling animals	x							
Ownership of cattle	x				x			
Buying farm tools	x				x			
Buying fertilizers and seeds	x				x			
Membership in groups/Association	x		x		x		x	
Leadership in groups/association	x		x		x			
Right to inheritance of property	x		x		x		x	
Responsibility to take loan	x		x		x		x	
Right to choose whom to marry	x		x		x		x	
Buying food consumed at home	x		x		x		x	
Right to start own petty trade			x		x		x	
Income generation by employment	x		x		x			

As indicated in the table above, division of labour for female adults is much more than for men in the two *woredas*. But a slight variation is seen between the two *woredas* of Kiltawlallo and Dahana.

During the agricultural production season, and often at other times, the working day for the woman starts "when the cock crows," which is about 3 a.m. She grinds grain using a grinding stone until it gets light enough for her to go to the river to fetch water. Then she returns and continues to grind while cooking lunch, which takes one to two hours, depending on whether she is using the partially pre-cooked *shro* (stew made of ground peas), or some other ingredients. Nowadays some women are exempted from grinding due to grinding mills.

There are activities needed to maintain the family in which men are not involved, but which put a heavy burden on the women. These include food preparation, including the fetching of fuel and water, and keeping the compound, house, and family clean. On top of this women are involved in agricultural production.

Women, together with children and teenagers, clean fields of uprooted plants and other debris before they are sown; at least when what is being sown is *teff*. They also participate in weeding and carrying harvested produce for stocking by a threshing ground. Women are not involved in ploughing. Men plough, harvest (using sickles), stock the harvest, thresh, and winnow. Women and children help the men with the harvesting, and male children also help with threshing.

Fetching water fits into the woman's routine duties. Traditionally, homesteads have been on the tops of hills. This means that water is invariably far from home, and it has to be brought uphill from streams or springs in the valleys. At the height of the dry season, walking to the nearest stream with water may take several hours; but in the rainy season, there will at least be ponds or even seasonal streams (although the water is more often than not unfit for household use). Moreover, the scattered nature of the houses makes it impracticable to dig a well for each house, and the fact that the houses are built on hilltops means that they are unlikely to yield water by digging.

An important additional burden for the peasant woman is bearing and caring for children. Women should carry infants while they perform other activities. The energy expended on suckling and carrying infants in peak working periods worsens the physical status of women.

Generally, up to half of the days in the month are religious holidays or weekends and thus are relatively free of work. During the minor holidays, besides cooking, the woman cleans the grain/crop ready for grinding, washes clothes, and cleans the house.

Discussions have taken place regarding women's access to decision-making. The participants of FGDs said that the representation of women in decision-making *fora* is almost negligible. Married women have access to land use mainly through their husbands. Normally, women do not determine what crop to plant, or whether domestic animals should be sold or not. The males take all the decisions and the females follow their decision. Within the household, women have limited access to and control over household income. Moreover, women depend on the approval of the male heads of households in order to participate in community organizations and meetings.

Focus-group participants said that women in their localities have secondary status within the family and society. This is due to the traditional belief that women are brought up from an early age within the family, to be modest and obedient. It is assumed that women are incompetent and unfit for administration

Despite their important contributions to the household's economy, food security and sustainable household livelihood, women are excluded from decisionmaking at the household, community. Women are not involved in administrative and leadership functions. Culturally, married women are not accepted to take up such roles. However, single, widow or divorced women could take up such roles. These roles are neither socially appreciated, not significant. Lack of involvement of women in the leadership as well as administrative roles results in decision gaps, which favours mostly men, while women will not have information on different development packages.

4.3 Gender Relation to Food Security

Women's role is critical for food security in Ethiopia. They are the primary agricultural producers, they prepare the food and take care of the family.

Men and women play great roles in food production, post harvest, storing and marketing. Despite their substantial roles in food production, both women and men

farmers don't have access to adequate resources. Moreover, women's low social, economical and political status limits further their access to reproductive and productive resources. Women are in a more vulnerable position than men, for a variety of reasons. They are typically illiterate and have neither basic education nor appropriate technical skills. They invariably lack access in their own right to productive assets such as arable land and inputs for production. Lacking appropriate and efficient technologies, they undertake the majority of tasks with just simple tools and by working long hours. Women suffer discrimination because they have no recognized independent status as farmers, and their contribution is considered secondary, both within the family household and in society.

Despite their important contribution to the household's economy, food security and sustainable household livelihood, women are excluded from decision-making at household, community and national levels.

Both women and men have culturally ascribed gender roles, which, along with their special capacities, must be taken into consideration when planning and implementing food security and development intervention programs. Women's coping strategies and skills should be reinforced and utilized. Their heavy workload should be reduced and their involvement in decision-making process should be encouraged through broadening women participation in various interventions.

Summarizing the whole gender relationship to food security, the rural communities, farmers on marginal lands, pastoralists in the lowland areas, in particular women and children, are the most vulnerable groups to food security.

4.4 Main Conclusions

The following are some of the main conclusions regarding gender assessment in the study area.

Women are overwhelmed with both productive and reproductive roles and responsibilities, but have very little control over the resources in order to do the work or benefit from their efforts. In addition to limited control of productive resources, women's heavy work load constraints their full participation in sustainable food security activities. They spend a lot of time with activities such as cooking, fetching of water and firewood, which in turn causes less time for productive activities.

The division of labour and responsibilities assigned for men and women has impact on their decision-making status in the household. As seen in chapter 3, men are responsible for the management of agricultural activities and are in a better position to take decisions on the use and disposal of resources and benefits associated. Although women are involved in agricultural activities, their contribution is less recognized.

Female headed households are not equally benefiting and lack access to agricultural inputs, skills, and extension services and credits provided by development institutions. Even access to primary school is limited for girls, since they will be sent off for marriage at an early age and schools are far from homes. On the other hand, some efforts are being taken by the Ethiopian government to tackle this problem directly or indirectly. The measures taken so far are many, few of them are mentioned below:

- The empowerment of women to enable their full participation in population and development (not only as child bearers but also as main actors in the economic, social, cultural and political sectors) plays a vital role in the Ethiopian society.
- Efforts have been done to influence law enforcement agencies to abandon stereotyped interpretations and applications of law.
- The further decentralization of authority to *woreda* level opens the possibility of better coordination of activities regarding women empowerment.
- Government, non-government, private and other organizations are trying to empower women through capacity building and awareness rising. The development of employment-generating schemes and means of alternative livelihood in food security

projects, especially suited for women; making accessible birth control means, and establishing day-care centres for their children, need due attention. This kind of participation ensures acceptance and sustainability of development efforts.

In conclusion, the issues of food security and gender are inseparable. Gender inequality affects food security at household level. The trend of food insecurity is of crucial concern and needs serious consideration by various stakeholders.

CHAPTER V

HIV/AIDS

5.1 Background Information on HIV/AIDS

The devastating nature of HIV/AIDS in the world today is unquestionable. No part of the world and no section of the population have been left untouched. Not only individuals and families, but also the whole social fabric itself is in danger.

If HIV/AIDS continues unchecked, it will alter the direction of a country's development by retarding growth, weakening human capital, discouraging investment, exacerbating poverty and inequality, and leaving the next generation increasingly vulnerable to the impact of the epidemic. For this reason, HIV/AIDS cannot be viewed as merely among many competing priorities in the nation's development. Investing adequately in combating HIV/AIDS is now a *precondition* for virtually all other development investments to succeed.

There is a considerable variation in the nature and magnitude of the pandemic spread between countries, within countries, and even locally. Consequently, there is also variation in the impact of the resulting illnesses and premature deaths. In the richer countries of the world the spread of infection is low, and advances in treatment mean that people can live longer with the disease, with less pain and suffering. On the other hand the burden of the pandemic falls heavily on the world's poorer countries.

The prevalence of HIV/AIDS infection has reached up to 30% in certain cities of Eastern African countries. AIDS kills mostly people in the 15-49 year age group; and is thus depriving families, communities and entire nations of the young and most productive people. It is, therefore, devastating in terms of increasing poverty and reversing human development achievements (MOH, 2002).

As the AIDS epidemic has evolved, it has become apparent that the disease burden is shifting from men to women. In 1992 women made up approximately 25% of the world's HIV-positive population, and now they account for 43% of all people living with HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS, 2000).

The current adult HIV prevalence at national level is reported as 7.3%. The adult HIV prevalence in most urban Ethiopia is estimated to be 13.4% and in rural Ethiopia the prevalence is estimated to be about 5% (MOH, 2002). However, according to UNAIDS adult HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is estimated to be 10.63%.

Average household expenditures of AIDS afflicted rural families for treatment is Birr 1132, for funeral Birr 574, and for "teskar" (traditional ceremony one or more years after the death of a person) 786 Birr. Many times these expenses were paid by selling productive assets, especially livestock. The cost of hospital care for an AIDS patient ranges from Birr 425 to 3140 during the course of the illness in Ethiopia (MOH, 2002).

According to the report of the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, the annual death number will increase. It is reported that AIDS may account for about 460 deaths per day by 2004 among 15-49 years. Cumulative death by 2002 reached 1.7 million and between 2002-2014 an additional 3.55 million Ethiopians are likely to die. Life expectancy due to AIDS may decline by 8 years from the presently estimated 50 years. Bed occupancy will reach 54% by 2004. Loss of parents will increase the number of orphans. AIDS orphans will increase from 1 million to 2.1 million by 2014 (MOH 2002).

Women's greater vulnerability to infection of HIV can be attributed to physiological reasons. The genital tract, especially in younger women is thought to be more vulnerable to HIV. Besides, economic and social inequalities between the sexes put women at greater risks. Women face violence or abandonment if they try to negotiate for safer sex relations (MOH 2002).

Economic vulnerability is greater if the husband or the bread winner dies. The burden of care in AIDS affected household's falls on women and girl children. A subordinate position in relation to men can make it difficult to protect them against HIV. The stigma affects the infected women more than man (MOH 2002).

In almost all countries, the number of orphans has increased. Orphans run greater risks of being denied education than children who have parents to look after them. In extreme cases, orphans turn to the street where their physical and financial needs make them vulnerable to crime, abuse

and sexual exploitation. This places a significant number of children at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS (MOH 2002).

HIV is still rarely talked about openly in Ethiopia. The problem of stigma is growing in communities where more people have HIV/AIDS. Families, who may be already burdened by poverty, often feel despaired and sad when their loved ones die, and shunned by their community. Stigma constantly reminds the discriminated groups that they are social outcasts or even deserve to be punished. If people are mocked or treated with hostility, they feel uncared for and are therefore less likely to take steps to protect themselves.

5.2 Study on HIV/AIDS

As stated above, the problem of HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia has reached frightening levels. In this regard, the pandemic is spreading from towns to the country-side. In the following section the study finds out the level of knowledge about HIV/AIDS disease, transmission and prevention mechanisms in the rural areas. The discussion has been conducted with focus groups, individual households, and Anti-AIDS Clubs, though not with HIV/AIDS-positive people in the study area. However, the researchers have had discussions with HIV/AIDS positive people in Addis Ababa.

5.2.1 Common Diseases

The following tables (Table 17 & 18) show the common diseases found in the study areas. This interview is made to find out the extent of HIV/AIDS occurrence and its familiarity in the study area.

Table 38: Common Diseases in (Dahana Woreda)

Disease	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Diarrhea	65	75	14	44	79	66
Tuberculosis	17	20	15	47	32	27
AIDS	5	5	3	9	8	7
Total	87	100	32	100	119	100

Respondents were asked this question in order to check if they would mention AIDS among the diseases prevalent in Dahana.

They said that diarrhea and tuberculosis are common diseases in their localities (Table 38). The focus group discussion participants in Dehana woreda mentioned that scabies, endo parasites, influenza, eye illnesses, arthritis malaria, anemia, fungus, mental problems and cases of venereal diseases are common diseases prevalent in the area.

Table 39: Common Diseases in (Kiltawlallo Woreda)

Disease	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Malaria	89	58	67	75	156	64
Tuberculosis	64	42	22	25	86	36
Total	153	100	89	100	242	100

Households in Kiltawlallo and surrounding areas were asked to mentioned common human diseases. Accordingly, they mentioned malaria and tuberculosis are common diseases in their localities (Table 39).

5.2.2 Knowledge about HIV/AIDS

It is important to know to what extent the people in the rural areas know about the HIV/AIDS and have information on the problem. This will help one to identify where to start its development intervention.

Table 40: Have You Heard about HIV/AIDS?

Response	Kiltawlallo		Dahana		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	240	96	149	96	389	96
No	9	4	6	4	15	4
Total	249	100	155	100	404	100

96% of households (respondents) in both areas have already heard about HIV/AIDS, while only 4% know anything about it (Table 40).

5.2.3 Source of Information about HIV/AIDS

Table 41: Respondents' Sources of Information about HIV/AIDS

	Kiltawlallo		Dahana		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Radio	41	17	20	13	61	16
Television	2	1			2	1
Health center	87	36	39	26	126	32
Church	44	18	49	33	93	24
Mosque	1	1			1	1
Children at school	6	2	3	2	9	2
Anti-HIV/AIDS club	5	2	5	3	10	2
Non-governmental organization	9	4	3	2	12	3
Friends	19	8	29	20	48	12
My spouse	3	1	1	1	4	1
Public meeting	19	8			19	5
Training	5	2			5	1
Total	241	100	149	100	390	100

Table 41 shows different mechanisms through which information about HIV/AIDS reached the rural community. Majority of respondents in Kiltawlallo (Tigray) claimed that their sources of information were health centers followed by Churches and radios. Most of the respondents in the project areas in Dahana (Amhara) claimed that their sources of information were Churches and radios.

Some participants of FGDs said that they had the chance of finding out more about HIV/AIDS during workshops organized by REST branch office in Wukero town. However, it is important to note that health centers and churches are important places for information sharing.

5.2.4 Orphans in Households Interviewed

The issue of HIV/AIDS is not discussed as such in the community but rather in a wider perspective, when it come to the death of a person in the area. There are a number of orphans in Ethiopia in general and some orphans in the study areas. The causes for orphanage could be many, it could happen due to conflict or war, HIV/AIDS, natural death through illness, etc. The table below shows the scale of orphans in the study areas.

Table 42: Orphans in Households Interviewed

Location	Total Household Interviewed		Male Orphan		Female Orphan	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Kiltawlallo	251	62	27	48	25	100
Dahana	157	38	29	52	-	-
Total	408	100	56	100	25	100

As it can be seen from the table above, there are 81(20%) orphans in the households interviewed. Out of 81 orphans, 56 (69%) are males and 25 (31%) are females. From focused group discussion the cause for orphanage is particularly due to loss of parent through war and in some cases due to illness. The death due to HIV/AIDS is not mentioned by the community and it is not well discussed in the community on the cause of death when happens. They simple regard it as natural death due to sickness.

5.2.5 Percetions/knowledge about Mode of Transmission

Table 43: Perceptions/knowledge about Mode of Transmission (Dahana -AmharaWoreda)

Source	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Sexual intercourse	48	47	25	52	73	48
Sharp tools	19	18	7	55	26	17
Blood Contact	14	15	6	13	20	13
From condom eaten by hen	9	9	5	10	14	10
Fly	8	8	5	10	13	9
No response	5	5	-	-	5	3
Total	103	100	48	100	151	100

A significant number of respondents (78%) have knowledge about the correct mode of transmission about HIV/AIDS (Table 43). 48% of the respondents mentioned that it is transmitted through sexual intercourse. Some respondents mentioned that the disease could be transmitted through flies and condoms eaten by chickens.

Table 44: Mode of Transmission in Area Understudy (Kiltawlallo -Tigray Woreda)

Source	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Sharp tools	57	43	22	26	79	36
Sexual intercourse	37	28	25	29	62	28
Blood contact	18	13	18	21	36	16
Mother to child	6	4	6	7	12	5
From condom eaten by hen	5	4	5	6	10	5
Breathing /air/	6	4	4	5	10	5
Common drinking	5	4	5	6	10	5
Total	134	100	85	100	219	100

Majority of the respondents (85 %) said HIV/AIDS is transmitted through sharp tools, sexual intercourse, blood and mother to child in comparison with (10 %) of respondents who have said the transmission could be through breathing air and common drinking utensils. Moreover, some respondents maintain that eating meat from chickens that have swallowed condoms could be a potential mode of HIV transmission. Proportionally few participants of the FGDs also shared this idea.

5.2.6 Perception of/attitude towards HIV/AIDS

As shown in the previous section, moderate or high level of knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS existed among the respondents. Knowledge level presumed to be a possible predictor of attitude. Gathering information on attitude components of HIV/AIDS is important in order to get the whole picture of the situation. Hence this section deals with the attitude of the respondents in the context of individual risk perception, attitudes towards PLWAs.

Table 45: Respondents' Perception/Attitude to HIV/AIDS - Dahana (Gender Disaggregated)

S.N	Perception/Attitude	Agree						Disagree						Total				
		Male		Female		Total		Male	Female		Total		Male		Female			
		No	%	No	%	No	%		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%		
1	I believe a person when he/she says that he/she is HIV/AIDS negative	23	21	8	18	31	20	85	79	36	82	121	80	108	71	44	29	152
2	AIDS is not a threat to me	59	55	22	49	81	53	49	45	23	51	72	47	108	69	45	31	153
3	There is no cure for HIV/AIDS	96	89	42	93	138	90	12	11	3	7	15	10	108	71	45	29	153
4	AIDS is not a big problem as media suggests	39	36	17	39	56	37	69	64	27	61	96	63	108	71	44	29	152
5	AIDS is God's punishment	58	55	31	70	89	59	48	45	13	30	61	41	106	71	44	29	150
6	AIDS can be treated with traditional medicines	9	8	7	16	16	11	98	92	37	84	135	89	107	71	44	29	151
7	I am less likely than most people to get AIDS	81	76	36	82	117	78	25	24	8	18	33	22	106	71	44	29	150
8	Children with HIV/AIDS should not be allowed to attend schools with other students	35	33	15	34	50	33	72	67	29	66	101	67	107	71	44	29	151
9	People with HIV/AIDS should not be allowed to attend public meetings	33	32	13	30	46	31	71	68	31	70	102	69	104	70	44	30	148
10	Women are more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS than men	46	45	25	57	71	48	57	55	19	43	76	52	103	70	44	30	147
11	Men are more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS than women	40	38	13	30	53	36	64	62	31	70	95	64	104	70	44	30	148
12	Poor people are more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS than rich people	50	49	23	51	73	50	52	51	22	49	74	50	102	69	45	21	147

From the above table it can be learnt that, a total number of 152 persons responded to the question. Out of these there were 108 (71%) men and 44 (29%) women. To the statement "I believe a person when he/she say that he/she is HIV/AIDS negative" 20% in total agreed and 80% disagreed. Among women 18% agreed and 82 % disagreed, among men 21% agreed and 79% disagreed.

Regarding the question that "AIDS is not a threat to me", 55% male and 49% female respondents agree while 45% and 51% male and female respectively disagree to the statement. A significant number of respondents (90%) agree that AIDS does not have curative means. About 89% of respondents disagreed with the statement that "AIDS can be treated with traditional medicines".

A total of 117 (78%) (82% of the women and 76% of the men) responded that they get AIDS less likely than most people. More than half of the respondents, 66% men and 67% women, disagree with the statement "children with HIV/AIDS should not attend schools with other students". 70% of the women and 68% of the men also disagreed that people with HIV/AIDS should not be allowed to attend public meetings. An interview was done to identify the perception of the people regarding which community members could be vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. In this regard 50% of respondents feel that poor people are more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS than rich people. In regards to sex classification , 45% men and 57% women agree that women are more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS than men.

Table 46: Respondents' perception/Attitude to HIV/AIDS – Kiltawlallo (Gender Disaggregated)

S.N	Perception/Attitude	Agree						Disagree						Total					
		Male		Female		Total		Male		Female		Total		Male		Female		Total	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%		
1	I believe a person when he/she say that he/she is HIV/AIDS negative	23	15	18	20	41	17	133	85	72	80	205	83	156	63	90	37	246	
2	AIDS is not a threat to me	58	37	44	49	102	42	97	63	46	51	143	58	155	63	90	37	245	
3	There is no cure for HIV/AIDS	130	84	78	88	208	85	25	16	11	12	36	15	155	64	89	36	244	
4	AIDS is not a big problem as media suggests	47	31	38	43	85	35	105	69	51	57	156	65	152	63	89	37	241	
5	AIDS is God's punishment	108	71	67	77	175	73	45	29	20	23	65	27	153	64	87	36	240	
6	AIDS can be treated with traditional medicines	30	20	20	23	50	21	123	80	68	77	191	79	153	63	88	37	241	
7	I am less likely than most people to get AIDS	131	84	79	90	210	86	25	16	9	10	34	14	156	64	88	36	244	
8	Children with HIV/AIDS should not be allowed to attend schools with other students	84	55	47	55	131	55	70	45	39	45	109	45	154	64	86	36	240	
9	People with HIV/AIDS should not be allowed to attend public meetings	84	55	44	52	128	54	68	45	41	48	109	46	152	64	85	36	237	
10	Women are more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS than men	95	63	53	61	148	62	57	37	34	39	91	38	152	63	87	37	239	
11	Men are more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS than women	57	38	45	52	102	43	95	62	42	48	137	57	152	63	87	37	239	
12	Poor people are more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS than rich people	93	63	63	74	156	67	55	37	22	26	77	33	148	64	85	36	233	

In Kiltawlallo Woreda , a total of 246 people responded to questions related to perception and attitude.. Out of these, 156 (63%) are men and 90 (37%) are women. A significant number of respondents (83%) disagree to the statement " i believe a person when he/she say that he/she is HIV/AIDS negative". Some 37% men and 49% women consider that HIV/AIDS is not a threat to them. About 73% of the respondents agree that AIDS is God's punishment, while 27% disagree with this reasoning . 85% respondents agree there is no cure for HIV/AIDS and 79% responded that traditional medicine also cannot help in treatment. Respondents were also asked about which sex is more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. The majority of men (63%) and women (61%) identified that women are more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. A total of 156 (67%) of respondents agree that poor people are more vulnerable to AIDS than rich people.

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The findings testify to the fact that people have various perceptions and attitudes about HIV/AIDS. An important percentage think that they are immune to HIV/AIDS pandemic and attribute the cause to God. They are not certain about the effectiveness of condoms.

As presented by the FGDs, the following points are some of the reasons why women are vulnerable to HIV/AIDS:

- A drunkard may force a women to have sex without condom,
- Women are not assertive in many cases. They cannot try to convince males on issues related to sex
- Life difficulties, (e.g. economic problems) may lead women into selling sexual services, sex workers often have no alternative livelihood
- Overload in household chores and child bearing decreases women's resistance to the virus.
- Since women are not as physically strong as men, they can easily be forced to leave the house when they are suspected of contracting HIV/AIDS.

The consultants are encouraged to contact anti-HIV/AIDS and anti - harmful traditional practice clubs in such remote areas such as Qwazba and Chilla in Dahana Woreda. These clubs are engaged in a number of activities aimed specifically at building awareness on HIV/AIDS, sexual transmitted diseases and harmful traditional practices. The most effective types of activities include dramas, plays, songs and others. These clubs work in collaboration with EOC/DICAC.

It was found that anti- HIV/AIDS clubs are under-equipped and under- funded. They strongly insisted on the need to get more funds in order to continue to fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS.

School anti-HIV/AIDS clubs in Chila, Qwazba and Wukero areas were assessed along a number of selected parameters that were considered as important determinants of their effectiveness. It was found that clubs in these places have been moving in the right direction in contributing to the prevention of the pandemic. They have made significant progress in raising awareness about HIV/AIDS among club members and the school communities through dramas, songs, etc. There

were few club members who have gone further to rise the awareness of their parents and the community at large in their residential areas. For this reason, there are very few students who believe that HIV/AIDS is a wrath from God, as a result of people's belief going astray from God, and sinning against God.

According to the information obtained from participants of FGDs, if the husband in a household dies, it is the women who suffers from carrying the economic and other burdens of the family. As a result, a woman toils to feed her children. This would shorten her life if she is infected with the virus.

As it was mentioned by the participants of FGDs of Dahana Woreda, husbands have outside sexual partners the so-called "*gult*" (concubine). Therefore, these women are vulnerable to AIDS because they may have limited ability to protect themselves from HIV infection. Women may be at risk of getting HIV, even though they are faithful to their husbands. Participants further said that some women have little or no control over their husbands' actions and no ability to protect themselves by having their husbands use condoms.

Even though some women participants mentioned that women in their localities received condoms from health centers, but practically, they did not use them. The condoms are distributed by health centers during health education about family planning as well as HIV/AIDS preventions. In the group discussions, they have mentioned that it is taboo to discuss about sex in the family.

There was a discussion with community- based reproductive health agents in Wukero town. The agents have more knowledge about the cause, transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS. They said that some commercial sex workers know the devastating consequences of HIV/AIDS. But due to poverty, these women were forced to go into prostitution and are exposed to sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS.

It was mentioned that commercial sex workers are willing to take the initiative of using condoms during sexual intercourse. Even if sex workers are willing to do so, they are not able to use condoms because their clients make the decision. The fact that women are not able to negotiate sex is a sign of gender inequality .

It was reported during discussion with anti AIDS club at Wukiro that clients are not willing to condom use. They rather suggest to pay more money in order to practice sexual intercourse without condoms (with condom Birr 50; without condom Birr 70).

Discussions with commercial sex workers revealed that they will be happy if income-generating projects are designed and implemented to enable them to extricate from poverty.

Selam Anti- HIV/AIDS club in Wukero town is engaged in creating awareness, not only within the school community, but also the general community. This club is mainly supported by REST Office in Kiltawlallo woreda. Leaders of Selam anti-HIV/AIDS club in Wukero town indicated that the number of “video houses” is expanding as well as narcotics, especially "*chat*". They said that the lack of attitudinal change to HIV/AIDS among some students is further compounded by risky sexual practices. Therefore, it needs the support of the broader environment within which the school system operates. It is noted from the discussion with the anti-AIDS club that the leaders of this club have taken voluntary blood tests.

5.2.7 Interest to Learn about HIV/AIDS

Having listened about the attitudes towards PLWHAs, knowledge on the mode of transmission as well as the pandemic itself, it was felt in the discussion still the need to assess the interest of the people in learning more about HIV/AIDS. because there are misconceptions about the cause and transmission of HIV/AIDS. Moreover, there is a need to provide counselling services to people with HIV/AIDS.

Table 47: Interest to Learn about HIV/AIDS (Dahana)

Source	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	101	93	40	87	141	91
No	8	7	6	13	14	9
Total	109	100	46	100	155	100

From the Tables 47 and 48 it can be observed that 91% and 95% of the respondents in Dahana and Kiltawlallo respectively expressed their interest to learn about HIV/AIDS.

Table 48: Interest to Learn about HIV/AIDS (Kiltawlallo)

Source	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	145	95	88	95	233	95
No	8	5	5	5	13	5
Total	153	100	93	100	246	100

5.2.8 Preferred Place to Learn about HIV/AIDS

It is noted from the households interviews and focus group discussions that communities in the study area get information about HIV/AIDS from churches, radio, health centers, or schools. It was necessary to know and understand where the community would like to learn from if an intervention is planned in the future on HIV/AIDS. The tables below show the preferred locations for this purpose. The places preferred are also useful for further counseling services.

Table 49: Preferred Place to Learn about HIV/AIDS (Dahana)

Source	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Church	49	45	12	26	61	39
Health center	30	28	11	24	41	26
Kebele Hall	20	18	9	20	29	19
School	6	7	7	15	13	9
Idir Hall	4	4	7	15	11	7
Total	109	100	46	100	155	100

In both study areas most of the respondents (84% in Dahana and 92% in Kiltawlallo) preferred to learn about HIV/AIDS in churches, health centers and kebele halls (Table 49 and Table 50).

Table 50: Preferred Place to Learn about HIV/AIDS (Kiltawlallo)

Source	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Health center	62	43	37	42	99	42
Church	32	23	28	32	60	27
Kebele Hall	38	26	14	17	52	23
Idir Hall	12	8	7	9	19	8
Total	146	100	89	100	235	100

5.2.9 Discussions on HIV/AIDS with Government Officials

Even though government officials are aware of the presence of persons living with HIV/AIDS in their areas, they are not able to explain the rate of prevalence quantitatively in their respective woredas. Moreover, they were not able to claim that there were persons who died of and/or living with HIV/AIDS since there was no confirmation made by blood tests.

The lack of openness and clarity of presentation of controversial issues of HIV/AIDS has been a serious defect as indicated by the officials. There is limited understanding of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the community. They also said that commercial sex workers, the wives of truck drivers and military personell were vulnerable to the disease because of their husbands' nature of work.

During the discussion, the issue of vulnerability of women was raised. Participants said that women are more vulnerable to HIV infection than men due to biological, cultural and socio economic reasons. They are exposed to risks of unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion, rape, abduction, early marriage and sexually transmitted infections which all expose them to HIV infection.

The participants further said that women were also more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS because they had less secured employment, lower incomes, less access to formal social security, less entitlement to assets and savings, and little power to negotiate sex. They are more likely to be poorly educated and have uncertain access to land, credit and education. Female headed households are poorer and have less control over productive resources.

AIDS can have a very serious impact on the lives of women when it strikes a family member. In most cases women do not have a secure occupation which can provide a steady and adequate income. Thus may lead some women to resort to selling sex to provide cash income.

A woman may also have reduced ability to be a provider for the family if she needs to spend a significant portion of her time caring for family members who are sick with AIDS. It may reduce the time she has for productive work as well as affect the amount of time she can spend caring for children. Since other tasks, such as food preparation, fetching water and firewood, etc. must still be done, many women have to work even harder than usual in order to cope with AIDS in the family.

5.2.10 Discussion on HIV/AIDS with School Administrators

Schools are one of places where students as well as teachers have an exposure to various types of information. Information passed to school children will have a possibility to be conveyed to parents.

Discussion was held with school administration in both areas. The discussion helped members (both teachers and students) to express themselves and look into the issues deeply. They have mentioned that schools are active in the prevention aspect of HIV/AIDS and harmful traditional practices in their localities. Efforts were made in disseminating information on HIV/AIDS in the school among students and teachers. They have also transmitted information to the community around the schools.

However, they have indicated what should be done in the future, to be engaged fully with close cooperation of other organizations;

- Capacity building of leaders and members of anti - HIV/AIDS and anti - HTP clubs on effective prevention education, especially in caring and counseling those living with HIV/AIDS is necessary;
- Provision of materials on current information on HIV/AIDS;
- Supply of adequate materials, including films, posters, etc.
- Need to develop the existing awareness creating methods like dramas, poetry, etc.
- The need to exchange experience between schools and clubs;

- Encouraging peer teaching and exchange of information and experience;
- Strong coordination among government, NGOs, donors and the community; religious organizations and others.
- The importance of voluntary testing and counseling in combating the pandemic, HIV/AIDS.

5.3 HIV/AIDS relation to gender and Food Security

Insecure livelihoods is one of the means to increase vulnerability to risky behaviors and HIV infection. Decline in on- and off-farm disposable households income; erosion of farm household resources and asset base, these may result in a substantial increase in the workload of women and a reduction in the carrying capacity of households. This in turn may impact on the nutritional status and composition of the household food basket. Workload in household and child bearing decrease women's resistance to HIV. If a husband dies, there will be more burden on a woman. The death of breadwinner forces to sell assets as coping strategy making a woman vulnerable to food security.

The inter-relationship between HIV/AIDS, gender and food security is very strong. All people (men and women) are susceptible to AIDS. HIV/AIDS crosses all lines of social divisions in a given society. Women's vulnerability to AIDS is higher compared to men, which follows from social, but also physical factors. In addition women's lesser access to education and lower levels of literacy contribute to their very limited access to information about HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention.

The problem or issue of HIV/AIDS is also linked up with the economic situation of a household. In the study area it is learnt that female headed households are renting out their land on crop sharing agreements with another male farmer by which they get only 25% of the harvest. The harvest they get from this arrangement doesn't feed their family for the whole year, therefore, they will be engaged in preparing local beer and opening small bars in rural sides. This again opens a door for their involvement in sexual activities with a number of people, which increases the risk of transmission of HIV/AIDS.

On the other hand harmful cultural practices, such as abduction, rape and female genital mutilation are linked up to girls and HIV/AIDS spread or transmissions, which should be investigated carefully. Girls are forced to marry at early stages to much older persons, where the marriage does not last long and they divorce and runaway to towns to be involved in commercial

sex activities. This is done by girls in search of sustaining their livelihood, which again make them vulnerable to HIV/AIDS contraction. All these points indicate that women have very little power to negotiate about sex.

5.4 Main Conclusions

Based on discussions with focus groups, different key informants and household interviews as well as secondary data reviewed, the following conclusions are made.

Even though, schools are involved in awareness creation of HIV/AIDS, ample time is not given for HIV/AIDS education in the school programs. There is a great need to increase the awareness level continuously among the community members on HIV/AIDS virus, transmission and prevention as well on how to live with people living with HIV/AIDS. The perception and attitudes of the people towards people living with HIV/AIDS is negative. The issue of stigma and discrimination reflected during the responses and it is a general reality in Ethiopia.

The Federal Government, Regional governments, donors and NGOs should continue to give due attention to the prevention of HIV/AIDS and care and support of people living with HIV/AIDS. Focus should be placed on the growing international experience concerning HIV/AIDS to be tapped. The decentralization of authority to *woredas* opens possibility of better coordination of activities regarding food security, gender equality and HIV/AIDS integrations. However, weak outreach support from the *woreda* administration, HIV/AIDS councils and education offices, slows the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in the *woredas*.

The harmful traditional practices such as early marriage, abduction, circumcisions could lead to the spread of HIV/AIDS. An impact of cultural taboo's to discuss about sex openly exposes female to HIV/AIDS

There are no adequate resources and facilities to undertake sustained anti-HIV/AIDS activities. Voluntary testing and counselling in combating HIV/AIDS pandemic should be encouraged and supported. Peer educators to be helpful and cooperative and need the financial and material support.

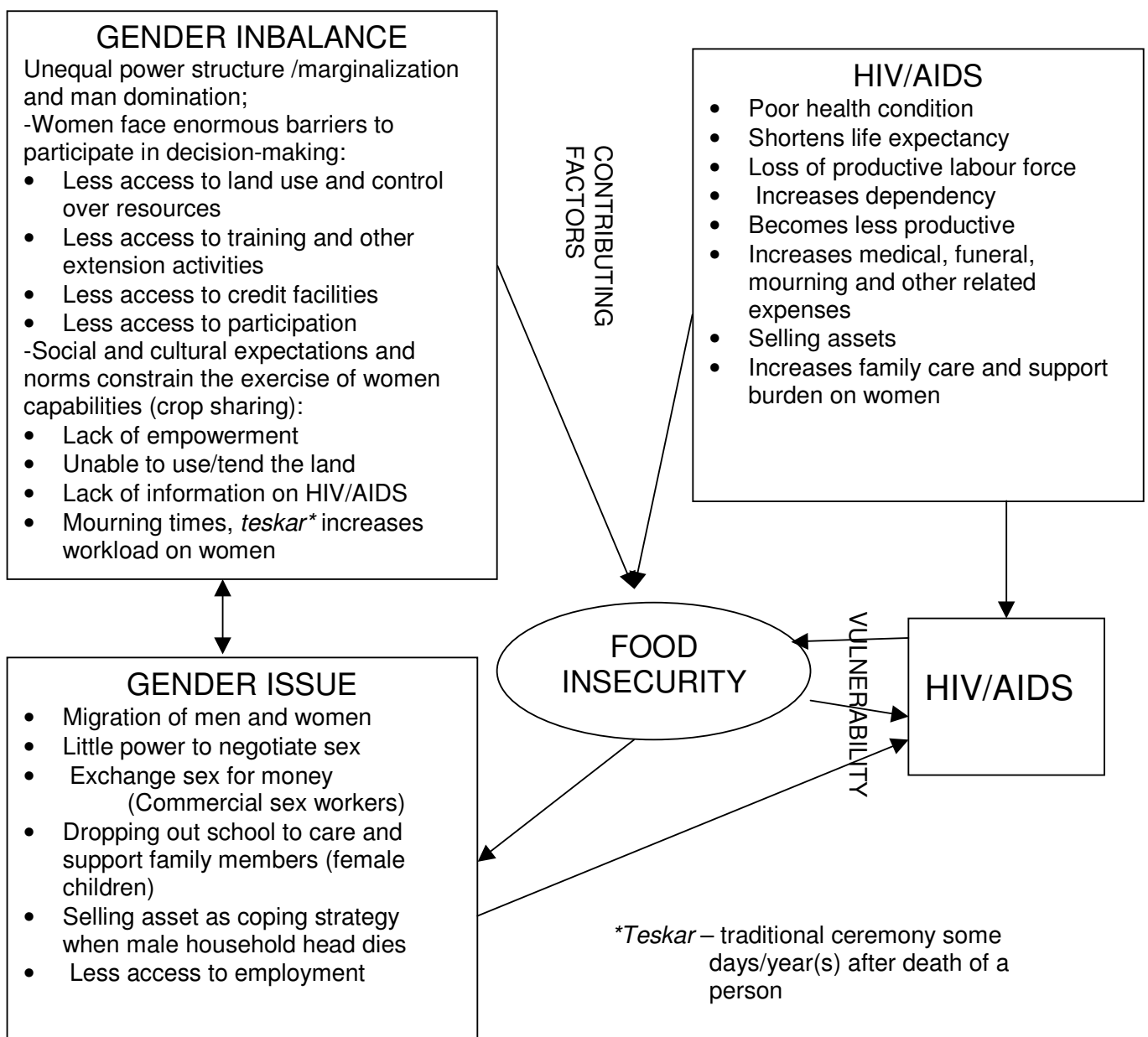
In general it can be concluded that HIV/AIDS gender and food security issues are complex and interdependent, and need to be addressed in a more integrated manner.

CHAPTER VI

Linkage - Food Security, Gender and HIV/AIDS

The issues of food security, gender and HIV/AIDS are inseparable. Gender inequality affects food security at household level. The trend of food insecurity in most parts of Ethiopia is of crucial concern and needs serious consideration by various stakeholders.

The figure below indicates the inter-linkage of gender, HIV/AIDS and food security.



Poverty is detrimental to health because it restricts access to medical care and healthy living conditions. Furthermore, since both prevention and effective treatment of adverse health events cost money, the poor are likely to suffer from ill health more often, but also with more severe sequels.

Female-headed households have a lot of challenges in accessing credit facilities, extension and training services on improved technologies. Trainings of technologies are usually targeted to women. There are only few participants attending trainings organized by agricultural offices. It was observed during the field visit and focus group discussions that not many female-headed households are assigned or elected in decision-making posts. As a tradition, farming activity is considered to be a men's job, female-headed households even if they have land, cultivation is done by another male farmer on crop sharing principle. It was learned during the field visit and discussions that female-headed households get only 25% of the harvest from their farm land while the rest goes to the male cultivator. The share of harvest that they get from this process does not last for long and is consumed within few months. The type of grain to be planted is also decided by the male farmer, which limits the female-headed house in decision-making.

In general the factors mentioned above and others (not included here) left the women more vulnerable to food insecurity. The link between HIV/AIDS and gender is also another aspect to be noted here. Principally, HIV/AIDS is transmitted by various mechanisms. Men and women, old and young, could contract HIV/AIDS. Women are more vulnerable than men to HIV/AIDS because of biological, social and cultural reasons. Harmful traditional practices such as having illegal sexual partners (outside marriage) could also contribute to HIV/AIDS transmissions. Early marriage has been raised as one of major problem in the study area very often leading to forced divorce. Therefore, women are forced to divorce their incompatible husbands and run away to towns to be engaged in commercial sex activities in order to provide a livelihood.

The death of the breadwinner as a result of AIDS forces a woman to sell assets as a coping strategy to the extent making the woman vulnerable to food insecurity. This again causes migration to towns to involve themselves with cheap employment as maids and

commercial sex workers in bars in order to earn an income to meet the needs of their own and their family. Food-insecure women are more likely to die in a very short period of time when infected with HIV. Workload in household and child bearing decreases resistance to HIV virus. The involvement in such activity exposes women to transmission of HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS pandemic is a challenge for the nation in general and households affected and infected in particular. It is reported that AIDS is killing the adult population at prime age. As a result of this, many schools are suffering due to loss of teachers by HIV/AIDS, affecting teaching and learning process. In the meantime factories are also losing workers of different capacities, which affect the production, as well as the livelihood of family members. The spread of HIV/AIDS to the rural areas due to the demobilization of soldiers since the fall of the previous *Derg* (military government) regime in Ethiopia, is another worrying issue. Currently, the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the rural areas is reported to be 3.7%. This has a consequence to food production at the household's level creating food insecurity.

Development programs being implemented by government and NGOs should play a greater role in assuring that women and men participate equally in the implementation of development in general and food security in particular, and also benefit equally. There is a need to design, introduce and maximize activities, which reduce women's workloads.

Increase economic opportunities for women through facilitating access to credit facilities to undertake income-generating activities with equal access to credit institutions with the objective of reducing women's workload thereby, providing free time, which they can devote to income-generating activities. Facilities such as access to potable water, grinding mills, improved technologies, should be developed.

One of major challenges in food security is the increased number of orphans due to HIV/AIDS as well as poverty. Currently it is estimated that more than a million orphans live in Ethiopia. Designing orphan-focused interventions (education, health, food security, etc) is crucial, otherwise the effect will lead to a devastating socio-economic situation at national level.

CHAPTER VII

RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the field study, discussion with various stakeholders and the follow up workshop, the following recommendations are given. The recommendations are helpful for any future interventions in the area aimed at mainstreaming gender and HIV/AIDS into food security and development programs.

Provision of training and education to improve local level capacity: it is important to promote training and education facilities and it is a key for various development interventions.

- There is a need to increase awareness to bring about an attitudinal change both at the family and community level and overcome customary laws that hinder women's participation. There is a need to strengthen the empowerment of women through capacity building and awareness raising.
- At present, the objective of HIV/AIDS education is general, and does not take into consideration people of different age groups and sexual development needs. There is a need to clearly articulate the objectives of HIV/AIDS education for the different age groups, and stages of sexual development. According to the findings, there is lack of educational materials on HIV/AIDS. Therefore, there is a need to provide necessary materials
- The needs of people, especially women, to learn about HIV/AIDS prevention vary due to various reasons. Therefore, it should be relevant and flexible to meet these needs. The education on HIV/AIDS requires the most active and participatory method. It is now clear that the acquisition of facts is not sufficient to bring about attitudinal and behavioural changes. People have to change certain misconceptions and misunderstandings, regarding HIV/AIDS pandemic.
- Church and health centres have been identified as the main sources of information on HIV/AIDS. It is, therefore, suggested that these sources provide up-to-date programs to the target community at grassroots level, particularly women. It was also noted that,

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health centres had been distributing condoms. However, most rural women were not using them. Therefore, there is a need to raise awareness among men and women on the use of condom. But, it is necessary to promote abstinence (before marriage) and single-partner relationships among all people.

Strengthen research and extension and social services- the interaction and linkage between research and extension is essential to disseminating technology and for effective feed back information, which will respond to community priority needs and problems.

- At all levels, research organizations like Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organization (EARO) and Extension departments of the Ministry of agriculture, should very much link up in the identification of agricultural problems and needs of farmers as well as in disseminating research findings to the users. The Extension department should vigorously introduce and promote improved agricultural development technologies. Introduction and encouragement of improved breeds of livestock – cows, goats, sheep and bee keeping, etc.
- There is a need for counselling services targeting support and care to people living with HIV/AIDS.
- The lack of openness has been a serious problem. There is a need for a systematized study on how condom distribution could be done in rural areas. There is a need to devise a mechanism to distribute condoms, if possible house- to- house.
- Even though *woreda* officials are aware of the presence of persons living with HIV/AIDS in their areas, they are unable to explain the rate of occurrence. This indicates that there is a need for further studies on situation and impact of HIV/AIDS on population. The *woreda* officials and the community said that there were persons who died of and/or living with HIV/AIDS. But, there was no confirmation made by blood tests. Therefore, voluntary blood testing should be encouraged. It is also necessary to encourage organizations to have data- bases for further research.

Extension Agents - Only a few extension workers have been assigned in Dahana Woreda while the Kiltawlallo Woreda has better extension service health agents as well as facilities are very limited.

- It is recommended to give more focus to assign more extension workers (men & women) close to the rural community to train farmers in various technologies and conduct demonstration sites. The extension agents should have versed knowledge about food security, Gender and also health, which includes HIV/AIDS issues. The government has

currently (2003) put as a strategy to train a number of DAs, which are going to be assigned 3DAs in each peasant Association.

- There is a need to strengthen women institutions and associations at grassroots level. Provide them with technical and material support for these organizations. Efforts should be made to explore and solicit sufficient funds for strengthening these associations and forums to meet the needs.
- There is a need to increase access of family planning and maternal and child health care programs targeting both women and man

Advocating in policy improvement - Advocating on different policy issues is necessary.

- Measures should be taken to assure farmers' land ownership so that they can use their land for different purposes freely and develop it with long -term investment, resource allocation and give opportunities for loans and collateral arrangements to lead sustainable livelihood.
- Introduction of population control mechanisms.
- Decentralization power into *woredas* plays an important role in facilitating the empowerment of women in rural areas. There is a need to use women role-models that are accepted, respected, and influential, to promote participation of women in population and development.
- It is important that women associations and women forums and other related organizations working in the country strive for influencing gender policy.
- There is a need to coordinate activities of governmental and non-governmental organizations. The collaboration and coordination of activities related to women could help in avoiding duplication of efforts and waste of resources. There is a need to ensure that women should participate in projects/programs design, implementation, management and evaluation. Provide opportunities for sharing of experiences with gender integration and promotion of women's participation in projects/programs.
- There is a need to lobby and advocate for the elimination of harmful cultural practices, laws or regulations that have negative implication on women.

Diversification of livelihood engagement - It is important that farmers (men and women) should be engaged in some other activities of skill development and trading.

- Encouragement should be made in promoting self- employment schemes. They could be engaged in livestock breeding, modern bee keeping, poultry farming, all feasible interventions in ordert to increase food security.

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- Training should be given to farmers in various skills so that they can be involved in off-farm activities. This may include wood works, metal works and engaging in small -scale industries, etc.
- Efforts should be made to expand provision of credit facilities and adequate inputs. Encourage saving culture.

Utilization of Renewable Energy sources - Efforts should be made to introduce environmental friendly energy resources such as solar energy, wind and small hydro-powers. The energy obtained from these untapped sources could be used for cooking, lighting, communication, water pumping, etc. In the meantime this will alleviate the problem of land degradation and long distance travelling by women and children to get firewood and water and give them an opportunity to involve themselves in other socio-economic activities. It may also alleviate the danger of girls and women being raped and abducted, which could expose them to HIV/AIDS contraction.

Resettlement - Both areas under study face chronic food insecurity problem. The increasing population has placed a high pressure on the available land. Besides, the land has been degraded and has lost its fertility, producing very low crop yield which is not enough to feed the family for the whole season. This has left the people dependant on food aid for the last years. The study team recommends resettlement is one of the key ways to insure food security, but it should be implemented voluntarily with the full participation of the target groups and hosting communities. Suitability of the resettlement areas should be well assessed; accompanying services (like health, water, schools, etc) should also follow. Care should be taken in resettlement programs not to destruct the natural resources, particularly clearing forest coverage and management of water resources.

Promotion of small-scale irrigation schemes - Irrigation is basically an agricultural activity and useful input for sustainable food security. Nevertheless, agriculture in Ethiopia is dominated by subsistence and smallholder enterprizes, which are totally dependant on rain-fed cultivation. Irrigation therefore, plays a great role in achieving sustainable food security if properly planned, developed and managed. Various methods could be used for practicing irrigation, including water harvesting, construction of diversion dams and reservoirs, as well as using irrigation pumps. These activities will also generate additional income for households involved in cash crops (such as vegetables), and improve the nutritional status.

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Annex I

Definition of Terms

The followings are some of common terms in gender studies (Suzanne Williams with Janet Seed and Adelina Mwau. 1994. and World Food Program. 2000).

Conscientization: the process of becoming aware of the extent to which problems arise not so much from an individual's inadequacies, but rather from systematic discrimination against a social group which puts all members of a system as a whole at a disadvantage. Through conscientization, both men and women come to understand the nature of the obstacles they face, and, therefore, the need to mobilize for collective action. The process of discussion and understanding of common problems is a critical phase, as it enables and motivates men and women to move from being beneficiaries to being actors and active participants in their own development. Conscientization involves the identification of disparities and the analysis of their underlying causes.

Empowerment is an important element of development, it is the process by which people take control and action in order to overcome obstacles. Empowerment especially means the collective action by the oppressed and deprived to overcome the obstacles of structural inequality which have previously put them in a disadvantaged position.

Gender analysis means a close examination of a problem or situation in order to identify the gender issues. Gender analysis of a development program involves identifying the gender issues within the problem which is being addressed, and in the obstacles to progress, so that these issues can be addressed in all aspects of the program- (project objectives, choice of the intervention strategy and methods of program implementation).

Gender awareness means the ability to identify problems arising from gender in equality and discrimination even if these are not very evident, or are "hidden- i.e. are not part of the general or commonly accepted explanation of what and where the problem lies. In other words, gender awareness means a high level of gender conscientization.

Gender discrimination means giving differential treatment to individuals on the grounds of their gender. In a patriarchal society this involves systematic and structural discrimination against women in the distribution of income, access to resources, and participation in decision making.

Gender division of labor is typical for all societies. Tasks and responsibilities are undertaken by either women or men. This classification of activities on the basis of sex is known as the gender division of labor, which is perhaps the most significant social structure governing gender relations.

Gender gap is the difference between the male and female enrollment ratios.

Gender Parity Index is the ratio between the female and the male enrollment ratios.

Gender refers to socio-cultural attributes and perceptions associated with being male or female. It also refers to the social relations between men and women in a community, in respect to the roles that they perform, the way they access and control resources, and the way they share power. Gender is socially constructed, it is not biological. It can be changed and it differs from one society to another and from one historical period to another.

Gender roles and responsibilities: almost all societies have undergone many recent adjustments and changes in response to technology change, which has led to massive economic and social changes in all parts of the world. However, changes in gender roles and relations often meet resistance, in particular from cultural forces of tradition. Gender roles are important factors that affect the food security of women in particular and of the household in general.

Mainstreaming: all development programs, at all levels, should be able to integrate gender concerns in their plans and see to that women participate, contribute, benefit and their effort is recognized and technologically supported. Thus, the mainstreaming of gender in all development programs should focus on establishing a system whereby each sector-program would use gender as a measuring indicator to quantify project/ program achievements. To this effect, developing appropriate tools and methodologies to incorporate gender planning is an important part.

Patriarchy is the male domination, ownership and control, at all levels in society, which maintains and operates the system of gender discrimination. This system of control is justified in terms of patriarchal ideology- a system of ideas based on a belief in male superiority and sometimes the claim that the gender division of labor is based on biology or even scripture. Patriarchal ideology also often includes the claim that patriarchal rule is not discriminatory, and that men decide things for the benefit of everybody.

Structural gender inequality exists where the societal system of gender discrimination is practiced by public and/or social institutions. Structural gender inequality is more entrenched if it is maintained by administrative rules and laws, rather than only by custom and tradition.

Annex II

Dry Land Coordination Group (DCG) Ethiopia- Sudan Workshop On Gender, HIV/AIDS and Food Security Brief report



Figure 8: Workshop participants (Photo: Netsanet Shiferaw, 2003)

The workshop on Gender, HIV/AIDS and Food security has been conducted on November 28-29th, 2003 in Addis Ababa, Queen Sheba Hotel. A total of 25 participants from different organization, DCG members and study area representatives attended the workshop. The structure of the workshop includes paper presentation by the study team and group discussions by participants, where discussion points were prepared to facilitate the discussion. The topic of the presentation is indicated in the program included in this annex.



Figure 9: Workshop on Gender, HIV/AIDS and Food Security in progress (Photo: Netsanet Shiferaw, 2003)

Discussion Points for Group work

1. Define Gender, HIV/AIDS and Food Security to establish a common understanding and facilitate discussions.
2. Discuss and summarize linkages of Gender and HIV/AIDS to Food Security
3. Generally assess policy treatment of Gender and HIV/AIDS and their influence on food security.
4. How should Gender and combating HIV/AIDS (as Cross-cutting issues) be coordinated and mainstreamed into development programs.
5. Discuss the impact of Gender inequality (roles) on both men and women and suggest measures for improvement.
6. What do you suggest regarding improvement of access to agricultural inputs and other resources (like land) to improve food production and ensure food security?

Group work Recommendations

Group 1

1. Gender

- Socially and culturally contracted differences between the sexes.

HIV/AIDS

- HIV/AIDS pandemic that hampers social and economic development of human society, especially in 3rd world countries.

Food Security

- Sustained social welfare expressed in the reliability of
 - * Availability and production.
 - * Access to stock utilization and Asset creation.

2. By addressing issues of Gender and HIV/AIDS, media is able to increase opportunities for a better participation of human community to ensure successful production and to curve down food insecurity.

3. There is national-level recognition.
 - There is an office on Gender in GOs and NGOs offices.
 - The President of the Country (Ethiopia) is the chairperson of HIV/AIDS Secretariat Committee
 - The effectiveness of the endeavour to and address the issue of Gender and HIV/AIDS is a determinate issue for food security.
4. Issues of Gender and HIV/AIDS are attributed to low level of awareness:
 - Requires consistent long-term endeavor (i.e. not a one-time effort).
 - In every GOs and NGOs office there should be a program that focuses on these issues and allocate sufficient budget to implement monitoring and evaluation.
 - The issues of Gender and HIV/AIDS have to be treated in congruence with economic development.
5. Unequal workload especially in domestic activities:
 - Unequal social representation in different community affairs.
 - Unequal resource ownership
 - Unequal decision-making power. Measures need to be taken.
 - Work to abolish discriminatory socio-cultural issues.

Positive steps:

- * Awareness,
- * Education,
- * Infrastructure facilities.
- * Grass roots institutions

6. Establish nationally recognized right on equal access to immobile national resources.
 - Ensure ownership rights to resources, created by individuals groups.
 - Encourage agricultural investments.
 - Set minimum selling prices for agricultural products.
 - Create food reserves.
 - Establish and strengthen grass-root level extension programs and institutions
 - Overall improvement of infrastructure facilities (special focus on rural areas)
 - National resource management (soil, vegetation, water etc.).
 - Promote carefull water harvesting activities to enhance production
 - Expand practices of irrigation activities.
 - Establish and strengthen operational research to improve agricultural productivity (improve rural development).

Off-farm approach

- Introduce and strengthen credit schemes and facilities in marginalized areas.
- Strengthen market outlets.
- Strengthen income from tourism.

Group 2

1. Definition of Food security, Gender and HIV/AIDS
 - * The group has common understanding of the definitions.
2. Discuss and Summarize linkages of HIV/AIDS and Gender to food security:
 - * HIV/AIDS affects productive age
 - * HIV/AIDS affects income
 - * HIV/AIDS affects expenditure
 - * Food insecure households are more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS.
 - * Gender inequality decreases production
 - * Gender inequality decreases decision-making and resource utilization
3. Assess policy treatment of Gender and HIV/AIDS and their influence on food security
 - * Gender policy favors women but there are problems with implementation
 - * - Women vs. Gender (structural/naming)
 - Male participation in gender issue
 - * HIV/AIDS Policy is in place. However, it has implementation problems (legal, medical care, social)
 - * The policies of both women and HIV/AIDS have positive implications on food security if implemented properly
4. Coordination and mainstreaming of gender and HIV/AIDS in development programs.
 - * Institutionalization of both gender and HIV/AIDS
 - * Integration in all development programs
 - Giving equal opportunity starting from planning (gender)
 - Priority/emphasis to the marginalized women.
 - Create awareness
 - Provision of care and support
5. Impacts of gender inequality on both men and women and suggested measures

Impacts

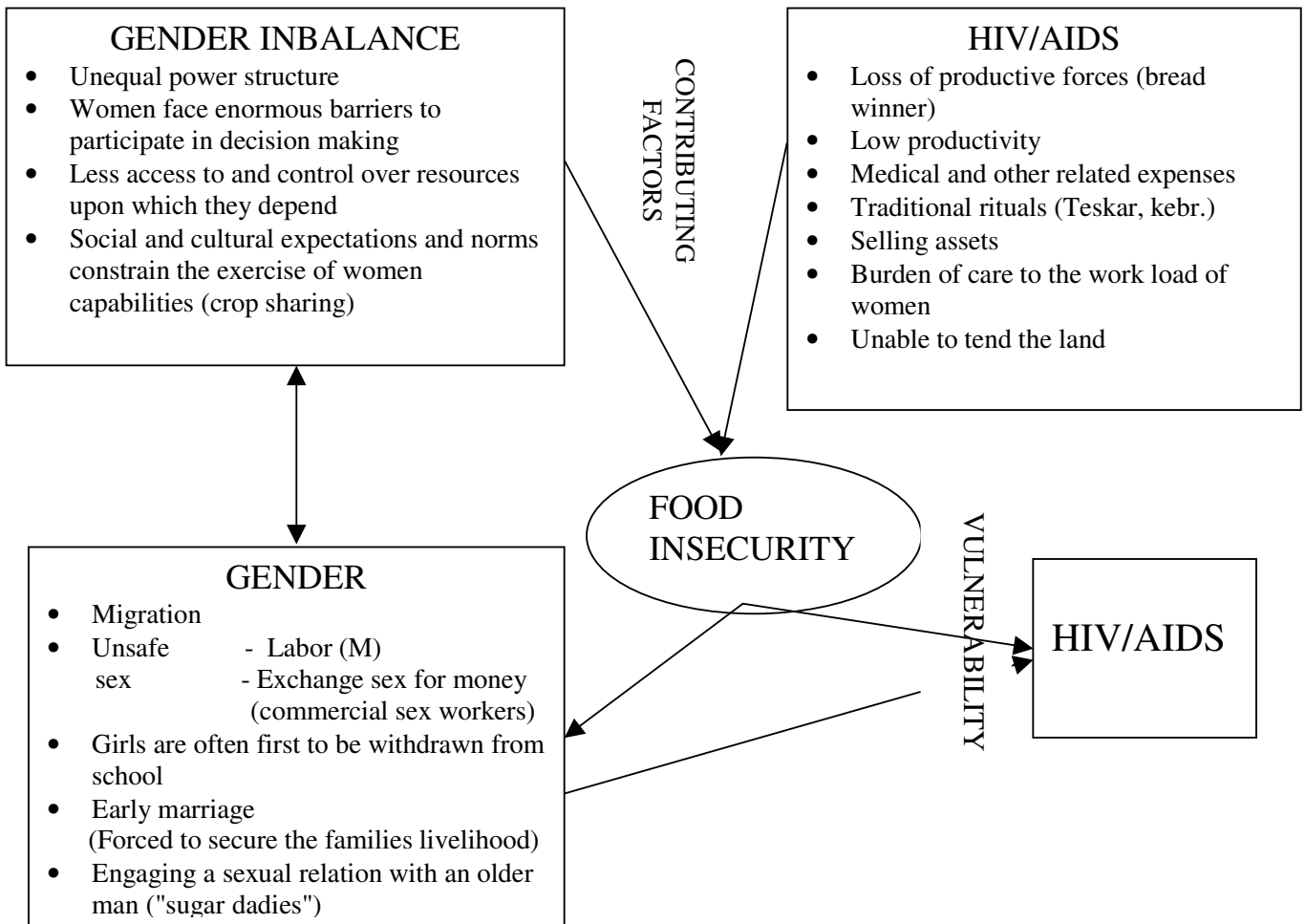
Female	Male	Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less empowered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Power, education, decision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More empowered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality in power.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic dependence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic independence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stigma • LT-Education(Job)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less social acceptance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More socially accepted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness creation and • Empowerment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More work load 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less Work load 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness creation for males/females

6. To improve food production and ensure food security

- * Improve access to credit facilities
- * Improve access to income generating activities
- * Improve access to new technology and technology transfer.
- * Improve access to availability of agricultural inputs (market access)
- * Improve access to afforestation and agro forestry
- * Improve access to soil and water conservation
- * Improve access to irrigation and water harvesting techniques
- * Improve access to infrastructures (road, etc.)

Group 3

LINKAGES



1. Practicality of the policies → strategies should be developed to reach the grassroot level
2. Organizations working in development should consider Gender and HIV/AIDS in their polices (from Planning to Implementation).
 - Technical and financial resource allocation
3. Low productivity
 - Poverty
 - Low enrollment of girls in school

Improvements

- Context specific strategies and policies
- Women economic empowerment
- Access to school
- Training in resource ownership and utilization rights at grass-root level
- Strengthen community based organizations for advocacy

4. Promote appropriate agricultural extension services. (technologies)

- Land use policy should be in place
- Appropriate sustainable resource management.
- Mainstreaming gender in development works.
- Creating sense of ownership/ resource sharing among users.

Group 4

Point 1 - Definition

- It describes those characteristics of men and women, boys and girls that are socially or culturally determined, as opposed to those that are biologically determined.
- HIV/AIDS is a deadly disease and the virus is a spreading fast.
- Food security is the accessibility, availability and utilization, asset creation of food among family members.

Point 2 - Linkages

- Gender inequality leads to less production and low productivity
- Voice inequality (decision-making in production area), household affairs, family planning issues
- Limited access to resources (information, training, employment opportunity, extension services)
- Gender inequality and its impact affect all family members and the community as a whole.
- HIV/AIDS is a killer disease which eliminates the active work force.
- Stigma and discrimination lead to less or no participation in economic, social and political activities.
- Stigma and discrimination lead to anti-social behavior.
- Costs of medication, home-based care, funeral services and “tezcar” etc. reduce engagement in development activities
- Share of health services

Point 3- Policy treatment of Gender, HIV/AIDS food security

- Gaps between policy and practice
- Design of development projects are not gender-focused and genuine, giving no or less empowerment (poor set of skills in gender mainstreaming)
- HIV/AIDS has got gender dimensions because of social, economic and biological reasons
- HIV/AIDS policy revolves around- prevention, care and support, voluntary counselling and testing through the use of external resources- the policy does not address this issue properly .

Point 4 - Mainstreaming Gender & HIV/AIDS into development programs

Why mainstreaming gender and HIV/AIDS?

Both are critical development concerns

- There will be effective or optimal use of resources to address both problems at a time
- Losses associated with gender inequality and HIV/AIDS spread will be significantly reduced.
- A wider range of target groups can be addressed

Point 5- Impact of Gender inequality

- Inefficient use of resources (human power)
- Human rights violation

Suggested measures for improvement of gender inequality

- Assess information, education and communication (IEC) to both sexes
- Employ rights-based programming approach
- Incorporate the right of all citizens in designing development projects. It has also to incorporate social issues

Point 6 - Recommendation to improve access to agricultural inputs

- Facilitate better access to new information and technology for farmers
- Credit facilities that will improve access to fertilizers, pesticides, modern farm food and techniques.
- Other income-generating activities. On-farm and off-farm activities to enable farmers to acquire agriculture inputs easily.



DCG Ethiopia-Sudan

November 28 - 29, 2003

Queen Sheba Hotel

Addis Ababa

Date	Activity	Time	Responsible Person	Facilitator
	Registration	8:30 9:00	Participants	Organizers
	Welcome Speech	9:00-9:20	Ato Dawit Kebede, NCA, Program Manager	Ato Yonis Berkele
	Introduction and expectations of Participants		Participants	Ato Yonis
	Presentation of Workshop Objectives and Methodology of the Study		Ato Dawit	
	Presentation on Gender and HIV/AIDS	9:20-10:20	Ato Solomon Retta, Consultant	Ato Yonis
	Tea /Coffee break	10:20:10:40		
	Presentation on Food Security	10:40-11:40	Ato Dawit	Ato Yonis
	Discussion on Presentations	11:40-12:30	Participants	
	Lunch	12:30-2:00		
	Group Formation	2:00-2:15		Ato Yonis
	Group work	2:15-5:00	Participants	

Gender, HIV/AIDS and Food Security
Linkage and Integration into Development Interventions

Saturday, November 29	Continuation of Group Work	8:30-10:00	Participants
	Presentation of Group Work Reports	10:00-10:30	Reporters
	Discussion on the Reports	10:30-11:30	Participants
	Closing Remark	11:30-11:45	Ato Dawit
	Lunch	12:00-	

Gender, HIV/AIDS and Food Security Workshop Participants

November 28-29,2003

No.	Name	Organization	Place	Address		
				P.O. Box	Tel.	E-mail
1.	Yonis Berkele	ENNCD/DCG	Addis Ababa		611405	sso@telecom.net.et
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3.	Solomon Retta	Discovery Consultancy services	Addis Ababa	15999	556354 09618440	sso@telecom.net.et
4.	G/Michael Heramo	FIDDA	Addis Ababa			
5.	Fetene Belachew	OSSA	Addis Ababa			
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14.	Yemane Redae	Health	Tigray (Wukro)	11	04430011	
15.	Gebre Tsegaey	MOA	Tigray		04430020	
16.	Yonas G/Medhin	REST	Tigray (Wukro)	76		
17.	Daniel G/Egziabher	REST	Tigray (Wukro)			
18.	Tsehay G/Selassie	REST	Mekele	20	04406671	
19.	Woini Zemichael	REST	Mekele	20	04406690	
20.	Genet Feseha	Mekele University	Mekele	231	04407500(262)	
21.	Hagezom Hailu	EECMY/NAW	Rama			
22.	Tilahun Seifu	EECMY/SEAW	Bidire			
23.	Kiflom Girmay	Selam HIV/AIDS	Tigray (Wukro)	47	04430143	
24.	Tesfamariam Asefa	Rural Development	Mekele			
25.	Wubitu Abere	CARE& CRDA	Addis Ababa	4710	538040	wubitua@care.et.org

Annex III

Persons and Organizations Contacted

S.N	Name	Position	Organization
1.	Mr. Mehari Tisegaye	Head	Kiltawllalo Woreda Administration Office
2.	Mr. Tesfamariam Assefa	Head	Kiltawllalo Woreda Rural Development Office
3.	Mr. Atkelet	Head	Kiltawllalo Woreda Capacity Building Office
4.	Mr. Solomon Hailu	Head	Kiltawllalo Woreda Agriculture Office
5.	Mr. Zemenfeskidus Hadegu	Head	Kiltawllalo Woreda Health Office
6.	Mr. Hawaz Hailu	Head	Kiltawllalo Woreda Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission Branch Office
7.	Mr. Kenfwork Leul	Head	Kiltawllalo Woreda HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office
8.	Mr. Fisseha	Head	Kiltawllalo Woreda Education Office
9.	Dr. Mulugera Birhanu	Head	Relief Society of Tigray
10.	Dr. Tewoldebrhan Hailu	Head	Relief Society of Tigray
11.	Mr. Mesfin Dabas	Coordinator	Relief society of Tigray
12.	Mr. Daniel G/Egziabher	Coordinator	Kiltawllalo REST Branch Office
13.	Dr. Tsegaye Legasse	Head	Tigray HIV/AIDS Secretariat Office
14.	Mrs Teamrat Belay	V/ Chairperson	Women's Association of Tigray
15.	Keflom Girmay	Leader	Selam Anti-HIV/AIDS Club
16.		Members	Wukero Town Community Based Reproductive Health Agents Office
17.	Mr. Yilma Worku	Head	Waghimra Zone Administration Office
18.	Mr. Mogesse Mengistu	Head	Dahana woreda Administration Office
19.	Demerew	A/Coordinator	Sekota Dahana Integrated Rural Development Office
20.		Director	Chila Primary School
21.		Leader	Chila Anti-HIV/AIDS and HTP Clubs
22.		Director	Qouzba Primary School
23.		Leader	Qouzba Anti-HIV/AIDS and HTP Clubs
24.	Mr. Tafere Hagos	Head	Waghimra Amhara Credit and Saving Institute
25.		Chairpersons	5 Tabias and 5 Kebeles Understudy

Annex IV

Terms of Reference

“Study on Gender, HIV/AIDS and Food Security”

Background and Relevance:

Both directly and indirectly, the gender inequality and HIV/AIDS are affecting the development activities in general, and the food security in particular. In Ethiopia, over 3 million people are living with AIDS and there are over 1 million orphans as a result of this disease. The prevalence at national level is around 11% but some areas are more affected than others. Women who are widowed face extra expenses, reduced access to land and the care of children on their own. The impact of HIV/AIDS on the population structure also affects agricultural production, with the people who should normally be the most productive being those who are the most affected. Generally, HIV/AIDS affects the household labour and income, which in turn affects the level of children attending school. The complexity of the effects of HIV/AIDS makes it an important challenge for the communities as well as for the nation.

Gender inequality is also a challenge in development efforts in most areas of the country. Women are important actors in relation to food security, as well as in development in general. They are the primary agricultural producers, they prepare the food and take care of the family. However, they are more vulnerable than men for a variety of reasons. They are often illiterate and have neither basic education nor appropriate technical skills. They lack access in their own right to productive assets such as arable land and inputs for production, and undertake the majority of agricultural tasks with simple tools and by working long hours. Women suffer discrimination because they have no recognized independent status as farmers, and their contribution is considered secondary, both within the family and within society. Both women and men have gender-defined roles and capacities that must be taken into consideration when planning and implementing development programs. The decision-making of women in development activities should be encouraged through broadening female participation in local organizations.

Purpose and Objectives:

The purpose of this study is to address the challenges that HIV/AIDS and gender inequality pose to development efforts in relation to food security in Ethiopia. The study focuses on the links between gender, HIV/AIDS and food security, and particularly the coping mechanisms related to food security among men and women suffering from HIV/AIDS. The aim of the study and of the follow-up workshop is to come up with recommendations related to how this may be integrated practically in food security interventions.

The objectives of the study are:

- To raise awareness of how gender and HIV/AIDS are linked to food security.
- To give recommendations to how HIV/AIDS and gender issues can be integrated into development interventions.
- To improve the mainstreaming of gender and HIV/AIDS issues in development interventions in Ethiopia.

Scope and Methods:

- The study team will undertake an extensive document review to avoid duplication of work done by others. In particular the team will look at how to ensure a link to the experiences made by REST and other organisations working with these issues in Ethiopia. The study will be carried out in Tigray region (Messanu and Surrounding Integrated Rural Development Project operated by REST) and (Sekota Dahana Rural Development Project operated by Ethiopian Orthodox Church) in Amahara region.
- An assessment of the effects of HIV/AIDS on food security in Tigray and Amhara region will be done
- The coping mechanisms of women and men living with HIV/AIDS will be explored, and recommendations to how these can be incorporated into development projects dealing with food security given.
- The gender aspect in relation to food security and development interventions will be studied, and recommendations given.
- A workshop will be organised to present the findings and raise awareness of relevant stakeholders regarding the importance of addressing HIV/AIDS and gender issues together with development and food security programs. DCG members and partners, NGOs, CBOs and representatives from the local/regional/national government will be invited.

The team will do surveys, group discussion, consult secondary data, use PRA method with various groups, etc.

Expected results:

- Increased awareness of DCG members, local partners, and decision-makers on the extent of the problem, effect of HIV/AIDS and gender inequality to development and food security programs.
- Increased understanding on how to deal with and integrate these issues in projects and programs. Participants will give more emphasis to gender and HIV/AIDS issues in development endeavours.
- A report will be prepared from the assessment of gender and HIV/AIDS and of the challenges related to development in general and to food security in particular. This report will include proceedings from the workshop, and it will be distributed to relevant stakeholders.

Human Resources and Lead Institution:

Two national consultants will be identified and used to carry out the study and conduct the workshop. One of them will be a leading facilitator of the workshop as well as team leader of the study. (Mr. Dawit Kebede and Mr. Solomon Retta will conduct the study)

Time Frame:

The assessment and study will take 5 weeks including field- work and report write-up. It will be carried out during the first half of the year 2003. The workshop will be organized in August 2003 for 3 days. The deadline for submitting the final report to Noragric is October 1st 2003.

Responsible Organisation:

Norwegian Church Aid- Ethiopia will be responsible for following and organising this activity.



List of Publications

Reports:

- 1 A. Synnevåg, G. et Halassy, S. 1998: "Etude des indicateurs de la sécurité alimentaire dans deux sites de la zone d'intervention de l'AEN-Mali: Bambara Maodé et Ndaki (Gourma Malien)", Groupe de Coordination des Zones Arides et Noragric, Agricultural University of Norway.
- 1 B. Synnevåg, G. and Halassy, S. 1998: "Food Security Indicators in Two Sites of Norwegian Church Aid's Intervention Zone in Mali: Bambara Maoudé and N'Daki (Malian Gourma)", Drylands Coordination Group and Noragric, Agricultural University of Norway.
- 2 A. Aune, J.B. and Doumbia, M.D. 1998: "Integrated Plant Nutrient Management (IPNM), Case studies of two projects in Mali: CARE Macina programme and PIDEB", Drylands Coordination Group and Noragric, Agricultural University of Norway.
- 2 B. Aune, J.B. et Doumbia, M.D. 1998: "Gestion Intégrée de Nutriments Végétaux (GINV), Etude de Cas de deux projets au Mali: Programme de CARE Macina et PIDEB", Groupe de Coordination des Zones Arides et Noragric, Agricultural University of Norway.
- 3 A. Berge, G., Larsen, K., Rye, S., Dembele, S.M. and Hassan, M. 1999: "Synthesis report and Four Case Studies on Gender Issues and Development of an Improved Focus on Women in Natural Resource Management and Agricultural Projects", Drylands Coordination Group and Noragric, Agricultural University of Norway.
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- 4 B. Sydness, M. and Ba, B. 1999: "Decentralisation Process, Institution Development and Phasing out of the Norwegian Involvement in Mali", Drylands Coordination Group and Noragric, Agricultural University of Norway.
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l'approvisionnement en semences dans deux villages du cercle de Ké-Macina au Mali: Kéle et Tangana", Groupe de Coordination des Zones Arides et Noragric, Agricultural University of Norway.

9. Abesha, D., Waktola, A, Aune, J.B. 2000: "Agricultural Extension in the Drylands of Ethiopia", Drylands Coordination Group and Noragric, Agricultural University of Norway.

10. Sydness, M., Doumbia, S. et Diakité K. 2000: "Atelier sur la décentralisation au Mali", Groupe de Coordination des Zones Arides et Noragric, Agricultural University of Norway.

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14 A. Doumbia, M. D., A. Berthé and J. B. Aune, 2001: "Integrated Plant Nutrition Management (IPNM): Practical Testing of Technologies with Farmers Groups", Drylands Coordination Group and Noragric, Agricultural University of Norway.

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15. Larsen, K. and M. Hassan, 2001: "Perceptions of Knowledge and Coping Strategies in Nomadic Communities – The case of the Hawawir in Northern Sudan", Drylands Coordination Group and Noragric, Agricultural University of Norway.

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16 B. Mossige, A., Berkele, Y. & Maiga, S., 2001: "La Participation de la Société Civile aux Programmes d'Actions Nationaux de la Convention des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la Désertification", Groupe de Coordination des Zones Arides et Noragric, Agricultural University of Norway.

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21. Doumbia, M. D., A. Berthé and J. B. Aune, 2002: “Gestion Intégrée de Nutriments Végétaux (GINV): Tests Pratiques de Technologies avec des Groupes de Paysans- Rapport de la Campagne 2001”, Groupe de Coordination des Zones Arides et Noragric, Agricultural University of Norway.
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23. Aune, J. B. 2003. “Desertification control, rural development and reduced CO₂ emissions through the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol - an impasse or a way forward?” Drylands Coordination Group and Noragric, Agricultural University of Norway.
24. Larsen, K. and Hassan, M. 2003. “Sedentarisation of Nomadic People: The Case of the Hawawir in Um Jawasir, Northern Sudan”, Drylands Coordination Group and Noragric, Agricultural University of Norway.
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