TW-FSE 034

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFD	Action for Development
AIDS	Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome
ASE	Agri-Service Ethiopia
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CRDA	Christian Relief & Development Association
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DCA	DanChurch Aid
DPPA	Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency
EHRCEPA	Ethiopian Human Rights and Civic Education Promotion Association
EOC	Ethiopian Orthodox Church
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FSP	Food Security Programme
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
LRRD	Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPL	National Poverty Line
PASDEP	Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty
PO	Project Office/Programme Officer
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Program
RBA	Rights Based Approach
SDPRP	Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region
TOR	Terms of Reference
WB	World Bank

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1. Introduction

DanChurch Aid (DCA) is a Danish-based NGO funding development and humanitarian assistance programme in many countries of Africa, Latin America, Middle East, Asia and Eastern Europe for over 80 years. It began its operations in Ethiopia in July 2004 by developing a country programme with an overall objective of enhancing the capacity of the poor and marginalized people in rural areas affected by food insecurity to improve their living conditions, to actively participate in civil society and to have a role in decision-making process at all levels on issues affecting them. In view of the country program, DCA has been actively working in partnership with local NGOs and networks.

DCA initiated a Food Security Program Platform as one of its strategies to solicit the collective knowledge and experience of the members and utilize the product as an input to assist the poor and marginalized people in claiming and upholding their human rights to adequate and nutritious food and contribute to the ultimate goal of enabling them achieve sustained household food self-sufficiency. The Platform was initiated to serve as a means of addressing the gap and ensuring communication, coordination and cohesion of its food security programme with that of its partner organizations and other NGOs.

In the past four years of DCA's operation in the country, three food security platform (FSP) meetings that had practical relevance to the realization of the programme's objective were subsequently held in June 2005, April 2006 and June 2007 besides the Joint-platform meeting of November 2006 & December 2007. Reflections by members of the Platform indicate that all the platforms have been vital in bringing to the forefront new information, ideas and perspectives with regard to national food security. Obtained feedback reveals that the platform meetings have helped to enhance understanding on emerging developments and priority actions required to assure sustainable food security at household level.

Similarly, organized by DCA, this year's one-day FSP Platform Meeting was held on August 1, 2008 at Panorama Hotel in Addis Ababa. The major objectives of the meeting were to have update on current humanitarian crisis (relief) and food security in the country, to provide debriefings on implementation of programme mid-term findings and discuss them, to learn from each other and share experiences, to approve Platform TOR, to discuss challenges and possible solutions of program appraisal and M & E, and to document progresses and failures for future lessons.

Based on these objectives, this volume of the proceedings of the Meeting compiles and synthesizes presentations delivered and discussions/reflections made on the presentations. To help further understanding of the summarized points, all presentations are annexed at the end.

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2. Opening Session

2.1 Welcome Address

Mr. Yadessa Mossissa, Food Security Program Officer at DCA, warmly welcomed the participants and invited Dr. Eyasu Mekonnen, DCA's Country Representative, to make an opening speech. Dr. Eyasu also began his speech by inviting all participants to introduce themselves to each other. Following self-introduction by all the participants, Dr. Eyasu stated that the Food Security Platform meetings have been focusing on food security issues at two different levels -- at the grassroots level, on the issues related to the poorest of the poor in marginalized rural areas affected by food insecurity, and at higher levels, on strategic issues promoting partnership among its partners to sustainably alleviate food insecurity problems of the target groups.

Dr. Eyasu also reiterated that the main objective of the Platform has been to create a forum for sharing experiences among development partners working on food security issues in the country. He further requested the participants to attentively follow the presentations and actively participate in the discussions to achieve the desired objectives of the Meeting. Finally, wishing the participants of the meeting fruitful deliberations, he declared that the Meeting is officially opened.

2.2 Meeting Purpose and Time Table

Mr. Yadessa presented the following objectives of the Meeting to the participants by explaining what is expected to be achieved by the end of the deliberations:

- Updating on current humanitarian crisis (relief) and food security;
- Debriefing and discussions on implementation of programme mid-term review findings;
- Learning and experience sharing;
- Approval of Platform TOR
- Undertake discussions on challenges & possible solutions of program appraisal and M & E; and
- Documentation of progress and failures for future lessons.

In his presentation of the Programme Objectives, Mr. Yadessa also requested the participants to actively participate in the discussions/reflections for maximum possible constructive contributions to attain the stated objectives.

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3. Presentations

In this section, the major findings of four presentations are summarized and synthesized in view of the objectives of the FSP meeting.

3.1 Current Issues Related to Soaring Food Price in Ethiopia

This paper was presented by Dr. Bezabih Emana, a consultant from Support Integrated Development (SID) Consult. The paper was the result of a literature survey carried out by the presenter with the main objective of updating DanChurch Aid's partners about the current status of the soaring food price in Ethiopia with the aim of motivating them to participate in the response system. The paper begins with a brief account of the international phenomena related to food price inflation, and then assesses the Ethiopian situation in more detail by highlighting the observation on the responses being made both from supply and demand sides.

In what follows, some key points of the presentations are summarized. Talking about the nature of prices of agricultural products in general, the presenter noted that high-price events, like low-price ones, are not rare occurrences in agricultural markets. However, he also argues that, the high price events are often related to seasonal harvest peaks and are often short-lived. In this regard, the paper documented that the last significant price boom for agricultural commodities began in early-1995, affecting mainly cereals, peaked in 1996 and dissipated quickly afterwards, bottoming at the beginning of 2000. Compared to the previous periods, the gradual recovery of the observed long-term decline in *real* food prices began in 2000 and increased sharply from 2006. It is further noted that the agricultural commodity prices rose sharply in both 2007 and 2008 and the average growth rate over the 2000-05 periods was 1.3% per annum, which jumped to 10% over the past two years.

Furthermore, the presenter pointed out that the current state of agricultural markets is distinguished by the concurrence of the hike in world prices of (i) nearly all major food and feed items, (ii) the possibility that the prices may continue to remain high after the effects of short-term shocks dissipate, (iii) higher price volatility accompanying the price boom, especially in the cereals and oilseeds sectors, highlighting the prevalence of greater uncertainty in the market, and (iv) stronger relationship between agricultural commodity markets and other markets such as crude oil.

The paper also documents international evidence for sharp increases in food prices have in recent years. For example, it was noted that in 2006 FAO food price index rose on average by 9% compared with the previous year, and in 2007 it increased by 23% compared to 2006. It is further argued that the increase in the value of the index between December 2006 and December 2007 was 37%. It was also shown that the surge in prices had been led by dairy products, which, on average, increased by nearly 80%, followed by oils, with nearly 50% and grains with 42%. An

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Furthermore, the presenter made reference to the recent FAO initiative on the soaring food price which assessed factors affecting food prices by distinguishing the demand- and supply-side factors. On the demand side, new source of demand for agricultural commodities, change in the structure of demand for food, and effects of financial markets operations on agricultural commodity markets were noted to have bid up the food prices. On the supply side, the paper identified such factors as adverse weather conditions, dwindling cereal stock reserves, high oil prices and declining agricultural commodities prices over long period since 1980s to have played a major role in constraining food supply.

In relation to the Ethiopian situation, the paper discussed food supply, trend of food price, impacts of the price increase, affected people and responses from the demand and supply sides. Having surveyed food supply trend in Ethiopia for the period 1980-2007, the presenter noted that food consumption and food security situations in Ethiopia had been heavily dependent on the state of domestic food production. It was observed that during the last 27 years, the domestic food supply fluctuated depending on the rainfall conditions. On average, the per capita food supply declined by about 0.2% per annum over the last 27 years with mean value of 152 kg per person per annum. In 2007 per capita food supply increased to an average of 190 kg, which is only 85% of the minimum food requirement. This shows that the country faced food gaps over years and the food gap increased during the periods before 2002 and slightly decreased afterwards, with about 15% food gap in year 2007.

In this connection, the author noted that although Ethiopia managed to increase the production and supply of food crops in the recent years, the problem of both chronic and transitory food insecurity is still persistent in different parts of the country. He also stated that despite the encouraging results of the 2007 *Meher* production assessment about the state of food availability in the country, which anticipated an overall improved food security situation in 2008, the failure of rains in pastoral areas, followed by poor-to-very poor *belg* rains, resulted in extreme food insecurity, especially in the South and Southeastern pastoral and agro-pastoral areas.

The presenter was of the opinion that the world food price situation aggravated the food shortage situation in Ethiopia. He noted that according to the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA), the number of people needing food assistance increased from 2.2 million in April 2008 to 4.6 million in July 2008. According to the author, this figure is expected to rise after the rapid *belg* assessment, which is due at the end of July. The author also quoted some striking figures in relation to demand and supply situation. He found out that the net food requirement for the estimated beneficiaries stands at 391,651 MT from June 2008 to November 2008, amounting to US$ 268,430,658. In addition, the Targeted Supplementary Food Programme that assists children and pregnant mothers requires approximately US$ 18 million. Pointing to the gap, he noted that, of the total 509,916 MT needed, only 118,265 MT was available, which shortfalls by almost five-fold. Moreover, from the 32,800 MT supplementary foods needed, only 17,750 MT was available. In terms of the logistic requirement, he also noted that about 77% of the total needed was not available. In this connection, partner organizations have been soliciting resources to bridge the food gap.

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The paper also assessed the overall trend of producer and consumer prices of agricultural products and found that the prices increased over the last few years but the increase has been dramatic following rainfall failure in pastoral areas and poor-to-very poor *Belg* rainfall in 2008.

It compared prices of cereals in the major markets in Ethiopia and indicated that the price of white *teff*, for example, has doubled and that of white maize tripled between December 2007 and June 2008.

The author thinks that the tripled price of maize is more likely to significantly affect the poor who consume maize.

Looking into the possible impacts of the recent food price hike, the author noted that increasing food prices are expected to influence strongly the welfare outcomes and thus food security and poverty status of different household groups, particularly in developing countries. He mentioned that since an estimated 70 percent of the world's poor live in rural areas, strongly depending on agriculture, the soaring food prices, ideally, would generate possibilities for welfare improvements of their livelihoods and declining poverty. Nevertheless, among the rural people but also in urban areas, attributes of the social structure may result in welfare-reducing outcomes. He argued that the relative position of households in the food market, for example if they are net buyers, landless, resource-poor smallholders, and out-of-agriculture wage earners, would adversely affect their welfare effect.

In reference to relative variation of the adverse effects of food shortages and rising food prices, the presenter noted that the South and South-eastern pastoral and agro-pastoral areas, and urban areas are the most hit. He mentioned that although qualitative study is not yet available, serious malnutrition, especially among the children, has been reported and the recent humanitarian emergency intervention is in response to drought-triggered shortage of food, which is aggravated by high food price. He described that depletion of savings and productive assets, reduced consumption needs including cosmetics, animal products, vegetables, etc have been observed among the public.

Although the author believes that nearly every citizen is affected by the soaring food price, he emphasized and discussed in detail that the negative effect is more prevalent on the urban and rural poor, the rural net buyers and even the surplus grain producers. As to the latter group, he argued that farmers who produce grain in larger quantities and store for longer period could benefit, but since farmers, such as those in Bale and Arsi, were faced with significantly high price in their life and could not keep grain, except for their consumption reserve, sold out their grain stock when the price stroke over Birr 300 per quintal, and subsequently are financially at a poor situation to afford the increasing fertilizer price.

The paper also assessed the responses made by different organizations to the food price inflation by categorizing them into demand and supply side responses. On the demand side, the author noted that soaring food prices directly impinge upon the food security status of poor households and as part of the effort to stabilize prices the Government started subsidizing wheat prices for low-income urban dwellers as of March 2007 financed from revenue collected from 10% surtax levied on luxury imports.

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Moreover, the author noted that export of cereals was banned; value-added (VAT) and turnover tax on grains and other basic goods were removed; and measures restricting money supply were taken to help minimize inflation. Recently, the government has announced a plan to import about 150,000 MT of wheat and planned to import sugar and cooking oil as well. Furthermore, it was also explained that in PSNP, the per capita daily rate of Birr 6 for public works was raised to Birr 8.

On the supply side, the author stated that the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has emphasized on increasing production during the current year, and import of fertilizer was made through regional governments' collateral provision to bank loans extended to Farmers' Cooperative Unions. He further noted that, this year, the fertilizer distribution on credit basis was removed (except for 10% of the farmers who are said to be poor) on the following two main premises: (1) farmers hoarding grain will sell it to use the cash for fertilizer purchase, which might be a good instrument to stabilize the grain price when the hypothesis of grain hoarding by farmers holds; (2) farmers earned more money due to the price hike or increased production during the 2007, as symbolized by award given to successful farmers. The author indicates that those assumptions were in fact wrong and the farmers were not in a position to purchase the fertilizer. It has been indicated that fertilizer was not adequately applied to maize and sorghum, implying possible high reduction in yield during the next harvest. It was also noted that Oromia Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development revised its policy of "cash-first" to use fertilizer to 50% down-payment if a farmer feels that he/she cannot pay the whole sum and not more than 10% of the poor can receive fertilizer on credit.

Finally, the author suggested the following as future focus. In the short run, support given to stabilize grain price is appropriate. Yet, intervention in the supply side may provide alternatives for future stability of prices. Increased price is an opportunity for the farmers who can grow crops. Interventions that increase the productive capacity of the farmers should be encouraged. To this effect, the following were suggested: (1) finding out the impacts of the existing interventions; (2) knowledge on the responses made by the institutions and gaps for intervention need to be enhanced; (3) preparedness on the type of interventions needed for sustainable supply increase and price stability is yet to be searched; (4) an intensified livelihood improvement strategy remains to be at the top; and (5) market development remains to be an issue regardless of the level of the supply.

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3.1.1 Questions Raised for Discussion

The moderator of the session, Dr. Eyasu Mekonnen, began the discussion session by underscoring the importance of Dr. Bezabih's presentation in light of the food security impact of food price inflation both internationally and nationally but requested the participants to focus on domestic issues. However, before giving the chance to other participants, he raised one factor that is often referred to for global food price inflation, which is the use of food crops in biofuel production, and asked the presenter to clarify if this may be used as a window of opportunity for Ethiopian farmers who would like to produce cash crops.

In reaction to this, Dr. Bezabih said that the country may be in dilemma as to what to produce when incentives to produce such crops are attractive but if that in fact adversely affects domestic production of food crops. He is of the opinion that this should be decided by the principle of comparative advantage of the options. In this connection, he referred to the price of maize during SG-2000 project implementation period, which was about 20 Birr per quintal, and where it was depressive for farmers to continue producing.

He said that now biofuel production has created demand for maize, and we may think of this as an opportunity, as it is the market which brought about this opportunity.

Following Dr. Bezabih's reaction to the international issue related to biofuel production, the moderator invited the participants, in two rounds, to raise questions/reflect on the presentation limited to domestic issues for discussion. One of the participants from Action by Churches Together of Ethiopia Forum (AEF) informed the participants that the *belg* assessment report disclosed by the team at DPPA indicated the complete crop failure that raised the emergency food aid need to about 12 million people, increased malnutrition and a decrease of dry ration from 15 kg to 10 kg per person per month. Following this comment, several questions were raised as summarized below.

1. As Ethiopia is not the major importer of food grains, how does the world market for grain affect its domestic food grain market?
2. How can the food price increase be an advantage for surplus producers in Ethiopia?
3. Since production of more crops is at the expense of land for livestock production in agropastoral areas, does this not adversely affect asset formation of the agropastoralists by limiting livestock production?
4. To what extent are the government measures effective in preventing the adverse effects of food inflation?
5. In view of government anticipation of future food shortage in the country, early warning system was used to guide the efforts of building food reserves before the shocks occur. What happened to early warning system of the government which are often used in disaster prevention in helping the nation's effort to deal with the adverse effect of food price inflation?
6. In view of the current situation, where the officially reported gap between demand and supply falls short of the reality on the ground, is there anticipation of increased food import and food aid?

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3.1.2 Presenter's Reactions to Raised Questions

In responding to the first question, Dr. Bezabih argued that similar to the world market situation, the government claims that grain traders have been engaged in speculative hoarding of the grains; supply side failure also share the adverse effect of climate change; and the domestic supply would also be affected through increased cost of fertilizers. In fact, the effect of this year's fertilizer price increase would be felt in the coming cropping season in such a way that next year's crop production may decrease and consequently, grain price is expected to rise due to possible supply constraints.

As to the second question, the presenter argues that those farmers who could produce marketable surplus grains (although the proportion of farmers in such a category is very small) would benefit from higher farm revenues due to increased price. He further noted that although there is general price inflation, such farmers would be better off compared to the net buyer farmers since the food price inflation is higher than the non-food price inflation.

Regarding crop-livestock interaction and the possible substitution of crop for livestock production in view of the price increase, the presenter contends that part of the reason for the global price hike is the change in food habit from crop to livestock products and there was also increased demand for and hence price of livestock products, which may create an incentive for agropastoralists to make optimal crop-livestock enterprise combination. He further remarked that there has been structural problem in market development in pastoral and agropastoral areas.

As to the effectiveness of government measures, Dr. Bezabih stated that some tried efforts such as stabilizing the market price did not achieve adequate results as continuous price rise was observed despite the measures taken and some efforts such as subsidizing the urban poor were felt to be beyond the government budget because of unprecedented level of price increase.

Regarding the early warning system, the presenter was of the opinion that Ethiopian Government had undermined the level of the problem, in fact, partly because the observed food price inflation has been at the level unprecedented even at the global level. Even if there were informal early warning information on the extent of food insecure people particularly from the NGO community, there has been strong government resistance in endorsing their claims.

As to the question of the gap in supply and demand for food and possible expected increase in food import or food aid, the speaker states that there has been a recent *belg* assessment by DPPA, which seems to have recommended the assessed facts to the government as "a crisis situation". In view of this, the Government has recognized the problem of food price inflation and announced a large amount of wheat import to the country and tax exempt for similar imports as part of the effort to combat the adverse effects of the price inflation until the prices stabilize.

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3.2 Findings of Food Security Programme Mid-Term Review

This part of the presentation was made by Mr. Yadessa Mossissa, DCA Food Security Program Officer, and moderated by Mr. Admitachew Sebhat. The presentation has focused on the findings and recommendations of food security program mid-term review in terms of program strategy, program implementation, cross-cutting issues, humanitarian situation and programme management issues.

The review began by looking at the program strategy of the food security program, and realized the following findings.

- The overall strategy has been still relevant in addressing food security problems in Ethiopia and is also in line with DCA Policies;
- Contribution of partners to Objective One of the programme has been mainly on service delivery activities but limited on empowerment and advocacy activities;
- All partners have been familiar with overall DCA policy on food security;
- Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) in keeping food security activities on progress;
- The HIV/AIDS component in food security projects has moved beyond its boundary;
- DCA's revised micro-finance guidelines would mean changes in the implementation of micro-finance activities;

- Food security program has been expanding to pastoral areas; and
- Climate change has been increasingly affecting programme activities despite limited undertakings in natural resources conservation, currently not given high priority.

Based on the above findings related to the program strategy, the review team have forwarded the following recommendations:

- The programme objectives need to be revised;
- Good work and relationship with partners should be continued and platform processes should be engaged on policy issues but focus on capacity development and joint activities should be done gradually;
- Works on HIV/AIDS components of the food security programme should be limited to awareness raising and nutrition improvement;
- There should be separate objective for food security programme to reflect integration of relief, rehabilitation and development;
- Training should be organized on the microfinance guidelines at regional offices;
- Partner(s) with expertise in pastoralist issues should be identified to build capacity in this area; and
- The issue of climate change needs to be discussed on platform meetings as an important advocacy objective of Phase II of the food security programme.

The second part of the mid-term review focuses on programme implementation and it has the following findings:

- It is observed that the programme may face shrinkage in political pace in view of the draft NGO/CSO law;
- Although the programme appropriately focuses on the poorest and marginalized areas in its geographical target, these areas offer logistical challenges;
- The programme has transparent criteria for selection of target beneficiaries and focuses on most vulnerable segment of the population; and
- It is also found that the role of CSOs and local government structures have been either overlapping or substituting each other.

In view of the above findings, the review team has come up with the following recommendations:

- DCA should be aware of the political environment to exploit the room for national networks that negotiate with the Ministry of Justice on the draft NGO/CSO law;
- DCA should support partners in understanding and fulfilling their roles as duty bearers in the absence of appropriate government structures;
- Targeting should be in line with DCA criteria and should improve transparency by making public displays of selection criteria;
- The good working relationship between partners should be maintained and platform meetings should be used as a forum of debating and implementing technical, cross-cutting, capacity development and advocacy issues; and
- There should be continuous discussions and mutual learning among partners and project offices on project/programme issues.

The mid-term review has further identified, as its third theme, the following findings on cross-cutting issues:

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- It was observed that the understanding of Rights Based Approach (RBA) varies at the levels of partners' headquarters and field office;
- RBA has been at its initial steps in the implementation (participatory approach, transparency and accountability);
- There exists unclear division of roles between local government structures and partners;
- There observed little consideration of advocacy from local to national levels (in food security and relief areas);
- The understanding of the concept of gender equality was not consistent (there happened male-dominated professionals); and
- There were good awareness on the link between HIV/AIDS and food security; and
- There were feelings that DCA support to partners was insufficient in terms of organizational and strategic development; it focuses more on project level support.

In view of the above findings, the review team has come up with the following recommendations:

- RBA should be focused on at all levels to strengthen understanding and mainstreaming;
- Advocacy need to be included at all levels by building on the initial steps of implementation of RBA;
- Supporting potential and sustainable structures like community conversation (CC) and share best practices among partners;
- The roles different stakeholders play (e.g., legal and moral duty bearers) should be understood;
- Efforts to improve the understanding of and integration of gender equality should continue;
- The strong links between HIV/AIDS and food security should continue, where the former gives relevant technical advice; and
- DCA needs to increase partners' capacity on organizational development according to the needs of the programme.

In the fourth place, the review looked at the humanitarian situation in the food security programme and found out the following.

- New approved DCA humanitarian assistance policy was not introduced to partners; and
- Alarming situation in North Wollo and systematic reporting on the crisis by the partners is a challenge.

In view of the above findings, the review team has suggested the following recommendations.

- Invitation of partners for presentation and discussion of the DCA policy on humanitarian assistance;
- Partners' observations on the humanitarian situation coordinated and informed from OCHA or others monitoring mechanism;
- DCA should formulate a strategy for relief and disaster preparedness as separate food security project (LRRD); and
- Partners must be encouraged to provide systematic information on the current food crisis as a role of early warning for fund raising and efficiency.

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works related to RBA. It also means that many NGOs may have to leave this area of work. More importantly, if the draft legislation is approved, there are issues related to the legal personality of NGOs, which hampers the operation of the NGOs in light of their legal rights to sue and be sued. Finally, Dr. Eyasu appreciates the fact that the Government is willing to discuss further the draft legislation and he hopes for some compromises to appear. Finally, he suggested that advocacy work may need to be revisited.

3.3 Results of Group Work on the Revised LFA of the Programme

Mr.Yadessa presented an overview of the revised LFA of the Food Security Programme and then requested the participants to develop two key indicators for Bach of the four programme objectives. For this purpose two groups were formed of the participants. The two groups deliberated on the objectives and came up with the following.

3.3.1 Results of Group I

This group began by revising the objectives before suggesting the key indicators. Accordingly, for objective 1, they suggested the following: "*Right holders in DCA target areas have enhanced production, productivity and improved access to adequate and nutritious food on a sustainable basis.*" Then, they suggested the following two key indicators for this objective. That is, (1) Percentage of population resilient to shocks increased from ---- to -----, (2) Prevalence of malnutrition and famine especially of children, mothers and elderly reduced from ----- to ------ percent.

Similarly, for objective 2, they also suggested the following revision: "*Targeted right holders are empowered to strengthen and establish sustainable social movements as channels for claiming their rights to food.*" For this objective, the group suggested the following two indicators, which are (1) Increased number of CBOs from ---- to --- to exercise their rights, (2) Enhanced responsiveness of duty bearers to community claims.

3.3.2 Results of Group II

This group, unlike group-I, went directly to suggesting the key indicators without suggesting any revision on the third and fourth programme objectives. Accordingly, they have come up with the following three key indicators for objective 3, which are (1) Number of advocacy issues identified and dealt with, in bringing behavioral changes, (2) Number of dialogues made with duty bearers on food security and other methodologies, and (3) Developed new policies/strategies on food security with other strategies at lower level workable at community level.

Similarly, the group suggested the following three key indicators for the fourth programme objective, which are (1) Improved early warning network system in place, (2) Number/type of trainings or workshops given related to disaster prevention, preparedness and early warning, and (3) Number of people who became resident after the disaster, got relief and rehabilitated after the shock.

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3.3.3 Questions/Suggestions on the Results of Group Work

One issue raised by a participant concerns the use of some terms such as "increase" or "decrease" in stating the key indicators, especially when it comes to measurement issue, which required a clarification from group I. The group clarified the issue in such a way that if the increase or decrease referred to is in quantitative terms, such as in percentages or number, which is the case in group I, the use of such words cannot have any problem in measuring the changes. However, if it is just a qualitative use where the amount of increase or decrease is not indicated, truly, the problem of measurement will exist.

Another important issue raised by a participant was the need to identify among input, process and output related indicators. However, the participants appreciated the issue, it was noted that both group concentrated on the programme outputs, but suggested that there remains to be indicators addressing all dimensions of the intervention.

Last but not least, there was a suggestion that the number of key indicators need not be limited to two or three but more need to be added as warranted by the number of activities carried out to fulfill the programme objectives. Finally, in consultation with individual partner organizations and based on their current activities, Ato Yadessa highlighted the possible alignment of members of the food security platform in view of the objectives discussed above as shown in the following table.

Table 1: Program Objectives and Implementing Partners under Each Objective

S/N	Service Delivery (1)	Empowerment (2)	Advocacy (3)	Relief (4)	DCA Added value (5)
1	EOC	EOC	EOC??	EOC	*DCA*
2	LWF	LWF	LWF??	LWF???	
3	EECMY	EECMY	EECMY?	EECMY	
4	AFD	AFD	AFD??	-	
5	ASE	ASE	ASE??	-	
6	EHRCEPA?	EHRCEPA	EHRCEPA	-	
7	*VoCDA*	*VoCDA?*	-	-	

N.B.: The number of question mark signs next to the names of the organizations indicate the degree of involvement (the more the number of signs, the less the involvement) of the organizations in activities falling under the objectives.

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3.4 Project Appraisal, Monitoring & Evaluation, and Experience Sharing

3.4.1 Food Security Project

The first part of this presentation was made by Mr. Yadessa Mossissa, Food Security Program Officer at DCA. Mr. Yadessa began his presentation by highlighting what is often expected in project formulation and how DCA evaluates submitted project proposals. He argued that appraisal of project proposals are based on objectives of the food security programme. In this regard, he discussed what needs to be done during pre-proposal submission as follows:

- Undertaking assessments (baseline/rapid) in gender disaggregated manner with focus on areas of intervention (including stakeholders analysis);
- Analysing the assessment and setting the priority (participatory?) of problems to be addressed;
- Identifying which problem could be addressed by each programme;
- Set to write the proposal.

The presenter further explained what should be included in the write up of the proposal by stressing the need to carefully follow a logical sequence of proposal writing, addressing the problem, characterizing the direct beneficiaries of the project, etc. as shown below:

- Keeping the logical sequence of the project proposal (no blue print);
- Context analysis with focus on both physical and social situations of the target areas;
- Problem statement with focus on the priority areas in line with government and donor policies (not to substitute government);
- Justification/rationale of the problem(s);
- Formulation of objectives, outputs, activities and inputs (LFA matrix);
- Target beneficiaries disaggregating the population into male and female and also the households into male and female proportions using appropriate selection criteria;
- Tabulation of target beneficiaries if the project comprises different interventions (off-farm, water supply, inputs supply, etc);
- Indication of capacity of rivers, ponds for irrigation and the farmland arrangement with number of household beneficiaries (number of male and female);
- Implementation strategy and organizational arrangements clearly defined;
- Phase-out strategy and sustainability of the project in place;
- Monitoring and evaluation, and budget of the project with activity plan documented.

In view of the above expectations, the presenter displayed project proposal appraisal procedures followed at DCA:

- It is done mainly at two levels – by programme officer and by project evaluation committee based on the level of budget;
- Rarely at Headquarter with the budget above DKK 500,000 (or about 1 mill Birr) per annum;
- The appraisal with the programme officer and discussions with partner organizations elapses longer time than the rest two;
- Project evaluation committee approves the proposal with some preconditions or rejects if not to the expected level;

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- Enter into cooperation agreement with attached formats to start implementation.

Mr. Yadessa also outlined the following activities as part of the exercise regarding monitoring and evaluation of the financed projects:

- Undertaking bi-annual project monitoring with partners' field level project staff and other stakeholders;
- Receiving bi-annual and annual narrative and financial reports;
- Involvement in mid-term review and terminal evaluation terms of reference for projects;
- Project budget monitoring and utilization;
- Project completion report at the end of the project life expected from the partners.

Finally, the presenter highlighted the following experiences gained in the whole exercise of project appraisal and monitoring and evaluation in the interest of sharing with partners to improve on the lessons continuously learned during project cycles.

- Assessments sometimes neglect key information for the formulation of the project (e.g. the human element of the project);
- Project formulation/design had problems of quality, timing, etc;
- The project appraisal process was time-consuming (back and forth) due to lack of basic information;
- There were deficiencies in beneficiary identification and disaggregation as per the project components;
- Inadequate project budget setting, revision and utilization vis-à-vis planned activities (e.g., some project components substitute government programmes);
- Monitoring and evaluation of projects had some drawbacks (e.g., reporting-quality not based on objectives/outcomes but activities; not following attached formats; timing; outcomes not disaggregated; often focused on the successes but neglected failures and lessons learnt; review & evaluations not as per the schedule);
- There are observed problems of communications and response on time;
- There was rare sharing of TOR for mid-term review and terminal project evaluations;
- There was deficiency in sharing current information (e.g. on the likelihood of good and bad news) at or around the project areas through all possible means.

3.4.2 Emergency Relief

The second part of this session's presentation was made by Mr. Tegene H/Giorgis focusing on emergency relief activities. The presenter began by giving some background information about the country and its relation with the need for emergency relief assistance. He mentioned that 85% of the Ethiopian population depend on agriculture for livelihoods in which 60-70% of the population live with less than 2 US dollars per day and 44% under national poverty line with 47.5% stunted under-five children in 2005.

He further noted that the country is in food crisis situation as the number of people in need of emergency relief is increasing at alarming rate (from 2.6 million to 4.6 million recognized officially and recently estimated at more than 12 million, though not yet officially recognized). He further argued that the scope of the food crisis is widening geographically in almost all major regions of the country.

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The presenter also talked about factors contributing to the food crisis in the country. He mentioned that unfavourable climatic conditions, global price hike, and strategy of the government in terms of extension, productive safety-net programme, settlements and land tenure, among others have adversely affected the food security of the people.

Mr. Tegene is also of the opinion that there are general factors that negatively impact the food security of the country and thus lead to emergency food needs. These are cumulative or carry-over of poverty, low productivity of agriculture, natural disasters (global warming, drought, flood, etc), manmade disasters (pocket areas' conflict), escalation of food grain price, and rainfall-dependence of agriculture.

In view of the above situation, the presenter further showed the status of DCA emergency preparedness program which focuses on humanitarian assistance, capacity building, and contribution to improvement of food security with partners. In this connection, he also highlighted some challenges, including the presence of inadequate information from project implementation areas on the current situation, advocacy and its boil, expansion of natural disasters (drought, flood, conflict), manmade calamities (conflicts), impact indicators in reporting, and escalation of consumable items price (food grain).

He also indicated some opportunities such as the government strategy focusing on relief and rehabilitation (e.g. PSNP), community-based organizations, newly opened ECHO Office, and DCA relief policy which may be used to enhance the emergency relief efforts in a concerted way.

Last, but not least, Mr. Tegene presented what he called the DCA Relief Policy and core competencies that he thinks would enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of its partnership to attain its objectives of addressing the food security and related issues of its target groups together with its partners. These include the following:

- *Professionalism*: Knowledge of a range of humanitarian assistance, emergency relief and related human rights issues, including approaches and techniques to address difficult problems.
- *Analytical capacity* and in particular the ability to analyze and articulate the humanitarian dimension of issues which require a coordinated DCA response. Ability to identify issues and judgment in applying technical expertise to resolve a wide range of problems.
- *Ability to conduct research*, including ability to evaluate and integrate information from a variety of sources and assess impact on the humanitarian rights situation in assigned country/area.
- *Partner work under extreme pressure*, on occasion in a highly stressful environment (e.g. civil strife, natural disasters and human misery); ability to provide guidance to new/junior staff.
- *Take responsibility* for incorporating gender perspectives and ensuring the equal participation of women and men in all areas of work.
- *Communication*: Speak and write clearly and effectively; listen to others, correctly interpret messages from others and respond appropriately; ask questions to clarify, and exhibit interest in having two-way communications.
- *Teamwork*: Works collaboratively with partner to achieve organizational goals; solicits input by genuinely valuing others' ideas and expertise;
- *Planning & Organizing*: Develop clear goals that are consistent with agreed strategies; identify priority activities and assignments; adjust priorities as required; allocates appropriate amount of time and resources for completing work; foresees risks and

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allows for contingencies when planning; monitors and adjusts plans and actions as necessary; uses time efficiently.

- *Accountability*: Takes ownership of all responsibilities and honors commitments; delivers outputs for which one has responsibility within prescribed time, cost and quality standards; operates in compliance with organizational regulations and rules; supports subordinates, provides oversight and takes responsibility for delegated assignments;
- *Creativity*: Actively seek to improve programs or services; offer new and different options to solve problems or meet partner needs; promote and persuade others to consider new ideas; take calculated risks on new and unusual ideas; thoughts "outside the box"
- *Client Orientation*: Considers all those to whom services are provided to be "Partner" and seeks to see things from clients' point of view; establishes and maintains productive partnership keep clients informed of progress or setbacks in projects; meets timeline for delivery of products or services.
- *Commitment to Continuous Learning*: Keep side by side of new developments in own occupation/profession; actively seek to develop organizational capacities;
- *Technological Awareness*: Keep abreast of available technology; understand applicability and limitation of technology to the work of the office; actively seeks to apply technology to appropriate tasks; show willingness to learn new technology.

3.4.3 Questions/Reflections Raised for Discussion

This session was moderated by Mr. Belachew, one of the participants of the meeting. Following the two presentations on food security and emergency relief by two speakers, Mr. Belachew opened the floor for questions and reflections and participants forwarded some queries. These were:

1. In view of the problems presented in relation to the reporting format, is there a standardized format used by DCA?
2. With regard to the experiences in problem statement in project formulation, is it in line with government and donor policies?
3. Is there basic or minimum requirement for project implementation approval and how do you see that in relation to time-boundedness of project works?
4. How do you see relief as DCA intervention area? Is it in line with government guideline? In other words, can we plan for relief while relief often follows emergency?

3.4.4. Presenters' Reactions to Raised Questions

The two speakers had reacted to the questions raised. First, Mr. Tegene started with the last question by saying that there is no complete solution to plan for emergency relief but since relief has been with us for quite longer time recurrently planning to overcome it cannot be avoided. He further stressed that there are complex factors in play that lead us to plan for it. Development practitioner may find it odd to plan for relief activities but reality on the ground (e.g. 'green famine' in SNNPR) urges us as moral obligation to help the hungry survive the crisis. This calls for working on preparedness to cope with the disaster that is unfolding to cost human life.

Mr. Yadessa, on his part, reacted to the rest of the questions by reminding the participants that DPPA has been recently restructured to operate under MoARD. However, relief is not yet developed as a programme but the process seems to be underway. Now there is a shift in focus on relief targeting by

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relating it to development work. On the issue of project cycle, Mr. Yadessa humbly acknowledged the problem to be a joint one by both DCA and its partner organizations and hoped that more needs to be done together in the future to improve project management at various levels. He also promised to send to the partners the standard formats being used by DCA.

4. Endorsement of Platform TOR and Naming Next Platform Leading Partners

4.1 Endorsement of Platform TOR

In this session, the revised Platform terms of reference (TOR) was distributed to the participant representatives of the partner organizations for further scrutiny and endorsement. The revision team explained to the participants that the revisions were indicated in *italic* texts and one could easily see from the document changes made to the original texts of the TOR. Ato Moges, one of the participants, moderated the session.

Ato Moges invited the participants to forward their feedback and accordingly the participants reflected on the revised TOR, some of which are the following:

- The document was written as style of minutes writing and therefore should be written using concrete and decisive action words;
- There are open-ended statements in the revised TOR, which should be rewritten in closed form.

After long discussion as to whether it is appropriate to endorse the revised document on the same day or not, the participants have agreed to delay the endorsement for some time to critically look into the revisions made and communicate their feedback to the coordinating team for further consideration.

4.2 Naming Next Platform Leading Partners

The organizers explained that DCA with its partners (LWF & AFD) has taken the leading role so far in leading the Platform. They further explained that there is now the need for a new leading body in view of sharing responsibilities. Participant representatives were requested, on the basis of willingness, to take the leadership. Accordingly, Agri-Service Ethiopia (ASE) and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC) volunteered to serve as leaders of next platform. However, the current leaders would have to continue until the Platform TOR will be endorsed, which is expected to take place some time before the end of this year.

5. Way Forward and Closing

Mr. Yadessa moderated this session of the meeting. He began by appreciating the participants for the active participation in the discussions made throughout the day. The following issues were raised for general discussion to have a clear direction on the way forward.

First of all, the issue of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of partnership, especially in relation to communication throughout the project cycle was raised. Participants reflected that part of the reasons for the delay in project communication with DCA was lack of clear guidance on the reporting format (or at least a checklist) and they suggested that DCA should

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provide its own formats that its partners need to follow in their reporting. Mr. Yadessa immediately reacted by stating that DCA formats are available and will soon be forwarded to the partners.

Secondly, participants raised about information on financial resource limits from DCA. The participants were of the opinion that one other problem creating delays in project appraisal and approval was partners' lack of information on the possible upper limit of financial resources DCA would make available for financing different projects. Availability of such information would better inform the partners to devise fundable projects that are more likely to be approved. Mr. Yadessa explained how the financial appraisal and approval is carried out at DCA and higher levels and indicated the lump sum total that needs to be appropriated among different projects proposed by the partners. In this connection, the issue of co-financing possibility by DCA was also raised. Mr. Yadessa also reacted that although the possibility of co-financing may be there at DCA, it has not been the case so far, except for the joint program being carried out in North Wollo.

Thirdly, participants raised the capacity problem on the part of DCA itself that may have contributed to some delays in project proposal appraisal and follow up of project implementation. They think that the Food Security Programme at DCA level has only one Officer but projects to be followed up are too many. They are of the opinion that the volume of the work may be beyond the capacity of an individual program officer. For this reason, they suggested that DCA also need to have more human resources to improve program efficiency.

Finally, it was also noted that there have been problems of quality in the project, beginning with the objectives all the way to project management. For this it is suggested that building the capacity of partners is necessary. Mr. Yadessa reacted that DCA has already recognized the need for building the capacities of partner organizations and tried to finance trainings of partners' staff to participate in trainings organized by CRDA, for example. However, it was disappointing to see that the turn out of partners' staff in trainings organized by other organizations was minimal. That led to suggest that DCA needs to organize capacity-building trainings for its partners. Part of the exercise to develop such capacity could be to organize a joint review of projects by at least sharing the review framework.

In the end, Mr. Tegene H/Giorgis, has taken the chance of closing the meeting by mentally taking back the participants to what has been accomplished in just a day and appreciating the efforts exerted by everyone to the fulfillment of the set objectives of the Platform Meeting and congratulated for the achievements. In this regard, he stressed the fact that all the efforts exerted in the exercise is to make better the lives of the poor people in marginalized and food insecure areas where partners are operating. He finally closed the meeting by thanking all participants for their active participation in the meeting.

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Current Issues Related to the Soaring Food Price in Ethiopia

By

Bezabih Emana[1]

1. Introduction

The recent rapid increases in the international prices of many basic food commodities have raised many questions in the minds of policy makers, the media and the general public, especially the vulnerable people. The situation has been contemporary international and national agenda attracting large media coverage and good coverage of international organizations such as the United Nations Agencies, multilateral organizations, NGOs and National institutions. In the simplest term, the soaring food price has put the poor segment of the society in a worst situation.

The objective of this paper is to update the participants of Dan Church Aid's partners about the current status of the soaring food price with the aim for motivating them to participate in the response system. The paper briefly discusses the international phenomena, the situations in Ethiopia and highlights the observation on the responses being made both in the supply and demand side.

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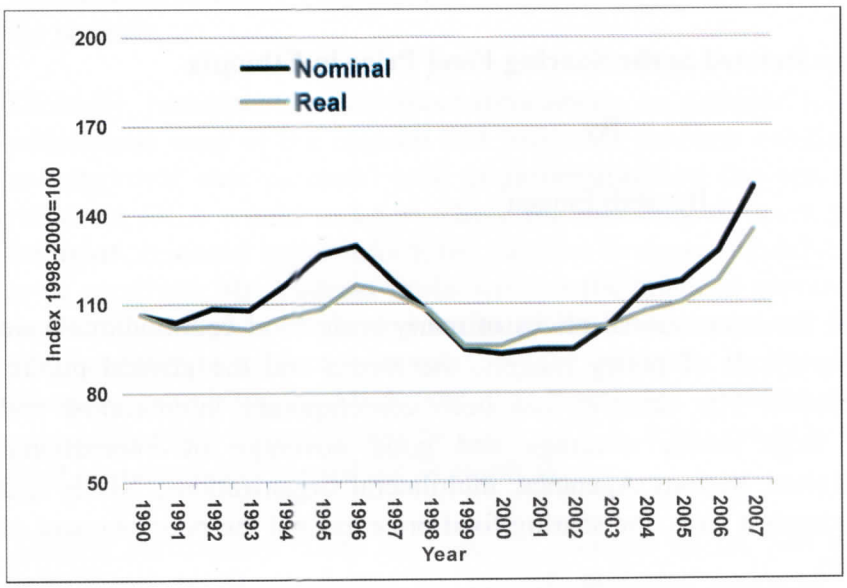
2. International Phenomena

2.1 Trend of food prices

High price events, like low price events, are not rare occurrences in agricultural markets. But the high price events are often related to seasonal harvest peaks and are often short lived. The last significant price boom for agricultural commodities began in early-1995 affecting mainly cereals, peaked in 1996 and dissipated quickly afterwards, bottoming out at the beginning of 2000. Compared to the previous periods, the gradual recovery of the observed long term decline in *real* food prices began in 2000 and increased sharply from 2006 (Figure 1). In fact the agricultural commodity prices rose sharply in both 2007 and 2008. The average growth rate over the 2000-05 periods was 1.3 percent per annum, which jumped to 10 percent over the past two years. The FAO food price index rose on average by 9 percent in 2006 compared with the previous year, in 2007 it increased by 23 percent compared to 2006. The increase in the value of the index between December 2006 and December 2007 was 37 percent. The surge in prices has been led by dairy, which on average increased by nearly 80 percent, then by oils with nearly 50 percent and grains with 42 percent. The only exception was the price of sugar, which *declined* by 32 percent, after having increased by over 20 percent over the 2005-06 period.

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Figure 1: Annual FAO Food Price Indices (1998-2000=100)



What distinguishes the current state of agricultural markets is rather the concurrence of the hike in world prices of (i) nearly all major food and feed items, (ii) the possibility that the prices may continue to remain high after the effects of short term shocks dissipate (iii) higher price volatility accompanying the price boom, especially in the cereals and oilseeds sectors, highlighting the prevalence of greater uncertainty in the market, and (iv) stronger relationship between agricultural commodity markets and other markets, e.g. crude oil.

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2.2 Factors underpinning food price increase

The historic long-term decline in real food prices seems to have stopped. At the beginning of 2008, real prices reached their highest level in nearly 30 years. Projections suggest that they are likely to remain relatively high in the next few years, although at a lower level that what is being observed in the first quarter of 2008. Much will depend on how global supply will respond and on whether demand will continue to grow as rapidly as in the recent past.

Many factors can explain this evolution, although it is difficult to attribute precise quantitative weights to each of these factors. FAO (2008)[2] identified the following:

2.2.1 The demand side

- **New source of demand for agricultural commodities:**

An increasing share of agricultural produces such as sugar, maize, cassava, oilseeds, and palm oil is used to manufacture bio-fuels as a result of significant increases in the price of crude oil. This possibility is increasingly leading to the implementation of public policies to support the bio-fuels sector that further encourages the demand for these feed stocks.

[2] FAO's Initiatives on Soaring Prices: Guide for Immediate Country Level Action, Rome (May 2008)

- **Change in structure of demand:**

Long term income and population growth in China, India and other large developing economies have implied increased consumption and shifts in dietary patterns towards animal products whose production requires increased quantities of animal feed. This implies that the demand for grain as intermediary inputs for livestock production increased. For instance, it takes 7 to 8.3 kilos of grain to produce a kilo of beef and 5 to 7 kilos to produce a kilogram of pork. Hence, the demand for livestock feed grew at faster rate than cereals production. According to FAO (2004), the growth rate of production of cereals during the 1980-2007 periods increased on average 2 percent per annum, while the increase for feed utilization, without any structural breaks, has averaged over 3.5 percent per annum. The diversification of diets away from starchy foods to meat and dairy products intensifies demand for feed grains and strengthens the linkages between different food commodities. In China, for example, per capita meat consumption has increased from 20 kg in 1980 to 50 kg now. However, these changes are taking place gradually and are not likely to have lead to the sudden spike that began 2005.

- **Effects of operations of financial markets on agricultural commodity markets:**

Speculation on commodity prices as reserve stocks have dwindled, some degree of panic on the markets as well as policy decisions taken by several countries also have amplified the upward movement of prices beyond what could be justified by the demand and supply situation. Market-oriented policies are gradually making agricultural markets more transparent and derivatives markets based on them offer an expanding range of financial instruments for increased portfolio diversification and reduction in risk exposures.

2.2.2 The supply side

- **Adverse weather conditions**

Adverse weather conditions in major exporting countries (e.g. in Australia) have reduced food grain production in the last years. Although global cereal output reached record levels in 2004, it declined by 1 and 2 percent respectively in 2005 and 2006. But more importantly from the perspective of the international markets, the output in 8 major exporting countries[3], which constitutes nearly half of global production, dropped by 4 and 7 percent during the same period. There has, however, been a significant increase in cereal output in 2007, responding to the higher prices the supply situation in the major exporters was not affected in a similar way during the same period. The quick supply response for cereals in 2007, however, came at the expense of reducing productive resources to, and hence output of, oilseeds, more specifically of soybeans.

- **Dwindling cereal stock reserves**:

Another factor on the supply side that has had a significant impact on the markets recently has been the gradual reduction in the level of stocks, mainly of cereals, since the mid-1990s.

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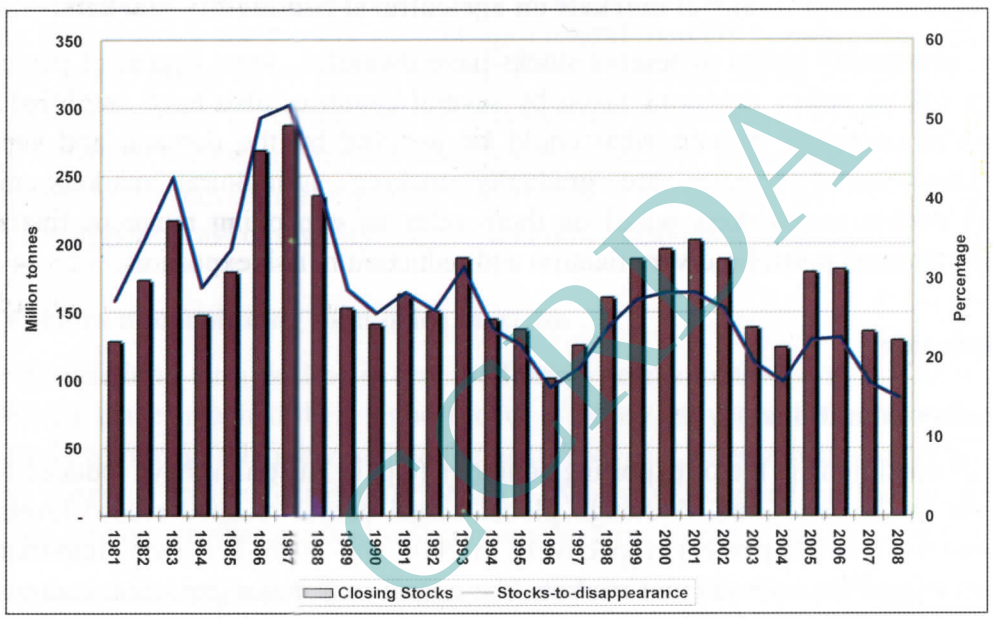
[3] *Includes Argentina, Australia, Canada, EU, India, Pakistan, Thailand and USA for cereals*

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Some factors attributing to low stock reserves in the exporting countries include high costs of storing perishable products, development of other less costly instruments of risk management, increases in the number of countries able to export and improvements in information and transportation technologies.

The global stock levels have on average *declined* by 3.4 percent per annum since the previous high price event in 1995. When production shortages occur in consecutive years in major exporting countries under such circumstances, as it happened in 2005 and 2006 for cereals, international markets tend to become tighter and price volatility and the magnitude of price changes become magnified. This is one of the important reasons why the international prices of cereal prices spiked so sharply in 2005. And it is expected to continue to remain at these high levels, at least until next season, as the world cereal stocks by the close of the seasons ending in 2008 are expected decline a further 5 percent, from their already reduced level at the start of the season, reaching the lowest level since 1982, when the level of utilisation was much smaller than it is today (Figure 2).

Figure 2: **Cereals stocks and ratios of major exporters**



Source: IFAD (2007).

- **High oil prices**

Higher oil prices have contributed to increasing prices for agricultural inputs such as fuel and fertilizer and higher costs of transport, processing and storage incurred along the food chains.

- **Declining agricultural prices**

The decreasing trend in agricultural prices since the 1980s has been a disincentive for production and investment in agriculture. Limited investment in agriculture has hampered growth of agricultural supply.

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This situation creates challenges for reducing poverty and hunger. However, higher food prices affect countries differently depending on whether they are net exporters or importers of food. Net-exporting countries will benefit and experience higher terms of trade and more income. Net-importing countries will face lower terms of trade and have to pay a larger food import bill which will impact negatively on trade balance and affect the strength of their currency. The latter includes many of the developing countries including Ethiopia.

3. The Ethiopian Context

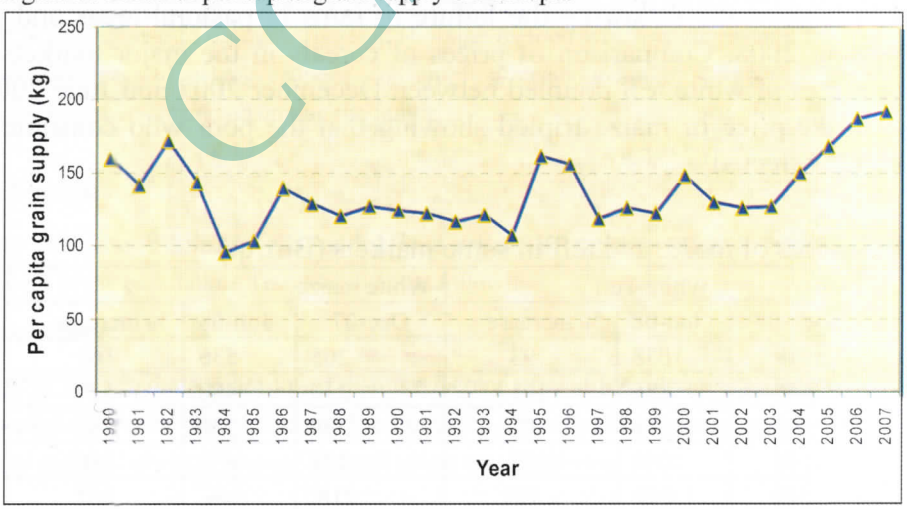
3.1 Food supply

Food consumption and food security situations in Ethiopia are heavily dependent on the state of domestic food production. During the last 27 years, the domestic food supply fluctuated depending on the rainfall suitability. On average, the per capita food supply declined by 0.19% over last 27 years per annum (Figure 3) with mean value of 152 kg per person per annum. In 2007 per capita food supply increased to an average of 190 kg which is only 85% of minimum food requirement. This shows that the country faced food gaps over years and in fact the food gap increased during the periods before 2002 and slightly decreased afterwards, with about 15% food gap in 2007.

Although Ethiopia managed to increase the production and supply of food crops in the recent years, the problem of both chronic and transitory food insecurity is still persistent in different parts of the country. Despite the encouraging results of the 2007 *Meher* production assessment about the state of food availability in the country, which anticipated an overall improved food security situation in 2008, failure of rains in pastoral areas, followed by poor-to-very poor *Belg* rains, resulted in extreme food insecurity, especially in the south and south eastern pastoral and agro-pastoral areas.

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Figure 3: Trend of per capita grain supply of Ethiopia



Source: Computed based on CSA data

The world food price situation aggravated the food shortage situation in Ethiopia. According to the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA), the number of people needing food assistance increased from 2.2 million in April to 4.6 million in July.

This figure is expected to increase after the rapid belg assessment which is due at the end of July. The net food requirement for the estimated beneficiaries stands at 391,651 MT from June to November amounting to US$ 268,430,658. In addition, the Targeted Supplementary Food Programme that assists children and pregnant mothers requires approximately US$ 18 million. Of the total 509,916 MT needed, only 118,265 MT was available. Moreover, from the 32,800 MT supplementary foods needed, only 17,750 MT was available. In terms of the logistics requirement about 77% of the requirement was not available (Table 1). Obviously, partner organizations have been soliciting resources to bridge the food gap.

Table 1: The 2008 Humanitarian Assistance requirement (USD)

Sector	Total Requirement	Available Resources	Net Requirement
General Ration: gross: 509,916 MT; available 118,265 MT; and net 391,651 MT (cereal 319,943 MT, oil 8,749 MT, pulse 33,303 MT, CSB 29,400 MT)	351,361,595	82,930,937	268,430,658
Supplementary food for EOS/TSF: gross 32,800 MT; net 17,750 MT	31,179,247	13,030,492	18,148,755
Food sub-total	**382,540,842**	**95,961,429**	**286,579,413**
Health and Nutrition	25,193,850	-	25,193,850
Water and Sanitation	6,558,306	-	6,558,306
Agriculture	6,920,679	-	6,920,679
Non-food sub-total	**38,672,835**	**-**	**38,672,835**
GRAND TOTAL	**421,213,677**	**95,961,429**	**325,252,248**

Source: USAID (2008), Addis Ababa

3.2 Trend of food price

The overall trend of producers and consumers prices increased over the last few years but the increase has been dramatic following the failure of rains in pastoral areas and poor-to-very poor *Belg* rains in 2008. Comparison of prices of cereals in the major markets in Ethiopia show that the prices of white teff doubled between December 2007 and June 2008 (Table 2). The increase in the price of maize tripled showing that the poor who consume maize have been significantly affected.

Table 2: Retail prices of maize and teff in some markets (Birr/qt)

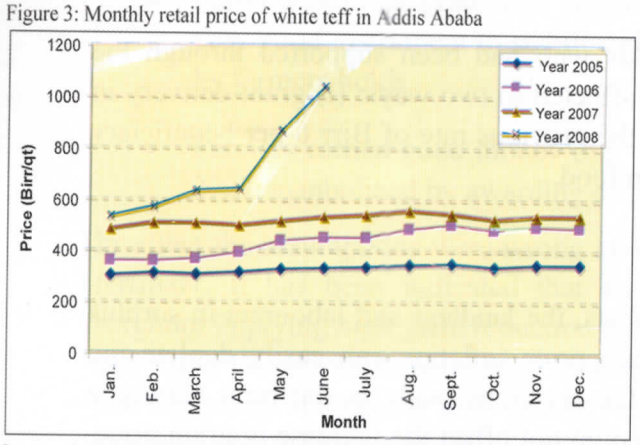
	White Teff			White maize		
Markets	Dec-07	Jun-08	% increase	Dec-07	Jun-08	% increase
Addis Ababa	539	1038	93	205	536	161
Bahir Dar	440	885	101	210	480	129
Mekelle	492	1016	107	230	536	133
Dire Dawa	540	1090	102	225	630	180
Mean	503	1,007	101	218	546	151

Source: Computed based on monthly price data of USAID (2008)

Cereal prices have continued to surge to a new high between April and June 2008. The trend of Addis Ababa retail prices of white teff and white maize persistently increased during the last three years through a drastic increase occurred in 2008 (Figures 3 and 4).

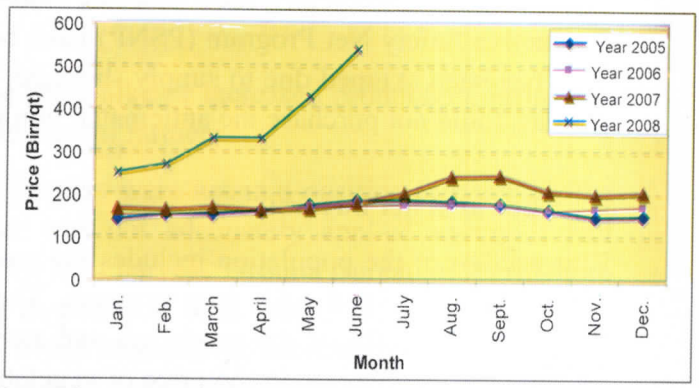
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Figure 3: Monthly retail price of white teff in Addis Ababa



Source: Own computation based on Data from USAID (2008), Addis Ababa

Figure 4: Monthly retail price of white maize in Addis Ababa



Source: Own computation based on Data from USAID (2008), Addis Ababa

3.3 Impacts of the price increase

Increasing food prices are expected to influence strongly the welfare outcomes of different groups of households particularly in developing countries, and thus their food security and poverty status. It has been estimated that about 70 percent of the world's poor live in rural areas and strongly dependent on agriculture. Ideally, soaring food prices generate possibilities for welfare improvements of their livelihoods and declining poverty. Nevertheless among the rural population but also in urban areas, attributes of the social structure may result in welfare reducing outcomes. The relative position of households in the food market appears to be among the critical factors expected to determine the improvement of the household welfare. In particular households that are net buyers of food are facing the risk of declining welfare. Poorly endowed households such as landless or small landholders and out of agriculture wage earners belong in the groups of households that declining welfare is also the likely outcome.

In Ethiopia, the impact of food shortages and rising prices is particularly felt in the south and south eastern pastoral and agro-pastoral areas, and in urban areas. Although qualitative study is not yet available, serious malnutrition especially among the children has been reported. The recent humanitarian emergency intervention is in response to drought triggered shortage of food which is aggravated by high food price. Depletion of savings and assets, reduced consumption needs including cosmetics, animal products, vegetables, etc have been observed among the public.

3.4 Affected people

Nearly every citizen is affected by the soaring food price. The negative effect, however, is prevalent on certain segment of the population. These include the following:

- **The urban poor:**

The category of the population earn lower than the income needed for subsistence. Their situation appears to be aggravated due to the price inflation. The Ethiopian Grain Trade Enterprise sells wheat at subsidized price in major regional towns. The poor in small towns are unaddressed.

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- **The rural poor:**

The poor and chronically food insecure households who had been supported through the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) have been affected in two ways: (i) grain delivery in June has been skipped due to supply shortage; (ii) the previous rate of Birr 6 per beneficiary per day could not purchase the anticipated minimum food.

- **The rural net buyers:**

This section of the population includes the pastoralists, the landless and labourers in surplus producing areas, and cash crop growers. The grain price inflation can easily deplete the production capacity of the producers and assets. Observations made in the rural Hararghe reveals that the increase in the price of vegetables could not offset the increase in grain price. Hence this has severely impacted the level of use of yield increasing inputs and current nutrition intake.

- **Surplus grain producers:**

On the other hand farmers who produced grain in larger quantities and stored for longer period could benefit. These farmers were faced with significantly high price in their life and could not keep grain except for their consumption reserve. In wheat producing areas such as Bale and Arsi, farmers sold out their grain stock when the price stroke over Birr 300 per quintal. Thus, they are financially at a poor situation to afford the increasing fertilizer price.

3.5 Responses

3.5.1 Demand side

Soaring food prices directly impinge upon the food security status of poor households. In an effort to stabilize prices, the Government started subsidizing wheat prices for low-income urban dwellers as of March 2007. A 10 percent surtax was also imposed on luxury imports to help fund wheat subsidies for the poor. Ethiopia has also banned the export of its cereals and removed Value-Added (VAT) and turnover taxes on grains and other basic goods. Measures have been taken to restrict the money supply to help prevent inflation. Recently, the government has announced a plan to import about 150,000 MT grain. There is a plan to import sugar and cooking oil as well. The cost and budgetary implications of the various interventions are clear, involving direct cash outlay for price subsidy and for import bills, and loss of revenue due to cancellation of VAT and turnover taxes. The distribution targets in big towns and the sales will be done through the Ethiopian Grain Trade Enterprise. Regarding the PSNP implementation, the Birr 6 daily rate for public work has been increased to Birr 8.

3.5.2 Supply side

The Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development indicates that emphasis has been given to increasing production during the current year. Surely, import of fertilizer was made through regional governments' collateral provision to bank loans extended to farmers Cooperative Unions. The prices and sales conditions are set by the regional governments. This year, the fertilizer distribution on credit basis was removed (except for 10% of the farmers who are said to be poor) on the following two main premises:

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- Farmers hording grain will sell it to use the cash for fertilizer purchase. This was a very good instrument to stabilize the grain price when the hypothesis of grain hording by farmers holds.

- Farmers earned good money due to the price hike or increased production during the 2007, symbolized by awarding of the successful farmers.

In effect the assumptions were wrong and the farmers were not in a position to purchase the fertilizer. It has been indicated that fertilizer was not adequately applied to maize and sorghum implying high yield reduction during the next harvest. Oromia Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development responded by revising its policy of cash first to use fertilizer to 50% down payment if a farmer feels cannot pay the whole sum and not more than 10% of the poor can receive fertilizer on credit.

3.6 Future focus

In the short run, support given to stabilize grain price is appropriate. Yet, intervention in the supply side provides alternatives for future stability of prices. Increased price is an opportunity for the farmers who can grow crops. Interventions that increase the productive capacity of the farmers should be thought. We need to focus on the following:

- Finding out the impacts of the existing interventions. There are some efforts in this regard by WFP and IFPRI though the outcome depends on its scope. Impacts are also localized requiring extended activity even at micro level;
- Knowledge on the responses made by the institutions and gaps for intervention. Some work has been initiated by FAO, results yet expected;
- Preparedness on the type of interventions needed for sustainable supply increase and price stability is yet to be searched;
- An intensified livelihood improvement strategy remains to be at the top; and
- Market development remains to be an issue regardless of the level of the supply.

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Annex 2: Findings of Food Security Programme Mid-Term Review

Food Security Program Mid-term Review
(May 13-23,2008)
DCA, Programme Partners 4th FS platform meeting
August 1st, 2008
Panorama Hotel, Addis Ababa

FS Programme Review Findings & Recommendations

Programme Strategy

A. Findings:

- The overall strategy is still relevant in addressing food security problems in Ethiopia and inline with DCA Policies;
- Contribution of partners to Objective One of the programme mainly as service delivery; limited empowerment & advocacy;
- All partners are familiar with overall DCA Policy on Food Security;
- Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) in keeping FS activities on progress;
- The HIV/AIDS components in FS projects moved beyond its boundary;
- DCA's revised micro-finance guidelines will mean changes in the implementation of micro-finance activities;
- FS programme is expanding to pastoral areas;
- Climate change is increasingly affecting programme activities despite limited undertakings in natural resources conservation, currently not given high priority,

B. Recommendations

- Revision of programme objectives;
- Continue good work and relationship with partners and platform processes engaged on policy issues and gradual focus on capacity development & joint activities;
- Limit HIV/AIDS components in FS Programme to awareness raising and nutrition improvement;
- Separate objective for FSP to reflect integration of LRRD;
- Training on the MF guidelines at regional Offices;
- Identification of partner (s) with expertise in pastoralist issues and work on building capacity in this area,;
- Discuss climate change on platform meetings as an important advocacy objective of Phase II FSP.

II. Programme Implementation

A. Findings

- Shrinkage of political pace (draft NGO/CSO law);
- The programme geographical areas focus on the poorest and marginalized areas (appropriate) but with logistical challenges;

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- Criteria for selection of target beneficiaries is transparent and focuses on most vulnerable;
- The role of CSOs and local government structures either overlapping or substituting;

B. Recommendations

- DCA will have to be aware of the political environment to exploit the room for national networks that negotiate with the MoJ on the draft NGO law;
- DCA should support partners in understanding & fulfilling their roles as duty bearers in the absence of appropriate government structures;
- Ensure targeting follows DCA criteria and could improve transparency by making public displays of selection criteria;
- Maintain the good working relationship between partners and use platform meetings as a forum of debating and implementing technical, cross-cutting, capacity development and advocacy issues;
- Continuous discussions and mutual learning among partners and POs on project/programme issues

III. Cross-Cutting Issues

A. Findings

- Understanding of RBA varies at partners' HQ and field office;
- RBA initial steps on implementation (participatory approach, transparency & Accountability);
- Unclear division of roles b/n local government structures and partners;
- Little consideration of Advocacy from local to national levels (Food Security & Relief)
- Gender equality concept understanding is not consistent (male dominated professionals);
- Good awareness on the link b/n HIV/AIDS and Food Security;
- Insufficient DCA support to partners in terms of organizational and strategic development (project level support is focused);

B. Recommendations

- Focus on RBA at all levels to strengthen understanding & mainstreaming;
- Build on the initial steps of implementation of RBA to include advocacy at all levels;
- Supporting potential and sustainable structures like CC and share best practices among partners;
- Understand the roles different stakeholders play (legal & moral duty bearers);
- Continue efforts to improve the understanding of and integration of gender equality;
- Continue pursuing the strong links b/n HIV/AIDS and Food Security where the former gives relevant technical advice;
- DCA needs to increase partner's capacity on organizational development according to the needs of the programme.

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IV. Humanitarian Situation

A. Findings

- New approved DCA humanitarian assistance policy not introduced to partners;
- Alarming situation in north Wollo and systematic reporting on the crisis by the partners is a challenge.

B. Recommendations

- Invitation of partners for presentation and discussion of the DCA policy on humanitarian assistance;
- Partners' observations on the humanitarian situation coordinated & informed from OCHA or others monitoring mechanism;
- DCA should formulate a strategy for relief and disaster preparedness as separate food security project (LRRD);
- Partners must be encouraged to provide systematic information on the current food crisis as a role of early warning for fund raising and efficiency.

V. Programme Management issues

- Project approval mechanisms, monitoring visits, volume of work and division of labour at regional office were raised and recommendations were forwarded for each.

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Annex 3: Revised LFA of the Food Security Programme

ORIGINAL PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT MATRIX

Ethiopia Food Security Programme (PHS ID 14)

Development Objective	Immediate Objectives	Outcome Indicators:	Interventions/activities	DCA Monitoring Checklists
To enhance the fulfilment of the right of the poorest and most vulnerable groups including the landless, women, people affected by HIV/AIDS, pastoralists, in DanChurchAid working areas – to access adequate and nutritious food through development of sustainable livelihoods.				
	Capacity of right holders in DanChurchAid target areas to produce adequate and nutritious food on a sustainable basis improved.	Greater capacity of partners to carry out food security activities	Enhancing the capacity of rural poor to increase production & productivity • Support the organizational development and technical competency of partners (Training, staff secondment, etc.) • Conduct project baseline surveys and participatory planning	• Training conducted to partner & local government frontline development agents • Baseline reports prepared and distributed by project staff • Community consultations conducted by project staff • Partner progress reports & communications

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		Productivity increased among project beneficiaries as a result of access to productive technologies	Training on on-farm soil & water conservation measures conducted • New crops and vegetables introduced to poor farmers • Compost preparation and application training conducted • New farm management practices introduced through extension	• # of community training conducted • Farmers practicing new methods
		Number of farmers adopting new sustainable technologies increased in the intervention areas	• Demonstration and dissemination of improved techniques	• On-farm demonstrations established by farmers • Community members visiting demonstration sites
		Improved food variety and quantity available for home consumption and for market	• Extension support in using locally available soil fertility measures performed • New productive crop varieties introduced	• Cooperation between partner and local government extension services • New crops grown
		Period of food shortage of right holders decreased	• Irrigation schemes constructed • Delivery of effective extension service	• Small scale irrigation schemes constructed • Ownership of beneficiaries on irrigation schemes • Activities to ensure sustainability of structures, community management, etc.
		Knowledge and practice of nutritious food requirements for household members (especially women) increased.	• Nutrition demonstrations conducted • Training on food preparation and home economics provided	• Women participating in demonstrations • Child growth monitoring in local health service institutions
	Greater livelihood diversification in DanChurchAid targets	Dan Church Aid partners are capacitated to take up non-farm economic activities as a	Support to non-farm economic activities and access to MFIs • Women Credit & Saving	• Trainings on saving/credit • Memberships and

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	groups in order to improve their economic and physical access to adequate and nutritious food.	development strategy	groups established • Credit extended to beneficiaries • Organizing cooperatives	records of groups • Capital turnovers • New economic activities started by members
		New economic activities adopted by poor and marginalized groups, especially women and female heads of households	• Women Credit & Saving groups established • Credit extended to beneficiaries • Organizing cooperatives	
		Number of poor people and their associations accessing financial resources from local rural finance institutions increased	• Revolving funds established through Saving/Credit groups & cooperatives • Cooperatives in beekeeping, animal fattening, etc formed	• # of poor people accessing financial capital from revolving funds
	Poor people's coping capacity to withstand emergency situations is strengthened.	Vulnerabilities of communities, especially poor people, in DanChurchAid working areas to disasters assessed	Disaster preparedness, emergency and rehabilitation assistance • Poor people in disaster affected areas organize in cooperatives to pool resources (Land, cattle, & cash) • Pastoralists trained in micro-credit schemes	• Consultations between project staff and pastoralists on problems • Land allocated for special grazing schemes by cooperatives
		Community organizations formed, established monitoring systems and coordinate response to early warning information and shocks	• Cooperatives supported in grain marketing and early grain stocking	• Market surveys on animal & grain availability & prices • Food grain purchases by poor pastoralists
		Relief assistances extended to poor people to avert asset depletion, out-migration and loss of life	• Local ACT forum strengthened for effective coordination of emergency response	• Assessments and workshops conducted • Reports on humanitarian situations received by DCA from partners

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			• Provide relief assistance to victims of manmade and natural causes • Support to IDPs provided • Root causes of recurring emergency needs & targeting practices studied	• Consolidated appeals including the DCA working areas submitted to ACT • Conflict situation assessments
	Civil society organizations at all levels are strengthened to enable them to speak on behalf of the rural poor.	Existing and new partners are enabled to work in a rights based manner for the rural poor in DanChurchAid target areas	Capacity building and advocacy • RBA training conducted for partner staff and local stakeholders	• RBA training conducted by partners to their project staff and community • Progress reports • Evaluation reports
		DanChurchAid partners understand constraints and are capacitated to engage in mobilising the poor and in advocacy for their rights	Action research and platform for national discourse • Root causes of destitution and emergency needs studied • CSOs engage in advocacy on access & control over land resources by the poor • Facilitate open discourse on root causes to influence policy/decision making institutions through workshops	• Research reports • Workshops and consultations conducted • Workshop proceedings and activity reports by partners
		Right holders are mobilized to enter into dialogue with local duty bearers	• Community representative and government consultation forum established	• Meetings between community representatives and local government council Issues discussed between community representatives and government officials

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		CSOs' capacity to monitor the implementation of the national Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (in Ethiopia SDPRP) is increased	• Sensitization consultations integrated in DCA supported projects	• Project appraisal forms • Workshops conducted on Poverty reduction strategies • Partner progress reports
		DanChurchAid uses information from Ethiopian partners for advocacy/lobbying in Denmark, Europe and on global platforms on behalf of the poor and marginalized people	• Platform network established and information exchanged on regular basis with DCA/HQ information department	• Platform meetings undertaken • Information exchange among platform members

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REVISED PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT MATRIX

Ethiopia Food Security Programme (PHS ID 14)

Development Objective	Immediate Objectives	Outcome Indicators:	Interventions/activities	DCA Monitoring Checklists
To enhance the fulfilment of the right of the poorest and most vulnerable groups including the landless, women, people affected by HIV/AIDS, pastoralists in DanChurchAid working areas - to access adequate and nutritious food through development of sustainable livelihoods.				
	Right holders in DanChurchAid target areas have improved access to adequate and nutritious food on a sustainable basis.	Greater capacity of partners to carry out food security activities	Enhancing the capacity of rural poor to increase production & productivity • Support the organizational development and technical competency of partners (Training, staff secondment, etc.) • Conduct project baseline surveys and participatory planning	• Training conducted to partner & local government frontline development agents • Baseline reports prepared and distributed by project staff • Community consultations conducted by project staff • Partner progress reports & communications
		Productivity increased among project beneficiaries as a result of access to productive technologies	• Training on on-farm soil & water conservation measures conducted • New crops and vegetables introduced to poor farmers	• # of community training conducted • Farmers practicing new methods

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			• Compost preparation and application training conducted • New farm management practices introduced through extension	
		Number of farmers adopting new sustainable technologies increased in the intervention areas	• Demonstration and dissemination of improved techniques	• On-farm demonstrations established by farmers • Community members visiting demonstration sites
		Improved food variety and quantity available for home consumption and for market	• Extension support in using locally available soil fertility measures performed • New productive crop varieties introduced	• Cooperation between partner and local government extension services • New crops grown
		Period of food shortage of right holders decreased	• Irrigation schemes constructed • Delivery of effective extension service	• Small scale irrigation schemes constructed • Ownership of beneficiaries on irrigation schemes • Activities to ensure sustainability of structures, community management, etc.
		Knowledge and practice of nutritious food requirements for household members (especially women) increased.	• Nutrition demonstrations conducted • Training on food preparation and home economics provided	• Women participating in demonstrations • Child growth monitoring in local health service institutions
		DanChurchAid partners are capacitated to take up non-farm economic activities as a development strategy	Support to non-farm economic activities and access to MFIs • Women Credit & Saving groups established Credit extended to beneficiaries Organizing cooperatives	• Trainings on saving/credit • Memberships and records of groups • Capital turnovers • New economic activities started by members

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		development strategy	Credit extended to beneficiaries Organizing cooperatives	• Capital turnovers • New economic activities started by members
		New economic activities adopted by poor and marginalized groups, especially women and female heads of households	• Women Credit & Saving groups established • Credit extended to beneficiaries • Organizing cooperatives	
		Number of poor people and their associations accessing financial resources from local rural finance institutions increased	• Revolving funds established through Saving/Credit groups & cooperatives • Cooperatives in beekeeping, animal fattening, etc formed	• # of poor people accessing financial capital from revolving funds
	Targeted right holders are empowered to establish sustainable social structures as channels for claiming their rights to food.	Right holders are mobilized to enter into dialogue with local duty bearers	• **through awareness raising, mobilisation, organisation and action**	
	DCA and its partner organisations contribute to advocacy at all levels for sustainable food security on behalf of the rural poor.	Links between local and national, risk assessment, strategies		
	Rights holders' access to relief, rehabilitation and disaster preparedness improved.	Vulnerabilities of communities, especially poor people, in DanChurchAid working areas to disasters assessed	Disaster preparedness, emergency and rehabilitation assistance • Poor people in disaster affected areas organize in cooperatives to pool resources (Land, cattle,	• Consultations between project staff and pastoralists on problems • Land allocated for special grazing schemes by cooperatives

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			& cash) Pastoralists trained in micro-credit schemes	
		Community organizations formed, established monitoring systems and coordinate response to early warning information and shocks	• Cooperatives supported in grain marketing and early grain stocking	• Market surveys on animal & grain availability & prices • Food grain purchases by poor pastoralists
		Relief assistances extended to poor people to avert asset depletion, out-migration and loss of life	• Local ACT forum strengthened for effective coordination of emergency response • Provide relief assistance to victims of manmade and natural causes • Support to IDPs provided • Root causes of recurring emergency needs & targeting practices studied	• Assessments and workshops conducted • Reports on humanitarian situations received by DCA from partners • Consolidated appeals including the DCA working areas submitted to ACT • Conflict situation assessments
		Existing and new partners are enabled to work in a rights based manner for the rural poor in DanChurchAid target areas	Capacity building and advocacy • RBA training conducted for partner staff and local stakeholders	• RBA training conducted by partners to their project staff and community • Progress reports • Evaluation reports
		DanChurchAid partners understand constraints and are capacitated to engage in mobilising the poor and in advocacy for their rights	Action research and platform for national discourse • Root causes of destitution and emergency needs studied • CSOs engage in advocacy on access & control over land	• Research reports • Workshops and consultations conducted • Workshop proceedings and activity reports by partners

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			resources by the poor • Facilitate open discourse on root causes to influence policy/decision making institutions through workshops	
			• Community representative and government consultation forum established	• Meetings between community representatives and local government council • Issues discussed between community representatives and government officials
		CSOs' capacity to monitor the implementation of the national Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (in Ethiopia SDPRP) is increased	• Sensitization consultations integrated in DCA supported projects	• Project appraisal forms • Workshops conducted on Poverty reduction strategies • Partner progress reports
		DanChurchAid uses information from Ethiopian partners for advocacy/lobbying in Denmark, Europe and on global platforms on behalf of the poor and marginalized people	• Platform network established and information exchanged on regular basis with DCA/HQ information department	• Platform meetings undertaken • Information exchange among platform members
	DCA has taken action in response to the main capacity building needs of partners essential for programme implementation, cohesion and synergy.			

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Annex 4: Food Security Project Appraisal, M & E, Experience Sharing

Project Appraisal, M&E and Experience Sharing
DCA, Programme Partners 4th FS platform meeting
August 1, 2008
Addis Ababa

Project Appraisal, M&E, Experiences

1. Appraisal of Project proposals (based on the objectives of the programme)

Pre-proposal submission:

- Undertaking assessments (baseline/rapid) in gender disaggregated manner with focus on areas of intervention (including stakeholders analysis);
- Analysing the assessment and setting the priority (participatory approach, etc.) of problems to be addressed;
- Identifying which problem could be addressed by each programme;
- Set to write the proposal.

Write up of the proposal:

- Keeping the logical sequence of the project proposal (no blue print);
- Context analysis with focus on both physical and social situations of the target areas;
- Problem statement with focus on the priority areas in line with government and donor policies (not to substitute government);
- Justification/Rationale of the problem(s);
- Formulation of objectives, outputs, activities and inputs (LFA matrix);
- Target beneficiaries disaggregating (HHs-male & female-population-male-female) with selection criteria;
- Tabulation of target beneficiaries if the project comprises different interventions (off-farm, water supply, inputs supply, etc);
- Indication of capacity of rivers, ponds for irrigation and the farmland arrangement with number of HH beneficiaries (number of male and female);
- Implementation strategy and organizational arrangements clearly defined;
- Phase-out strategy and sustainability of the project in place;
- M&E and budget of the project with activity plan documented.

DCA Appraisal Procedures:

- Mainly at two levels-programme officer and project evaluation committee based on the level of budget;
- Rarely HQ with the budget above DKK 500,000 (estm,1ml Birr) per annum;
- The appraisal with the programme officer and discussions with partner organizations elapse longer time than the rest two;
- Project evaluation committee approves the proposal with some preconditions or rejects if not to the expected level;
- Enter Cooperation agreement with attached formats to start implementation.

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2. M&E

- Undertake bi-annual project monitoring with partners' field level project staff and other stakeholders;
- Receiving bi-annual and annual narrative and financial reports;
- Involvement in mid-term review and terminal evaluation TORs for projects;
- Project budget monitoring and utilization;
- Project completion report at the end of the project life expected from the partners.

3. Experiences

- Assessments sometimes neglect key information for the formulation of the project;
- Project formulation/design-quality, timing, etc;
- Time taking (back and forth during the process) of appraisal (due to lack of basic information);
- Beneficiary identification and disaggregation as per the project components;
- Project budget setting, revision and utilization vis-à-vis planned activities (some project components substitute government programme);
- M&E (reporting-quality not based on objectives/outcomes but activities; not following attached formats; timing; disaggregate; focus on the successes, neglecting failures and lessons learnt; review & evaluations as per the schedule);
- Communications and response on time;
- TOR for mid-term review and terminal project evaluation sharing is rare;
- Current information sharing (likelihood of good and bad news) at or around the project areas through all possible means.

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Annex 5: Emergency Relief Overview and DCA Relief Policy

Emergency Relief Overview

Country

- 85% of the population depend on agriculture for their livelihoods (WB, News & Events, May 7,2007)
- 60-70% of the population with less than < USD 2 per day
- 44% under National Poverty Line (NPL)
- 47.5% stunted children <5 (DHS, 2005)

Food crisis

- Increased number of people in need of emergency (from 2.6 mln to 1.36 mln, 4.6 and now 12,091,768)
- Geographical scope of the crisis is widening (Amhara, Tigray, Afar, Somali, SNNPR, and Oromia).

Deficit

- Ethiopia is among the 33 food-deficit countries (FAO, Annual report, 2006) and one of the three countries most deficit in Africa;
- 4.6 mln people under food aid/assistance (Govt. 2008 appeal) recent *belg* assessment finding rises this number to about 12 Million

Contributing factors (Negative):

- Unfavourable climate conditions
- Global price crisis
- Strategy of the govt (extension, PSNP, settlements, land tenure)

General Factors (Negative):

- Cumulative/carry-over of poverty
- Low productivity of agriculture
- Natural disasters (global warming, drought, flood, etc)
- Manmade disasters (pocket areas' conflict)
- Escalation of food grain price
- Rain-fed agriculture

Status of DCA Emergency Preparedness Program

- Humanitarian assistance
- Capacity building
- Contributed to improvement of food security with partners

Challenges:

- Inadequate information from project implementation areas on the current situation
- Advocacy and its boil
- Expansion of natural Disasters (drought, flood, conflict)
- Manmade calamities (conflicts)
- Impact indicators in reporting
- Escalation of consumable items price (food grain)

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Opportunities:

- Government strategy (e.g. PSNP)
- CBOs
- New ECHO Office opened
- DCA Relief Policy

DCA Core Competencies

- *Professionalism*: Knowledge of a range of humanitarian assistance, emergency relief and related human rights issues, including approaches and techniques to address difficult problems.
- *Analytical capacity* and in particular the ability to analyze and articulate the humanitarian dimension of issues which require a coordinated DCA response. Ability to identify issues and judgment in applying technical expertise to resolve a wide range of problems.
- *Ability to conduct research*, including ability to evaluate and integrate information from a variety of sources and assess impact on the humanitarian rights situation in assigned country/area.
- *Partner work under extreme pressure*, on occasion in a highly stressful environment (e.g. civil strife, natural disasters and human misery); ability to provide guidance to new/junior staff.
- *Take responsibility* for incorporating gender perspectives and ensuring the equal participation of women and men in all areas of work.
- *Communication*: Speak and write clearly and effectively; listen to others, correctly interpret messages from others and respond appropriately; ask questions to clarify, and exhibit interest in having two-way communications.
- *Teamwork*: Works collaboratively with partner to achieve organizational goals; solicits input by genuinely valuing others' ideas and expertise;
- *Planning & Organizing*: Develop clear goals that are consistent with agreed strategies; identify priority activities and assignments; adjust priorities as required; allocates appropriate amount of time and resources for completing work; foresees risks and allows for contingencies when planning; monitors and adjusts plans and actions as necessary; uses time efficiently.
- *Accountability*: Takes ownership of all responsibilities and honors commitments; delivers outputs for which one has responsibility within prescribed time, cost and quality standards; operates in compliance with organizational regulations and rules; supports subordinates, provides oversight and takes responsibility for delegated assignments;
- *Creativity*: Actively seek to improve programs or services; offer new and different options to solve problems or meet partner needs; promote and persuade others to consider new ideas; take calculated risks on new and unusual ideas; thoughts "outside the box"
- *Client Orientation*: Considers all those to whom services are provided to be "Partner" and seeks to see things from clients' point of view; establishes and maintains productive partnership keep clients informed of progress or setbacks in projects; meets timeline for delivery of products or services.
- *Commitment to Continuous Learning*: Keep abreast of new developments in own occupation/profession; actively seek to develop organizational capacities;
- *Technological Awareness*: Keep abreast of available technology; understand applicability and limitation of technology to the work of the office; actively seeks to apply technology to appropriate tasks; show willingness to learn new technology.

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Annex 6: 4th Food Security Program Platform Meeting Schedule

4th Food Security Program Platform Meeting
Friday August 1st, 2008 at Panorama Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Time	Topics	Responsible	Moderator/Facilitator
8:30 – 9: 00	Registration	Emebet/Dawit	
9:00 – 9:15	Introduction and welcome	Dr. Eyasu Mekonnen	Yadessa Mossissa
9:15 – 9:30	Presentation of meeting purpose and time table	Yadessa Mossissa	Tegene Hailegiorgis
9:30 – 10: 00	Current Crisis and trends of Food Security in Ethiopia	Dr. Bezabih Emana	Yadessa Mossissa
10:00-10: 15	Reflection	Participants	Dr. Bezabih Emana
10:15 – 10:30	**Health break**	**Panorama Hotel**	
10:30 – 11:00	Presentation on Findings of Food Security Programme mid-term review	Yadessa/Tegene	Ato Admitachew
11:00 – 12:00	Group work on the Revised LFA of the programme Grouping by objectives (5 objectives in two groups)	Participants	Ato Admitachew
12:00 – 12:30	Plenary discussion on the revised LFA	Participants	Zelalem Feleke
12:30 – 13:30	**Lunch**	**Panorama Hotel**	
13:30 – 14:00	Project Appraisal, M & E, Experience Sharing	Tegene/Yadessa/Zelalem	Ato Belachew
14:00 – 15:30	Plenary discussion on project appraisal & experience sharing	Participants	Ato Belachew
15:30 – 15:45	**Health break**	**Panorama Hotel**	
15:45 – 16:15	Endorsement of Platform TOR and naming next Platform leading partners	Ato Habtamu	Ato Moges
16:15-16: 30	The way forward and closing	Participants	Dr. Eyasu Mekonnen

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Annex 7: List of Participants

S/N	Participants' Name	Organization	Position	Telephone	E-mail address
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25	Yadessa Mossissa	DCA	PT3 Officer	0911439715	Ym.ethiopia@dca.dk

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