



SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

**Challenges of Safety Net Program in Improving Households Food Security
in East Meskan Woreda of Gurage Zone, Ethiopia**

MA THESIS

BY: DIRO URG BEREKA

January, 2023

Wolkite, Ethiopia

WOLKITE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

**Challenges of Safety Net Program in Improving Households Food Security
in East Meskan Woreda of Gurage Zone, Ethiopia**

Diro Urga Bereka

**A Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies,
In partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for Degree of Master of Arts in
Development Studies
(Specialization in Development Planning and Management)**

Adivisor: Tamiru Berafe (Assistance Professor)

Co-Advisor: Mr. Yosef Yonas (MA)

January, 2023
Wolkite, Ethiopia

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
WOLKITE UNIVERSITY
THESIS APPROVAL SHEET

We hereby certify that we read and evaluated this thesis entitled “**Challenges of Safety Net Program in improving household food security in East Meskan Woreda of Gurage Zone**” prepared under our guidance by Diro Urga Bereka. We recommend that the thesis shall be submitted as fulfilling the requirements for the award of a MA degree in Development studies with Specialization in Development Planning and management.

1. _____	_____	_____
Name of Major Advisor	Signature	Date
2. _____	_____	_____
Name Co- Advisor	Signature	Date

As members of board of examiners of the master of art thesis open defense examination, we have read and evaluated this thesis prepared by Diro Urga Bereka and examined the candidate. We hereby certify that the thesis is accepted for fulfilling the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Art (M.A) Development studies with Specialization in Development Planning and management.

1. _____	_____	_____
Name of External examiner	Signature	Date
2. _____	_____	_____
Name of Internal examiner	Signature	Date
3. _____	_____	_____
Name of the Chairperson	Signature	Date

Final approval and acceptance of the thesis is contingent upon the submission of the final copy of the thesis to the council of post graduate program (CPGS) through the candidate’s Department/School Graduate Committee (DGC/SGC).

DECLARATION

By my signature here below, I declare and affirm that this thesis is my own work. I have followed all ethical principles of scholarship in the preparation data collection, data analysis, and completion of this thesis. All scholarly matter that is included in the thesis has been given recognition through citation. I affirm that I have cited and referenced all sources used in this document. Every serious effort has been made to avoid any plagiarism in the preparation of this thesis.

This thesis is submitted in partial fulfillment of for a Master degree from the school of graduate studies at Wolkite University. The thesis is deposited in the wolkite university library and made available to borrowers under the rule of the library. Solemnly declare that this thesis has not been submitted to any other institutions anywhere for the award of any academic degree, diploma or certificate.

Brief quotation from this thesis may be used without special permission provided that accurate and complete acknowledgement of the source is made. Request for permission for extended quotation from or reproduction of this thesis in whole or in part may be granted by the head of the department or Dean of the school of graduate studies when in his judgment the proposed use of material is in the interest of scholarship. In all other instances, however, permission must be obtained from the author of the thesis.

Name: **DIRO URG BEREKA**

Signature: _____

Date: _____

School/Department

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to my advisor, Tamiru Berafe (Assistance Professor) for his unreserved, critical and intellectual comments he has given me for the overall accomplishment of this thesis and for his excellent approaches. Secondly, I have also deepest thanks to my co-advisor Mr.Yosef Yonas (MA), for his encouragement, guidance, and provision of constructive and fruitful comments in the course of this work.

Thirdly, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Abdulfeta Alemu and my wife, W/ro Hamelmal Fikadu for their support in comments and wise recommendation without which I would not have been able to complete this thesis. Fourthly, I would like to thank East Meskan woreda Agriculture office especially, Food Security and Safety Net Program coordinators and the Safety Net respondent beneficiaries' for their unreserved information and provision of facilitation in the processes of data collection to succeed my thesis work.

Lastly but not least, I would like to express my profound gratitude to my friends Mr. Belay Asnake, for he had supported me morally and materially to do this Thesis research.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr.Yohanis Mesele, the Deputy Head of the East Meskan Woreda Agriculture Office, for he has helped me in facilitating suitable environments and moral support in the process of collecting data for the study in the district.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AED	Agriculture Extension Directorate
AGP	Agricultural Growth Program
BOA	Bureau of Agriculture
BOFED	Bureau of Finance and Economic Development
CAPWP	Community Annual Public Works Plan
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
HABP	Household Asset Building Program
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOFED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOLSA	Ministry of Labor and Social Affair
MOARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Program
SNNP	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (Region)
UNICEF	United Nation International Children’s Emergency Fund

Table of contents

Contents	page
DECLARATION	vii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	viii
<i>Table of contents</i>	ii
<i>List of Tables</i>	v
<i>List of figures/ illustrations</i>	vi
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. Background of the Study.....	1
1.1. Statements of the Problem	3
1.3.2. The specific objectives	6
1.4 . Research Questions	6
1.4. Significance of the Study	7
1.5. The Scope (Delimitations) of the study.....	7
CHAPTER TWO	10
2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	10
2.1. Concepts of Food Security	10
2.3. Food Security Situation in Ethiopia	11
2.4. Households Coping Mechanisms against Food Insecurity in Ethiopia	15
2.4.1. The concept of Safety Net Program and its experience in Ethiopia.....	16
2.5. Theoretical framework.....	20
2.6. Review of empirical evidence	21
2.6.1. Productive safety net challenges in achieving food security.....	22

2.7. Policy Review	25
2.7.1. Food Security Policy in Ethiopia	25
2.8. Review of Productive Safety Net Program Implementation Manual	26
2.8.1. Objectives of Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP)	26
2.8.2. Targeting	26
2.8.3. Criteria for Selection of Households	27
2.8.4. Conditional and Unconditional Transfers	28
2.8.4. Graduation	28
2.8.5. Institutional and Management Arrangements of PSNP	29
CHAPTER THREE	31
METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY	31
3.3. Data Type and Source	34
3.4.1. Primary source	34
3.4.2. Secondary Sources	34
3.4. Sampling Frame	34
3.4.1. Population	34
3.4.2. Sampling Techniques	35
3.4.3. Sample size	35
3.5. Data Collection Tools/Instruments	35
3.5.1. Questionnaire	35
3.5.2. Key informant Interview	36
3.5.3. Focus group discussion	37
3.5.4. Document Analysis	37
3.6. Methods of data Analysis	37

3.6. Ethical considerations	38
CHAPTER FOUR.....	39
Results and Discussion.....	39
4.1. Demographic Characteristic of the Respondents	39
Table 2. Demographic Characteristic of the Respondents	39
4.2. Analysis and interpretation of the collected data.	41
4.2.1. Perceptions of beneficiaries towards productive safety net program	41
4.2.2. Practice and of Productive Safety Net Program	43
4.2.3. Effects of safety net program in food security	57
4.3. Discussion.....	57
CHAPTER FIVE.....	59
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	59
5.1. Conclusion	59
5.2. Recommendations.....	63
References	i
Appendix A	iv
Appendix B	xi
Appendix C	xii
Appendix D	xiii
Table1. Woreda Partner sectors Key Responsibilities.....	xx

List of Tables

<i>Table1. Woreda Partner sectors Key Responsibilities.....</i>	<i>Error! Bookmark not defined.</i>
<i>Table 2. Demographic Characteristic of the Respondents.....</i>	<i>39</i>
<i>Table 3: Perceptions of the beneficiaries to ensure house hold food security</i>	<i>Error! Bookmark not defined.</i>
<i>Table 4. House, farm land and Livestock ownership</i>	<i>43</i>
<i>Table 5:-Targeting practice</i>	<i>44</i>
<i>Table 6;- Transfer and related practice.....</i>	<i>45</i>
<i>Table 7:- Technical advice, Follow up and support practice</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>Table8: Contribution of Productive Safety Net Program</i>	<i>48</i>
<i>Table 9:- security issues as a challenge the implementation of safety net program</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>Table 10:- Targeting related challenges.....</i>	<i>51</i>
<i>Table 11:-Transfer related challenges.....</i>	<i>52</i>
<i>Table 12:- Agricultural technologies related challenges</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>Table 13:- e extension services from the agricultural experts.....</i>	<i>54</i>
<i>Table 14:- Institutional related challenges</i>	<i>55</i>
<i>Table 15:- Nature related challenges</i>	<i>56</i>

List of figures/ illustrations

Figure 1: conceptual frame work 30

*Fig. 2: Planning related challenges the respondents faced in implementing the program*49

Abstract

The PSNP program in Ethiopia aims to improve food security and strengthen household resilience in food-insecure woredas. The program's objectives include improving food security, protecting assets, and strengthening household and community resilience to shocks. The purpose of this study was to assess the challenges of Safety Net Program in improving house hold food security in East Meskan Woreda of Gurage Zone. The study employed a descriptive survey design and a cross-sectional survey to gather data on the challenges of the safety net program in improving household food security in East Meskan Woreda, Gurage Zone. Mixed approach was employed, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the research problem. The qualitative approach was focused on individuals' perceptions opinions gathered through interviews, Focal Group discussion and document analysis while the quantitative approach quantified variables using descriptive statistics. The data were collected through questionnaires, interviews, and focal group discussions. Secondary sources of data included were annual plans, reports, books, articles, and published documents. The target population consisted of beneficiary households of Safety Net Programs, with 344 sample households being the unit of analysis. A simple random sampling technique was employed. The finding of the study indicated that perception of beneficiaries household towards safety net program, farm land and its size, the use of beneficiaries' credit service, technical advice, follow-up, and support by the experts, Lack of active community participation, inadequacy of money transferred from the program, less access to modern agricultural technologies and inputs, inadequacy of extension services, lack of coordination among concerned sectors, and Frequent drought and floods were significant challenge of safety net program in improving house hold food security in East Meskan Woreda of Gurage Zone. Finally, following the findings of the study, it was recommended that human development activities should be considered, diversified livelihood strategies, and ensuring food security through hard work and commitment should be executed by the beneficiaries. The program's payments should be revised and integrated into development plans, and the use of modern agricultural technologies and inputs should be improved.

Key words: Household Food security, Beneficiaries, Improving, Safety net, protecting asset

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Food security conceptually refers to having physical and economic access to safe and nutritious food in sufficient quantity to meet dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO, 2008). World Bank (1986:1) defined food security as: “access of food by all people at all times for an active and healthy life”. It encompasses food availability (adequate supply of food) and food access through home production, purchase in the market, or transfer (Degefa, 2002). Food security is the ability of households to acquire acceptable foods in a socially acceptable way (Okolo & Obidigbo, 2015)

The need for food has been increasing in our world due to increasing demand from a rising number of populations of the world and limited agricultural production (De Redder, 2011). The root cause of food insecurity in developing countries is the inability of people to gain access to food due to poverty. At World summit on social development in Copenhagen in 1995, 117 countries adopted a declaration and program of action with commitment to eradicate absolute poverty and reduce overall poverty (Gordon, 2005). However, still the problem needs special commitment, and efforts were not as such successful in eradicating poverty and food insecurity because of institutional, demographic, socio-economic and natural challenges. Consequently, after the new millennium many countries adopted social safety net as a means of reducing poverty and food insecurity (ibid). Until the end of 1990's reactions to the problem of food security have traditionally focused on food-based emergency responses, making populations dependent on food aid (Teklay 2009). Many poor households are forced to take advantage of the food security program because of the risks they face and their vulnerability to asset depletion. An emergency program has been in place financed through an annual appeal system with updates; suffers from unpredictable resourcing with the result that it failed to prevent asset depletion and did not enable the construction of useful community assets.

Therefore, the Productive Safety Net Program has been designed as an asset protection mechanism for the household level and to create productive community assets. In Ethiopia, The principal response to the persistent food insecurity problem before 2005 was emergency food aid through unpredictable appeal system (MoARD 2009). From 1998 to 2005, the number of yearly beneficiaries of food aid becomes raised up to about 14 million (Devereux et al. 2006). Food aid from different donors has saved lives of many people, but it has contributed little to food security because of ignorance of integrating these aids with natural resource management (Devereux *et al*, 2006).

Recognizing this in 2005, the government of Ethiopia has launched a new program known as Productive Safety Net, aiming at improving food security in rural areas of the country (UNICEF National Social Protection Budget Brief, 2017). The Productive Safety Net Program is one of the strategies designed to ensure food security by focusing on pro-poor people. Since then under four successive phases of the program, many efforts have been made to meet the objectives of the program.

The rural safety net provides monthly cash or food transfers to chronically food insecure households in rural woredas. Households that are unable to carry out public works receive direct, unconditional cash or food transfers throughout the year. The safety net transfers allow customers to meet their consumption needs, reduce the risk they face and provide households with alternatives to adverse coping tools (UNICEF National Social Protection Budget Brief, 2017). When community's asset is built and linked with other farming and income-generating programs, family wealth can be protected and actually grow and graduation occurs after family wealth grows to a reasonable level (Arega, 2012).

Actually, it is not expected, however, that the program alone will itself move households towards food sufficiency and security. For this to occur, additional interventions like using modern agricultural technologies and access to credit institutions are required to build household assets and address vulnerabilities that make households food insecure (Stephen Devereux et.al, 2008). Therefore, PSNP provides livelihoods support in the form of skill training, business planning, credit facilitation, and employment linkages (Ministry of Agriculture (MoA, 2010).

But in practice, however, it was not adequately secured as per the plan. The same to other program areas, East Meskan woreda of Gurage zone is also one of the beneficiaries of the program. The woreda has a total of 14 kebeles in which all kebeles of the woreda have been supported by the program. According to East Meskan Woreda Agricultural Office annual report; the safety net program has contributed little to improve household food security. Therefore, it is very essential to assess the challenges that may affect the Safety net program in improving food security.

1.1. Statements of the Problem

Food insecurity is a major issue in Ethiopia, with five to six million people chronically food insecure and in need of food assistance each year (Hayalu, 2014). To address this, the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) was released in 2005 to reduce the number of households requiring external food aid and support. However, according to Arega (2012) and Gilligan et al. (2009) only 1.3% of beneficiary households were graduated satisfying minimum requirements of food security, and two-thirds of Ethiopia's and 83% of SNNPR beneficiaries have no confidence to graduate from the program achieving food security respectively.

Ensuring food security needs better implementation of productive safety net program as per specified by the program manual. According to Ministry of Agriculture (2014), any errors or challenges during implementation of Safety Net Program can critically affect the effectiveness of the program in attaining food security. Mihaela (2014) also stated that the program objective is frequently failed because of challenges encountered in the implementation process. According to Dicks (2012), the main challenges are limited capacity to ensure the design and application of technical standards, community-based planning, and information management and reporting. Other challenges that negatively affect the program are the dependency mentality, way of targeting, weak institutional linkage and lack of active community participation in the decision-making process (Gebru et al., 2009).

Based on the implementation manual, planning or selecting eligible beneficiaries that satisfy the criteria of the safety net program is vital. However, Sharp et al. (2006) contend

that at a lower level, the quality of targeting is questioned. As a result, the program fails to include the poorest in need households. Dervereux et al. (2008) further explained that the reason for the targeting of richer households for the PSNP is to achieve graduation easily in a short period of time as per the plan.

The other challenge is the amount of money delivered. Dervereux et.al (2008) stated that Most beneficiaries remain uncertain about whether and when they will receive their cash or food payments, and very few of them feel confident enough to plan ahead (e.g. taking loans using the PSNP as collateral) in the expectation of receiving PSNP transfers. Gebre and Girma (2012), in their study indicate that drought is the main natural shock that challenged PSNP. From the four regions (Tigray, Amhara, Oromiya, and SNNPR), 57% of the clients reported that they are forced to lose some assets and exposed to food gaps due to subsequent drought. Alemayehu, et al (2008) tried to discuss how the Productive Safety Net Program, together with other food security programs such as the Household Asset Building Program (HABP), reduces household food insecurity, raises consumption levels, and encourages households to engage in production and other economic activities through improved access to credit, increased use of modern farming techniques, and entry into nonfarm own business activities as an alternative means.

East Meskan Woreda is one of the PSNP target districts in SNNP Region, defined by the government as chronic food insecurity. According to the information from the woreda agricultural office, despite the early start of the program in the area, there is still food security problems and it remains supported by the Safety Net Program. According to the SNNPR Agricultural Bureau's 10 years development plan document (2013) page 27, it was planned to graduate 260,000 beneficiaries but only 14,310(5.5%) beneficiaries were able to graduate. The rest beneficiaries were forced to move on to the next phase of the program and some of them still supported by the program. Similarly as indicated on page 20 of the Gurage Zone Agriculture Department's 10-years Development Plan (2012), even though it was planned to graduate 706 household beneficiaries who have ensured their household food security at household level, nothing was realized as per the plan.

There are some empirical studies that are done by different researchers regarding safety net and food security in rural households of Ethiopia. To mention some of them, a study

conducted by Melaku (2010) effectiveness of a program to protect assets from reduction at the household and community level in Shashogo Woreda, Hadiya Zone. Even though the findings of his research revealed that PSNP has brought significant improvement in households' food consumption and in protecting assets of the beneficiaries from depletion, it was conducted just ten years ago in which it didn't cover recent phases (the third and fourth) of the program. A study conducted by Nigussa and Mberengwa (2009) indicates that program participants possess very low asset holdings and most of them are very poor quality. Tadele (2011) investigated the effects of PSNP on long-term sustainability and management in the Oromia region's Adami tulu Jido Kombolcha Districts. However, the research focuses on the PSNP's contribution to sustainable land management, and the sample respondents include both PSNP beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.

Furthermore, the research has identified factors that influence farm-level participation and intensity in using sustainable land management practices. Mulumebet also conducted a study at the local level (2010) on the contribution of productive safety net program at Jamma woreda in southern Wollo. Even if the study was conducted at local level the sample respondents were selected from women beneficiaries house hold only even though the issue of the program is not only the issue of women alone. Despite the fact that some researchers conducted the research at the national and local levels especially on program phases1, 2 and 3 in which phase 4 and 5 of the program didn't seen yet. Therefore, nowadays things are dynamic and can change overnight. Furthermore, previous research results on Safety Net Program also need update and timely data sources, and above all, the recent market value of food crops and the buying power of money transferred to program beneficiary is of a big challenge. This research seeks to focus on PSNP's implementation challenges, perception of the beneficiaries toward the program, practice and contributions of the program so as to bridge such gaps which was unseen by previous researchers.

To the researchers' knowledge, no similarly titled study has been conducted in the Eastern Meskan Woreda, a woreda newly formed recently departing from meskan woreda. Hence, although there have been several attempts to evaluate the PSNP's obstacles across the nation, there is a dearth of empirical data about the program's difficulties in attaining food security, particularly in the study area. Identifying and addressing the key challenges of

safety net programs in the Eastern Meskan Woreda is therefore of critical importance in improving food insecurity. Otherwise, if challenges are not recognized and addressed accordingly, it can adversely affect household food security programs. This reality therefore calls for conducting research in the Eastern Meskan Woreda to identify the key challenges in implementing safety net programs and thereby improve household food security.

1.3. Objectives

1.3.1. General objective

The main objective of the study is to assess the challenges of Safety Net Program in improving household food security in East Meskan Woreda of Gurage Zone.

1.3.2. The specific objectives

The specific objectives of the study are:-

To examine the perception of users towards the program with respect to food security.

To identify the prevailing practice of the Safety Net Program in achieving household food security.

To explore demographic, planning, social, economic, and environmental challenges of Safety Net Program in improving food security in East Meskan Woreda.

1.4 . Research Questions

1. What are the perceptions of local beneficiaries towards the program with respect to food security situation in the study area?
2. What are the prevailing practices of the Safety Net Program in achieving household food security?
3. What are the demographic, planning, social, economic, and environmental challenges of Safety Net Program in the study area

1.4. Significance of the Study

The findings are significant to help the local program beneficiaries to solve and put solution to the challenges they face in their day to day life. It also provide empirical source of information for the woreda agricultural office and its partners to make decisions on how to improve the further operation of the program. It enables the local food security and safety net taskforce to recognize the challenges of the safety net program to improving food security. It helps Government Agricultural offices and donors to develop suitable intervention mechanisms so as to fully achieve the expected objectives. It will also help policy makers to be informed so as to revise or formulate policies and strategies of the specific issue under study. It may help as a reference material to those who would be interested in studying the issue further in depth.

1.5. The Scope (Delimitations) of the study

The study was focused only on identifying major challenges of Safety Net Program in improving household food security in rural parts of East Meskan Woreda. The study was coved beneficiaries of 14 kebeles of which 344 households out of 2459 household beneficiaries to make the research more manageable and feasible. The study was also delimited to questionnaire, interview, and FGD and document analysis as tools for data collection.

1.6. Limitation of the Study

In the course of conducting this study, the researcher was experienced a lot of limitations particularly during the data collection phase that could affect the finding of the study directly or indirectly. The researcher faced a challenge of finding out direct support beneficiaries since most of them are disabled and aged people as well as the scattered nature of rural houses. This in turn put significant impacts upon the time and the financial resources used.

The other big challenge encountered was Bureaucratic procedure of some woreda officials and experts to give appropriate data and information.

1.7. Organization of the Study

This thesis was organized in five chapters. The first chapter covers background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, delimitation and operational definition of key terms of the study. Chapter two was about literature review which includes main concepts, Conceptual definitions, Conceptual frame work, Theoretical framework, Empirical finding, Policy review and Review of Productive Safety Net Program Implementation ManualChapter three covers the research methodology. The fourth chapter was about research findings and analysis. The last chapter deals with conclusions and recommendations based on findings obtained from the data analysis.

1.8. Operational Definitions of Key Terms

Targeting: Is the actual identification of target households by the Food Security Task Force and the verification of the client list by a public meeting in which the entire PSNP client list is read out and discussed (Ministry of Agriculture, 2010).

PSNP Beneficiary: The clients of the PSNP are the food insecure populations living in chronically food insecure Woredas. The vast majority of PSNP clients are resource poor male and female headed households who fail to produce or purchase enough food even in times of normal crop production season/rains (Ministry of Agriculture, 2010).

Chronically food insecure rural households: Households that are regularly unable to produce or purchase enough food to meet their food needs, even during times of normal rain, are considered chronically food insecure (Ministry of Agriculture, 2010).

Food Availability: - refers to the physical existence of food, whether from the household's own farm or garden production or from domestic or international markets.

Food Access: - refers to the resources individuals have at hand to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious die (1992).

Safety Net (PSNP):-is the program that provides a safety net (cash or food, according to the preference of the beneficiaries) for people who have food gaps (Ministry of Agriculture, 2010).

Graduation: is the exit of the beneficiary from the program when the clients have achieved the required food security status to graduate. “A household has graduated when, in the absence of receiving PSNP transfers, it can meet its food needs for all 12 months and is able to withstand modest shocks” (FSCB, 2007: 1)

CHAPTER TWO

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1. Concepts of Food Security

Food security conceptually refers to having physical and economic access to safe and nutritious food in sufficient quantity to meet dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO, 2008). "The availability of sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet the nutritional needs of an active and healthy life, ensuring that all people can bet a healthy and active life," is how Maxwell (1996) defined food security. According to this definition, food security is guaranteed only if three conditions are met. First, sufficient food must be available through domestic production and/or imports. Second, people must have sufficient resources to obtain enough food. Third, in order to achieve nutritional needs, food must be used in conjunction with enough water, sanitary conditions. Similarly, according to Haddad (1997), food security is attained when people ways have access to sufficient food to lead a healthy and productive life, and he states that it consists of three main components of which will be Food availability, access to food and food use. As evidenced by the numerous efforts at definition in research and policy applications, food security is a "Flexible Concept." A deeper understanding of the complexity of the technical and policy difficulties involved has been mirrored in the ongoing growth of food security as an operational concept in public policy (Clay, 2002). The conception of food security was developed in the middle of the 1970s among the international debate on the world food crisis. Food supply issues that affected ensuring the availability and, to some extent, the price stability of basic food items at the international and national level were the first focus of attention on food security (FAO, 2005). As a result, in the 1970s, the term "food security" referred to the nation's ability to meet the population's dietary requirements for nutrients and energy. Many development professionals define household food security as the availability of food on the global market and based on the food production systems of developing nations (Bedeke, 2012). Due to global food crises and severe famines since the World Food Conference in 1974, the phrase "Food Security" has been established, refined, and diversified by various scholars. Whether or not households have adequate access to appropriate quality and quantity of food is referred to as either

having food security or having food insecurity. In the 1970s, concerns about food security rose to prominence and have since received a lot of attention. It affects how people feel on a global, national, household, and personal level. Food security at the national level is not always guaranteed at the global level. Additionally, Duffour (2010) noted that national food security does not imply family or even individual food security. Food security has been outlined by various writers and organizations in a number of ways. There are over 200 definitions and 450 food security indicators related to this. However, FAO (2004) provides the most complete definition, which reads: "Food that is available to everyone at all times, that they have means of access to it, that it is nutritionally adequate in terms of quantity, quality, and variety, and that it is acceptable within the given culture." A population can only be deemed to be food secure when all these prerequisites are met. Food insecurity results from the absence of any of these circumstances at the local, regional, and national levels. When food intakes are consistently insufficient to meet daily dietary energy needs, resulting to the most severe stage of food insecurity known as "hunger," it can be deemed to be severe food insecurity. Globally, the number of undernourished individuals has increased as a result of food insecurity from 848 million in 2003 to 2005 to 925 million in 2010 (FAO, 2010b).

2.3. Food Security Situation in Ethiopia

Developing countries and the developed world alike continue to face difficulties in achieving complete food security. The degree of the issue, in terms of its seriousness and the percentage of the population impacted, differs (Tsegaye, 2009). Ethiopia previously experienced famine between 1983 and 1985; it was the worst famine in recent memory, with significant crop and livestock losses. Eight million Ethiopians were impacted, and one million of them have perished.

The famine also had long-term impacts since it made many of the impoverished even more vulnerable to future crises because they had spent down their assets to deal with it. Due to war in the country's north and persistent drought in other areas, famine risk persisted into the middle of the 1990s (Webb and Von, 1994). Ethiopia has gone through extended times of food insecurity. As a result, more than half of the population is poor and food insecure,

with rural residents making up the greatest segment of those who lack the resources to both produce and buy food (Sisay and Adugna, 2001).

Similar to the previous example, a combination of man-made and natural factors leads to a major and growing food insecurity problem, exposing five to six million people annually to a problem of chronic and transient food insecurity as well as ten million people to vulnerability and low resilience (FAO, 2006). According to FAO (2014), Ethiopia, which is ranked first among African nations, is the worst since approximately 33 million people there suffer from chronic undernourishment and food insecurity, making Sub-Saharan Africa the region with the highest prevalence of undernourishment and food insecurity. This shows that Ethiopia, where more than 35% of the population is chronically undernourished, has one of the highest rates of food insecurity in the world. According to the findings of various research, Ethiopia suffers from widespread chronic and acute food insecurity, particularly among rural and smallholder farmers. According to a 2014 UNICEF study, about 10% of Ethiopians live in chronic food insecurity, and during years of frequent drought, this number increases to more than 15%. In 2014, 2.7 million people will need emergency food assistance, and 238,761 children will need treatment for severe acute malnutrition.

On the other hand, the World Food Program (WFP) report showed that most regions had favorable conditions for food security; yet, it was anticipated that over 7.1 million people experience a crisis. The number of children with severe acute malnutrition in the Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Southern Nation Nationality Peoples region, Somali and Tigray regions showed a slight decrease from 21,566 (86.2% reporting rate) to 21,105 in 2014 (84.4% reporting rate) (WFP, 2014). These populations are in North Eastern Amhara, Eastern Tigray, and Eastern Oromia.

Numerous research was conducted in both urban and rural areas of the nation, and these studies came to the conclusion that households' levels of food security vary from one district to the next and from region to region. According to empirical evidence, the majority of households in the country's center experience food insecurity. For instance, Beyene and Muche (2010) noted that 36% of households were food secure and that 64% of households experienced food insecurity. Additionally, it was discovered that the

average daily energy availability for homes with and without access to food was 1,822 Kcal/AE/day and 2,908 Kcal/AE/day, respectively. Households with food insecurity had a minimum and highest energy supply of 1,043 Kcal and 2,098 Kcal, respectively. The minimum and highest energy intakes in homes with access to food were 2,203 and 3,492 calories, respectively.

Furthermore, according to another survey, food insecurity affected 58.16% of all households in the region, with the gap and severity of the problem being 20% and 9.4%, respectively (Girma, 2012). There is a high frequency of food insecurity in the northern area of Ethiopia, according to several reports. According to Mesfin's (2014) research, 48% of the households in the area experienced food insecurity. Additionally, according to Motbainor et al. (2016), the prevalence of food insecurity in the west and east Gojjam zones of the Amhara area was 51.3% and 59.2%, respectively. According to research done in the northern region of the country, which is prone to drought, the majority (74%) of households were also struggling with food insecurity (Arega, 2013). Contrary to this, Tsegay (2009) found that 58% of rural households were food secure and that the incidence of food insecurity in rural households of the Tigray region was 42%, which was lower than the incidence in other drought-prone areas. Most empirical studies in eastern Ethiopia supported the idea that the vast majority of households had access to enough food. For instance, Lemma and Wondimagegn (2014) found that 62.7% of households had access to enough food, whereas 37.3% did not.

In addition, Hussein and Janekarnkij (2013) noted that 37% of households in the Somali region were found to be food insecure, compared to 63% of those that were food secure. On the other hand, a different study (Abdirahman, 2015) supported the fact that around 56.5% of households in the region experienced food insecurity. Additionally, Gemechu et al. (2015) reported that 32.9% of households in West Hararghe were food secure compared to 67.1% of households who reported being food insecure. Additionally, according to Bogale and Shimelis (2009), food insecurity affected nearly 75% of households in Dire Dawa. According to several reports, food insecurity is less common in the southern region of Ethiopia than it is in the rest of the nation. According to Mitiku et al. (2012), 64% of households in the Shashemene district had access to enough food,

compared to 36% who did not. Furthermore, Mequanent et al. (2014) found that 57.1% of households were food secure whereas 42.9% of them experienced food insecurity.

Despite this, according to Nigatu (2011), 54% of households in some southern Ethiopian regions are experiencing moderate to severe food insecurity. Ahmed (2015) furthered this by estimating that 77% of bule hora households experienced food insecurity. Additionally, the most of rural households in the Guraghe zone (84.91%) experienced food insecurity (Zelalem, 2014). According to the research (Buom, 2013) in the Gambella region, 80.8% of rural households lacked access to food, compared to 19.2% of the rural homes in the sample. In general, there is a significant frequency of food insecurity throughout the nation, but it is more severe in the western and drought-prone regions than in other regions.

The anxiety of meals protection has to a huge volume been addressed via way of means of annual emergency resource from distinctive outside donors. The emergency resource for an extended time frame isn't foreseeable and supplied with inside the shape of emergency help. Even though call for alleviation help is associated with the failure of rain fall however in Ethiopia, it suggests an increase in the depth and extent of poverty. According to the World Bank (2011), there was request for humanitarian help from the Ethiopian governments every year since the 1984 famine.

Predominantly the shortage of food was caused by drought, human and livestock disease as well as resource-based conflict have been aggravated the problem and main challenge for the food insecurity situation in Ethiopia (FAO, 2012). Recognizing the situation, the Ethiopian governments formally declared in 2011 envisioned five million Ethiopian human beings have been in want of emergency meals help. The effect of herbal and man-made phenomena has made the United States depending on the emergency meals resource for an extended time (Devereux et al., 2006). But the Food aid has been characterized by many challenging situations like the quantity of emergency meals resource grants much less than the real wished and the reliability of meals resource relies upon on different interrelated elements together with the political dating among donors and receiver countries, transportation, and donor's willingness to offer food aids (Devereux, et al,

2006). As a result of this, to maintain or minimize the problems, the governments of Ethiopia undertake food security program in 2010.

2.4. Households Coping Mechanisms against Food Insecurity in Ethiopia

Empirical evidence conveyed that, due to the economy's dependence on weather sensitive agriculture sector, the incidence of food insecurity was high. The government has developed and is still developing several policies and programs to lessen the occurrence of food insecurity. Along with the government's role, households across the nation adopted a variety of coping strategies to deal with the food insecure scenario. In Ethiopia, rural farm households employ various coping mechanisms to achieve food security, including livestock sales, agricultural employment, grain loans, firewood gathering, petty trade, daily wage labor, and handicrafts (Birara et al., 2015; Woldeamanuel, 2009). In Central Ethiopia, farmers sell animal dung, reduce meat consumption, consume wild plant species, rely on remittances, and offer house parts for sale (Birara et al., 2015; Frehiwot, 2007). Lemma and Wondimagegn (2014) found that rural households in Eastern Ethiopia use livestock accumulation, social capital investment, and nonfarm activities as coping mechanisms for food deficits. Southern Ethiopian households use principal coping strategies, including providing food and income, regular farming, and complementary methods.

Complementary coping strategies include increasing food access, minimizing food consumption, diversifying livelihoods, crop diversification, wage labor, and seasonal migration (Nigatu, 2011; Ahmed, 2015). Rural households in Southern Ethiopia use various methods to escape food deficits, such as buying food grains, selling livestock, and borrowing money Ahmed (2015). Despite having better access to agricultural products, rural households are more likely to be food insecure than urban ones (Motbainor et al., 2016).

Studies in Northern Ethiopia show that coping mechanisms for food insecurity include reducing meal consumption, postponing festivals, selling small ruminants, harvesting un matured crops, selling livestock, requesting loans, reducing school and medical expenses, and selling farm tools(Guinand, 2001); Silvestri et al., 2012; Arega, 2015). Households in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas, particularly in the Somali region, use various strategies

such as selling livestock, agriculture employment, and relying on relief assistance. Their coping mechanisms include: selling livestock, agriculture employment, part time work, engaging into income generating activities and in food for work activities and other get food relief from NGOs and the government, reducing meal consumption, selling small ruminants and draft oxen, borrowing of cash and/or food from better-off neighbors and/or relatives, off-farm employment, migrating to other area, grain loan requesting, gathering and selling fire wood and charcoal, petty trading, selling animal dung and crop residues, increasing wild plant consumption, depending on relief assistance and remittances from relatives, selling their clothes and dismantling of parts of their houses for sale (Chlembo, 2004; Abdirahman, 2015).

2.4.1. The concept of Safety Net Program and its experience in Ethiopia

Ethiopia has had a long history of food insecurity for many decades. Over the past decades, the country has been the largest receiver of food aid in Africa and the world (Little, 2008). For individual beneficiaries, food aid was characterized by uncertainty, poor timing, and inadequacy. The Ethiopian Food Security Strategy, drafted in 1996, was given emphasis to government plans to address the reasons and consequences of food security in Ethiopia (MOARD, 1996). The strategy pays a "top-down" approach, employing local food security programs and projects that are subsequently designed based on federal strategies. In 2002-2003, 15 million Ethiopians were in a critical need of food assistance, forcing the government to consult with partners called the New Coalition for Food Security (MOARD, 2006). As a result, discussions between the government and partners prompted a shift in thinking from characterizing Ethiopia's annual food needs as short-term because of specific natural shocks to a strong mindset. Thus, the new understanding is that food aid is a consequence of chronic poverty that is difficult to address through short-term efforts to facilitate consumption, while emergency relief efforts can be complemented.

In 2005, the Ethiopian government and donor groups (including the World Bank, the United States Agency for International Development, the Canadian Agency for International Development, and several donors) launched a new social protection program called the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP).

The initiative was created as a component of the government of Ethiopia's larger food security program, which emphasizes areas that enhance family life. The safety net program is anticipated to safeguard household assets and maintain consumption, while additional programs are anticipated to assist households in building wealth and generating income. Its goals include the protection and enhancement of livelihoods. Social protection theories have developed over time. It is regarded as minimal social aid in nations that lack the financial resources and administrative strength to implement extensive social welfare programs (Devereux & Sabates, 2004).

National social protection strategies were being developed and adopted by an increasing number of national governments in the developing world as part of their planning to reduce poverty. Today, almost every nation has some type of social protection created to help assistance financially during difficult times. The persistent global difficulties (such as food shortages, price shocks, climate change, and others) and the present economic downturn highlight the need for better social protection measures. A fresh program for a productive safety net was also introduced by the Ethiopian government in 2005, originally intended to address the issues of 4.5 million communities with chronic food insecurity in the 262 districts of the nation and expected to reach more than eight million people with chronic food insecurity (MoARD, 2006).

The PSNP was established in 2005 with the goal of assisting food-insecure households in overcoming vulnerabilities without losing their assets and, over time, assisting households in accumulating assets. With an estimated increase to ten million people, it had assisted more than seven million people in 2015. By developing a program that not only addressed food shortage but also preserved home assets and established community assets to achieve sustainable production and food security, it was intended to move away from the conventional, transitory approach of responding to chronic food insecurity (MoARD, 2006).

The program has two key goals that are interconnected (Amdissa, 2006). The first is to end the loss of household assets, and the second is to deal with some of the underlying issues that lead to food insecurity by generating assets for the community through public works. The safety net program seeks to accomplish four goals by focusing on these two areas

(WFP, 2012): support rural transformation, avoid long-term consequences of short-term food accessibility, encourage households to invest in production, and encourage market development by boosting household purchasing power. These goals will eventually result in households being able to support themselves with food, which will eventually diminish Ethiopian poverty (WFP, 2012). For six months of the year, households who fit for work adult laborers participate in public works projects and receive transfers. Public works are concentrated on integrated community-based watershed development, which includes actions like land management, water and soil conservation, and the construction of community assets like roads, water infrastructure, schools, and clinics. Through greater availability of natural resources such as water and cultivable land, soil fertility, increased agricultural production, and improved market access, these projects can improve livelihoods, promote disaster risk management and climate resilience, and improve nutrition (productive safety net program, 2014).

Food insecurity is a major issue in Ethiopia, with five to six million people chronically food insecure and in need of food assistance each year (Hayalu, 2014). To address this, the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) was released in 2005 to reduce the number of households requiring external food aid and support. However, according to Arega (2012) and Gillingan et al. (2009) only 1.3% of beneficiary households were graduated satisfying minimum requirements of food security, and two-thirds of Ethiopia's and 83% of SNNPR beneficiaries have no confidence to graduate from the program achieving food security respectively.

Ensuring food security needs better implementation of productive safety net program as per specified by the program manual. According to Ministry of Agriculture (2014), any errors or challenges during implementation of Safety Net Program can critically affect the effectiveness of the program in attaining food security. Mihaela (2014) also stated that the program objective is frequently failed because of challenges encountered in the implementation process. According to Dicks (2012), the main challenges are limited capacity to ensure the design and application of technical standards, community-based planning, and information management and reporting. Other challenges that negatively affect the program are the dependency mentality, way of targeting, weak institutional

linkage, and lack of active community participation in the decision-making process (Gebru et al., 2009).

Based on the implementation manual, planning or selecting eligible beneficiaries that satisfy the criteria of the safety net program is vital. However, Sharp et al. (2006) contend that at a lower level, the quality of targeting is questioned. As a result, the program fails to include the poorest households among its beneficiaries. Dervereux et al. (2008) further explained that the reason for the targeting of richer households for the PSNP is to achieve graduation easily in a short period of time as per the plan.

The other challenge is the amount of money delivered. Dervereux et.al (2008) stated that Most beneficiaries remain uncertain about whether and when they will receive their cash or food payments, and very few of them feel confident enough to plan(e.g. taking loans using the PSNP as collateral) in the expectation of receiving PSNP transfers. Gebre and Girma (2012), in their study indicate that drought is the main natural shock that challenged PSNP. From the four regions (Tigray, Amhara, Oromiya, and SNNPR) 57% of the clients report that they are forced to lose some assets and food gaps due to subsequent drought. Alemayehu, et al (2008) tried to discuss how the Productive Safety Net Program, together with other food security programs such as the Household Asset Building Program (HABP), reduces household food insecurity, raises consumption levels, and encourages households to engage in production and other economic activities through improved access to credit, increased use of modern farming techniques, and entry into nonfarm own business activities as an alternative means.

There are some empirical studies that are done by different researchers regarding safety net and food security in rural households of Ethiopia. To mention some of them, a study conducted by Melaku (2010) effectiveness of a program to protect assets from reduction at the household and community level in Shashogo Woreda, Hadiya Zone. Even though the findings of his research revealed that PSNP has brought significant improvement in households' food consumption and in protecting assets of the beneficiaries from depletion, it was conducted just ten years ago in which it didn't cover recent phases (the third and fourth) of the program. A study conducted by Nigussa and Mberengwa (2009) indicates that program participants possess very low asset holdings and most of them are very poor

quality. Tadele (2011) investigated the effects of PSNP on long-term sustainability and management in the Oromia region's Adami tulu Jido Kombolcha Districts. However, the research focuses on the PSNP's contribution to sustainable land management, and the sample respondents include both PSNP beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. Furthermore, the research has identified factors that influence farm-level participation and intensity in using sustainable land management practices. Mulumebet also conducted a study at the local level (2010) on the contribution of productive safety net program at Jamma woreda in southern Wollo.

2.5. Theoretical framework

There are different sociological theories that explain various social issues in divergent manner. Among those theories the researcher would employ symbolic interactionism as a theoretical framework for the discussion of this study in support of Conceptual frame of the study, particularly the George Simmel's explanation about the poor. For instance, Simmel argued that a shared set of rights and obligations defines the relationship between the needy and the givers. The needy have the right to receive aid, and this right makes receiving aid less painful (Simmel 1908). Similarly, the beneficiaries of productive safety net program have their own rights and obligations. These rights and duties are clearly stated in the program implementation manual of the program. Consequently, this theory helps to discuss whether those rights are respected or not, particularly in the findings of the study, mainly in relation to client's rights in the program.

Several empirical studies have been conducted to explore the challenges that food security programs such as PSNP pose to various household welfare outcomes. Evidence from Alderman and Yemtsov (2012) shows that 62% of households that participated in the PSNP avoided selling assets in food-insecure states and 36% avoided using their savings to purchase food.

Additionally, 23% of participants acquired new household assets, 46% used health care more frequently, 39% had more children in school, and 50% had their children in school longer. It turned out that A study (Welteji, 2017) aimed at evaluating the contribution of her PSNP in rural households in the Bale Zone found that PSNP supports beneficiaries in consumption smoothing, wealth creation and community development.

The empirical results of researchers support the fact that this program makes a positive and important contribution to the development of a culture of savings, asset accumulation and diverse livelihood construction strategies. The FSP includes programs that complement the PSNP and provide a path to food security for various types of food insecure households.

The impact assessment of the PSNP uses dose-response modeling (Berhane et al., 2013) to investigate the impact of duration of participation in the public works component of the PSNP on food security and wealth outcomes.

Researchers found that food security and assets (including livestock) were significantly lower in food security and assets (including livestock) for beneficiaries who have been in the program for five years compared to beneficiaries who have been in the program for only one year. Another challenge is that sustainable 'completion' of large-scale social protection programs has not yet been achieved in Africa. Building resilient livelihoods requires a multi-year, comprehensive approach with strong links to social protection and sectors such as agriculture and health. Food security cannot be achieved through a single policy instrument or time-limited program. As social protection in Africa moves inexorably toward integrated systems and national policies reinforced by rights-based legislation, the potential for social protection to contribute to household and national food security will continue to grow.

Various attempts have been made at different levels to demonstrate the introduction of safety net effectiveness factors that are productive in a gradual sense. In addition to the above-mentioned empirical literature, there are also some studies conducted by researchers at the international level. For example, Devereux and Sabates - Wheeler (2012) identify the main drivers of research on livelihood transformation towards a resilient future in Bangladesh, Rwanda and Ethiopia.

2.6. Review of empirical evidence

There are a number of challenges that influence safety net program to improve food security of the house hold in the assessments that were done by different researchers. Some research has been done at the international level. For instance, Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler (2012) attempted to identify the key factors enabling and restricting graduation by dividing them into program-specific, market-specific, beneficiary-specific, and environment-specific enablers and constrainers in their study on transforming

livelihoods for resilient future in Bangladesh, Rwanda, and Ethiopia. Therefore, given an adequate benchmark, the main program-specific constraints are the absence of complementing programs and partial family targeting. Additionally, as market-specific challenges, the study looks at price variation, a lack of a market for commodities, labor, and credit.

2.6.1. Productive safety net challenges in achieving food security

2.6.1.1. Socio-Economic challenges

Since most of the population in Ethiopia lives on subsistence rain-fed agriculture, land is the most important production variables. Because other elements are expected to remain persistent, the size of the household's cultivated land will be one of the components used to define the household's track to food self-reliance. The difference in farm size among PSNP participants will significantly challenge their food security (Hayalu, 2014). As a result, one of the challenging variables for households' food security and graduation from PSNP is the area of the cultivated land (Frankenberger and Sutter, 2007). According to Frank, E (2013), land is the most crucial challenge in agricultural production in least developing countries in majority of the economy is dominated by subsistence and backward agricultural sector. Farm size one of the factors expected to challenge household's path to food self-sufficiency because other things remains constant, difference in farm size among PSNP beneficiaries will have significant effect on their graduation. As a result, land size is one of the criteria for graduation of households. The household head may become less resistant to new agricultural techniques and technology that could increase productivity and production, which would have an impact on the availability of food (Asogwa & Umeh, 2012).

Level of education or literacy is also considered as a challenge in implementing the program based on the program implementation manual to achieve household food security. According to Yibrah (2013), the primary significant challenge preventing family from completing the program was literacy. Farmers with higher level of education tend to be more creative, which makes them more likely to adopt new farming technologies.

2.6.1.3. Institutional Linkage and Support

Institutional considerations are essential for PSNP beneficiary households to graduate at the predetermined time. Beneficiaries are therefore expected to take part in the program for building household assets, which is one of the institutional elements considered in this study. In order to diversify beneficiaries' income streams and maximize their potential for productive assets, HABP offers financial services as well as other types of technical advice services. It is anticipated that households receiving HABP will complete the course. Both agricultural and non-agricultural packages have recipients under the HABP (Assefa, 2013). Because the payment was not transferred during times when grain prices were at their best, the study by Fekadu and Mberengwa (2009) in SNNPR confirms that the unpredictable nature of PSNP transmission impairs beneficiaries' ability to support themselves. Most of the time, the transfer was made, primarily in September and October, when there was little grain available on the market. Even though there was grain available at the time, it was pricey and came at a time when most of the country was experiencing a chronic food scarcity known as "hungry season." Findings by Slater et al. (2006) suggest that the targeting mechanism influences the household's graduation from the protective safety net. The other point is transparency. The overall Food Security Program's primary objective is to reduce food insecurity. The PSNP should eventually help eligible households achieve food security and move on. Then, the graduation process ought to be fair and open. Mulugeta (2021) stated that the program's processes are not transparent.

Delivery service play greater role in improving food security of households. It is anticipated that the extension service will increase the household's ability and knowledge regarding the use of advanced farming inputs and technology, which will positively affect the household's PSNP graduation. According to Hayalu (2014), development agents' follow-up increases the possibility that PSNP will result in food security. When compared to non-users, households that utilize fertilizer are thought to have higher production potential and better food security (Babu and Tashmatov, 1999). As a result, using fertilizer has frequently been thought to increase agricultural productivity per unit area.

Access to credit, which refers to households' access to diverse finance sources, is the other delivery difficulty. Beneficiaries who have access to credit are more likely to secure food

through the program, claim Devereux & Sabates (2011). Also mentioned by Berihun & Hayalu (2015)

The second element is transfers. Transfers can be seen as predictable if program participants are promptly informed of their program eligibility, and they are aware of the type, amount, and timing of the transfer that will be made to them. A transfer is acceptable if it satisfies household requirements; cash is given in settings where markets are robust, whereas food is given in settings where there is no food to buy or when the cost of food is too high (PSNP manual, 2014).

2.6.1.4. Nature related challenges

According to Desalegn (2017) drought was the main natural shock challenged Program. From the four regions (Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, and SNNPR) 57% of the clients reports that they are forced to lose some assets and food gaps due to subsequent drought. Loss of agricultural crops was the second natural challenge affected households during their stay in the program which makes 36% of beneficiaries vulnerable Loss of crops was the second natural factor that affected households during their stay in PSNP which make 36% of beneficiaries vulnerable. Next was frozen which affect the production of crops and other cash crops (Béné et al. 2012).

2.6.1.5. Communities' attitude or perceptions towards the program

Devereux et al. (2014) stated that one of the key obstacles in the processes of food security is a lack of motivation to graduate from the program. Contrary to what the program documentation implied, beneficiaries refused to leave the program even when they met the requirements for its food security because they didn't want to lose the benefit (Sabates-Wheelre et al 2012). Graduated families were questioned about whether they had been prepared to graduate at the time of graduation, according to Sabates Wheeler's (2012) analysis of enablers and constraints of graduation in the Tigray and Oromia regions. As a sign of the high degree of dependency syndrome, 56.8 people in Oromia and 42.5 people in Tigray said that they were unwilling to graduate even though they ensure their food security. Additionally, there is little confidence among current beneficiaries (46.9% of households in Oromia and 32.9% of households in Tigray have no faith that they would

graduate from the PSNP, respectively). The recipient households' high level of dependency syndrome is caused by their concern for future droughts and their lack of easy access to employment possibilities after graduation.

According to Aschale (et al., 2012), homes that have received food aid transfers for the households for more than 20 years have developed a dependency syndrome because of the transfers' lengthy availability.

2.7. Policy Review

2.7.1. Food Security Policy in Ethiopia

Ethiopia has various policies, strategies and programs related to ensure food security at national, regional and household levels. Among those Agricultural Led Industrialization (ADLI), Plan for Accelerated Sustained Development to End Poverty (PASDEP), and Food Security Programs are the major ones. ADLI is the focus area of the Ethiopian government policy aimed as foundation of economic transformation from agriculture to industrialization. The other one is PASDEP which is the leading strategy for economic growth and development. PASDEP replaced Development and Poverty Reduction Program (SDPRP) in October 2005. It laid out the major programs and policies and actions to be taken in each of the major sectors with the ultimate objective of eradicating poverty (MoARD 2006).

The government of Ethiopia has various food security programs (FSP) which was developed in 1996, revised in 2002 and come to implementation since 2003 to eradicate poverty and bring food security at national and household level as well. Among those Programs Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) is one key component which is considered as a paradigm shift from aid based to development-oriented Program (MoARD 2010). Similarly, in the GTP I and GTP II the food security program has been/being implemented moisture deficit area known for their food insecurity problems. The program has experiences with household asset building, safety net, and settlement programs, as well as with off-farm income generating activities and with the relationships between and integration of these activities. The safety net program was also being

implemented jointly with the household asset building program in some food insecure woredas of the country (MoFED 2010).

2.8. Review of Productive Safety Net Program Implementation Manual

There are many things under the PSNP Implementation Manual; among those some related with this study are reviewed as follows:

2.8.1. Objectives of Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP)

The main objective of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) is to assure food consumption and prevent asset depletion for food insecure households in chronically food insecure woredas, while stimulating markets, improving access to services and natural resources, and rehabilitating and enhancing the natural environment (MoARD2010).

2.8.2. Targeting

"Targeting" means the process of defining, identifying and reaching the intended beneficiaries of the program which are extremely poor households in rural Ethiopia, in order to ensure that the neediest receive adequate assistance, that program objectives are met, and that limited resources are used as effectively as possible. Targeting involves a range of decisions at various stages of design and implementation, including who should receive the program's benefits, where; when and for how long; what and how much they should receive; and how the targeted clients will be identified. Targeting involves a range of decisions at various stages of design and implementation, including who should receive the program's benefits, where; when and for how long; what, and how much they should receive; and how the targeted beneficiaries are identified (PSNP Manual,2021).

Targeting is the most important part of the program. Since the failure or the success of the programs to achieve its ultimate goal or objectives depends on the quality of beneficiary selection. For this end, the process of beneficiary selection starts from the community needs assessment, in other words from grassroots level to minimize unexpected outcome. The entire process was in principle driven from the community level, though the administrative bodies provide guidance and supervision, and control the allocation of resources. In this process the Woreda, Kebele and sometimes 'Mender'

Councils were given the key responsibility for hearing appeals or complaints regarding selection biases (Sharp, K., Brown T., and Teshome A. 2006).

In the process of beneficiary selection the Woreda Council and Woreda Food Security Task Force have their own roles and responsibilities. Accordingly, Woreda Council was responsible for the allocation of safety net resources to Kebeles in line with size of vulnerable population and based on the recommendations of the Woreda Food Security Task Force. On the other hand, Woreda Food Security Task Force (WFSTF) is responsible to set criteria for beneficiary selection to suit the specific situations of the Woreda based on the general guiding points (Sharp et al. 2006).

2.8.3. Criteria for Selection of Households

Households in PSNP areas are selected for inclusion in the PSNP if they meet a number of criteria. Since the selection of households as PSNP beneficiaries is constrained by quotas per Woreda established at the federal level (and quotas per Kebele established by the Woredas) not all households that meet the eligibility criteria are selected. The selection is done through a Community-based Targeting process, using the following criteria: Community member (resident in the community for the last 3 years); Extreme poor- Have become suddenly extreme poor as a result of a severe loss of assets (financial, livestock, means of production, assets), especially if linked to the onset of severe chronic illness, such as AIDS and No adequate family support and other means of social protection and support.

There are two types of criteria in PSNP beneficiary selection process outlined by MoARD (2010). The first is basic criteria which contains the following list and applied during the targeting process: The households should be members of the community; Chronically food insecure households who have faced continuous food shortages (3 months of food gap or more per year) in the last 3 years; Households who suddenly become more food insecure as a result of a severe loss of assets (financial, livestock, means of production, assets), especially if linked to the onset of severe chronic illness, such as AIDS, and are therefore unable to meet their food needs even during periods of normal rain; and, Households without adequate family support and other means of social

protection and support.

The second one is supplementary criteria. The aim of this criteria is to assist in the refinement of the client list (further guidance on supplementary criteria may be provided by the WFSTF and forwarded by the KFSTF). These are: Status of household assets: land holding, quality of land, food stock, labor availability, etc.; Income from agricultural and non-agricultural activities; and, Specific vulnerabilities such as female-headed households, households with members suffering from chronic illness, such as AIDS, elderly headed households caring for orphans, etc. (MoARD 2010).

2.8.4. Conditional and Unconditional Transfers

Households meeting the entry criteria to the PSNP and with adequate family labor receive transfers conditional on engaging in Public Works. They are considered eligible for conditional transfers and become part of the labor force for Public Works. Households meeting entry criteria to the PSNP but without ability to supply labor for Public Works receive unconditional transfers. Such support is known as ‘Direct Support’ and households in this category do not work in return for their transfers. These households may be composed of: People who are too young to qualify for Public Works, i.e. 16 years of age, People who are too old to qualify for Public Works, Physically disabled people, mentally disabled people and People who are temporarily unable to work who would normally do so. This includes women who are more than 4 months pregnant; lactating mothers in the first ten months after birth; and people who are sick (MoARD 2010).

2.8.4. Graduation

According to MoARD (2010), a household can be considered for graduation from the PSNP when, in the absence PSNP transfers, it can meet its food needs for all 12 months so as to resist modest shocks. Clients will remain in the PSNP for multiple of years until they reach the graduation verge. They will not be excluded from the PSNP through the annual retargeting exercise if they are better off than other households but have not yet reached the graduation verge, as defined by the regional graduation benchmarks. Each year assessment was undertaken as a first step in the process to determine the eligibility of clients for the PSNP to assess how many PSNP households

have achieved this status and is ready to graduate from the Program. Households identified as being not ready for graduation will remain in the PSNP for one more (Ethiopian) year and

should therefore continue to receive PSNP transfers for the full year after they are assessed to be ready to graduate (MoARD 2012).

2.8.5. Institutional and Management Arrangements of PSNP

The Productive Safety Net Program is a component of the larger Food Security Program of the Government of Ethiopia. Food Security line agencies at every level of Government are accountable for the oversight and coordination of the FSP with implementation being undertaken by line ministries, Government agencies and other partners.

2.9. Conceptual framework

The challenges are classified in to three dimensions namely the perception of the beneficiaries toward the program, the existing practice of the program implementation, and institutional challenges. The dependent variable of this study is improving house hold food security and then graduating from productive safety net program and expected to be challenged by independent variables which can be expressed in terms of demographic, practice of implementation, and institutional challenges.

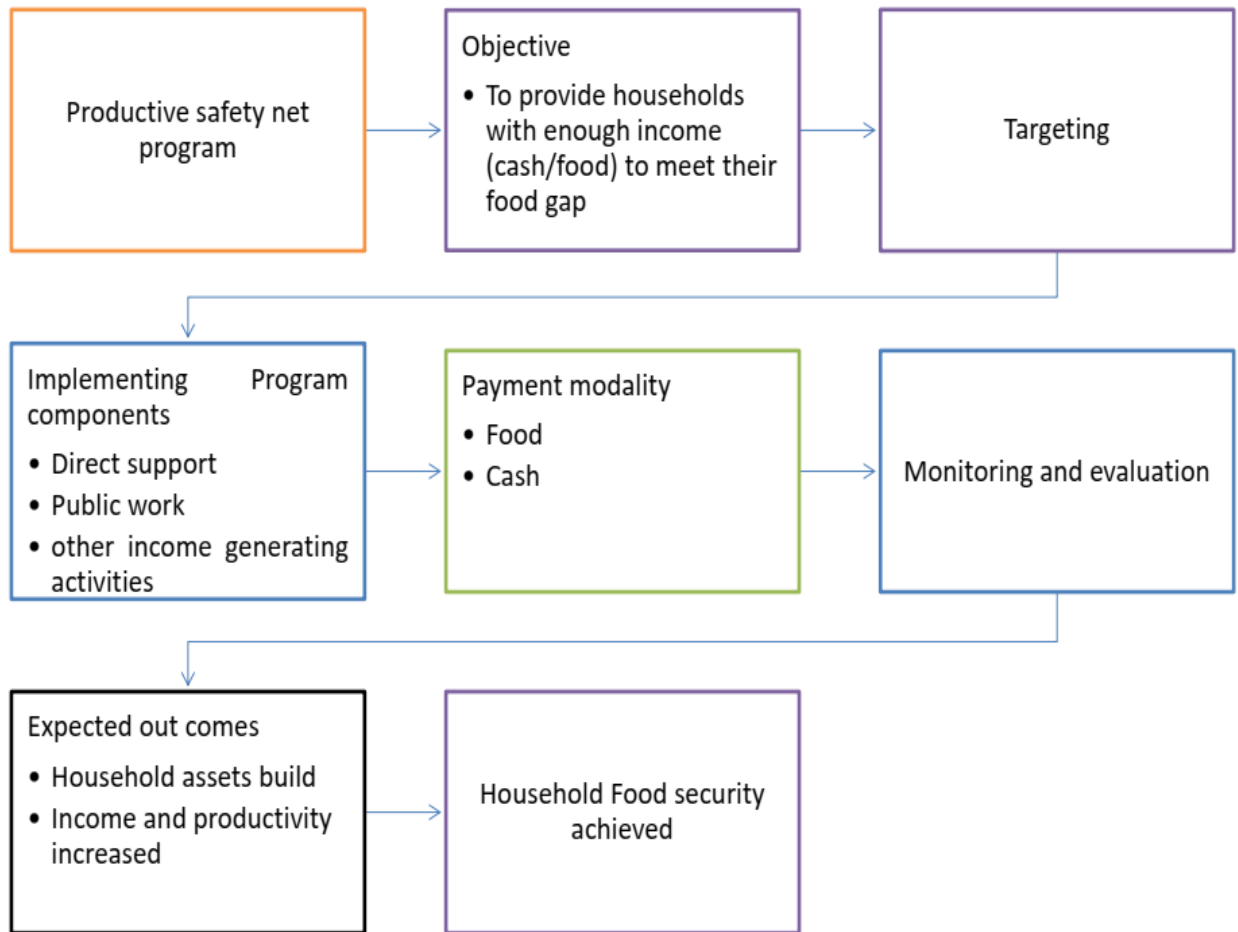


Figure 1: conceptual frame work

CHAPTER THREE

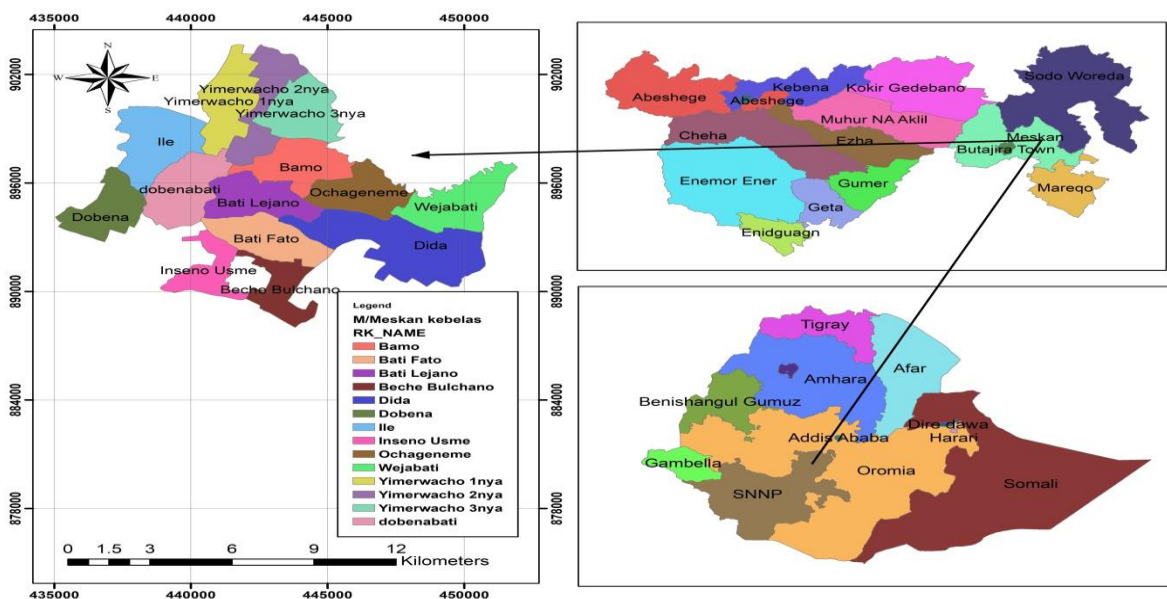
METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

3.1. Description of the Study Area

3.1.1. Physical characteristics

Guraghe Zone is one of the zones found in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region (SNNPR) of Ethiopia. It is 115 kilometers away from Addis Ababa and situated in middle Ethiopia's western region. East Meskan District is located 233 kilometers from the regional city of Hawasa and 133 kilometers from Addis Abeba, the country's capital. One of the recently established woredas of Ethiopia's Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Regional states is East Meskan. East Meskan, which is a part of the Gurage Zone, is bounded on the south by the Silt'e Zone, on the west by Meskan, on the northwest by Meskan, and south sodo the north by south sodo wereda. Oromia and Mareko are located on the east and northeastern edges of the region, respectively. Its capital Town is Inseno.

The area of East Meskan Woreda is 115.9km². Almost 63.3% of the area is covered by annual crops, 9.9% by perennial crops, and 26.73% by others. Its elevation ranges from 1501-3500 m above sea level.



Source; - CSA of Ethiopia GIS, 2007

Fig 2. Map of East Meskan Woreda

3.1.2. Agro-climate

The Woreda is classified as Weina-Dega (mid-high land 100%). The Woreda's average rainfall ranges from 1001mm to 1200mm. The area's topography is dominated by 100% being flat. The major soil types are 22% red, 25% brown, and 53% black.

In terms of annual crop coverage, maize and sorghum cover 5418.5 and 799 hectares of land, respectively, during the Belg season. During the Mehere season, tef and wheat cover 2294 and 1766.38 hectares of land, respectively, with other crops covering 2070 hectares of land. Similarly, the use of Urea and DAP fertilizers in the Woreda is estimated to be 5418.5 and 5418.5 quintal, respectively, during the Belg season, and 5683.94 and 4418.86 quintal during the Mehere season.

3.1.3. Population, religion, and culture

According to the 2014/15 regional statistical abstract report, East Meskan Woreda has a total population of 96685, of which 49524 (48.92%) are male and 47161 (51.08%) are female. It also consists of a total of 36,377 households, with a male-headed total of 23,004 households (63.24%) and a female-headed total of 13,373 households (36.76%). The Gurage are the Woreda's main ethnic group, which is further subdivided into the Sodo, Meskan, Silti, and Mareko clans. The population is predominantly Muslim. Polygamy is observed as an aspect of marital life among the Muslim population. The majority of Sodo are Orthodox Christians.

3.1.4. Socio-economic

Previously majority of rural households were live in traditional round houses made of wood and plastered with clay, covered by thatched roofs. But now a day's most of them live in tin house even if it was not of good quality. Most of rural households share their living quarters with their domestic animals. Water (for both human and animal use) is mostly obtained from springs, rivers and well. Most of the rural people are engaged in subsistence agriculture. Oxen culture and traditional farm implements are employed to manage small and fragmented plots. Maize and Sorghum are the major staples in the Woreda. Poor households often engage in petty trades and hired labor to supplement

meager incomes derived from farm activities. Many rural households in most part of the Woreda face acute food shortage due to the recurrent drought and low agricultural productivity. In East Meskan Woreda, 14 Kebeles are by now using the productive safety net program (PSNP). In the PSNP, there are people or users are participating in public works and at the same time there are people or users who are not participating in public works.

3.2. Research design and approach

3.2.1. Research Design

The purpose of this research is to assess the challenges of Safety Net Program in improving household food security in East Meskan Woreda of Gurage Zone. To attain these objectives a descriptive survey design was employed as it was found to be an appropriate technique for collecting information and opinions from a large number of respondents. A cross sectional survey was used since cross-sectional survey enables to effectively manage and collect the data collection. According to Le Unes (2002), survey study is preferable to undertake research employing large numbers of people or respondents to gather their perception, characteristics, and opinions towards a specific issue. Triangulation was done for it helps to increase the reliability of the results by comparing the data obtained from one source with the other sources. This research design is therefore used to provide a brief image of a situation so as to identify the problems (Burnsand Grove 1999).

3.2.2. Research Approach

Both qualitative and quantitative (mixed) approaches were employed. Creswell (2013) describes both approaches as a procedure for collecting, analyzing, and mixing both quantitative and qualitative data in a single study in order to understand the research problem comprehensively. The qualitative approach is concerned with the individuals attitudes, opinions and behavior explored through interviews (Kothari, 2009). Using such method is advantageous to examine the same phenomenon from multiple perspectives and also to allow new or deeper dimensions to emerge.

The quantitative approach was followed by qualitative approach. It is used to generate discussions relating to challenges of the safety net program in improving household food security in East Meskan Woreda of Gurage Zone. It is also preferable to gain a deep

understanding of the safety net program: its main activities, its contribution to improving household's food security, and its challenges.

The quantitative approach, on the other hand, was used to quantify variables. In this study, descriptive statistics like frequencies and percentage calculations were applied to understand and interpret the respondents' views and opinions associated with the central theme of the study. According to (Creswell, 2007), this approach helps to minimize the risk of validity, -soundness, reliability –consistency and subjective issues.

3.3. Data Type and Source

3.4.1. Primary source

The source of data for this study was first hand data gathered through questionnaires, interview and focal group discussion with beneficiaries, managers and program coordinators.

3.4.2. Secondary Sources

The secondary sources of data were document analysis such as annual plan and reports obtained from woreda and kebele offices, books, and articles, published documents e.t.c.

3.4. Sampling Frame

3.4.1. Population

The target population for the study was mainly beneficiary households of safety net programs. In East Meskan woreda, there are about 14 kebeles of which all kebeles were supported by the program. For the sake of this study, the data was collected from 344 sample beneficiary household heads of those kebeles. Therefore, the sample household was considered as unit of analysis for the purpose of the study.

3.4.2. Sampling Techniques

The study was undertaken simple random sampling technique because the population is relatively similar in their socio-economic, livelihood and geographical location.

3.4.3. Sample size

To sample the respondents, the study was employed a simplified formula provided by Yamane (1967) cited in Desalegn et al., 2017) to determine the required sample size at 95% confidence level, degree of variability 0.5, and level of accuracy = 5% (.05). The reason for using this formula is because of this kind of formula is valid for survey and cross-sectional data type and to compose large population and enables to get manageable sample size.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2} \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

n = is the sample size, sample drawn from the total households of the selected kebeles

N = is the population size, the total households estimated to benefit from safety net

e = is the level of precision/sampling error tolerated for the study.

$$n = 2459 / 1 + 2459 * (0.05)^2$$

$$n = 2459 / 7.1475$$

$$n = 344$$

Therefore, the samples for this study were **344** Households.

3.5. Data Collection Tools/Instruments

3.5.1. Questionnaire

The Questionnaire was used to collect appropriate data from the sample of respondents. The questionnaire was prepared in English consisting of two items, close and open ended items. The questionnaire was prepared in English language consisting of two items, close

and open ended items, and then translated to a local language, which is Amharic to make the questionnaires more comprehensible and understandable to respondents.

Close ended items was used to assess the overall information regarding the challenges of safety net program in improving household food security in East Meskan Woreda. It was preferred to easily tabulate the data and its simplicity in reducing pressure of writing long responses. It also saves time for respondents, as well as, the researcher during analysis. Open ended items were used to provide an opportunity for respondents to express their overall feelings and impressions regarding the problem under study. Therefore, 344 Questionnaires were distributed to selected households in East Meskan Woreda and from the total questionnaire distributed, 340 were returned. To manage and administer the data collection, 2 experienced enumerators who support the researcher were recruited based on proficiency or by experience in the local language and then short training was given on the content of questionnaire and on how data collected. Finally the data was collected as per the plan effectively.

3.5.2. Key informant Interview

Interview is important because it lets the research respondents to share their experiences, attitudes and beliefs relatively in their own words. The purpose of this interview was to collect more supplementary opinion, so as to stabilize the questionnaire response. Accordingly, semi- structured interview items will be used so as to permit flexibility in collecting information from the interviewees during the process of interview based on the responses of the interviewees.

The process of interview was conducted in Amharic language and then, the data was categorized based on similarities of responses and then translated back to English language. The respondents were selected purposively based on the position and the relevance of their expertise in the field and those who do not able read and write. Therefore, 14 beneficiary household heads, 7 PSNP task forces members from Woreda agriculture office, 6 development agents (DAs) working in purposively selected six kebeles, and 6 Kebele chair persons were selected for the interview to collect information concerning the issue under study.

3.5.3. Focus group discussion

Focus group discussion was employed to generate general and specific information related to challenges of safety net program in improving rural household food security in the study area. Group discussion was used to generate additional contextual data and help the researcher to substantiate data collected from sample households through interview schedule.

It was conducted on two focus groups one composed of female house hold beneficiary and the other composed of men household beneficiaries consisting of 7 beneficiaries purposively chosen, and Kebeles officials, staffs of the Woreda Agriculture and program officers working in the area. The nature of the data may include the general features, trends practice, contribution and challenges of PSNP and food insecurity. FGD is used to gather the perceptions and experience of the informants regarding the practice of implementation and challenges affecting the program to improve household food security through face-to-face discussions and was guided by the pre designed checklist.

3.5.4. Document Analysis

Document analysis is a form of qualitative data source in which documents was reviewed and interpreted regarding the problem under study. For this study documents like annual reports, policy manuals, and strategic plans was used. The use of modern agricultural inputs, the number of participant in the Program and the number of beneficiaries who have improved their food security from the program and other related secondary sources were treated as much as possible. The purpose of document analysis was to support and triangulate the above mentioned primary data collected through different techniques.

3.6. Methods of data Analysis

In analyzing the data, both quantitative and qualitative data analyzing techniques were applied. The quantitative data was collected through close ended questionnaires. The collected data was filled in to the SPSS software to easily analyze the data using tables and charts. The data were analyzed by using descriptive statistics such as mean, standard deviation, and percentages, to summarize, interpret and conclude the results by using SPSS 21 version. The qualitative data was collected through open ended questionnaires,

interview, Focal Group Discussion, Documents review; and Open ended Questionnaire and then analyzed qualitatively by summarizing the ideas and perceptions of the respondents. Creswell (2005) stated that the process of analyzing qualitative data should start at the time of data collection. Hence, the qualitative data analysis process in the field and kept continuing as long as it was a continuous one. Key informant interviews, focus group talks, and everyday observations that are pertinent to the study must be recorded by the researchers. This led to a qualitative analysis of the information acquired via focus groups and interviews techniques. Finally, based on the data collected, presented, and analyzed; Conclusions and recommendations was made.

3.6. Ethical considerations

An appropriate effort was done to establish friendly relationships in order to get access to the study site. The first thing done was taking support letter from Wolkite University in order to safe approval of the research and to gain cooperation from Woreda Agricultural office. Then, legal permission from Woreda Agricultural office to each kebele Administrations were made to collect the questionnaire data and make the interviews to develop mutual trust and friendly relationships with all concerned bodies so that they could give reliable information about the program and their life experiences. Assuring them about the confidentiality of the information they provide was done. They were informed that the data is only for the particular research purpose, and in case a need arises to use it for any other purposes. The data collection was done after the concerned bodies have given their permission. On the other hand, in order to maintain the originality of the thesis work, proper citation of the reference materials that are used in the literature done and the sources was acknowledged.

CHAPTER FOUR

Results and Discussion

This chapter deals with presentation, analysis and interpretation of the data gathered from the respondents through questionnaires, interviews and Focal Group Discussion. From the total number of 344 questionnaires distributed to the beneficiary respondents, 340 questionnaires were returned and the remaining four were not collected due to different reasons. Therefore, the response rate of the questionnaire is 98% and 100% for key informant interview and Focal group discussion. The chapter has two sections; the first is the general characteristics of respondents and the second is analysis and interpretation of the collected data.

4.1. Demographic Characteristic of the Respondents

This section presents, sex, age, marital status, Educational Status, Household Size and Number of year's respondents were stayed in the program.

Table 2. Demographic Characteristic of the Respondents

No	Items	Alternatives	Frequency	
			No of respondents	percent%
1	Sex	Male	215	63.2
		Female	125	36.8
		Total	340	100
2	Age	18-35yrs	133	39.1
		36-45yrs	147	43.2
		46and above	60	17.6
		Total	340	100
3	Marital status of the respondents	Single	3	0.9
		Married	324	95.3
		Divorced	13	3.8
		Total	340	100
4	Educational Status	Can't read and write	10	2.9
		Read and write	192	56.5
		Primary grade level	137	40.3
		Secondary grade level	1	0.3
		Total	340	100
5	Household Size	1-4 members	204	60
		5-6 members	112	32.9
		Above 6 members	24	7.1
		Total	340	100
6	Number of years respondents stayed in the program	1-5yrs	108	31.8
		6-10yrs	204	60
		Above 10yrs	28	8.2
		Total	340	100

As shown under item 1 of table 1, the majority of respondents' sex is male which are, 275(63.2%) and 125 (36.8%) respectively.

As far as the age of respondents are concerned, 147(43.2%) of respondents were in the age category of 36-45, whereas 133 (39.1%) of respondents were in the range category of 18-35. The rest 60(17.6%) were in the age category of 46 and above years of age. This indicated that a large number of respondents were found in the productive young ages. Thus they could be in a better position to help themselves through hard working to improve food security.

Concerning the marital status, in Item 3 of table 1 shows that 324(95.3%) of the respondents were married and remaining 16(4.7%) were unmarried.

Regarding the educational status, 10(2.9%) of respondents were not read and Write, 192(56.5%) of respondents could read and write and 137(40.3%) of them were in the primary grade level. The finding indicates that majority of the respondents were below primary education level only with ability of reading and writing. Therefore, attention should be given to capacitate the beneficiary households to make them ready to implement the program activities with knowhow. As indicated in the review literature according to Yibrah (2013), literacy is the crucial challenge to safety net implementation because; farmers with higher level of education tend to be more creative not resistant, which makes them more likely to accept new farming technologies and implement extension services.

As shown in the above table regarding Household Size of the respondents, 204(60%) of the respondents had 1-4 members, 112(32.9%) of the respondents were in the category of 5-8 members. The rest 24(7.1%) of the respondents had more than 8 households. This implies that households with large family size are challenged to accommodate all the household members with limited resources that the program provides.

Regarding the Number of years the respondents stayed in the program, 108(31.8%) of the respondents replied that they were stayed in the program for about 1-5 years, whereas 204(60%) of them stayed for about 6-10 years. The rest 28(8.2%) of respondents were remain in the program for more than 10 years since the introduction of PSNP. It is possible to conclude that more than 68% of the respondents were remain in the program for more

than expected exit year (5 years). The big question here is why they have stayed more than expected years? According to the response of interviewee, ‘some of the beneficiaries were elders and disabled beneficiaries who did not potential energy to directly participate in other income generating development activities’.

4.2. Analysis and interpretation of the collected data.

This section analyzes the perceptions of the program beneficiary, planning and implementation, socio-economic, institutional and environment related issues could have been discussed based on the data collected.

4.2.1. Perceptions of beneficiaries towards productive safety net program

Table 3: Perceptions of the beneficiaries towards the productive safety net program implementation to ensure house hold food security

No	Variables	strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean		Std. Deviation
							Statistic	L. Error	
1	help to change livelihood's status of household	35(10%)	217(63%)	28(8.2%)	34(10%)	26(7.6%)	2.408	0.057	1.054
2	help to increase household's income	39(11.5%)	192(56%)	12(3.5%)	81(24%)	16(5%)	2.53	0.06	1.11
3	help to increase household's assets	25(7.4%)	244(72%)	15(4.4%)	46(14%)	10(3%)	2.32	0.049	0.90
4	help to decrease vulnerability	9(2.6%)	73(21.5%)	44(13%)	209(62%)	5(1.5%)	3.37	0.050	0.924
5	Respondents' readiness to graduate from the program	25(7.4%)	251(74%)	18(5.3%)	39(12%)	7(2.1%)	2.27	0.045	0.83

Regarding the perception of the respondents towards safety net program, 217(63.8%) of the respondents' replied that they did not agree to the point that safety net can change livelihood status of the household.

In item 2 of the table 2, 39(11.5%) and 192(56.5%) of the respondents did not agreed that safety net can help to increase households income. On the other hand, 12(3.5%) of the

respondents were neutral whereas 81(23.8%) and 16.4.7%) of the respondents were agreed and strongly agreed respectively.

Table 2 item 3 denotes that 25(7.4%) of the respondents strongly disagree that safety net can help to increase households asset and 244(71.8%) of the respondents were also disagreed that safety net can increase household asset. On the other hand, 13.5% and 2.9% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed whereas 46(13.5%) were responded that they are neutral on this regard.

As shown under item 4 of table 2 above, 9(2.6%) of the respondents replied that they strongly disagree with the idea that Safety net can help to decrease vulnerability. 73(21.5%) of the respondents also disagreed that safety net can help to decrease vulnerability. On the other hand, 209(62%) of the respondents confirmed that safety net can help to decrease vulnerability.

As indicated in item 5 of the table 2, majority of the Respondents 251(73.8%) confirmed that they didn't have readiness to graduate from the program where as 39(11.6%) respondents confirmed that they do have readiness to graduate from the program. Generally as indicated in the table above, the perception of the beneficiaries' toward the safety net program in achieving food security was of a big challenge because without confidence and reediness performing activities and achieving the intended goal is not expected. According to Devereux et al. (2014) lack of motivation and attitude is a key obstacles in the processes of implementing Safety Net program to achieve food security.

2.2.2. Practice and of Productive Safety Net Program

Table 4. House, farm land and Livestock ownership

N o	Items	Response Alternatives	Frequency	
			No of respondents	percent%
1	House ownership of the respondents	Yes	251	73.8
		No	89	26.2
		Total	340	100
2	Farm land ownership of the respondent	Yes	270	79.4
		No	70	20.6
		Total	340	100
3	size of respondents farm land	Not have farm land	70	20.6
		Less than 0.5 hectare	245	74.1
		0.5- 1 hectare	25	7.4
		1-2 hectares	0	0
		2 and more hectares	0	0
		Total	340	100
4	Did you have more Livestock of your own?	Yes	117	34.4
		No	223	65.6
		Total	340	100

In the table above of item 1, the majority of the respondents 251(73.8%) have their own houses of different types. However, most of these houses are of poor quality with walls made of mud and wood. Only 89(26.2 %) of the households did not have house of their own and live on rent or in asylums with their relatives.

As for ownership of farmland, the survey results indicate that out of the 344 household respondents, 270(79.4%) have their own farm land; 70(20.6%) of the respondents did not have land of their own.

Regarding the size of the land thy own, 245(74.1%) of the respondents have less than 0.5 hectare of land; 25(7.4%) have 0.5 to 1 hectares, while the rest 70(20.6%) did not have farm land of their own. Franken berger and Sutter (2007) illustrates that households with higher the size of farmland, the greater will be the harvest or vice versa. The landholding size was found to be too small to bear the lives of the respondents in the study area. The insufficient landholding size was further aggravated by the large family size of households. Therefore, small landholding situation among the sample households seem to be an essential cause for their food insecurity. This clearly indicated that households didn't have sufficient land for cultivation which is not adequate enough to satisfy their family needs.

As indicated in the above table 117(34.4%) of the household respondents have own livestock of their own while 223(65.6%) of the respondents did not have. Livestock is a

very important asset in rural Ethiopia. It can serve as a critical input in farm operations as it enhances production and is also an important source of capital through which considerable income is generated.

Table 5:-Targeting practice

No	Items	Response Alternatives	Frequency	
			No of respondents	percent %
1	Do you think that the beneficiary selection process is transparent and fair to target the proper households?	Yes	309	90.9
		No	31	9.1
		Total	340	100
2	Who selected you initially to be beneficiary for Productive Safety Net Program? .	Development Agents	3	0.9
		Kebele food security task force	314	92.4
		Kebeles administration	23	6.8
		The community	0	0
		Other	0	0
		Total	340	100

Based on The Program Implementation Manual (PIM, 2021), "Targeting" means the process of defining, identifying and reaching the intended beneficiaries of the program which are extremely poor households in rural Ethiopia, in order to ensure that the neediest receive adequate assistance, that program objectives are met, and that limited resources are used as effectively as possible. Targeting involves a range of decisions at various stages of design and implementation, including who should receive the program's benefits, where; when and for how long; what and how much they should receive; and how the targeted beneficiaries are identified. In PSNP, the targeting process may assume the following forms: full targeting; annual update and recertification process. PSNP 5 focuses its geographic and household targeting on extreme poverty and vulnerability to extreme poverty through shocks, rather than chronic food insecurity.

As shown on the table item 1 above, 309(90.9%) respondents replied that the beneficiary selection was transparent and fair to target the proper beneficiary households. Contrary to this 31(9.1%) confirmed that the beneficiary selection is not fair and transparent. In former studies, targeting problem was a big challenge in addressing the needy beneficiaries.

As in the data shown above in the table 5 item2, for the respondents were asked to respond who selected them to be the beneficiary of the program at the beginning of the program,

314(92.4%) of the respondents confirmed that they were selected by the kebele task force whereas 23(6.8%) of the respondents replied that they were selected by the kebele administration.

Table 6;- Transfer and related practice

No	Items	Response Alternatives	Frequency	
			No of respondents	percent
1	Do you have a link with local credit institutions to borrow and save money?	Yes	340	100
		No	0	0
		Total	340	100
2	Did you get credit services from micro finance institutions?	Yes	24	7.1
		No	316	92.9
		Total	340	100
3	Do you receive timely transfer from Productive Safety Net Program?	Yes	316	92.9
		No	24	7.1
		Total	340	100
4	Which form of transfer you are receiving currently from the program?	Food	0	0
		Cash	340	100
		Both food and cash mixed	0	0
		Total	340	100
5	The amount of cash money you are receiving per month	375-1000	14	4.1
		1101-1500	190	55.9
		1501-2000	112	32.9
		Above 2500birr	24	7.1
		Total	340	100

In item 1 of table 4 above, all respondents 340(100%) responded that they have linked with the Omo Micro Finance particularly in mandatory saving of their 20% transfer payments. each beneficiary has a compulsory saving of 20% which cannot be withdrawn until graduation.

In the study area, Omo Micro Finance (now Omo Bnak) is mainly play the role of saving and provision of credit needs. This institution is mainly focused in rendering credit services to farmers so that they used to purchase assets such as goats and bee hives, oxen and in some cases, to begin petty trades. Based on the program implementation manual, it was assumed that households who participated in credit service can improve their income status through undertaking different income generating activities so as to get additional income which in turn enables them to achieve household food security. Credit is one component of HABP, the main complementary program for PSNP in graduating

households from PSNP. In line with this Burns & Solomon (2010) stated that credit played a key role in ensuring households food self-sufficiency.

However, in the table above of item 2, the majority of the respondents 316(92.9%) replied that they did not get credit services from the institution, whereas only 24(7.1%) of the respondents were provided with credit services. There were many reasons for farmers being unwilling to apply for credit schemes. According to Aune and Bationo (2008, p. 120), farmers were frightened of risks such as drought, pest attacks and unstable prices for their product.

In the study area, the focus group respondents said that settling any previous loans was the prerequisite to ask for and take another loan. They added that some farmers were also taking loans without properly identifying the profitable business. Because of this some of them were forced to use it for household consumptions which in turn pushed them to face difficulties during the repayment period.

During the interview conducted with the respondents mentioned that: these days receiving loan from these sources is becoming near to impossible due to purchasing power of money received from the credit institution. Besides the support given from the program experts is not as such meaning full in this regard.

As illustrated on the table above item3, for respondents were asked whether they received the transfer on timely based or not, majority of the respondents 316 (92.9%) confirmed that they receive the transfer on time.

As shown in the table above item4, respondents were asked about the type of transfer currently they are receiving. All 340(100%) of them confirmed that they are receiving in the form of cash. Of course, previously as indicated by many households in the survey, it was mainly free food aid and food for work transfer but now it has shifted to cash transfer. On the one hand, 10% the respondents were direct beneficiaries who are not able participate in public works.

Table 7:- Technical advice, Follow up and support practice

No	Items	Response Alternative s	Frequency	
			No of responder s	%
1	Do you get proper technical advice follow and support from DAs and Food Security Task Force (development agents)?	Yes	76	22.4
		No	264	77.6
		Total	340	100
2	Do you use selected seeds and fertilizer to maximize productivity of agriculture?	Yes	309	90.1
		No	31	9.1
		Total	340	100

Theoretically, the Food Security Task Force (FSTF) is responsible for identifying clients of the program. It is also participate in mobilizing the communities for participatory planning for public works and livelihood activities. The DAs have a facilitating role in PSNP implementation. They support communities in the preparation of annual plans, oversee implementation of public works prepare PSNP payment lists for submission to the WFSD and WOF, provide training to households on investment opportunities, and assist households to prepare business plans. But Practically according to the table above item1, 246(77.6%) of the respondents replied that the Food Security Task Force and DA's technical advice, follow up and support is not sufficient enough to implement the program based on the implementation manual. The individual based number of visits of development agents to solve their specific problems was insignificant. According to the interview conducted, the reason was many unrelated assignments coming from the administrators of the kebele and the wereda. They were delegated to do activities which are not related to the major tasks of their own.

As shown in table 6 item 2, the majority of the respondents309 (90.1%) replied that they did not use selected seeds and fertilizer to maximize agricultural productivity.

Table8: Contribution of Productive Safety Net Program

No	Items	Alternatives	Frequency	
			No of respondents	%
1	Do you think that the payment you received from the program is sufficient enough to achieve food security?	Yes	0	0
		No	340	100
		Total	340	100
2	Have you improved your household food security after being the beneficiary of Productive Safety Net Program?	Yes	0	0
		No	340	100
		Total	340	100
3	Do you think that the safety net program has contributed a lot in the process of improving food security?	Yes	14	4.1
		No	326	95.9
		Total	340	100

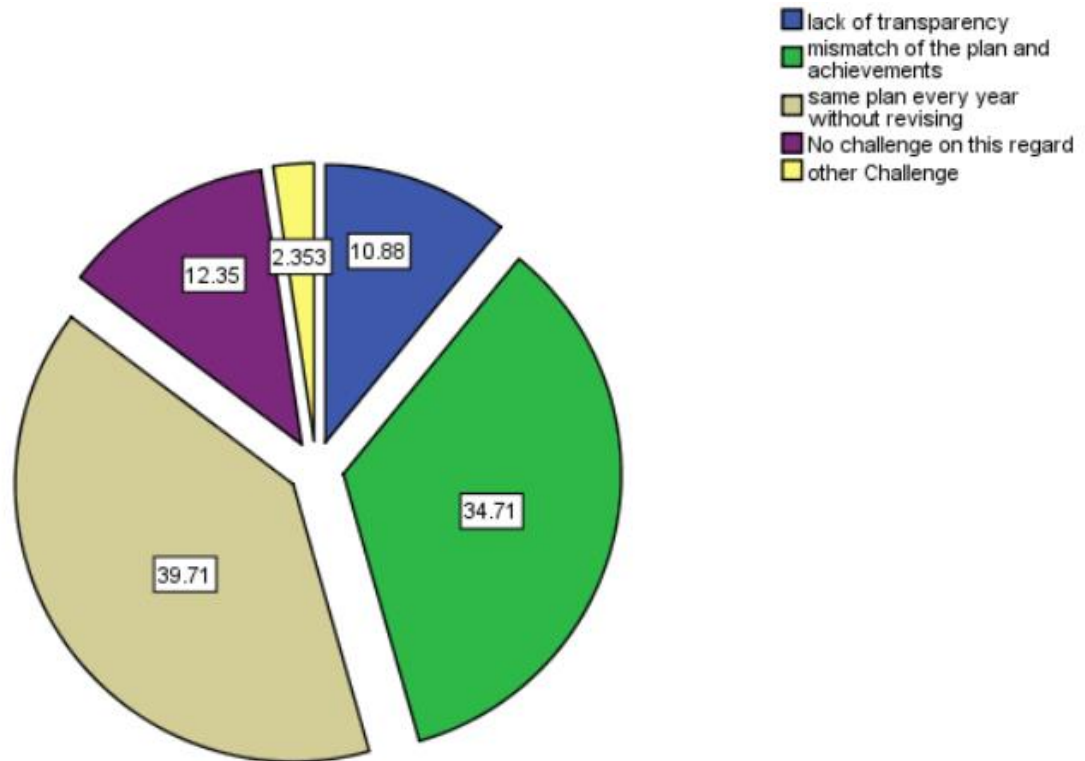
In the table above, 340(100%) of the respondents replied that the payment they received from the program is not sufficient enough to achieve food security. Similarly, 340(100) of the respondents responded that the program has not improved their living standard since its arrival.

As the participants commonly responded in the survey, 340 (100%) of the participants replied that the program has not improved their living standard since its arrival.

Based on the table 7 item 3, 326(95.9%) the respondents replied that the program did not contribute this much in the process of household food security. Despite this, 14 (4.1%) of the respondents replied that the program has contributed a lot in the process of improving food security.

Based on the interview conducted the respondents replied that PSNP help them to secure their daily food consumption for them and their family members. But it is simply, daily consumption, which is hand to mouth life.

Fig. 4: Planning related challenges the respondents faced in implementing the program



The figure above indicated that 39% of the respondents replied that the plan prepared to be implemented to help the beneficiaries of the program was not revised rather the same plan every year with no room to situation analysis. One of the principles of plan is its flexibility based on the situation analysis. The main objective of the plan is to determine the course of action to achieve the desired result and bridges the gap from where we are to, where we want to go. Through the course of action based on the strength and weakness of achievements, plan should be revised. Since our environment is full of dynamics flexibility is essential. The plan should be revised every 6 months based on performance evaluation, since the situation changes every time, it is necessary to assess the nature of the situation.

According to The respondents, 35% of the respondents replied that the pre designed plan and actual achievement did not align or far apart each other. The document analysis showed that from 2008 up to know there is no household who have achieved food security even though the plan document showed as if it was designed to achieve some household food security. In line with this according to the 10 years development plan of SNNP regional plan of 260,000 beneficiaries who are believed to have achieved their food

security at household level only 14,310 beneficiaries have been graduated with the performance 5.5%. The same is true for the zone and woreda's 10 years development plan. This indicated that planning and other related challenges contributed to variation gap of plan and achievement of the program.

The Beneficiaries must actively participate in the plan preparation to foster a sense of ownership and transparency from the planning stages through implementation up to evaluation of the final results. However, 11% of respondents said that the local governments were not transparent enough to the beneficiary households. Since the food security program involves various decision-making and executives bodies, it is important to jointly plan and coordinate work so that all stakeholders have a general understanding of the purpose of the program. Apart from this, the society which is vulnerable to the problem is expected to be informed clearly and realistically about the course and implementation of the program from everybody that implements the program. Therefore, it should be appropriate to provide regular training so that the community can fully understand the benefits of the program and fulfill its obligations.

Table 9:- Do you think that security issues challenge the implementation of safety net program?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	299	87.9	87.9	87.9
	No	41	12.1	12.1	100.0
	Total	340	100.0	100.0	

As shown on the table above, 299(87.9%) of the respondents replied that security issues in the area affects the program implementation. Security plays a vital role in any development of the given society.

Based on the interview and focal discussions conducted, the respondents stated that the Meskan- Mareko conflict in the area had displaced many East Meskan inhabitants from their living home for about more than two and above years. Most of them rely on local subsistence agriculture for their food supply. Since the start of the conflict, Most of the respondents have been prevented from farming and their houses and properties were

burned and damaged. This negatively affects them to afford their families food consumption.

Based on the key informants' interview, most of the interviewee reported that the security issue was one of the major obstacles over the last three - four years a result of the Mareko and Meskan Gurage conflict in the border between mareko and East Meskan which was resulted in displacement of the majority of households to save their life. In the course of conflict most of their properties were burned and damaged including their homes which in turn put more burdens on their families and forced them to left behind in the implementation of the program.

Table 10:- Targeting related challenges

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Selection of beneficiaries by neighborhood relationship	42	12.4	12.4	12.4
	Selection based on political participation of the household	9	2.6	2.6	15.0
	Lack of active community participation in the targeting processes	150	44.1	44.1	59.1
	lack of awareness on how to target appropriate beneficiaries based on targeting criteria and procedures	30	8.8	8.8	67.9
	Lack of system of Grievance management in the process of targeting beneficiaries	102	30.0	30.0	97.9
	other challenges	7	2.1	2.1	100.0
	Total	340	100.0	100.0	

As indicated in the above table regarding targeting eligible beneficiary households, 150(44.1%) of the respondents replied that lack of active community participation in the process of targeting is the major challenge. Community involvement in the targeting process has a great importance on beneficiaries' understanding of the targeting criteria, enabling the community members to respond to unfair practices and mistakes.

On the other hand, 102(30%) of the respondents reported that there is lack of system of grievance to appeal whenever unfair treatments is occurred by the task force in the process of targeting beneficiaries. In theory however, the program implementation manual (PIM,

2021) asserts that individuals, households, and groups have the right to appeal against targeting decisions. The kebele cabinets and the woreda food security task forces (WFSTFs) are the first and second level of appeal, respectively. The former is responsible for hearing any complaints, claims, or appeals on the beneficiary selection process and for taking appropriate corrective measures in consultation with the WFSTFs. Ideally, appeals should be resolved at the kebele level, and reviews and responses to an appeal should be done within two days at kebele level and three days at woreda level. Therefore, the study results indicated that there is a lack of strong institutionalized mechanism for appeals and resolutions. There is no effective mechanism for households to complain against unjust targeting and the complaints committees exist only on paper. Barriers to appeals are found to center on the lack of awareness on the part of complainants (individuals) on modalities of raising grievances.

Table 11:-Transfer related challenges

Variables		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Insufficient financial payment and difficulty of the purchasing power of the received money	319	93.8	93.8	93.8
	The payments is not based on the schedule fixed	10	2.9	2.9	96.8
	The payment is not linked to saving accounts	9	2.6	2.6	99.4
	No challenges on this regard	2	.6	.6	100.0
	Other challenges	0	0	0	0
	Total	340	100.0	100.0	

Regarding the transfer on the table above, 319(93.8%) respondents replied that the money they received is not sufficient and as the same time it is difficult to buy foods and other goods due to frequent price escalation. responded that after receiving the cash aid from safety net they have bought consumable foods in order to sustain the life of their family members. Similarly, during the interview and Focal group discussions, it was stated that: the amount of cash transfer is too little and cannot support even the consumption of their households.

Even Though, it help them to bridge their daily consumption of food gaps the amount of transfer they received was not sufficient enough to achieve food security. Fluctuations in the purchasing power of the cash transfers are reflected in beneficiary preferences for food and cash transfers.

Table 12:- Agricultural technologies related challenges

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Lack of knowledge on how to use new technologies	38	11.2	11.2	11.2
	Less access to modern agricultural technologies and inputs	291	85.6	85.6	96.8
	Shortage of agricultural experts in all specialized fields	3	.9	.9	97.6
	Other challenges	8	2.4	2.4	100.0
	Total	340	100.0	100.0	

Agricultural technologies play a significant role in assisting farmers to identify and analyze their production problems and make them aware about the technologies to get additional production to support their household food security using limited plots of land they owned. Hence, the above table shows that 291(85.6%) of the respondents were highly challenged by less access to modern agricultural technologies or agricultural extensions. On the other hand, 38(11.2%) of the respondents replied that lack of knowledge on how to use the agricultural technologies is also other challenge with less extent.

From the key informant's interview held, the respondents confirmed that they do not have a good habit of using modern agricultural technologies and inputs because they were incapable of affording the price of modern agricultural technologies and inputs. Inputs like Fertilizers, improved seeds and insecticides are not supplied in the right time and the price is unaffordable to the majority of farming community. Therefore, failure to use the appropriate amount of fertilizer and improved seeds in their agriculture, make them less productive to cover their yearly consumption.

Table 13:-Do you get adequate extension services from the agricultural experts?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	7	2.1	2.1	2.1
Valid No	333	97.9	97.9	100.0
Total	340	100.0	100.0	

As indicated on the table above 333(98%) of the respondents reported that the extension services provided by agricultural experts did not adequate. As it has to be known, the mere use of modern agricultural technologies and /or inputs is meaningless without following the procedural steps recommended by agricultural experts. Graduation cannot be expected to result only from the transfer provided by the safety net program alone. Instead, it needs active involvement in other poverty reducing packages like extension services. The combination of the PSNP with initiatives that directly build household assets can be an effective means of moving households out of poverty because it encourages households to invest more effectively than investments in household asset building. It was the HABP that was designed to build the capacity of beneficiary households to be able to generate and accumulate assets and achieve food security to graduate from PSNP.

Generally the finding has indicated that the use of modern agricultural technologies/inputs was not wisely used by the targeted households to maximize their production. Inputs like Fertilizers, improved seeds and insecticides were not supplied in the right time with appropriate size because of unaffordable price. Since agricultural production is determined by different interfacing elements; like the use of modern agricultural technologies and/inputs were not in a position of being implemented based on the recommended scientific procedures. Above all the extension services provided by the local extension experts was somewhat weak to support the households so as to be productive in supplementary agricultural outputs to achieve their household food security.

Table 14:- Institutional related challenges

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	Lack of integration of concerned sectors and credit institutions	103	30.3	30.3	40.3
	Lack of necessary technical follow up and regular monitoring	148	43.5	43.5	83.8
	Lack of Regular short term training	55	16.2	16.2	100.0
	Other challenges	0	0	0	
	Total	340	100.0	100.0	

Regarding the institutional related challenges, 148(43.5%) of the respondents replied that lack of technical follow up and regular monitoring was the major challenge. According to the interview held with the respondents the lack of coordination among concerning sectors in the execution of the program duties and activities was due to frequent change of woreda cabinets more than three times and above all the commitment they gave for the program achievement. On the other hand, 103(30.3%) of the respondents also responded that lack of integration of the concerned sectors and credit institutions at the grass root level was confirmed as institutional related challenges.

Theoretically, the implementation manual of PSNP provides a framework for institutional arrangements from federal to community level and gives roles to each institution (MoARD, 2004). Based on the Program Implementation Manual (2021), the woreda cabinet is the highest decision making body, and is responsible for the approval of PSNP beneficiaries' lists, planned activities, and budgets. It works together with the woreda food security coordination office (FSCO) to check beneficiary lists before these are submitted to the region for final approval. But practically, the big challenge on this regard is the problem of technical follow up and support which was expected to be done by the Food Security Task Force. The Food Security Task Force has the mandate to oversee and coordinate program execution among all implementing institutions. Their tasks include reviewing annual plans and budgets for approval, ensuring all offices integrate activities

into their work plans, technical follow up and support, overseeing reporting and ensuring adequate information is given to Cabinet, participating in Monitoring and Evaluation, and reviewing progress reports. According to (Berhane *et al.*, 2011), the integration between PSNP and HABP was not incorporated, as projected, consistently across all areas in the country.

The Focal Group Discussion respondents were revealed that there was limited guidance, technical assistance and supervision which were provided by the task force to the PSNP implementation processes. Additional inputs from the sectorial and technical agencies to the PSNP implementation were not budgeted nor accounted for the program implementation in regular work programs. As a result, the program activities were often viewed as supplementary tasks rather than part of regular routine jobs. Generally, the findings suggest that most of the institutions were not in a position to primarily acting on how to collaboratively integrate activities implementation towards achieving the program goals.

Table 15:- Nature related challenges

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Frequent draught	254	74.7	74.7	74.7
	Frequent floods	70	20.6	20.6	95.3
	Crop Failure due to Pest Invasion	8	2.4	2.4	97.6
	land degradation	1	.3	.3	97.9
	other challenges	7	2.1	2.1	100.0
	Total	340	100.0	100.0	

As shown on the table above, 254(74.7%) of the respondents confirmed that frequent draught is the major challenge, whereas 70(20.6%) of the respondents replied that frequent floods is also challenged the house holds to realize food security because respondents were forced to lose some their assets and food gap due to subsequent drought. According to Burns and Solomon (2012) and Gillingan (2008) that, drought prone households struggle to become food self-sufficient and graduate from the program. Accordingly, if the draught or flood condition is highly frequent, the households will be affected. Bene et al. (2012) indicated that drought is the main natural challenge that affects PSNP to achieve rural household food security with in pre-determined period of time.

4.2.3. Effects of safety net program in food security

Regarding the effects of the productive safety net program, the respondents were asked open questionnaire about what the productive safety net program has brought to their life and their food security since they joined the program as a beneficiary and replied that even though it was not enabled them potentially to ensure their household food security, the program enabled them to easily access consumption foods. At least the beneficiaries were able to buy consumption foods with the transferred money they earned from the program and it also allowed them to cover their minimum daily consumption. To a certain extent, it has also helped some of the beneficiary households to maintain their assets rather than selling them for food.

4.3. Discussion

According to PIM (2016), any household, individual or group has the right to appeal against a targeted decision, and the Appeals Committee hears and compiles these appeals and, in consultation with the Woreda Council, makes appropriate decisions. According to the survey results, the majority of respondents said the grievance system was not transparent and failed to resolve program implementation issues.

The results showed insufficient awareness raising and a lack of institutional arrangements for redressing grievances at the woreda, suburban and city levels. It is therefore clear that this is one area where reform of the program's goal structure is needed.

The PSNP aims to improve food security for the poorest people by increasing their daily incomes, changing negative attitudes towards work and stabilizing their incomes by instilling entrepreneurship in society. This study triangulated the targeting process with the poverty status of beneficiaries. Targeted beneficiaries have low incomes, few assets, and high food consumption. Therefore, this study supports the equity of the targeted beneficiaries. However, research results show that it is not being properly practiced. This is because the project implementation manual stipulates a certain number of months for pregnant and lactating women to be temporarily exempted from their PW.

Therefore, clear guidelines need to be developed in consultation with stakeholders at all levels about who is eligible and for what period of time.

The other big challenge was the security issue. "Over the last three years," stated one of the key informant interviewees, "we have been forced to work below capacity as a result of the border conflict with mareko woreda." The other interviewees noted that lack of awareness among the beneficiaries had created dependency syndrome, which made the beneficiaries extremely reluctant to potentially work hard based on the implementation manual of the program to graduate from the program satisfying food security. This, in turn, had put more pressure on the beneficiaries to work below capacity.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Conclusion

Ethiopia's productive safety net program (PSNP) is aimed at providing transfers to the food insecure people in chronically food-insecure woredas. The program's objective is mainly improving food security, and protecting assets of the community. The purpose of this study was to assess the challenges of safety net program in improving house hold food security in East Meskan Woreda of Gurage Zone. In order to meet the purpose, basic research questions related to challenges of safety net program were prepared and distributed to respondents and then 344 questionnaires were distributed to beneficiary respondents with a response rate of 98%.

The study employed a descriptive survey design and a cross-sectional survey to gather data on the challenges of the safety net program in improving household food security in East Meskan Woreda, Gurage Zone. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were employed, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the research problem. The qualitative approach was focused on individuals' attitudes, opinions, and behavior through interviews, while the quantitative approach quantified variables using descriptive statistics. The data was collected through questionnaires, interviews, and focal group discussions with beneficiaries, managers, and program coordinators. Secondary sources of data included were annual plans, reports, books, articles, and published documents. The target population consisted of beneficiary households of safety net programs, with 344 sample households being the unit of analysis. A simple random sampling technique was employed, and a simplified formula was used to determine the required sample size. A questionnaire was prepared in English, consisting of close and open-ended items.

The majority of respondents were males, with a majority aged 36-45. Most respondents were married, with a majority of them being above the age of 46 years.

The majority of respondents were below primary education level, with only a small percentage having primary grade levels. The majority of respondents' had 1 to 4 members, with 32.9% having 5 to 8 members and 7.1% having more than 8 households. Most

respondents have stayed in the program for 1-5 years, with a significant portion staying for more than 10 years since the introduction of PSNP.

Regarding the perception of beneficiaries towards safety net program, 63.8% of respondents were disagree that it can change livelihood status, while 39.5% and 56.5% disagree that it can increase household income. However, 25.4% strongly disagree that it can increase household assets, while 13.5% and 2.9% agree and strongly agree. Additionally, 26.6% of respondents were strongly dis-agreed with the idea that safety net can decrease vulnerability, while 21.5% of them disagree and 62% of them were confirmed that they can. In conclusion, the safety net program has the potential to improve food security and reduce vulnerability among beneficiaries. It is crucial to provide adequate training and support to these beneficiaries to help themselves to implement the program effectively.

The survey results show that 73.8% of respondents do not have the readiness to graduate from the program, while 39.6% of them do. Out of the 344 household respondents, 270 have their own farmland, while 70 of them did not. Small landholding size is an essential cause of food insecurity, as it is too small to meet family needs.

Targeting is a crucial process of implementation in addressing extreme poverty and vulnerability to shocks. The program focuses on geographic and household targeting, with a focus on extreme poverty and vulnerability to shocks. However, the majority of respondents believe that beneficiary selection was not transparent. Lack of active community participation in targeting eligible beneficiary households was identified as a major challenge, as it requires community members to understand the targeting criteria and respond to unfair practices and mistakes. The study found that 30% of respondents reported lack of grievance system for unfair treatment by the task force in targeting beneficiaries. The program implementation manual (PIM, 2021) asserts that individuals, households, and groups have the right to appeal against targeting decisions. However, there is no effective mechanism for households to complain against unjust targeting, and barriers to appeals are found to center on the lack of awareness on modalities of raising grievances. The kebele task force is the primary source of beneficiary selection, with 92.4% of respondents confirming that they were selected by the task force.

In the study area, Omo Micro Finance (now Omo Bank) is primarily focused on providing credit services to farmers to make them participate in additional income generating activities. The program aims to improve income status through income-generating activities, enabling households to achieve household food security. However, a majority of respondents (92.9%) did not receive credit services from the institution, and only 7.1% were provided with credit services. Farmers were frightened of risks such as drought, pest attacks, and unstable prices for their products.

The majority of respondents confirmed that they received the transfer on time, with cash being the primary form of transfer. The Food Security Task Force (FSTF) is responsible for identifying clients and mobilizing communities for participatory planning for public works and livelihood activities. However, practical implementation of the program has been challenging due to technical advice, follow-up, and support from development agents. The majority of respondents did not use selected seeds and fertilizer to maximize agricultural productivity.

The payment received from the program is not sufficient enough to achieve food security, and the program has not improved their living standard yet since its arrival. The credit services provided by credit institutions to the beneficiary households, faced challenges in practical implementation due to technical advice, follow-up, and support from development and Omo agents. The majority of respondents received cash transfers on time, but the payment received was insufficient to achieve food security.

Security issues in the area affect the program implementation, as security plays a vital role in any society's development. The Meskan-Mareko conflict has displaced many East Meskan inhabitants from their homes for over two and above years, which have negatively affected their ability to afford themselves and their families' food consumption.

The transfer of cash aid was found to be insufficient and difficult to buy food and other goods due to frequent price escalation. The amount of cash transfer received was too little to support household food consumption.

Agricultural technologies play a significant role in assisting households to identify and analyze production problems and make them aware about technologies to support their household food security using their own limited plots of land. However, 85.6% of respondents were highly challenged by less access to modern agricultural technologies and inputs, and 11.2% of them reported lack of knowledge on how to use these technologies.

The extension services provided by agricultural experts were also found to be inadequate, as the mere use of modern agricultural technologies and inputs is meaningless without following the procedural steps recommended by agricultural experts. Household food security cannot be expected to result only from the transfer provided by the safety net program alone, but it needs active involvement in other poverty-reducing packages like extension services.

Institutional related challenges were identified as lack of technical follow-up and regular monitoring, and lack of integration of concerned sectors and credit institutions at the grass root level. The implementation manual provides a framework for institutional arrangements from federal to community level, but the lack of coordination among concerned sectors and credit institutions at the grass root level was confirmed as institutional related challenges.

Frequent drought and floods were also challenges for households to realize food security, as respondents were forced to lose assets and food gaps due to subsequent drought. Even though its difficulty in ensuring household food security sustainably, the program has helped the households to cover their minimum daily food consumption and maintain their assets by protecting them from selling their assets for food.

5.2. Recommendations

The study's findings led to the formulation of the following recommendations.

- ❖ The program should exert its maximum potential to change rural household beneficiaries' perception of the productive safety net program by focusing on human development, encouraging decision-making, and providing training. Regular capacity building activities are needed to break the dependency on PSNP's aid, preventing a psychological crisis for the present and future generations.
- ❖ Money management and wise use (savings), planning of income generating activities, providing trainings on technical skills and food systems, gender and social development, financial services.
- ❖ The survey indicates that there is no alternative income-generating activity in the area, suggesting the need for beneficiary households to engage in diversified livelihood strategies, to ensure food security through hard work and commitment.
- ❖ The study also indicated that beneficiaries' income from PSNP is primarily used for non-productive activities like food consumption, highlighting the need for immediate measures by the local government bodies to be undertaken to motivate the households to put their incomes as much as possible in productive assets and savings.
- ❖ The Federal and Regional governments should revise the program payments based on the current purchasing power of money and other realities relative to local market prices.
- ❖ The study reveals that woreda and kebele institutions are not functioning as per the program's PIM, highlighting the need for improved coordination and coherence to enhance policy effectiveness.
- ❖ The food security program is implemented with the budget allocated by the government and various development partner organizations. Therefore, food security programs implemented by the government and donors should be integrated and implemented as part of the development plan. For example, the implementation manual of the Developmental Safety Net Program clearly sets out the responsibilities and functions of the stakeholders who are the main actors of the program, and by

coordinating them, it ensures a strong coordination and system for the results of the program.

- ❖ The use of appropriate modern agricultural technologies and inputs in the right time and place is the main option to maximize agricultural productivity. To do this agricultural technologies and inputs should be supplied at right time and in affordable price. The use of modern agricultural technologies and inputs should be in scientific way and by strict following of the instruction given by the agricultural experts.
- ❖ In the study area the result indicated that beneficiary's income from PSNP and other sources were mainly used in non-productive areas such as in food and non-food consumption, than investing in productive asset and saving; therefore it needs immediate measures to encourage beneficiary households to use their income investing on productive assets and to save.
- ❖ It is better to bring viable solution for severe natural disaster; flooding, the woreda Administration should work through mass mobilization and integration with other concerning bodies.
- ❖ Further research with larger sample sizes and different locations is needed to gain more empirical findings on the impact of PSNP on different livelihood characteristics.

References

- Abebaw, S. (2003). Dimensions and determinants of food Insecurity among rural households. Dire Dawa, Eastern Ethiopia.
- Aman, N. (2013). Impact of productive safety net program on households' food security and asset building: the case of zuway dugda district Oromia regional state.
- Anderson, C. Mekonen, A. and Stage, j. (2009). Impacts of Productive Safety Net Program in Ethiopia on Livestock and Tree Holdings of Rural Households, environment for development policy brief.
- Anderson, C. Alemu, M., Jesper, S. (2009). Impacts of the Productive Safety Net Program in Ethiopia on livestock and tree holdings of rural household, Journal of Development Economics, 94(2011), 119-126
- Alemayehu Seyoum., Hoddnott Jone, & O.Daniel Gilligan. (2008). "An analysis of Ethiopia's PSNP and its Linkages". International Food Policy Research Institute. Wshington, DC.
- C. Béné, S. Devereux, and R. Sabates-wheeler, Ids working paper Volume 2012 Number 395 Shocks and Social Protection in the Horn of Africa: Analysis from the Productive Safety Net Programme in Ethiopia, vol. 2012, no. 395. 2012.
- Dervereux, S., Sabates-Wheelr, R., Tefera, M., and Taye, H. (2008). Ethiopia's Safety Net Program, assesment Report
- Devereux, Stephen, Rachel Sabates-Wheeler, Mulugeta Tefera and Hailemichael Taye (August 2006). Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Programme: Trends in PSNP Transfers within Targeted Households: Final Report. Brighton and Addis Ababa: IDS Sussex and Indak International.
- FAO(2006).FoodSecurity:PolicyBrief.FAO'sAgricultureanddevelopment Economics Division & the FAO Netherlands Partnership Program(FNPP).Food Security program, Rome, Italy.
- FAO.(2008). An introduction to the basic concepts of food security. Food security information for action practical guides. Food Security program, Rome, Italy.
- Food and Agricultural Organization (2012), Food Security Statistics- Nigeria; FAOSTAT, Rome: Italy.
- Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nation. (2015). The State Of Food And Agriculture, Social Protection And Agriculture, Breaking The Cycle Of Rural Poverty.
- Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nation, International Fund for Agricultural Organization, World Food Program. (2015). The State Of Food Insecurity In The World: Meeting The 2015 International Hunger Targets, Taking Stock Of Uneven Progress.
- Fawol Wasiv (2015). Food Insecurity in Africa in Terms of Causes, Effects and Solutions: a Case Study of Nigeria. Department of Agricultural Economics, Akdenize University, Turkey
- Fitsum, A. (2013). Assessing the Impact of Productive Safety Net Program on Asset Building

- and Sustainable Land Management Practices: A Cross- Sectional Analysis from Easter Hararghe: Haramaya.
- Philipp, M. (2014). Food Security in Ethiopia: The Case of the Productive Safety Net. Programme. Food Security Program of Ethiopia (undated).
- Gilligan, D. O., Hoddinott, J. and Alemayehu, S. (2008). An analysis of Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program and its linkages: International Food policy Research Institute, 2033 K Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20006.
- Gujarati, D. N. (2003). Basic econometrics. Fourth Edition, McGraw Hill, New York
- Gujarati, D. N.(2004). Essentials of Econometrics 4th edition. Mc-Graw-Hill Companies. 1003p.
- Guush, B., Hoddinott, J., Kumar, N and Alemayehu, S. (2011). The Impact of Ethiopia' Productive Safety Net and Household Asset Building Program; International Food Policy Research Institute.
- Habtamu, A. (2011). Impacts of Productive Safety Net Program on Household Welfare and Labor Supply in Rural Ethiopia: A Panel Data Approach.
- Haddad L., (1997). Achieving Food Security in South Africa: New Challenges, New Opportunities, Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). 345p.
- Khandker S, B. Koolwal G, Samad H.(2011). Handbook on impact evaluation: quantitative Methods and practices. The World Bank
- Kierra, z. (2014). Food security in Ethiopia, lessons to be learned from the productive safety net program.Lessons learned from Ethiopia's productive safety net program (2005–2009), designing andimplementing a rural safety net in a low income setting.
- Maxwell, S. (1996). "Food Security: A Post-Modern Perspective." Food Policy, 21.
- Mengistit. (2015). Causes and Interventions of Food Insecurity with Particular Emphasis on Ethiopia.
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. (2009). Food Security Program (2010-2014), Productive Safety Net.
- Ministry of Agriculture. (2014). Productive safety net program manualProductive Safety Net.
- Napoli Marion (2011). Towards Food Insecurity Multidimensional Index: Human Development and Food Security: Deglistudi University, Rome.
- Smith, J. A., and Todd, P.A. (2005). Does Matching Overcome LaLonde's Critique of Non experimenta Estimators? Journal of Econometrics, 125(1-2), 305-353.56
- SNNPR Agricultural Bureau's 10 years development plan document (2013) page 27,Hawasa

- Stephen, D., Rachel, S., Mulugeta, T., Ricardo, S., and Feyera, S. (2014). Graduation from the Food Security Program in Ethiopia: FAC Ethiopia Final Report.
- Storck, H., Bezabih, E., Berhanu, A., A. Borowiccki and Shimelis, W. (1991). Farming System And Farm Management Practices of Smallholders in the Hararghe Highland., Wissen schaftsverlag Vauk, Kiel, Germany.
- Tadele, M. (2011). Impact of Productive Safety Net Program on Asset Accumulation and Sustainable land Management Practices in the Central rift valley: the case of Adamitulu Jido Kombolcha and Meskan districts.
- Teklay Tesfay Kidanemariam 2009, “Building a platform for all to dance” To what extent does the Productive Safety Net Projects reflect cultural expressions of shame and poverty in Ethiopia? Thesis
for the Master's Degree, Faculty of Social Sciences, Oslo University
- UNICEF,(2017).National_Social_Protection_Budget_Brief,
<https://www.unicef.org/ethiopia/sites/unicef.org.ethiopia/files/2020-01/>
- World Food Program. (2012). Vulnerability, Social Protection, and Food-based Safety Nets. Theory, Evidence, and Policy Underpinnings. Rome. Mimeo
- Yadete.(2008). “Assessment of the impact of productive safety net program on householdwelfare:” M.Sc. thesis, Department of Economics, Addis Ababa University.
- Yenesew, A. (2015). Causes and coping mechanisms of food insecurity in rural Ethiopia,
Department of Rural Development and Agricultural Extension, School of Agriculture, Madawalabu University, Ethiopia.
- Yibrah, H. (2010). Impact of Productive Safety Net Program on the Rural Households asset Protection and Consumption.
- Yibrah, H. (2014).The Economic Impact Of Productive Safety Net Program On Poverty Micro econometrics Analysis, Tigrai National Regional State, Ethiopia

Appendix A

Questionnaire to be filled by Households of Safety Net program Beneficiaries

WOLKITE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Dear Respondents! The objective of this questionnaire is to gather information in order to identify the Challenges of Productive Safety Net Program in improving food security in East Meskan Woreda of Gurage Zone. The information gathered is used only for (the research) fulfillment of Master's degree in Development studies From Wolkite University. I really appreciate your willingness to help because, each of your genuine reply to the research questions is very important to effectively conduct the research.

Therefore, dear respondent! You are kindly requested to read and complete all the questions patiently and carefully. Your answer will only be used for academic purpose and handled confidentially.

Thank you in advance!!!

Note:

General Instructions

- ✓ No need to write your name
- ✓ For the questions you are asked to choose among the alternatives, please choose and encircle the letter of your choice
- ✓ For the open ended type of questions, try to put your answers on the space provided in a neat and readable hand writings.
- ✓ It would be advisable if you answer all questions
- ✓ Honestly be aware that this investigation has nothing to do with religious and political stand
- ✓ If you have any questions, please contact me through my cell phone number 0913197200 or email me diro2004@gmail.com

Part 1- General Background of the Respondents

Please make (✓) on one of your answer.

1. Sex: -A. Male ☐ B. Female ☐

2. Age: -A. 18-27 ☐ B. 28-33 ☐ C. 34-38 ☐ D. 39 and above ☐

3. Marital Status:

A. Single ☐ B. Married ☐ C. Divorced ☐

3. Educational Status: A. Illiterate ☐ B. Read and write ☐ C. 1-6th grade ☐

D. 7-8 ☐ E. 9-12 ☐ F. 10+1/ 12+1 ☐ G. Diploma and above ☐

5. Household Size: A. 1-2 ☐ B. 3-5 ☐ C. 6-10 ☐ D. More than 10 ☐

Part two: - Questions Concerning the Challenges of Productive Safety Net Program in Improving Food Security at Household Level.

Perceptions of the beneficiaries towards the productive safety net program implementation to ensure house hold food security

1. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree in each of the following area of success by putting a thick "✓" mark against the scale: 5 to strongly agree; 4 to agree; 3 undecided; 2 disagree; 1 for strongly disagree.

NO	Statement	Perceptions				
		1	2	3	4	5
		strongly Disagree	Disagree	undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	It can help to change livelihood's status of household					
2	It can help to increase household's income					
3	It can help to increase household's assets					
4	It can help to decrease vulnerability					
5	readiness to graduate from the program					
6	PSNP is contributing to enhance food security					

Practices of Productive Safety Net Program

2. How long have you stayed in the Productive Safety Net program?
A. 1- 5 Years B. 6- 10 years C. 10 and Above years
3. Do you have your own house?
A. Yes B. No
4. Do you have your own farm land?
A. Yes B. No
5. If your answer for question No 3 is ‘**Yes**’, how much is the size of your farm land?
A. Less than 0.5 hectare B. 0.5- 1 hectare C. 1-2 hectares D. 2 and more hectares
6. Do you use selected seeds and fertilizer to maximize productivity of agriculture?
A. Yes B. No
7. If your response for question No 5 is ‘**No**’, why? -----

8. Do you have more Livestock after joining Productive safety net?
A. Yes B. No
9. Do you think that your land increased its productivity after joining Productive safety net?
A. Yes B. No
10. Did you increase food production after joining PSNP?
A. Yes B. No
11. Do you have a link with local credit institutions to borrow and save money?
A. Yes B. No
12. Do you receive timely transfer from Productive Safety Net Program?
A. Yes B. No
13. If your response for question number 12 is ‘No’ for how much length of time it late?
A. For about 15 days to 30 days
B. For about 2-3 months
C. For about 4-5 months
D. For about 6 months
E. For more than 6 months
14. Do you get proper technical follow up and support from DAs (development agents)?
A. Yes B. No

15. Do you think that the program task force members of your kebele give you proper support?
A. Yes B. No

16. Do you think that the beneficiary selection process is transparent and fair to target the pooresthouseholds?
A. Yes B. No

17. If your response for the above question is ‘No’ please explain your reason

18. Who assigned you initially to be beneficiary for Productive Safety Net Program?
A. Development Agents
B. Kebele food security task force
C. Kebeles administration
D. The community E. Other

19. Which form of transfer you are receiving currently from the program?
A. Food B. Cash C. Both food and cash mixed

20. What is the amount of cash money do you receive per months from the program?
A. Br.375-1000 B. Br.1101-1500 C. Br.1501-2000 D. Above 2500birr

21. Do you think that the payment you received from the program is sufficient enough to achieve food security?
A. Yes B. No

22. Have you improved your household food security after being the beneficiary of Productive Safety Net Program?
A. Yes B. No

23. If your response for the above question is ‘No’ what are the reasons?-----

24. Do you think that the safety net program has contributed a lot in the process of improving food security?

A. Yes

B. NO

25. If your response for question No 23 is ‘Yes, what are the contributions?

26. What are the effects of the productive safety net program in your life and food security since you joined the program as a beneficiary?

Challenges of productive safety net program

27. What are the planning related challenges you faced in implementing the program activities to achieve household food security?

- A. lack of transparency on what is planned to have a sense of owner ship
- B. mismatch of the plan and achievements
- C. always the same plan without revising it based on the situation of past performance
- D. No challenge on this regard

28. What are the targeting related challenges you faced in implementing the program activities to achieve household food security?

- A. Selection of beneficiaries by neighborhood relationship
- B. Selection based on political participation
- C. Lack of active community participation in the targeting processes
- D. lack of awareness on how to target appropriate beneficiaries based on targeting criteria and procedures
- E. Lack of system of Grievance management in the process of targeting beneficiaries
- F. No challenges on this regard
- G. Other challenge (mention it if it is your choice)

29. What are the transfer related challenges you faced in implementing the program activities to achieve household food security?

- A. Insufficient financial payment and difficulty of the purchasing power of the received money
 - B. The payments is not based on the schedule fixed
 - C. The payment is not linked to saving accounts to enable the beneficiaries to retain some amount of money on our account
 - D. No challenge on this regard
 - E. Other challenges(mention it if it is your choice)
30. What are the institutional related challenges you faced in implementing the program activities to achieve household food security?
- A. Turnover of the government's officials and experts who knows the execution of PSNP better
 - B. Lack of integration of concerned sectors in the lower levels of the government
 - C. Lack of necessary technical follow up and regular monitoring starting from planning up to final evaluation
 - D. Lack of Regular short term training to improve once performance
 - E. No known challenge on this regard
 - F. Other challenges(mention it if it is your choice)
31. What are the nature related challenges you faced in implementing the program activities to achieve household food security?
- A. Frequent draught
 - B. Frequent floods
 - C. Crop Failure due to Pest Invasion or unexpected rain
 - D. Land degradation
 - E. No known challenge on this regard
 - F. Other challenges(mention it if it is your choice)
32. Do you think that security issues challenge the implementing the program activities to achieve household food security?
- A. Yes
 - B. No
33. What are the uses and supply of agricultural technologies related challenges you faced in implementing the program activities to achieve household food security?
- A. Lack of knowledge on how to use new technologies.

- B. Less access to modern agricultural technologies and/ or inputs.
- C. Attitudinal challenges on the use of modern technologies.
- D. Shortage of agricultural experts in all specialized areas.
- E. Other challenges(mention it if it is your choice)

34. If your response for the above question is other, please specify it clearly-----

35. Do you get adequate extension services from the agricultural experts?

A. Yes

B. No

36. If you have additional suggestions, comments and or recommendation regarding the problem under study, you can add on the space provided below

Appendix B

WOLKITE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Key Informant Interview Guide for beneficiaries, Woreda officials, Local Administrators, Managers and DAs (PSNP task force members)

1. How long have you been stayed in productive safety net program?
2. When did productive safety net program start in your Kebele?
3. How many household heads ever graduate since the program is launched in this Woreda and/or your Kebele?
4. What is the communities' attitude of the communities towards the benefits of the program?
5. How beneficiary households are identified for PSNP?
6. What mechanisms have been used to identify household either for public work or direct support?
7. Do you linkage with the credit institutions?
8. Do you have saving culture?
9. Do you use modern agricultural technologies?
10. Is their continuous support and follow up activity by concerned bodies to safety net beneficiaries to be effective?
11. Is there political influence over the program implementation?
12. What are the major challenges you faced in implementing the program activities?
13. Is the support from HABP/OFSP is implementing according to PIM manual? If not why
14. Is the transfer flexible, predictable and participatory?
15. What is your recommendation on the problems so as to have effective food security?

Appendix C

WOLKITE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

LEADING QUESTIONS FOR FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

1. When the program did starts to implement the program?
2. How is the Productive Safety Net Program practicing since then in your locality?
3. How many household heads ever graduate since the program is launched in this Woreda and/or your Kebele?
4. Is the transfer flexible, predictable and participatory?
5. Are the complementary programs (credit, access to extension program and others) accessible to all beneficiaries?
6. Do you have access to modern agricultural technologies?
7. Is their continuous support and follow up activity by concerned bodies to safety net beneficiaries to be effective?
8. Is there political influence in your kebele over the program implementation?
9. How do you compare the livelihood of graduated and current beneficiary households?
10. What do you think are major challenges that are considered as an obstacle in implementing the program to achieve house hold food security?
11. What should be done to cop the challenges in order to have effective food security?

Thank you!!!

Appendix D

በሴፍትኔት ፕሮግራም ተጠቃሚዎች የሚሞላ መጠይቅ

ወልቂጤ ዩኒቨርሲቲ

ማህበራዊ ሳይንስ እና ስነ ሰብ ኮሌጅ

የገሽርናንስና እና የልማት ጥናት የት/ት ክፍል

የመጠይቆቹ ዓላማ በምስራቅ መስቃን ወረዳ በሴፍትኔት ፕሮግራም የምግብ ዋስትናን ለማሻሻል ዕንቅፋት የሆኑ ፈታኝ ሁኔታዎችን በጥናት ለመለየት ነው። ስለሆነም ከእናንተ የሚሰበሰበው መረጃ የሚያገለግለው ለሁለተኛ ድግሪ ትምህርት ማሟያ ጥናት ስለሆነ ሁሉንም ጥያቄዎች በትዕግስት እና በጥንቃቄ አንብበው ተገቢውን ምላሽ እንዲሰጡን በአክብሮት እየጠየቅኩኝ የእርስዎ ምላሽ ምስጥርነቱን ጠብቆ ለአካዳሚክ ዓላማ ብቻ ጥቅም ላይ እንደሚውል ላረጋግጥልዎ እወዳለሁ።

ለትብብርዎ አስቀድሜ አመሰግናለሁ!!!

አጠቃላይ መመሪያ:

- ስምዎን መፃፍ አያስፈልግም።
- ለቀረቡ ጥያቄዎች ከተሰጡ አማራጮች መካከል የመረጡትን ፊደል ያክብቡ።
- ማብራሪያ ለሚፈልጉ የጥያቄ ዎች ደግሞ ምላሾችዎን በተዘጋጀው ቦታ ግልጽና ሊነበብ በሚችል የእጅ ጽሑፍ አጠር አድርገው አስተያየቶን ይጻፉ።
- በተቻለ መጠን ሁሉንም ጥያቄዎች አንብበው ምላሽ እንዲሰጡን እናበረታታለን።
- ይህ ጥናት ከየትኛውም ሃይማኖታዊ እና ፖለቲካዊ አቋም ጋር ምንም ዓይነት ግንኙነት እንደሌለው በትህትና እናሳውቃለን።
- ማናቸውም ጥያቄዎች ካሉዎት እባክዎን በሞባይል ስልክ ቁጥር 0913197200 ደውለው ያነጋግሩኝ ወይም በኢሜል Diro2004@gmail.com ይላኩልኝ።

የክፍል 1- አጠቃላይ መረጃ

እባክዎን ምላሽዎ ላይ ያድርጉ (✓).

- 1.ጾታ: - ሀ/ወንድ ☐ ለ/ ሴት ☐
2. ዕድሜ: - ሀ/ ከ22-27 ዓመት ☐ ለ/ ከ28-33 ☐ ሐ/ ከ34 39 ☐
 መ/ 39ና ከዚያ በላይ ☐
3. የጋብቻ ሁኔታ: - ሀ/ ያላገባ/ች ☐ ለ/ ያገባ/ች ☐ ሐ/ የተፋታ/ች ☐
4. የትምህርት ሁኔታ: - ሀ/ ያልተማረ ☐ ለ/ ማንበብና መጻፍ የሚችል ☐
 ሐ/ከ1-6 ኛ ክፍል ☐ መ/ ከ7-8 ☐ ሠ/ ከ9-12 ☐
 ረ/ 10 + 1 + 1 + 1 ☐ ሰ/ ዲፕሎማ ☐ ሸ/ ዲግሪና በላይ ☐
5. የቤተሰብ ብዛት - ሀ/ 2 ☐ ለ/ 3-5 ☐ ሐ/ 6-10 ☐ መ/ ከ10 በላይ ☐

ክፍል ሁለት: - በቤተሰብ ደረጃ የምግብ ዋስትናን ለማሻሻል የሴፍቲ ኔት ፕሮግራም ፈተናዎችን የሚመለከቱ ጥያቄዎች

1. ተጠቃሚዎች በሴፍትኔት ፕሮግራም ላይ ያላቸው አመለካከት ምን ይመስላል?

ተ ቁ	መግለጫ	5	4	3	1	1
		በጣም እስማማለሁ	እስማማለሁ	አልወሰንኩም	አልስማማም	በጣም አልስማማም
1	ሴፍትኔት የቤተሰብን የኑሮ ሁኔታ ሊለወጥ ይችላል					
2	ሴፍትኔት የቤተሰብን የገቢ መጠን እንዲጨምር ያግዛል					
3	ሴፍትኔት የቤተሰቡን ሀብት ንብረት ለማሳደግ ሊረዳ ይችላል					
4	ሴፍትኔት የቤተሰብ ተጋላጭነትን ለመቀነስ ይረዳል					
5	የሴፍትኔት ተጠቃሚዎች ወቅቱን ጠብቀው ለመመረቅ ፈቃደኛ ናቸው					
6	ሴፍትኔት የምግብ ዋስትና እንዲጨምር አስተዋጽኦ እያደረገ ነው					

2. በገጠር ሴፍትኔት ፕሮግራም ውስጥ ተጠቃሚ ሆነው ለምን ያህል ጊዜ ቆዩ?

ሀ. 1ዓመት ለ. 6- 10 ዓመት ሐ. ከ 10 ዓመታት በላይ

3. የግልዎ መኖሪያ ቤት አለዎት?

ሀ. አዎ ለ. የለኝም

4. የራስዎ የሆነ የእርሻ መሬት አለዎት?

ሀ. አዎ ለ. የለኝም

5. ከላይ ለቀረበው ጥያቄ ቁጥር 3 ምላሽዎ "አዎ" ከሆነ, የእርሻ መሬቱ መጠን ምን ያህል ነው?

ሀ. 0.5 ሄክታር ለ. ከ0.5 - 1 ሄክታር ሐ. ከ1-2 ሄክታር መ. 3 እና ከዚያ በላይ ሄክታር

6. የግብርና ምርታማነት ከፍ ለማድረግ የተመረጡ ዘዴዎችን እና ማዳበሪያ ይጠቀማሉ?

ሀ. አዎ ለ. አያይ አልጠቀምም

7. ከላይ ለቀረበው ጥያቄ ቁጥር 5 ላይ ምላሽዎ "አልጠቀምም" ከሆነ ለምን? ምክንያቶን

በአጭሩ ያብራሩ -----

8. ወደ ፕሮግራሙ ከተቀላቀሉ በኋላ የገዙት የቤት እንስሳት አልዎት ወይ?

ሀ. አዎ ለ. የለኝም

9. ገንዘብ ለመበደር እና ለቆጠብ ከአካባቢዎ ካለው የብድርና ቁጠባ ተቋማት ጋር ግንኙነት አለዎት?

ሀ. አዎ አለኝ ለ. የለኝም

10. ከላይ ለቀረበው ጥያቄ ቁጥር 9 ላይ ምላሽዎ 'የለኝም' ከሆነ ምክንያቱ ምንድነው?
አስተያየቶች በአጭሩ ያስቀምጡ

11. ከፕሮግራሙ የሚያገኙት የገንዘብ ክፍያ በወቅቱ ይከፈልዎታል ወይ?

ሀ. አዎ

ለ. በወቅቱ አይከፈልም

12. ከላይ ለቀረበው ጥያቄ ቁጥር 13 ላይ ምላሽዎ 'በወቅቱ አይከፈልም' ከሆነ ምን ያህል ጊዜ ይዘገያል?

ሀ. ለ 15 ቀናት

ለ. ከ15 እስከ 30 ቀናት ያህል

ሐ. ከ2-3 ወራት

መ. ከ4-5 ወራት ያህል

ሠ. ለ 6 እና ከዚያ በላይ ወራት

13. ከዲኤዎች (ከቀበሌው የልማት ወኪሎች) ተገቢ የሆነ የቴክኒካዊ ምክር አገልግሎት እና ድጋፍ ያገኛሉ?

ሀ. አዎ

ለ. አላገኝም

14. ከላይ በቀረበው ጥያቄ ቁጥር 15 ምላሽዎ አዎ ከሆነ ድጋፉ በቂ ነው ብለው ያስባሉ?

ሀ. ከበቂ በላይ ነው

ለ. በቂ ነው

ሐ. መጠነኛ ነው

መ. ዝቅተኛ ነው

15. ከቀበሌው የፕሮግራሙ አስተባባሪ ኮሚቴ ተገቢ የሆነ ድጋፍ ተሰጥቶኛል ብለው ያስባሉ?

ሀ. አዎ

ለ. አልተሰጠኝም

15. የቀበሌው የፕሮግራሙ አስተባባሪ ኮሚቴ ተጠቃሚ አባላትን ሲመለምል የድሀ ድሃ ቤቶችን ኢላማ ለማድረግ የሚያስችል ግልፅ እና ፍትሃዊ መስፈርት ተጠቅሟል ብለው ያስባሉ?

ሀ. አዎ

ለ. አያይ

16. ከላይ በተራ ቁጥር 18 ለተጠቀሰው ጥያቄ ላይ ምላሽዎ <አያይ> ከሆነ እባክዎን ምክንያትዎን በአጭሩ ያብራሩ

17. እርሶን ለመጀመሪያ ጊዜ የፕሮግራሙ ተጠቃሚ እንዲሆኑ የመለመሱት ማነው?

ሀ. የቀበሌው ዲኤዎች(የልማት ወኪሎች)

ለ. የቀበሌ የምግብ ዋስትና ፕሮግራም ግብረ ኃይል

ሐ. የቀበሌው ሊቀመንበር

መ. ማህበረሰቡ

ሰ. ማን እንደሆነ በዉል አላዉቅም

18. በአሁኑ ወቅት እርስዎ ከፕሮግራሙ የሚቀበሉት የትኛውን የድጋፍ አገልግሎት ዓይነት ነው?

ሀ. ምግብ

ለ. ጥሬ ገንዘብ

ሐ . ሁለቱም ምግብ እና ጥሬ

ገንዘብ

19. ከፕሮግራሙ በየወሩ የሚደገፉት የገንዘብ መጠን ምን ይህል ነው?

ሀ. Br.375-1000 ለ. Br.1101-1500 ሐ. Br.1501-2000 መ. Above 2500birr

20. ከፕሮግራሙ በየወሩ የሚቀበሉት የገንዘብ ክፍያ የምግብ ዋስትናዎትን ለማረጋገጥ በቂ ነው ብለው ያስባሉ?

ሀ. አዎ

ለ. አያይ በቂ አይደለም

21. እርሶ በፕሮግራሙ ተጠቃሚ መሆን ከጀመሩ በኋላ የምግብ ዋስትናዎትን ማሻሻል ችለዋል ወይ?

ሀ. አዎ

ለ. አያይ

22. ከላይ በተራ ቁጥር 24 ላይ ለቀረበዉ ጥያቄ ምላሽዎ <አይ> ከሆነ ምክንያቱን በአጭሩ ያብራሩ -----

23. እርሶ አስቀድሞ በፕሮግራሙ በተያዘዉ የምረቃ መርሃግብር መሰረት ለመመረቅ ፈቃደኛ ነዎት?

ሀ. አዎ

ለ. አያይ

24. ከላይ ለተጠቀሰው ጥያቄ የሚሰጡት ምላሽ <አይሆንም> ከሆነ ለምንድነው? በአጭሩ ያብራሩ

25. ውጤታማ ያልሆነ ዕቅድ ዝግጅት ለየፕሮግራሙ አተገባበር ውጤታማነት አስተዋጽኦ ይኖረዋል ብለዉ ያስባሉ?

ሀ. አዎ

ለ. አያይ

26. የምግብ ዋስትናን ለማረጋገጥ በሚተገበሩ ስራዎች ከዕቅድ ጋር የተያያዙ ፈታኝ የሆኑ ችግሮች ምንድ ናቸው?

- ሀ. የባለቤትነት ስሜት እንዲኖር በሚታቀዱ ስራዎች ላይ ግልፅነት አለመፈጠር
- ለ. የታቀዱ ተግባራትና የተፈጸሙ ተግባራት አለመጣጣም
- ሐ. ያለፈውን አፈፃፀም በመገምገም ዕቅድ ከመከለስ ይልቅ ሁል ጊዜ ተመሳሳይ ዕቅድ ማዘጋጀት
- መ. ከዕቅድ ጋር የተያያዘ ምንም ፈታኝ ችግር አላጋጠመም
- ሠ. ሌላ(ምላሽዎ ሌላ ከሆ ይግለጹት)

27. የምግብ ዋስትና ለማረጋገጥ ከተጠቃሚ ምልመላ ጋር ተያይዞ ያጋጠሙ ዕንቅፋቶች ምንድን ናቸው?

- ሀ. በጉርብትና ግንኙነት ላይ የተመሰረተ የተጠቃሚዎች ምልመላ ማድረግ
- ለ. በፖለቲካ ፓርቲ አባልነት ላይ በመመርኮዝ ምልመላ ማድረግ
- ሐ. በተጠቃሚ ምልመላ ሂደት ንቁ የማህበረሰብ ተሳትፎ አለመኖር
- መ. ተገቢነት ያላቸው ተጠቃሚዎችን በአግባቡ ለመምረጥ በምልመላ መስፈርት ላይ ግልጽነት አለመፈጠር
- ሠ. ተጠቃሚዎች ምልመላ ሂደት የቅሬታ አስተዳደር ስርዓት አለመኖር
- ረ. ከምልመላ ጋር የተያያዙ ችግሮች አልገጠሙም
- ሰ. ሌላ(ምላሽዎ ሌላ ከሆ ይግለጹት)

28 ለተጠቃሚው ገንዘብ በማቅረብ ከማስተላለፍ ጋር የተያያዙ ፈታኝ ችግሮች ምንድን ናቸው?

- ሀ. የሚሰጠው ገንዘብ የምግብ ዋስትና ለማረጋገጥ በቂ ያለመሆኑና የገንዘቡ የመግዛት አቅም ችግር
- ለ. የሚሰጡ ወርሃዊ ክፍያዎች በተቀመጠላቸው የጊዜ ሰሌዳ መሰረት አለመፈጸም
- ሐ. የተወሰነ መጠን ያለው ገንዘብ መቆጠብ እንዲችል ክፍያው ከባንክ ቁጠባ ሂሳብ ጋር ያለመተሳሰር
- መ. ከዚህ አንጻር የገጠመን ፈተና የለም

29. የምግብ ዋስትናን ለማረጋገጥ ፈተና ሊሆኑ የሚችሉ ተቋማዊ ችግሮች ምንድን ናቸው?

- ሀ. የሴፍትኔትን ተግባራት በተሻለ ሁኔታ የሚያውቁ ባለሙያዎችና የስራ ሃላፊዎች በየጊዜው በአዳዲስ መተካት
- ለ. በመንግስት ቦታችኛው መዋቅር ላይ ያሉ የሚመለከታቸው ሴክተሮች ቅንጅታዊ

አሰራር ጉድለት

ሐ. አስፈላጊ የሆነ ቴክኒካዊ ድጋፍ ጉድለት እና መደበኛ የክትትልና ግምገማ ስርዓት በቂ ያለመሆን

መ. የስራዎችን አፈፃፀም ለማሻሻል በየጊዜው ክፍተትን መነሻ ያደረገ መደበኛ የአጭር ጊዜ ስልጠና አለመኖር

ሠ. ሌላ(ምላሽዎ ሌላ ከሆ ይግለጹት)

30. የምግብ ዋስትና ለማረጋገጥ የሚያስችሉ የፕሮግራሙ እንቅስቃሴዎችን ወጤታማ እንዳይሆኑ ከተፈጥሮ ሁኔታ ጋር የተያያዙ ችግሮች ምንድን ናቸው?

ሀ. ተደጋጋሚ ድርቅ

ለ. ተደጋጋሚ ጎርፍ

ሐ. በተባይ ወረራ እና ባልተጠበቀ ዝናብ ምክንያት የሰብል ውድመት

መ. ምንም ችግር አላጋጠመንም

ሠ. ሌላ(ምላሽዎ ሌላ ከሆ ይግለጹት)

31. ፕሮግራሙን በስኬታዊነት ለመተግበር የጸጥታ ሁኔታ ማነቆ ነበር ወይ ?

ሀ. አዎ

ለ. አያይ

32. ሴፍትኔትን በስኬታዊነት ለመተግበር ከግብርና ቴክኖሎጂዎች አቅርቦትና አጠቃቀም ጋር የተያያዙ ችግሮች ምንድናቸው?

ሀ. አዳዲስ ቴክኖሎጂዎችን እንዴት መጠቀም እንደሚቻል አለማወቅ

ለ ዘመናዊ የግብርና ቴክኖሎጂዎች እና/ወይም የግብዓቶች አቅርቦት ማነስ

ሐ. በዘመናዊ ቴክኖሎጂዎች አጠቃቀም ላይ የአመለካከት ተግዳሮቶች

መ. በሁሉም ልዩ አካባቢዎች የግብርና ባለሙያዎች እጥረት.

ሰ. ሌላ(ምላሽዎ ሌላ ከሆ ይግለጹት)

33. የልማታዊ ሴፍትኔት መርሀግብር እስከአሁን በነበረው ትግበራ የምግብ ዋስትናን ለማረጋገጥ ጉልህ አስተዋጽኦ አድርጓል ብለው ይገምታሉ?

ሀ. አዎ

ለ. አያይ

34. ከላይ በተራ ቁጥር ---- ለቀረበው ጥያቄ የሰጡት ምላሽ አዎ ከሆነ ያበረከተውን አስተዋጽኦ በዝርዝርና ባጭሩ ቢያብራሩ?

35. ልማታዊ ሴፍትኬት ፕሮግራም ከተቀላቀሉ በኋላ በህይወትዎና በምግብ ዋስትናዎ ላይ የታየው መሻሻል ምንድነው?-----

Annex

Table1. Woreda Partner sectors Key Responsibilities

Main Institutional Partner sectors	Key Responsibilities
Woreda Office of Agriculture (WoA)	Responsible for the overall management of PSNP.
Woreda Food Security Desk	Coordinate all PSNP activities including on implementation of social development commitment plans including gender, SEP, GBV, GRM, linkage, and ESAC/SD plans. Ensure the preparation of a pipeline of projects for PSNP in consultation with the kebele FS TF; Mobilize technical assistance as needed; Ensure PSNP risk financing plans are developed and implemented as needed; Submit progress reports in accordance with the PSNP format; Maintain accurate records of kebele PSNP activities and list of clients; and Provide information on target areas Woreda Food Security Desk and selected clients to sectorial offices and other agencies.
Natural Resource Desk	Responsible for managing the public works Consolidate public works plans and budgets developed in the kebeles; Ensure integration of community watershed plans into woreda plans and more broadly, integration of the PSNP public works in the overall woreda plan; Provide assistance to DAs and communities in the planning process; Implementing the ESMF; Supervise public works and providing technical backstopping with FS; Support the M&E system especially on the Public Works Review; Foster linkages between public works and livelihoods; and Facilitate experience sharing among kebeles.

Agricultural Extension Desk	• Responsible for managing crop and livestock pathwaysProvide assistance to Das and communicate in the planning process • Consolidate livelihood plans, report and budget • Implement livelihood ESMF • Supervise livelihood activities and providing technical backstopping • Support the livelihood M&E system • Foster linkages between public works and livelihoods; and • Facilitate experience sharing among kebeles
Livestock Desk	• Provide technical training and support on livestock pathway • Implement livelihood ESMF • Support the livelihood M&E system • Supervise livelihood activities and providing technical backstopping • Prepare livelihood plans and report
Woreda Office of Labor and Social Affairs	Engage on targeting of PDS clients Identify available social services and connect PDS clients with these services. Initiate the PDS transfer /payment for food security desk Jointly with the Public work focal unit, implement Occupational Health and Safety standards and supervise its implementations in collaboration with NRMD
TVET/SME	Provide technical training and support on off farm pathway Implement livelihood ESMF Support the livelihood M&E system Supervise livelihood activities and providing technical backstopping Prepare livelihood plans and report
MFIs	• Allocate credit fund and provide loan to livelihood clients • Supervise livelihoods activities and providing technical backstopping • Prepare livelihood plans and report
RJOC	Implement employment pathway with technical support from the Employment Promotion Directorate of MoLSA and with policy/strategy support from the JCC
Woreda Women, Children, and Youth Affairs (WCYA) Office	Oversee the implementation of GBV action plan Collaborate with WoLSA on monitoring of child labor issues at PW sites Collaborate with woreda food security desk and other sectors on the implementation of gender, child, and overall social development and linkage issues
Woreda Office of Finance	Ensure transfers to clients are undertaken on a timely basis according to the minimum performance standards. Prepare quarterly financial reports.

<i>Cooperative Promotions Office</i>	<i>Develop capacity of RUSSACCOs</i> <i>Prepare livelihood plans and report</i> <i>Support the livelihood M&E system</i> <i>Provide training and support on financial products tailored to livelihood clients</i>
<i>Woreda Health Office</i>	<i>As part of the tripartite agreement, implement and monitor nutrition interventions and linkages to health services</i>
<i>Woreda Sector other Offices</i>	<i>Consolidate proposals of the Kebele Food Security Task Force for incorporation in the woreda PSNP plans;</i> <i>Incorporate PSNP activities in their yearly program/action-plans, based on the woreda integrated plan which includes the PSNP plans;</i> <i>Prepare activity implementation plans and request budget for implementation;</i> <i>Implement PSNP activities at kebele and community levels;</i> <i>Provide technical assistance and training to technical personnel and kebele staff;</i> <i>Undertake project screening in accordance with the ESMF;</i> <i>Conduct monitoring and evaluation of activities; and Prepare quarterly progress and financial reports</i>

Productive Safety Net Program phase 5 (PSNP5) manual, 2021 woreda Partner sectors Responsibilities page (104-106)



በደቡብ ብሔራዊ/ክልላዊ መንግሥት
የጉራጌ ዞን ግብርና መምሪያ
ወልቂጤ
SNNPR Regional state Gurage Zone Agriculture Department
Wolkite - Ethiopia

ቁጥር-2361/5-14
ቀን-20/05/2019

**ለጉራጌ ዞን ፕላን ኮምሽን መምሪያ
ወልቂጤ**

ጉዳዩ:- የ10 ዓመት መሪ እቅድ ክልሉ ስለመላክ ይሆናል:-

ከላይ በርዕሱ ለመግለፅ እደተሞክረዋል፡፡ የጉራጌ ዞን ፕላን ኮምሽን የ10 ዓመት መሪ እቅድ እድንልክ መጠየቁን ይታወቃል፡፡ ስለሆነም የጉራጌ ዞን ግብርና መምሪያ እቅዱን በተጠየቀው መሰረት በማስተካከል -----ገጽ በማድረግ ከዚህ ሽጌ ደብዳቤ ጋር አባሪ በማድረግ የላክን መሆኑን እንገልጻለን፡፡

ግልባጭ

ለጉራጌ ዞን ግብርና ኃላፊ

ለጉራጌ ዞን የል/ዕ/ዘ/ክ/ግ/ግ /የስራ ሂደት

ወልቂጤ

አሰላምታ ጋር

(Signature)

አበራ ሠንደቅ ወርቅነህ
Abera Wondimu Habete

የፋ/ዘ/ም/ክ/ክ/ግ ግብርና መምሪያ ኃላፊ
G/Z/V/Ad & Agriculture Dept Head

ተቃ	ዝርዝር የሥራ መለኪያ	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	የምግብ ዋስትና ችግር በማረጋገጥ ከሴክተሩ ጋር በተያያዘ የተመረቀው የተመረቀው ቤተሰብ በቁጥር	0	0	0	0	233	245	0	0	0	250	265
	በተገኘው ድጋፍ የሚፈጸሙ የተጠቃሚዎች ቁጥር	4190	4190	4190	4190	4190	4190	4190	4190	4190	4190	4190
	ለዝርዝር የተጠቃሚዎች የተዘጋጀ ቢዝነስ ፕላን ቁጥር	50	50	75	100	125	150	165	180	160	150	130
	የቤተሰብ ፓኬጅ ብድር በማግኘት ጥሪት የገነቡ ስር የሰደደና ጊዜያዊ የምግብ ዋስትና ችግር ያለባቸው የተሰራጨ ቁጥር	9745	9745	9745	9745	9745	9745	9745	9745	9745	9745	9745
	የብድር ገንዘብ ብር	215000	250000	375000	500000	625000	750000	825000	900000	800000	750000	650000
	የብድር ገንዘብ ብር	112000	212000	288000	300000	800000	1200000	1200000	1400000	800000	400000	400000
	ለአመራሩና ለሰላምታው እና ተጠቃሚ ቤተሰቦች የተሰጠ የተሰጠ ስልጠና ቁጥር	19217	3850	4550	4500	5000	5450	6000	5800	5500	5020	4850
የአርባ ሜካናይዘሽን መሳሪያዎች ማሟላት												
	ትራክተር ቁጥር	116	142	50		20	10	10	10	9	7	5











