ETHIOPIA

FINAL PROGRAMMATIC REPORT

AUGUST 15TH 2005 –AUGUST 14TH 2006

Emergency Livelihoods Recovery Program (ELR)
Cooperative Agreement #: DFD-G-00-05-00145-00
Submission Date November 20, 2006

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Acronyms – Abbreviations

ABG	Asset Building Group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
HH	House Hold
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
PSI	Population Services International
WA	Water Action

1. Executive Summary

On August 15, 2005, CHF International was awarded Cooperative Agreement No. DFD-G-00-00145-00 from USAID/OFDA to implement the Emergency Livelihoods Recovery Program (ELR). The ELR program is designed to assist over 35,220 people in the emergency-affected weredas of Maskan, Silti, Dalocha, Alaba and Sankura in the SNNPR to rehabilitate and maintain livelihood assets and skills of the most vulnerable households to increase their nutritional intake. Special focus was to be placed on women headed households, as these have been observed to be the most vulnerable members of the community. Ways for these communities to better prepare, respond to and recover from the negative effects of recurrent drought, flooding and food insecurity, resulting from erratic rainfall patterns, will be to facilitate restoration of depleted assets, household livelihood diversification interventions and improving water resource management. The proposed interventions contribute to achievement by addressing four key objectives: 1) *Income diversification by creating income streams outside rain-fed agriculture. 2) Increased agricultural productivity through more productive crops, use of improved drought resistant varieties, and improved soil fertility and management. 3) Improved asset management resulting in increased cash or asset cushions. 4) Improved water resource security and management*. CHF implements this program in close partnership with one Ethiopian NGO, Water Action.

Erratic rainfall patterns, recurrent drought, insect and pest infestations in combination with traditional farming techniques and reduced soil fertility resulted in reduced production capacity and decreased productivity to the point where outputs from farming are incapable of supporting many farmers from these woredas for two months or more. Once food supplies are exhausted, farmers experience food insecurity which makes them highly vulnerable.

In addition, most of the farmers assisted under the ELR program were not included in the government safety net program from its inception, which also aggravated the problem. Therefore, the situation called for an urgent response to these highly vulnerable, disaster stricken farming communities in a manner which helped to build household assets to decrease vulnerability in the longer term then enable them to sustain their livelihoods. Thus the overarching goal of the Emergency Livelihood Recovery Program was to rehabilitate and maintain the livelihood assets and skills of the most vulnerable population in order to increase their nutritional intake.

Table 3. ELR Program Indicators and Results

Activity	Indicator	Means of Verification
Objective: Rehabilitate and maintain livelihood assets and skills of most vulnerable population to raise nutritional intake	35,220 of the most vulnerable beneficiaries become self sufficient, close the food gap, and are not dependent on assistance	• End of program impact assessment • Household sample survey to monitor consumption

Sub-Objective 1: Livelihood diversification by creating income streams outside of rain-fed agriculture		
Women headed households selected to generate income from poultry production (sale of eggs and chickens), trained in modern and improved poultry production and organized into associations	• 620 women-headed households (benefiting 3,720 people) identified and supplied with 30 one-day old Egyptian Fayoumi chicks each, trained in chicken rearing and hay-box chick brooder construction • 18,600 one-day old chicks bought and distributed • 620 Hay-Box chick Brooders constructed • % change in income from sale of eggs and chickens by the end of the year • 10 poultry producers associations formed and trained	• Monthly field report • Site visits by Field Coordinator and Field Officers • Financial statements from Water Action of purchased items • Attendance records from training sessions • Association financial records
Women organized into goat/sheep breeders associations and trained in modern management methods	• Up to 800 women selected and organized into 10 groups benefiting 4,800 people • Approximately 800 animals purchased and distributed – 2 animals per member in the first 5 groups, with the offspring provided to the second 5 groups • % change in income from sale of goats/sheep by the end of the year	• Monthly field report • Site visits by Field Coordinator and Field Officers • Attendance records from training sessions • Association financial records
Sub-Objective 2: Increased agricultural productivity through more productive crops; use of improved, drought resistant varieties, and improved soil fertility and management		
Provide technical assistance and improved technologies including improved varieties of seeds and agricultural implements for farmers cultivating grains.	• 2,500 exceptionally vulnerable farmers identified and supplied with seeds of improved varieties (maize, sorghum, teff etc.), benefiting 15,000 people • 1,250 quintals of improved varieties of seed of different crop types bought and distributed • 100 tie ridgers bought and distributed, one tie ridger per two farmers • Crop yield increased by 40% • Use of seeds of improved varieties of crop increased by 50%	• Monthly field report • Site visits by Field Coordinator and Field Officers • Financial statements from Water Action of purchased items
Provide technical assistance and improved technologies including improved varieties of seeds and improved irrigation practices for farmers involved in the production of vegetable and root crops (e.g., carrots, onions, paper, beets, sweet potato, cabbage etc)	• 1,500 most vulnerable farm families identified, trained in modern vegetable production and provided with seeds, benefiting 9,000 people • 50 kg of variety of vegetable seeds bought and distributed to most vulnerable families who are vegetable growers • Yield of Vegetable production increased by 50% • Vegetable consumption at household level increased and nutritional status of the family improved • Use of seeds of improved varieties of	• Monthly field report • Site visits by Field Coordinator and Field Officers • Financial statements from Water Action of purchased items

	crop increased by 50%	
Sub-Objective 3: Improved asset management resulting in increased cash or asset cushions		
Beneficiaries in the different activities organized into asset building groups to pool their resources together and build an asset cushion	• 10 Poultry producers associations formed • 3 Vegetable irrigation associations formed • 10 goat/sheep fattening associations • Amount of money saved by the end of the year or expansion of asset base (increase in animals)	• Monthly field report • Site visits by Field Coordinator and Field Officers • Attendance records and evaluations from training sessions • Association financial records
Sub-Objective 4: Improved water resource security and management		
Different water resources identified and water supplied for irrigation, drinking and sanitary purposes and beneficiaries organized into Water Users Associations	• 2 deep wells constructed (Alaba, Sankura) • 200 hand dug wells constructed • 5 natural springs developed/improved (Meskan, Silti) • 7 water users associations formed and trained	• Monthly field report • Site visits • Monthly reports from Water Action • Financial statements of purchased items • Attendance records and evaluations from training sessions

2. Methodology towards Achieving Objectives

The ELR program's primary objectives are to rehabilitate and maintain the livelihood assets and skills of the most vulnerable households thereby increase their nutritional intake. The program is aimed at assisting the most vulnerable and disaster stricken rural communities in 31 chronically food insecure Kebeles of Meskan, Dalocha, Siltie, Sankura and Alaba special Woreda. The beneficiaries are food insecure households not included in the government safety net program.

To effectively achieve the project objectives, ELR's implementation plan and activities were carefully prepared, including assuring that the most vulnerable and needy community members were properly identified and targeted.

During the planning stage CHF's field staff met with Its partner Water Action and representatives from The Woreda Food Security task Force in order to do the following.

A. Prepare and finalize a detailed plan of operations and activities. The plan included developing robust targeting procedure and determining the number of target beneficiary households and the budget allocated for each activity of the project by Woreda and implementation breakdown on a quarterly basis.

B. Establish criteria and procedures for targeting of beneficiaries in all project Woredas. 31 chronically food insecure Kebeles in the five Woredas were at first identified by Woredas agriculture and rural development and food security desks using already recorded disaster history and vulnerability status.

Criteria developed for targeting of beneficiaries included:

- Families who were chronically food insecure and not included in the government safety net program (the poorest of the poor).
- Families who had lost their crops and their asset damaged as a result of weather hazards, such as late or early rain, hail storm, and flood.
- Women Women and female-headed house holds with disabled, elderly, and infant family members.
- Families who have no alternative means or support of any kind from other sources.

Community Gathering for Beneficiary Targeting

C. Conduct targeting exercises.

Different methods were employed for targeting of beneficiaries in the target Woredas but the most common practice performed is was the participatory rural appraisal (PRA) which utilized CHF International's PACE methodology. The appraisals were conducted inclusively, including the CHF ELR team, project officers of Water Action (WA), different experts from Woredas Agricultural Rural Development (ARD) and food security desks, development agents, Kebele food security task force members, peasant administration members, elderly persons, youths, and religion leaders.

The first step in the operation was organizing a one day training for woreda Food Security Task Force members, Development agents, Water Action officers, Kebele and community Food Security Task Force members for at Woreda centers. During this meeting project issues and objectives and the need for properly targeting the participants was explained and discussed. As participants represent all members of the community, they understood the problem and existing situations, and physical, social

and economic conditions of their Kebeles and the community. First they were asked to draw and develop social and resource maps of their Kebeles on the ground using simple materials like stones and wood. Woreda experts, project officers and others present during the time were restricted to facilitating the process only, and the farmers had taken the lead. The farmers then subdivided their map and indicated locations of Peasant Association's (PA'S), villages or Gott and plotted additional information on the map including farmlands, forest, and grazing lands, waste land, rivers and other water sources and any existing Kebele infrastructures.

These maps and related information was replicated on a paper with the help of the Woreda experts and Development Agent's (DA'S). The farmers were then are asked to list the history of disaster in their Kebeles and were asked to rank the sub PA'S, village, or Gotts according to the severity and extent of the damage experienced by the disasters and problems.

Some of the common problems identified during the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercise included low productivity, degraded soil fertility, hail, storm, shortage of rainfall and erratic patterns, flood, pest and insect damages, drinking water, health and sanitation problems, etc.

The purpose of the exercise was to identify and select the most chronically affected areas and communities from the overall Kebeles. Finally members in each Kebele identified 2-3 villages as the most vulnerable targets. Then an assignment was given for the Kebeles food security task force (KFSTF) members to arrange a meeting with key representatives in selected villages of all Kebeles involved. The key representatives reflected a cross section of local society and included the elderly, religious leaders, youth (male and female) representatives, women and Community Based Organization (CBO) members (Eder & Ekub).

During the meetings, detailed discussion established a community wealth ranking, which is used to identify the most vulnerable and poorest households. The ranking criteria subdivided the community further and incorporated 3-4 groups i.e., poorest of the poor, poor, medium and rich (or "better off"). After this the representatives categorized the community into the four categories from the social map. .

3. Objectives One: Livelihood Diversification by Creating Income Streams outside of Rain-fed Agriculture

Livelihood diversification of targeted beneficiaries was one intervention planned under ELR. This objective was to diversify agricultural activities to create income sources and improve farmers' livelihoods by providing different agricultural inputs and materials to beneficiaries organized to implement different activities.

A. Poultry Production.

During the project development stage the need of women headed households identified as day-old chicks as an appropriate intervention because of the potential of the activity, existing knowledge, cost of input and ability to cover more beneficiaries. This assessment was reinforced during the time beneficiaries were targeted. This allowed program beneficiaries to start with a small input and develop the input in to a higher valued asset using their own skill. In addition to this, as the several success stories indicates, the woman sold some of the chicks and used the proceeds to purchase sheep, which indicates the increased capacity of the target to diversify and value add to her own asset.

Under poultry production and management activities, 6854 Road Island Red, day-old chicks were purchased from Awassa Agricultural Research Center poultry farm. These chicks were distributed to 227 women headed households of Meskan and Alaba special Woredas. The plan was to distribute 18600 day old chicks to 620 beneficiaries in the five project Woredas. Unfortunately the threat of avian flu reaching Ethiopia via neighboring countries resulted in a project halt in poultry distribution to protect against possible flu transmission to human populations. CHF was instructed by the donor to halt the distribution of chicks and the activity was changed in to shoat provision. The threat of Avian Influenza stimulated a refocusing of the intervention to poultry rearing. As a result, in the remaining three Woredas poultry production and distribution was changed to small ruminants rearing. This was viewed as an acceptable asset building alternative to poultry and was discussed an accepted by OFDA.

In the two Woredas where poultry production was implemented (Meskan and Alaba), 30 day-old chicks were provided to each targeted woman-headed household along with materials for rearing and managing day-old chicks.

Distribution of day-old-chicks

In addition to day-old chick distribution, 85 quintals (8500Kg) of starter feed was purchased and distributed to each poultry raising households at an average of 30Kg per household. This serves as eight weeks of starter ration while the day old chicks remained in their brooder boxes.

412 Hay box chicken brooders were constructed, of which 227 distributed to the farmers in the two Woredas. These Hay box chicken brooders were made of low cost local materials and consisted of two compartments. One compartment served as the daytime compartment of the chicks, the other as a night-time compartment. This brooder helps to reduce the mortality of the chicks and protects them from predators until they are about eight weeks old.

Three rounds of vaccination were given to the day old chicks to protect them from epidemics and communicable diseases. A series of follow up and support visits were made; during the visits it was found that 1078 day-old chicks reportedly died. Reasons included stress due to the long journey

from the collection centers to distribution points at the Woreda PA's, beneficiary mismanagement, hunger, etc.

In response to the threat of Avian Influenza, 227 chicken shades were constructed in the two Woredas. These shades help to minimize the risk of avian flu disease by separating the chicks from wild birds and from contact with possible contaminants located in the farmers' house.

Poultry production with separately constructed poultry house/shade

Poultry production activities in Siltie, Dalocha and Sankura was changed to small ruminant rearing. Under the activity, 786 sheep were purchased and distributed to 393 women farmers, two sheep per beneficiary.

Under the poultry production activities , beneficiaries have started to enjoy benefits from the sell of eggs, and chickens (day-old chicks and juvenile chickens) and nutritionally through the consumption of eggs by household members. There are many exemplary households working hard to maintain and increase their household asset based on the support they have been provided by the project.

Success Story: Zeineba Ahmed Anulo

Zeineba Ahmed - from Gerama Kebele of Alaba special Woreda received 30-day old chicks in January 2006. She Lost only 3 chickens; he sold 15 adult roosters for birr 255 and bought one sheep at birr 170 and used the remainder to cover the school expenses of her children.

Income generated from Poultry production used to purchase a goat by a household in Alaba

Success Story: Bogalech Abdo
Bogalech Abdo, Lower Arsho Kebele, received 30 day-old chicks, lost 10 chickens and managed the rest well. She sold 10 chickens for 100 birr and bought a sheep.

Success Story: Sebre Mecango
Sebre Mecango, Gerama Kebele, received 30-day-old chicks, lost only one and properly managed the rest. She plans to sell 15 of the chickens to buy a sheep.

Poultry house/shade, Alaba

Lessons Learned

There were unexpected results with poultry activities. About 18 Alaba woreda farmers completely lost the day-old chicks provided to them. Despite the extra care and effort it requires, poultry production intervention proved to be highly beneficial to the farmers in generating immediate income and increasing nutritional intake by consuming the egg and the meet. Beneficiaries especially appreciated

poultry rearing activities. They found that poultry had a rapid production cycle, providing eggs for new hatchlings as well as personal consumption and sale, day-old chicks for immediate sale, and adult poultry which could be sold for higher amounts. Many beneficiaries found the intervention to be a way to rapidly build their asset base through rapid sale of animals to purchase other livestock, which is a traditional method of asset savings and protection.

Poultry production requires intensive management and care. There is a high risk of loss stemming from several reasons. Proper poultry management by beneficiaries can minimize these risks.

B. Small Ruminant Distribution

Distribution of Small ruminants was a planned activity under this objective. In addition, women farmers were organized into asset building groups and trained in small ruminant management. This helped the targeted beneficiaries to engage in an income generation activity and improve their livelihoods. Under this Objective, 800 sheep were purchased and distributed to 800 women beneficiaries in all project Woredas. The original strategy envision the procurement of 800 pregnant shoats and providing two shoats to 400 women. These women would then transfer the offspring to the remaining 400 beneficiaries. However, considering the emergency nature of the project, it was decided to distribute one shoat to each beneficiary household.

Small ruminant rearing

Similarly, opportunities were created for farmers who participated in the small ruminants activities. At the end of ELR, most of the sheep and goats distributed were healthy and in good condition. The majority of the sheep produced 1-3 offspring, and a number of the sheep were pregnant. As an indicator of the project's success, 497 offspring were produced in the first round of distribution alone. Only 35 ewes fatalities were reported. The small ruminant husbandry practice has started to build the household asset base of the beneficiaries, and is fostering increased resiliency of the poor farmers towards food insecurity.

Beneficiaries have reported success stories similar to those of the poultry production activities.

Success Story: Dubela Bukolo

Dubela Bukolo, was provided with a sheep. The sheep gave birth 4 off springs; one of which died. Currently she has 1 ewe and 3 offsprings.

Small ruminant rearing (Alaba)

Success Story: Bartuge Hamdela.

Bartuge Hamdela and Kedija Hassen are beneficiaries from Nadugnaagam Kebele of Dalocha Woreda. They were provided with one sheep each. Both sheep produced two off springs each and now they each have three sheep.

Small ruminant rearing, Dalocha (Nadugna agam)

ELR Program Indicators and Results		
Objective: Rehabilitate and maintain livelihood assets and skills of most vulnerable population to raise nutritional intake	35,220 of the most vulnerable beneficiaries become self sufficient, close the food gap, and are not dependent on assistance	
3.1 Sub-Objective 1: Livelihood diversification by creating income streams outside of rain-fed agriculture		
Activity	*Indicator*	*This reporting period result*
Women headed households selected to generate income from poultry production (sale of eggs and chickens), trained in modern and improved poultry production and organized into associations.	• 620 women-headed households (benefiting 3,720 people) identified and supplied with 30 one-day old Egyptian Fayoumi chicks each, trained in chicken rearing and hay-box chick brooder construction • 18,600 one-day old chicks bought and distributed • 620 Hay-Box chick Brooders constructed • % change in income from sale of eggs and chickens by the end of the year • 10 poultry producers associations formed and trained	6,854 day old chicks were distributed to 227 households. 227 women-headed households received training in modern poultry management. On advice from USAID, CHF halted all poultry related activities including poultry distribution following news of a bird's death in the country, suspected to have been related to the H5N1 Avian Flu. Due to supply issues, Rhode Island Red chicks were substituted for Fayoumi chicks based on advise from the Ethiopian extension service. The Rhode Island Red is considered a breed with similar characteristics to the Fayoumi, and is deemed suitable for the targeted woredas. After USAID ban on poultry distribution, the remaining 393 HH received shoats;
Women organized in to Sheep/Goat breeders' association and trained in modern management methods.	• Up to 800 women selected and organized in to 10 groups benefiting 4800 people • 800 animals purchased and distributed -2 animals per member in the first 5 groups, with the offspring provided to the second 5 groups • % change in income from sale of Sheep/ Goat by the end of the year.	800 sheep were purchased and distributed to 800 women beneficiaries of the project in all project Woredas. Here some adjustments were made in the original strategy. Originally CHF was to provide two pregnant shoats to 400 women who would then transfer the first two offspring to the remaining 400 beneficiaries. Due to the emergency nature of the project it was decided to distribute one shoat

		to each beneficiary household. Most of the provided animals have already begun to bear offspring, increasing the asset base of the beneficiaries.

4. Objective Two: Increased Agricultural productivity through more Productive Crops: use of improved drought resistant varieties and improved soil fertility and management.

Under this objective, different provisions including improved varieties of crop and vegetable seeds, farm implements and other inputs were distributed to beneficiaries. The purpose of the distribution was to increase the agricultural productivity of farmers through improved drought resistant varieties, improved soil fertility, and improved land management. Increased productivity will enable farmers to increase their food self-sufficiency, with the ultimate goal of complete self-sufficiency, and helps increasing the resilience of the chronically food insecure communities to weather related shocks.

Cereals Seed Distribution

The following activities were implemented, ensuring the success of this objective:

- 3542 farmers received cereal seed from FAO
    - Meskan 972HH received 21,300 kg (Teff)
    - Siltie1485HH received 13,668kg (BH.maize)
    - Dalocha 10,85HH received 11,092kg (pioneer maize)
    - 16.5 quintals (1650 kg) of maize seed (BH-542) and 201 quintals (20100 kg) of wheat seed (HAR-1775) is purchased from Ethiopian improved seed agency and distributed to 800 farmers in 10 PA's of Alaba special Woreda benefiting 4800 people.

Woreda	Seed Type	Number Households	Quantity
Meskan	Teff	972 HH	21,300 kg
Siltie	BH Maize	1,485 HH	13,668 kg
Dalocha	Pioneer Maize	1,085 HH	11,092 kg
Alaba special	Maize (BH-542)	264 HH	1,650 kg
	Wheat (HAR-1775)	536 HH	20,100 kg
Total		4,342 HH	67,810 kg

In Alaba special woreda, maize seed was distributed to 264 farmers for the belg (short rainy season) period. Each farmer received 6.25kg of maize seed for 0.25 hectares of land. Wheat seed was distributed to 536 farmers for the meher period. Each farmer received 37.5kg of wheat seed for 0.25 hectare. A total of 200 hectares of land was sown (66 hectares maize and 134 hectares wheat). The

seed provision solved the seed shortage of the beneficiary households and resulted in increased productivity, which in turn will contribute to food self-sufficiency and generate increased income.

Maize farm in Alaba (Seed provided by ELR program)

Tool Provision

In Alaba special Woreda 34 tie ridgers were purchased from Wolaiyta Rural Technology Promotion Center and provided to 100 households (one tie ridger for three households) benefiting 600 people in five Kebeles of the Woreda. The tie ridger provision was aimed to introduce farmers with improved irrigation techniques, minimize problems of water stress, and will result in improved productivity and more efficient water usage.

Vegetable Seed Distribution

50 kg of vegetable seed (tomato, onion & cabbage) was distributed to 453 farmers of Alaba special woreda who were practicing small scale irrigation using existing water sources, employing traditional and improved methods benefiting 2718 people. 1120 different farm tools – like watering cans, flat hoes, spades – were purchased and distributed to 593 farmers in all five Woredas benefiting 3558 people. Each farmer received 1-2 types of tools, whichimproved the farmers' capacity and promoted proper soil management for increased productivity.

4.1 Sub-Objective 2: Increased agricultural productivity through more productive crops; use of improved, drought resistant varieties, and improved soil fertility and management

Activity	Indicator	This reporting period result
Provide technical assistance and improved technologies including improved varieties of seeds	• 2,500 exceptionally vulnerable farmers identified and supplied with seeds of improved varieties (maize, sorghum, teff etc.), benefiting 15,000	• 3,542 farmers received cereal seed from FAO • Meskan 972HH received 21,300 kg (Teff)

and agricultural implements for farmers cultivating grains.	people • 1,250 quintals 12,500 kg of improved varieties of seed of different crop types bought and distributed • 100 tie ridgers bought and distributed, one tie ridger per three farmers • Crop yield increased by 40% • Use of seeds of improved varieties of crop increased by 50%	• Siltie,1485HH received 13,668kg (BH.maize) • Dalocha 10,85HH received 11,092kg (pioneer maize) 1650 kg of maize seed (BH-542) and 20100 kg of wheat seed (HAR-1775) is distributed to 800 farmers in 10 PA's of Alaba special Woreda benefiting 4800 people. Maize seeds were distributed to 264 farmers; each farmer received 6.25kg of maize seed for 0.25 hectares of land. Wheat seed were distributed to 536 farmers A total of 201 quintal or 20100 kg were distributed. As the harvesting season is at the end of November, three months after the end of the ELR program, CHF was unable to measure the crop yield increases for this program.
Provide technical assistance and improved technologies including improved varieties of seeds and improved irrigation practices for farmers involved in the production of vegetable and root crops (e.g., carrots, onions, paper, beets, sweet potato, cabbage etc)	• 1,500 most vulnerable farm families identified, trained in modern vegetable production and provided with seeds, benefiting 9,000 people • 50 kg of variety of vegetable seeds bought and distributed to most vulnerable families who are vegetable growers • Yield of Vegetable production increased by 50% • Vegetable consumption at household level increased and nutritional status of the family improved • Use of seeds of improved varieties of crop increased by 50%	In Alaba special Woreda 34 tie ridges have been distributed to 100 HHs (one tie ridger for three hhs) benefiting 600 people in five Kebeles of the Woreda. 50 kg of vegetable seed (tomato, onion & cabbage) was distributed to 453 farmers of Alaba special woreda who were practicing small scale irrigation using existing water sources, employing traditional and improved methods benefiting 2718 people. 1120 different farm tools such as watering can, flat hoe, spade etc were purchased and distributed to 593 farmers in all five Woredas benefiting 3558 people.

5. Objective three: Improved Asset Management resulting in increased cash or asset cushions

Under this objective, the project was to provide capacity building trainings to 1355 farmers in the five Woredas in poultry, small ruminants rearing, vegetable and cereal seeds cultivaqtion, and irrigation practices, and to organize the trained farmers into different asset building groups. By the end of the ELR, 1423 beneficiaries – most of them women – were trained and organized into 104 asset building groups.

227 women beneficiaries of Meskan and Alaba special Woreda were trained for two days in poultry production and management of day old chicks and organized in asset building groups. The women received basic skills training on managing poultry – especially day old chicks – of the improved species and how to prepare hay box chicken brooders for rearing the day old chicks, feed and health management, and also the advantages of organizing asset building groups and saving.

Training of asset building groups

Asset building groups (ABG's) started functioning immediately i.e., the groups selected chairpersons, secretaries, and cashier for their respective groups after the training. Groups consist of 10-20 members and grouping was made based on Kebele, proximity of beneficiaries to each other, and activities interests. CHF had planned to train620 house holds in the five Woredas in poultry production, but due to concerns regarding the spread of the H5N1 avian flu to Ethiopia, poultry activities were limited to Meskan and Alaba Woredas. The plan for asset building training in Woredas of Dalocha, Siltie and Sankura was changed to small ruminants rearing.

Under the small ruminants asset building activities, CHF planned to train 800 women house holds and organize them in to asset building groups. A total of 956 women farmers were trained in the five Woredas; this number included beneficiaries who were initially planned to participate in poultry

activities. These beneficiaries were organized into 30 asset-building groups.. The women obtained training in the technical skills needed to rear small ruminants.

Similar to the poultry beneficiaries, the shoat rearing beneficiaries formed 31 Asset Building groups. The groups started functioning by selecting group leaders. Shoat ABGs comprised 15-30 members, and groups were formed in the same manner like as the poultry beneficiaries.

185 ABGs members received training on Bookkeeping, Saving and Credit. Saving books prepared by CHF were distributed to all members of groups in poultry and small ruminants rearing. This saving book serves as a cash invoice. Payments made by group members are registered in this book each month and signed by the respective cashier of the groups, and each ABG member can verify the amount of money he or she put aside in their group.

After the groups developed adequate capacity both financially and resources management skills, they began to provide services such as credit to group members to diversify their income generating activities, generate income, and improve the livelihoods.

125 farmers from five Kebeles of Alaba special Woreda were trained for three days in vegetable and cereal cultivation. This training was aimed at building the capacity of farmers in the production of vegetable and cereals using improved varieties and modern techniques that can increase agricultural productivity.

100 farmers from the five Woreda received training in crop and vegetable irrigation. Many of the farmers who received training were already practicing traditional irrigation. The training enabled the farmers to improve their skill and encouraged them to effectively utilize and manage existing water sources and promote productivity.

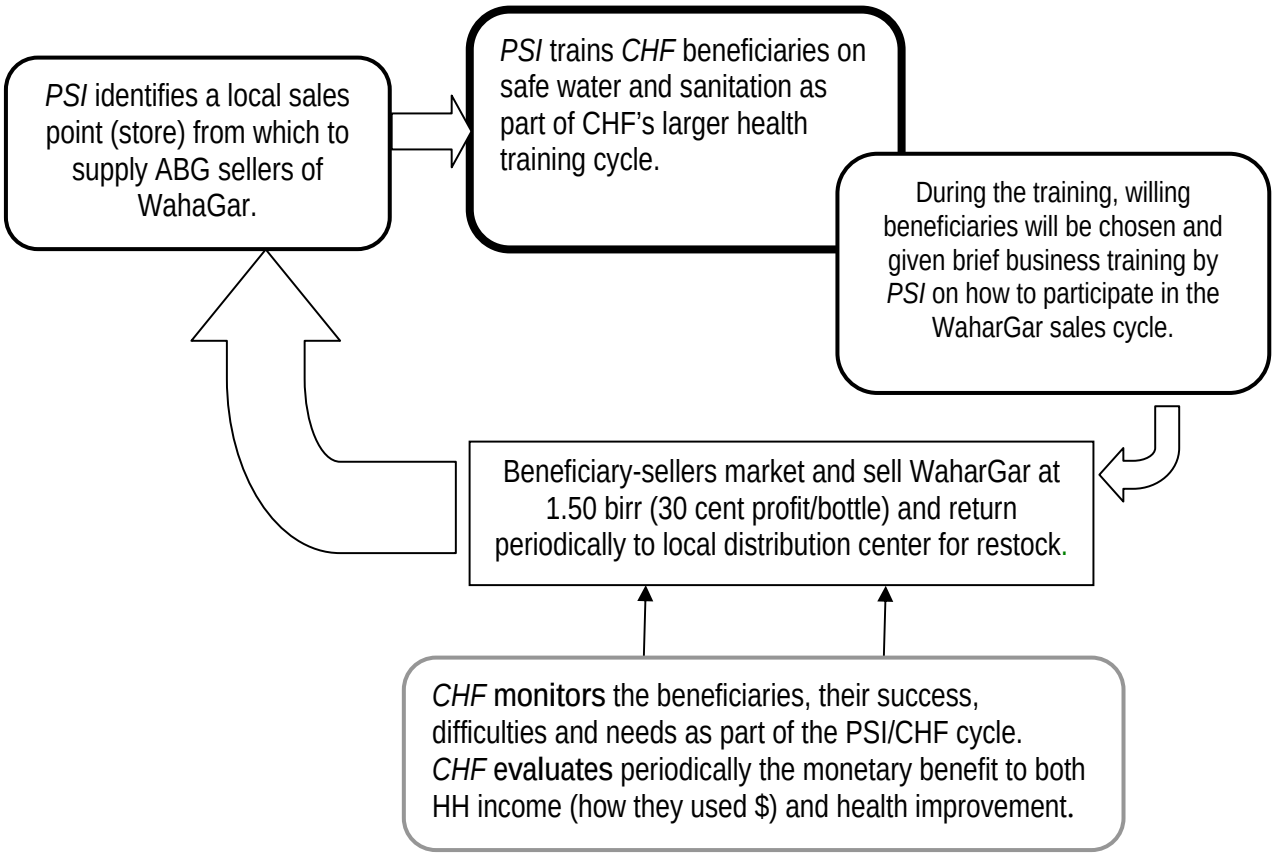
5.1 Trainings on family planning, gender, nutrition & sanitation

CHF staff, using training materials obtained from DKT Ethiopia conducted trainings aimed at addressing the root causes of ELR beneficiary's vulnerability to disaster due to lack of/poor awareness related to gender, family planning, nutrition & sanitation, and HIV AIDS to 900 couples selected from the five Woredas throughout the life of the ELR Program. The participants and Woreda officials appreciated the training because of it's uniqueness. In addition to raising awareness, both husbands and wives shared their common problems openly for the first time.

Feedback from the beneficiaries indicated that CHF's training making a difference in the lives of the trained couples; both husband and wife agreed on issues and concerns that have an impact on their livelihood, such as determining the number of children, educating girls in formal settings, sharing women's burdens, and involving women in household asset management and decision making.

CHF together with PSI trained 160 people on water purification, malaria prevention and small business skills. Moreover, PSI distributed 7,500 bottles of water guard to 160 ABG members. Bottles will be used to purifying water for ABG members' families, with excess filters to be sold to the local communities. Replacement filters will be available through local agents established by CHF and PSI. In addition, PSI and CHF distributed 9,000 mosquito nets in order to protect 4,500 repeatedly affected households living in malaria prone areas (2 net per household were distributed). Practical demonstrations were given to these households in proper Insecticide Treated Nets (ITN) usage and care.

PSI – CHF Partnership
Integrated Small Business, Health and Sanitation Trainings



5.2 Business Development Service Training

CHF organized a 3 days TOT Business Development Service (BDS) Training August 3-5, 2006 on "Facilitating and Organizing of Asset Building Groups" for CHF field officers, Water Action Field Officers, and Government Cooperative Desk Officials. The participants came from nine Woredas of Southern Nation Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) and are working directly with Target beneficiaries organized in to ABGs and who will be organized into similar groups to generate income from off farm and other income generating activities to rehabilitate their depleted asset cushions, thereby improve their coping capacities through creating an enabling business environment and providing tailor made BDS.

Seventeen (17) trainees drawn from CHF, WA and the government cooperative desk attended the TOT and mosthave direct working relation with the Target communities.

5.3 Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Tools Training

CHF also organized training on participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tools August 9 – August 11, 2006 for CHF field officers, Water Action field officers, and government Capacity Building Desk officials. The officials were from nine Woredas of Southern Nation Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR). In total thirteen participants were able to attend the training

The objective of the training was to enable the participants to better assist the target beneficiaries the effective planning, monitoring and evaluation of the program.

5.4 Sub-Objective 3: Improved asset management resulting in increased cash or asset cushions

Beneficiaries in the different activities organized into asset building groups to pool their resources together and build an asset cushion	• 10 Poultry producers associations formed • 3 Vegetable irrigation associations formed • 10 goat/sheep fattening associations • Amount of money saved by the end of the year or expansion of asset base (increase in animals)	• 30 poultry Asset Building Groups were formed • 31 Shoat Asset Building Groups were formed • 26 vegetable irrigation Asset Building Groups were formed • 17 Community Asset Building Groups were formed

6. Objective four: Improved water resources security and management

Under this objective, ELR promoted access to clean and safe potable water, a critical problem for beneficiaries in most project Woredas, , and promoted efficient irrigation practices in the Woredas. To fulfill the objective ELR engaged in thefollowing activities:

One deep borehole well was dug in Sinbita kebele of Sankura Woreda, which serves 1043 households, or a total population of 7,301 residing in Sinbita and Menzo kebeles.
Despite previous experiences in the area, this well yielded water at a relatively shallow depth (117 m). Water is available at 109 meters depth and the yield of the well is recorded to be 17 litters per sec, which is calculated to be sufficient to provide the required quantity of water to the intended beneficiaries. As constructed, the well will provide only 7litters per sec, which is sufficient water supply for the target communities.
A submersible pump and manual pumping mechanism developed in Ethiopia is used to extract the water from the well and water will be temporarily stored in a 10 cubic meters capacity fiber glass reservoir elevated to 4 meters. Water is delivered to the reservoir and then to distribution points via galvanized metal and high density polyethylene pipes. The total length of the pipe system 3250 meters.

Generator house, office and storerooms of Simbita bore hole water supply scheme

A laboratory examination of water samples collected from the well was conducted. This was conducted to ensure the quality of the water and determine whether it meets potable water quality standards. The laboratory test revealed that the water contained a high amount of fluoride – 8 milligrams per liter. As a result, an additional activity was incorporated i.e. installation of a de-fluoridation mechanism using another metal sheet water tank near the reservoir. The water will be purified and reduce its fluorine content to acceptable levels. In this tank before it goes to distribution points. The de-fluoridation system uses Aluminium sulphate and lime, which are available in the local market. These two compounds are commonly used to purify water and minimize the fluorine and are not harmful to human health. The installation and initial running costs such as purchase of de-fluoridation chemicals was covered by the project during the startup phase. Afterwards, the beneficiary community covers the operation costs through collection of water users' fees and community contributions.

Water reservoir (white fiber glass), and de-fluoridation tank (blue sheet metal) for Sinbita water supply scheme

Under the water supply component, the drilling of the bore-hole, construction of the engine storage shed and guard houses, construction of four water points, construction of tower for the reservoir, installation of reservoir and de-fluoridation tanks, excavation and layout of pipe line network, and supply and installation of pump and engine is complete.

Under hygiene and sanitation component, 14 members selected from the two Kebeles were trained for 13 days by village health communicators [VHC]. In addition, water and sanitation [WATSAN] training was provided for 4 days to 7 members.

Under the community development component, community meetings and orientation were conducted and committees organized to take over the administration of the deep-bore well.

As decided during the community meetings, the beneficiary community of the two Kebeles contributed and will continue to contribute money, which will be used for efficient utilization, running and maintenance costs in the times ahead.

Water supply pipe trench excavation through community donated labour in Simbita Kebele

The successful completion of the deep well, potable water supply project will provide invaluable services to these communities where water shortages have been an acute and chronic problem for generations. It will supply safe and potable water to the community, help to prevent or avoid health and sanitation problems which are common and a result of using impure and polluted river and pond waters, and also it will greatly help women and children by reducing the burden of fetching water over long distances, thus freeing time for other activities, including education.

One planned activity under the improved water resources security and management objective was upgrading existing hand dug wells, constructing new hand dug wells, and installing pumps. The

purpose was to promote access to clean and safe potable water and also to enable farmers to implement small-scale irrigation in their backyard gardens.

For this purpose it was planned to upgrade 200 hand dug wells and supply pumps in three Woredas: Meskan, Siltie and Dalocha. In addition, the project planned to distribute 100 treadle pumps to access water from wells, riversides and water harvesting structures, improving water drawing, increasing efficiency and reducing waste.

The following results were achieved. 83 rope and washer pumps and 53 treadle over-flow pumps (treadle pumps) were distributed to 136 farmers in Meskan and Siltie Woredas. The farmers have already upgraded and constructed 200 new ones. The wells vary in depth from 8 meters to more than 20 meters. Rope pumps can be adjusted to the depth of the well, and can extract water from a depth of 20 meters or more through simple hand operations.

Rope pump installation and vegetable gardening in Yimer Wacho kebele, (Meskan)

Selected farmers from the two Woredas were given a one day practical training on installation and operation of the pumps. The pumps are now installed in the two Woredas and are functioning. The rope pump technology is a new intervention to the Woredas and the farmers find it useful and greatly appreciated.

An additional 168 meters of rope and 50 treadle pumps were purchased and distributed to farmers. 2,124 people benefited from increased productivity brought about by efficient access and utilization of water.

Under natural spring development, the project had planned to develop and cap 5 natural springs in Meskan and Siltie Woredas to promote access to safe and clean potable water.

Under the ELR program 3 springs (2 in Siltie and 1 in Meskan), including construction of related structures and expansion of an already developed spring at Meskan Woreda, were fully completed and

have started serving the residents of 7 Kebeles of the two Woredas. 5,744 people benefit from the developed springs. Most of the springs especially the ones IN Meskan Woreda (Drama kebele) and Siltie Woreda (Anshebesso Kebele) are located in inaccessible places, for example, inside river banks. The community faced great difficulty fetching water from these springs. This was compounded by the water becoming polluted by floodwater from the river, especially during the rainy seasons. As a result, the community was forced to either travel long distances in search of potable water, or use the contaminated floodwater. Thanks to CHF's intervention, the problem has been solved through ELR's intervention and the community's participation.

Anshebeso spring development (Siltie)

Reservoirs and distribution points were constructed in safe and easily accessible locations which avoided the difficulties faced by women and children while collecting water. The spring at Seda Gora kebele of Siltie Woreda is the only source of potable water in the area. Even neighboring Kebele communities collect water from this spring traveling, one hour for a single trip to the water point. The suppl;y of potable water was a critical problem in the Kebele and its surroundings. The spring (Shrinto Cheffa) is located in a gorge at the edge of a wide plain, and suffers from inundation by flood-water runoff from higher ground, which regularly pollutes the spring. After ELR activities, the spring has been capped and in protected from pollution; the beneficiaries now have access to clean and safe water. In addition to the 120 households of the village in which the spring is located, communities (about 500 households) of three neighboring Kebeles – Balokeriso, Dacha, and Gisela – are reported to be using this spring.

In addition, a washing basin was constructed at the site to prevent pollution of the spring and to promote hygiene and sanitation.

Spring development in Seda Gora kebele, Siltie

In Meskan Woreda, Barressa Kebele, an already developed spring-water supply was expanded. This spring represented the only source of potable water in the Kebele and it was constructed by the local NGO *"Progynist"*. An estimated 224 households,. , especially those at the farthest boundaries of the kebele, suffered from long distance journeys (45min to an hour per trip) to collect water from existing water points. During the targeting and problem identification phase of the ELR program, these communities requested the spring development project to resolve their water access problem through expansion of the existing spring.

In response to the communities' request, CHF expanded the spring by extending the pipe system an additional 1,050 meters beyond its termination point and constructed two water distribution points with four faucets at each at about 500 meter intervals. The expansion resulted in an improved facility reducing the burden on each water point and decreased the travel distance of water collectors (primarily women and children) and reduced the long queues previously required when accessing water.

Finally, there was significant community participation in the project. Because of the significant need for increased access to the community water source, there was a high level of project ownership in the community, especially thecommunities of Barressa, Sedagora and Anshebesso, who were highly devoted and who made labor and in kind contributions to the project with out reservations.

Community participation in pipe trench excavation, and children and women at the water collection points in Barressa Kebele, Meskan

6.1 Sub-Objective 4: Improved water resource security and management		
Different water resources identified and water supplied for irrigation, drinking and sanitary purposes and beneficiaries organized into Water Users Associations	• 2 deep wells constructed (Alaba, Sankura) • 200 hand dug wells constructed • 5 natural springs developed/improved (Meskan, Siltie) • 7 water users associations formed and trained.	• 1 deep well in Sankura woreda has completed. The deep well surrounding is fenced; drainages are constructed; trenches are excavated; reservoir site is constructed. For technical reasons, the original budgeted amount for the deep-bore wells was sufficient only for the construction of one well. Because of this, CHF constructed only the well in Sankura. CHF contacted the US Army's civilian arm in Ethiopia regarding the possibility of jointly collaborating in the construction of the second deep-bore well. This collaboration did not bear fruit during the ELR life of program. • 200 hand dug well constructed. • 3 natural springs: two in Siltie and 1 in Meskan Woreda have been developed. Because of the difficulty accessing springs CHF was unable to construct the remaining 2 springs. • 7 Water Users' Associations were formed and trained.

7. ELR Program Impact Assessment

The ELR Program Impact Assessment was conducted from August 1 – August 11, 2006 by CHF's Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and Mrs. Naila Mohammed/Temporary Deputy Country Representative in collaboration with 60 enumerators. The impact assessment was conducted in the five ELR Target Woredas: Meskan, Dalocha, Siltie, Alaba and Sankura.

As per the ELR Program Targets, the survey examined confirmed livelihood diversification, creation of income streams outside rain-fed agriculture, and increases in agricultural productivity and improved asset management techniques employed by targeted beneficiaries.

There was a questionnaire containing 37 questions and 4 focus group discussions (with beneficiaries participated to poultry, bee-keeping, Livestock (Sheep &goats), vegetables and fruits and multi purpose trees (group irrigation)). As with all surveys, there needed to be a balance between the amount of information desired and the limited number of questions that a respondents can be asked. However, the question of which questions get included or excluded in a survey was determined by the scope and focus of the program and the local context after discussions with the ELR team. Where an indicator requires more than one question, questions need to be included as a block, since dropping an individual question will change interpretation of the indicators, which would make it impossible to compare surveys.

In the survey, most of the information collected was based on answers directly provided by the respondents. The exceptions are the focus group discussions; four focus group discussions per Woreda were held by field staff. A checklist of talking points to lead the focus group discussion was employed. When conducting the survey, enumerators asked respondents set questions to collect information about the effect of ELR activities on the household.

The finalized Impact Assessment is attached to this report as an annex.

8. ELR Program Success Stories

- CHF designed a simple targeting methodology, which proved to be an effective selection methodology. Government agencies outside the ELR target area have requested to use it to target beneficiaries in their own programs.
- The target communities expressed satisfaction with the targeting methodology and participated in the process with enthusiastically.
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- CHF's unique approach to training on Gender, Family Planning & Nutrition and Sanitation was appreciated by the participants and woreda officials.
- During the training, both husband and wives were invited to attend the training in order to initiate discussion with in the households. This practice was new to the communities, and was met with considerable success.
- Besides raising awareness, both husband and wife shared their common problems openly for the first time.
- Beneficiaries organized in to asset building groups in different activities to pool their resources together and build an asset cushions for the first time.

9. Accomplishments Over the life of the ELR Program

- Training on book keeping and saving & credit provided for selected members of organized ABGs.

- Account record books & minute books were provided to each Asset Building Group.
- Individual saving books, where savings and loans of individual members is recorded, was distributed to all ABG members.
- Training on Family planning, Gender issues, Nutrition& Sanitation, HIV / AIDS and orientation on Business development was provided to all ABG members. The training is unique, because every trainee partner was invited to the training. The training was organized to trigger discussion with in the households / between husband and wives, which is considered taboo by the population.
    - The training was unique, because every trainee's partner was invited to the training.
    - The training was organized to trigger discussion within the households, between husband and wives, which is considered taboo by the population.
    - During the training husbands and wives agreed to continue discussion on family planning issues like:
    - Determining the number of children
    - Sending female children to school
    - Sharing burdens of women and involving their wives in household asset management and decision making.
- CHF in collaboration with PSI (an OFDA funded project) to conduct training on water purification, malaria prevention, and small business skills to 80 ABG members selected from Dalocha and Meskan woredas. Moreover, PSI delivered 2700 bottles of water guard to 80 beneficiaries.
- In collaboration with PSI, 9000 mosquito nets were distributed for beneficiaries that are found in Meskan, Mareko, Siltie, Dalocha, Alaba and Sankura.
- 1320 beneficiaries selected from ABGs participated in HIV / AIDS training. These trainees are expected to share their knowledge with other ABG members in their respective villages.
- CHF & Water Action constructed poultry houses to prevent Avian Flu for 227 women headed households in Meskan, Siltie, Dalocha, Alaba and Sankura.
- Opening of bank accounts for all ELR Asset Building Groups was accomplished.
- Discussion with poultry groups was conducted and brochures discussing the avian flu were distributed to group member who can read. The poultry ABGs discussed the Avian Flu with development agents, field officers and project officers.

- Under ELR, CHF planned to distribute improved seed varieties to 2,500 farmers. By the end of the program CHF distributed seeds to 3,542 farmers. This is 141% of the original target. The seeds were provided by FAO.