1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Name of Humanitarian organisation
CARE-AT

1.2 Title of the Action
Seed Emergency Response with the Government of Ethiopia (SERGE) Project

1.3 Narrative summary
The action will support severely affected and vulnerable small-holder farmers to recover from the drought crisis as a result of the El Niño phenomenon faced by the country during 2015. By supporting target households with a variety of seeds to plant long and short cycle crops for the upcoming Meher agricultural season, this project will contribute to the increased food production and livelihood recovery of the target zones located in Amhara, Oromiya, Tigray, SNNP and other Regional States of Ethiopia where seed needs are high and identified by the Emergency Seed Working Group. Led by CARE, consortium partners (Concern Worldwide, DanChurchAid and Save the Children) will focus primarily on the provision of urgent crop seeds, that are appropriate to the local context, through seed distribution and conditional cash transfers to reach an estimate of 179,126 HHs (895,630 ind.) with seed resources across proposed target woredas (districts) for the upcoming Meher crop production season. The majority of target woredas are classified by the Government of Ethiopia through joint needs assessments as Hot Spot priority 1 woredas for agriculture while the remaining woredas are classified as Hot Spot priority 2 agricultural woredas. This means that the needs in all target areas are highly severe and the action will be filling crucial gaps which are not currently being addressed by other actions by Government or humanitarian partners. In addition to the provision of critical seed resources, the project will also work to improve the overall drought recovery and response efforts through coordination and capacity building activities with relevant Government sectors and other humanitarian and development actors. Partners will ensure that the action maximises the potential for food production, livelihood recovery and asset protection in all target areas.

CARE plans to reach additional 13,729 HH for Belg Season 2017 due to unmet needs.
1.3.1 [INT] Narrative summary

The action was implemented in four regions of Ethiopia namely Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray. It contributed to increased food production and livelihood recovery of the target population across 49 woredas. A total of 234,905 HHs (41,392 F, 193,513M) or 1,174,525 individuals were reached through seed distributions (in the form of in-kind and cash) during the Meher season. Almost all of the target woredas were classified by the Government of Ethiopia as Hot Spot priority 1 woredas for agriculture while the remaining woredas were classified as Hot Spot priority 2 agricultural woredas. This means that the needs in all target areas were highly severe and the action filled crucial gaps which were not being addressed by other actions either by Government or humanitarian partners. In addition to the provision of critical seed resources, the action worked to improve the overall drought recovery and response efforts through coordination and capacity building activities with relevant Government and other humanitarian actors. In the course of implementation of this action, partners ensured that the action maximized the potential for food production, livelihood recovery and asset protection in all target areas.

Due to unmet needs for Belg seeds, there was frequent requests for seed provision in East and West Hararghe Zones of Oromia region. As a result, CARE reached 19,280 HHs (3,046 F, 16,234M) through Belg seeds provision during the no cost extension period. As a whole, the action had a remarkably positive impact on improving the livelihoods of vulnerable households in the project areas. Thus, access to agricultural seeds during the critical time was possible through the distribution of different crop seeds by the generous support from ECHO.

1.4 Area of intervention

1.4.1 [INT] Area of intervention

The action was implemented in four regions of Ethiopia namely Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray. It was undertaken in 49 woredas (19 woredas in Amhara region; 17 in Oromia region; 9 in SNNP region and 4 in Tigray region) of 15 zones. CARE Ethiopia operated in 19 woredas; DCA in 9 woredas; Concern Worldwide in 13 woredas; and Save the Children in 8 woredas.

1.4.2 [FIN] Area of intervention

The action was implemented in four regions of Ethiopia namely Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray. It was undertaken in 49 woredas (19 woredas in Amhara region; 17 in Oromia region; 9 in SNNP region and 4 in Tigray region) of 15 zones. CARE Ethiopia operated in 19 woredas; DCA in 9 woredas; Concern World Wide in 13 woredas; and Save the Children in 8 woredas.

1.5 Dates and duration of the Action

1.5.1 Start date of the Action

26/05/2016

1.5.2 Duration of the Action

10 months

01/05/2016

Justify the duration of the eligibility period before the start date
The start of direct implementation at field level is estimated as of 26/05/2016, however the consortium partners are preparing for the action (procuring supplies, hiring staff, holding workshops, etc.) throughout the month of May. Due to the urgency of the action and critical emergency situation in target areas, there is a need to provide seeds to target households for planting before the end of May to the largest extent possible in order to maximise the potential of the next harvest season. Therefore, in order to ensure rapid start-up of implementation and enable partners to meet the expected results of the proposed action, a percentage of costs will need to be incurred before the start of activities in the field including the procurement of seeds and other goods as per the action budget.

2. HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATION IN THE AREA OF INTERVENTION

2.1 Presence in the area

All four members of the consortium have a long-established presence and experience implementing a range of programming in Ethiopia in all the proposed target areas for this action.

The consortium lead, CARE, has been operating in Ethiopia since 1984 supporting both rural and urban vulnerable groups affected by chronic and acute/transitory food insecurity and malnutrition. CARE Ethiopia is currently implementing large-scale relief and development projects covering Food Security, Livelihoods Diversification and Expansion, Sexual Reproductive Health, WASH, Pastoral Livelihood Development, and Climate Change and Adaptation, as well as a number of short-term emergency response projects in Amhara, SNNP, Afar, and Oromiya Regions. In proposed target areas of East and West Hararge and South Gonder Zones, CARE has established field offices with long-standing presence and strong working relationships with Government Sector offices.

Implementing Partner Concern Worldwide has been operating in Ethiopia since 1973, working in emergency response, recovery and long-term development programmes in Amhara, SNNPR, Tigray and Gambella regions and Addis Ababa city administration. Concern has developed significant technical expertise and experience in a range of complementary sectors including health, nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH), livelihoods, and women’s empowerment. Currently, Concern in Ethiopia supports emergency response programmes in 22 districts of Amhara Region, 9 districts of Tigray Region, two districts of SNNP, and 2 South Sudanese refugee camps in Gambella Region. Concern has field offices in both East Gojjam and Mekelle, and is actively involved in the coordination at the local level with the local authorities and other NGO partners.

Implementing Partner DanChurchAid (DCA) started its work in Ethiopia in 1982 and has proven experience in managing large-scale relief and recovery programmes through an established regional office in Addis Ababa and three field offices (Oromiya, Gambella and Amhara Regions) where DCA works with local and international organisations. During the last ten years, DCA has responded to the emergency needs of people affected by drought in Amhara, Oromiya, Benishangul and Gambella Regions. Humanitarian response, food/livelihood security, gender and capacity building are DCA Ethiopia’s core programming areas of expertise. In the Oromiya region, DCA has been implementing resilience building projects in BORENA and Bale regions. In Amhara region, currently DCA is implementing seed response project in Waghimra zone funded by UNOCHA HRF and in North Wollo zone, with ECHO support. At operational level for this action, in South Wollo and Waghimra Zones of Amhara Region, DCA will co-implement with local NGO partners Ethiopia Orthodox Church Development and Inter Church Aid Commission (EOC DICAC) and Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Development and Social Services Commission (EECMY/DASSC). Both partners have well established field offices, relationships with Government sectors and existing project staff to smoothly facilitate project implementation.

Implementing Partner Save the Children (SC) has been operating in Ethiopia since 1930. SC has operated well-established, multi-sectoral initiatives in Ethiopia, bringing global experience and expertise in the design and delivery of basic service programs. SC’s work spans seven thematic sectors, including Food Security and Livelihoods, Education, Child Protection, Health, Nutrition, Child Rights Governance, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), as well as interventions in refugee and host communities. SC works with a child rights perspective and in line with the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. SC has established offices in all of zones targeted by the proposed action.

2.2 Synergies with other actions
In planning for the proposed action, the consortium undertook extensive mapping to ensure a coordinated emergency Meher seed response so that duplication is avoided and action will fill gaps which are not covered by other ongoing ones and complement the activities of both emergency and development actions in all target woredas in line with the Government of Ethiopia and Disaster Risk Management Agricultural Task Force Strategic Advisory Group (DRM ATF SAG) operational guidelines for emergency seed interventions; the national emergency seed guidelines; and the Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) 2016. In addition, the action will closely coordinate with the seed technical working group and report back information on progress regularly. All partners will coordinate closely with the Disaster Risk Management and Food Security bureaus and other partners in the target areas. In addition, through the regional and zonal coordination mechanisms, partners will coordinate with sector leads, including relevant government leads and FAO. Below is a summary of other actions and planned synergies for each partner.

CARE has ongoing humanitarian and long-term interventions in East and West Hararghe and South Gonder Zones funded by the Austrian Development Agency (Emergency Seed Project), European Union (Recovery Project), Global Affairs Canada (Food Sufficiency for Farmers project) and USAID (Joint Emergency Operation Plan). CARE is also aware of other actions and coordinates with all partners in these areas. Those interventions which are providing seeds have been identified to ensure that this action will not duplicate but rather address existing needs for the upcoming Meher planting season to reach the maximum possible beneficiary HHs with the donor resources.

Concern is implementing emergency response programmes in nutrition and WaSH and has also provided emergency seed for both the Belg and Meher cropping season to families affected by the recent drought. The emergency nutrition programme implements an emergency CMAM programme and has a partnership agreement with WFP for the supply of food items for the TSFP; funding from ECHO will complement these existing projects. The action will not only build synergy with Concern’s emergency response programmes but also will avoid duplication by targeting households that are not currently benefitting from similar interventions.

DCA has four ongoing related projects: UNOCHA funded Emergency Seed Assistance project in Waghimra zone; ECHO funded Emergency Assistance to El Niño Drought Affected Communities in North Wollo zone; USAID funded innovative Food Security and Nutrition in PSNP/HABP woredas of Amhara and Oromia Regions; RESET I action implementation completed with ECHO funding and planned to continue implementing RESET II action in Bale Zone. The proposed action in South Wollo and Waghimra Zones of Amhara Region will further strengthen and scale-up the ongoing seed response effort while it will support asset protection component of the resilience building action in Bale zone of Oromiya Region.

SC is currently implementing various intergrated projects in North Wollo, Waghimra, Gurage and Halaba Zones. ECHO HIP, EU recovery and JEOP are some of the projects currently underway in Waghimra and North Wollo Zones. With respect to Gurage and Halaba Zones of SNNPR, the Appeal fund, HRF and JEOP projects are also in operation.

Many of the above-mentioned projects focus mainly on assets restoration and emergency food aid for the most vulnerable households. Therefore, by complementing these ongoing action listed above, this emergency seed response contributes to overall efforts to ensure that vulnerable households can resume normal agricultural activities while protecting further HH asset depletion, bridging food gaps and normalising food prices and availability of food staples in the market.

2.3 [FIN] Report on synergies with other actions

The consortium undertook extensive mapping to ensure a coordinated emergency Meher seed response. As a result, duplication was avoided and the action filled gaps which were not covered by other ongoing ones and complemented the activities of both emergency and development actions in all target woredas. In addition, the action was closely coordinated with the emergency seed technical working group and reported back information on progress regularly. All partners coordinated closely with the Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Bureaus and other partners in the target areas. In addition, through the regional and zonal coordination mechanisms, partners coordinated with sector leads, including relevant government leads and FAO. Below is a summary of other actions and synergies for each partner.

CARE Ethiopia has ongoing humanitarian and long-term interventions in East and West Hararghe and South Gonder Zones funded by the Austrian Development Agency (Emergency Seed Project), European Union (Recovery Project), Global Affairs Canada (Food Sufficiency for Farmers project) and USAID (Joint Emergency Operation Plan). CARE is also aware of other actions and coordinated with all
partners in these areas. Those interventions which were providing seeds had been identified to avoid duplication of efforts to reach the maximum possible beneficiary HHs with the donor resources.

Concern has been implementing emergency response programmes in nutrition and WaSH and has also provided emergency seeds for both the Belg and Meher cropping seasons to families affected by the drought. The emergency nutrition programme implemented an emergency CMAM programme and has a partnership agreement with WFP for the supply of food items for the TSFP; funding from ECHO complemented these projects. The action not only built synergy with Concern's other emergency response programmes but also avoided duplication by targeting households that were not benefiting from similar interventions.

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SC has been implementing various integrated projects in North Wollo, Waghimra, Gurage and Halaba Zones. ECHO HIP, EU recovery and JEOP are some of the projects that have been underway in Waghimra and North Wollo Zones. With respect to Gurage and Halaba Zones of SNNPR, the Appeal fund, HRF and JEOP projects were also in operation.

Many of the above-mentioned projects focus mainly on assets restoration and emergency food aid for the most vulnerable households. Therefore, by complementing these ongoing action listed above, this emergency seed response contributed to overall efforts to ensure that vulnerable households can resume normal agricultural activities while protecting further HH asset depletion, bridging food gaps and normalising food prices and availability of food staples in the local markets.

3. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

3.1 Needs and risk analysis

3.1.1 Date(s) of assessment

a) Sept 2015 - West Hararghe Zone Oromiya Region multi-agency Rapid Joint Assessment
b) Sept 2015 - East Hararghe Zone Oromiya Region multi-agency Rapid Joint Assessment
c) Sept 2015 - Amhara Region Rapid Joint Meher Assessment
d) November 2015 - Tigray Region multi-agency assessment
e) November 2015 - CRS rapid seed system security assessment in Amhara, Oromiya, Tigray, SNNP Regions
d) March 2016 - CARE Rapid Gender Analysis in Afar, Amhara and Oromiya Regions

3.1.2 Assessment methodology

Multi-agency teams in the four joint assessments listed above (a-d) used a variety of sources and methodologies to assess needs in the drought-affected areas, which includes field-based observations, analysis of current humanitarian documents, results of surveys undertaken by the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and UN agencies and analysis of early warning and meteorological reports. The resulting seed requirement and demand was double-checked with the emergency seed working technical group database and respective woreda agricultural offices. During the field based needs assessment, discussions were conducted with communities, local authorities and key institutions (Regional DRMFSS and zonal and woreda level agricultural offices); both primary and secondary information were collected from various government and non-government sources.

Also for the CRS RSSSS assessment (e), a variety of sources and methodologies were executed to measure and analyse needs in the drought-affected areas of the same four regions of the proposed action, which included field-based observations, analysis of current humanitarian documents, results of
surveys undertaken by the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and UN agencies and analysis of early warning and meteorological reports. The resulting seed requirement and demand was double-checked with the emergency seed working technical group database and respective woreda agricultural offices. During the field based needs assessment, discussions were conducted with communities, local authorities and key institutions (Regional DRMFSS and zonal and woreda level agricultural offices); both primary and secondary information were collected from various government and non-government sources.

All assessment reports listed here are attached as annexes for reference.

In addition a Rapid Gender Analysis (RAG) carried out by the CARE emergency team in March 2016 was done to increase the capacity in of CARE and its partners in exploring the realities faced by drought impacted households and design impact driven participatory emergency response interventions. It employed qualitative methodology using tools of focus group discussions with picture codes and transect walk/resource mapping in East Hararghe, West Hararghe, South Gondar and Afar Zones.

3.1.3 Problem, needs and risk analysis

A drought due to the El Niño phenomenon during 2015 is currently impacting 10.2 million people in various regions of Ethiopia. All zones of the four target regions are among the areas most affected. Communities suffer from chronic food insecurity due to a combination of various factors, including erratic rains, small landholdings, highly degraded farmlands, infertile soil, pest infestation, livestock disease and malaria.

Ethiopia has a bi-modal rain pattern, a short Belg rain extends from February to May and the long Meher rain from July to October. These rains are critical for crop cultivation as well as pasture and water regeneration. In 2014/2015, the performances of the two main rainy seasons were either very poor or failed in many parts of the country, including the target regions for the proposed action. This has led to a prolonged drought with far-reaching effects on food security and also water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) among the affected communities.

In such an environment, the livelihoods of a significant proportion of rural Ethiopians are seriously threatened by the current conditions. Over 80% of the population relies on agriculture, both crop harvesting and livestock rearing. The current drought conditions have impacted individual's income along with an increase in the market price of staple foods. Lower than average and, in some areas, even total failure of Meher 2015 crop production has resulted in a significant reduction of food stocks at household level, with increased dependence on food aid. Livestock has also been affected by reduced pasture and water availability. Reduced income has been accompanied by an increase in food prices in the market. The combination of these factors has reduced the availability and accessibility of food for affected households.

With Ethiopia experiencing its most severe drought in decades, increased food insecurity and "severe emaciation and unusual livestock deaths" (FAO 12/11/2015), more people will need food assistance over the coming year than at any time in the past ten years. The drought has contributed to low crop production for Belg and Meher harvests of 2015 and the effects of this are still ongoing - although Belg rains in 2016 were improved levels, the Meher crop season is the main season and produces 90-95% of the nation's total cereals output, and the Belg harvest provides the remaining 5-10% of cereal output. Therefore identified adverse effects of poor livestock health, low water availability, and lack of demand for agricultural labour (FEWSNET, Nov. 2015) are still ongoing and prevalent in all planned target areas.

As referred to above, the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) usually conducts two main multi-agency (GoE, NGOs, UN agencies) seasonal assessments every year: the Meher assessment (conducted in December) and the Belg assessment (conducted in June) in order to determine humanitarian needs in six sectors: food, health, nutrition, WASH, agriculture/livestock, and education. These assessments feed into the development and release of the Multi-Sectoral Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) for the respective planning periods of six months.

An HRD (HRD report attached) was released during the first week of December 2015 which concluded that approximately 10.2 million people are in need of food assistance, with a total requirement of 1.4 billion USD for a country-wide response. In response to the current crisis, the government allocated over 200 million USD in 2015 and also committed a first installment of 97 million USD to support food aid in early 2016 (HRD 2016).

Furthermore in a meeting on 25th April, 2016, international development and humanitarian partners pledged interest in providing an additional US$14.2 million. If this is fully mobilized, the funding gap will
be reduced to an estimated US$11.8 million. In order to make full and effective use of these resources, the SAG is recommending the following criteria for selection of the emergency meher seed response operational areas (see attached document):

Severely drought affected areas: zones that have suffered a failure of the 2015 belg rains and/or delayed, poor and erratic belg / kiremt rains, resulting in reduced regional Government estimates of agriculture output by between 50 and 90 per cent compared to recent previous years (Government of Ethiopia, 2015), Government of Ethiopia (2015) 2016 Humanitarian Requirements Document, Joint Government and Humanitarian Partners’ Document, Addis Ababa.

Zones with multiple ‘Hotspot Priority 1 and 2 woredas’: The total number of Hotspot 1 and 2 woredas is now 366. Without increased assistance in 2016 including emergency seed response, these zones can be expected to require development assistance in cash/food throughout 2016 and 2017 as rural households within these zones are highly dependent on rainfed mixed farming.

Zones where DRM ATF members have proven capacity to respond with innovative and high quality emergency seed interventions. Therefore 17 zones were identified based on this criteria as follows: Southern (Tigray Region); North and South Gondar, North and South Wollo, North Shewa and Wag Himra (Amhara Region); Ars and West Ars, East and West Hararghe and North Shewa (Oromia Region); and Hadiya, Gamo Gofa, Gurage, Kembata Tinbaro and Wolayita, (SNNP Region) Another 7 zones were also listed for further consideration: Eastern and South-East (Tigray Region); East Gojam and Oromia Special (Amhara Region); Bale, North and East Shewa (Oromia Region)

The DRM-ATF SAG recommended that resources be channeled through existing fund mechanisms and have nominated lead implementing partners to establish donor-support consortia for seed response interventions. In turn, the lead agencies will work with other DRM ATF consortium members which are selected on the basis of proven emergency seed response capacity. In this way, lead partners will be able to operate at scale and at speed with their selected consortium partners.

Summary findings indicated the drought has affected the productivity of the land, water sources and pastures such that agricultural output was limited, water points dried up and forage did not regenerate. This affects the livelihood of every member of the community in different ways although the impact has varies degrees. In regards to agriculture and livelihoods, to save the lives of livestock, men and boys are forced to migrate to the neighbouring Woreda or Kebele where there is good pasture and water and are at risk of conflict with neighbouring communities competing for limited resources. Men and boys migrate in search of jobs while the women stay behind taking care of the HH. This is highly challenging to women as they have to cope with their domestic workload, take on the chores usually managed by the men, and try to provide for their dependents during the drought. The elderly, children, pregnant and lactating mothers are most vulnerable to food and water scarcity since they are not able to travel long distance to search for and fetch water and food. FHHs are the most affected compared with MHHs because of the burden to support the family and the restriction of not being able to leave in search of work.

3.1.4 Response analysis
It is essential that humanitarian donors and agencies work with the GoE to fill existing gaps identified in the HRD in a timely manner to improve the situation and reduce risk of further decline in an already severe situation. Below average was reported for the 2015 Meher production season, due to the late onset and lower than average volume and erratic rainfall. The multi-agency rapid assessments and CRS RSSS assessment that took place towards the end of 2015 confirmed the critical status of food insecurity and agricultural needs as a result of this in the target areas for this action. While the Belg 2016 multi-agency assessment is still pending (to be completed in coming weeks), it is clear from ongoing field monitoring and evidence from partners that the needs and risk levels are still critical. Although there were increased rains in Belg 2016, it is the shorter cropping season in Ethiopia and any gains in production would not be enough to recover from the negative impacts of the extreme drought and low crop production across the country from the previous year.
Therefore, immediate action is necessary before 2016 Meher season in order to protect poor smallholder farmer livelihoods and reduce the impact of drought, in particular food and income related shocks. Immediate seed response is required in order to meet this seasonal Meher planting window and have a chance for any recovery of livelihoods, production of key crop and vegetable food staples and to ensure HH asset protection in 2016. Urgent assistance is required for immediate emergency interventions Priority needs related to seed insecurity have been identified by affected communities. This
project will seek to address this key issue of seed resources, thereby contributing to enhanced crop production and food security.

All of the selected zones and woredas for this proposed action fall into the list mentioned in 3.1.3 of areas identified by the DRM-ATF SAG as recent as 25 April 2016. Furthermore, CARE was one of the agencies nominated and approached to lead a consortia, therefore the proposed action reflects a donor-supported consortia for emergency seed response.

A list of preliminary selected woredas for the emergency seed response operation is attached to this proposal. However, given the need for a high level of flexibility and action in locations depending on needs as well as the on-going coordination efforts by the in country DRM-ATF SAG and emergency seed working group, this plan may see some changes in terms of shifts to other woredas (keeping to the criteria outlined above). A final updated list of woredas that are actually supported under this project will be communicated to ECHO at the interim/final reporting stage.

As this scale of emergency needs for seed interventions requires coordination with all humanitarian and government actors and strong mechanisms in place to avoid duplication and ensure maximum coverage, especially at the woreda level, there is a support required to strengthen coordination mechanisms and capacity in this regard. Furthermore, this scale of intervention brings an opportunity to strengthen capacity of relevant government sector offices on distribution modalities, post-distribution monitoring, post-harvest assessment methods and accountability approaches such as after action reviews. This is especially needed and relevant at the woreda level where there are not as strong capacity or coordination in place for such types of agricultural and seed responses. Therefore the intervention will combine the seed response activities with capacity building and coordination strengthening efforts at all levels especially in target woredas. Specifically the action will work closely with government Development Agents (DA) on the ground throughout the agricultural season and build their capacity on the different pre-planting, planting, and post-planting processes as well as M&E.

The RGA analysis helps the action to understand the need to focus priority on Female headed HHs as much as possible in seeds and training. Relevant recommendations for the action from the report are:

WASH and Food assistance needs to be prioritised as an intervention and CARE Ethiopia is already to providing WASH interventions, including rehabilitation of water supplies and water trucking, in complement with government activities. Food assistance will target vulnerable groups and focus on quality food distribution and thus CARE and consortium partners are proposing to provided seeds through this action while food assistance is ongoing through other projects such as JEOP. By providing seeds, the food assistance needs will hopefully decrease once Meher 2016 harvests come to fruition.

Coordination with agencies/NGOs: It is recommended for better collaboration between NGOs and UN agencies particularly. Therefore the action is including a result all around coordination and capacity building (result 2).

Women's enhanced participation in decision-making - Due to migration and increasing numbers of female headed households, more support is needed for women to participate in communities and have more active roles in decision-making. This can include capacity-building for women's associations, grassroots organisations and it is recommended to work with community leaders to ensure that female headed households are not denied access to resources. Therefore, females needs to be strongly included in all beneficiary criteria and targeting activities of this action as well as follow-up activities and coordination.

3.1.5 Previous evaluation or lessons learned exercise relevant for this Action

No

3.1.5.1 Brief summary

-

3.1.6 [INT] Report On Needs Assessment

-
3.1.7 [FIN] Report On Needs Assessment

During the implementation of the action, there was pre- and post harvest assessments conducted by the respective woredas. Moreover, the seasonal multi-agency assessment for Meher season (2016/17) was undertaken in order to input for Humanitarian Requirement Document. These assessments revealed that there were unmet gaps in some pocket areas in East and West Hararghe. The most vulnerable households were in continuous needs to have Belg season seed support. Given the extreme situation and in an effort to prepare for the eventual need, local government officials submitted an appeal for Belg season emergency seed assistance to NGOs working in the area. Based on these facts, CARE submitted a no-cost extension to fulfill the identified seed gaps. As a result, CARE reached 19,280 HHs through Belg seed provision during the no cost extension period.

3.2 Beneficiaries

3.2.1 Estimated total number of direct beneficiaries targeted by the Action

Individuals

964,820

Organisations

-

3.2.1.1 [FIN] Estimated total number of direct beneficiaries targeted by the Action

Individuals

1,271,747

Organisations

0

3.2.2 Estimated disaggregated data about direct beneficiaries (only for individuals)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated % of target group</th>
<th>% of female (F)</th>
<th>% of male (M)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infants and young children (0-59 months)</td>
<td>- %</td>
<td>50 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children (5-17 years)</td>
<td>- %</td>
<td>50 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults (18-49 years)</td>
<td>- %</td>
<td>50 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elderly (&gt; 50 years)</td>
<td>- %</td>
<td>50 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2.2.1 [FIN] Disaggregated data about direct beneficiaries reached (only for individuals)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated % of target group</th>
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<tr>
<td>Elderly (&gt; 50 years)</td>
<td>- %</td>
<td>51 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2.3 Does the action specifically target certain groups or vulnerabilities?
No

3.2.3.1 If yes, which groups or vulnerabilities?
- 

3.2.3.2 [FIN] If yes, which groups or vulnerabilities?
- 

3.2.4 Beneficiaries selection criteria
Specific targeting criteria will be developed to ensure that the most vulnerable and appropriate households benefit from the intervention. The beneficiaries of this project are smallholder farmer households who are most affected by the current El Niño-induced drought, with a focus on the most vulnerable particularly resource poor women-headed households.

Each kebele has a Beneficiary Selection Committee which is comprised of the kebele leader, agricultural Development Agents (DA), Heath Extension Workers (HEW), Women's Association representative, and at least two additional men and women elders. All selection committees must be gender balanced, and this will be verified by project field staff to ensure that women participate in critical decision-making processes. The actual list of beneficiaries disaggregated by sex and age category will be determined from the beneficiary lists developed in partnership with the local government authorities.

Although each partner will develop criteria jointly with the GoE and designated community members in target woredas, the criteria for beneficiary selection will likely include the following:

a) severely affected households with low purchasing power;

b) nutritional hotspot kebeles, communities and malnourished families;

c) households enrolled in either the current emergency food aid or the government Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP);

d) women-headed households who are vulnerable to shocks/recurrent droughts;

e) seed insecure households; and

f) households with family members with disabilities or PLW.

Cross-cutting criteria include the following: access to land for planting; proven planting record, and willingness to confirm that they will not eat/sell the seed or use cash for other purposes.

3.2.5 Beneficiaries involvement in the Action
Following the selection of criteria, a list will be presented to the community for approval of beneficiaries in a community meeting. In the meeting any inclusion and exclusion issues will be discussed and reconciled by both kebele and woreda Food Security Task Force (FSTF) in the presence of project staff. Final beneficiary lists will be displayed in public areas for transparency and accountability purposes. The partners’ project staff in each woreda will be responsible to ensure that the vulnerable households mentioned in the list are given priority in the selection.

3.2.6 More details on beneficiaries
The number of direct beneficiaries will be 192,855 vulnerable households (5ppl/HH) residing in the target woredas of Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP and Tigray Regions. It should be noted that this proposed intervention will address about 50% on average of the need for crop seeds in the target woredas as per DRM-ATF SAG recommendations and guidance for emergency seed interventions. The action will particularly target small holder Meher producers in Meher producing kebeles in all target woredas. The above mentioned list of criteria will be the basis for the selection of beneficiaries process. Within this group, emphasis will be given to female small-holder farmers, as women (especially widows, single and/or divorced mothers and pregnant and lactating women) have been identified by both male and female focus group participants as the most vulnerable and the most drought-impacted group.
Additional to the targeted HHs a minimum of 3 government staff per woreda will engage in capacity building and training activities through the action. As per the current plan of 45 target woreda, this will amount to 135 government officials. Additionally, 410 DAs will also be targeted for close technical support and training. However as mentioned, the action needs to maintain flexibility in location and target woredas throughout the action to meet the needs on the ground and evolving context.

Therefore the total number of project beneficiaries is 964,820 individuals (964,275 individuals benefiting from seeds distribution and 135 government officials engaged and 410 DAs benefiting from training).

3.2.7 [INT] Report on beneficiaries

3.2.8 [FIN] Report on beneficiaries

Clearly defined targeting criteria were developed based on the selection criteria stated in the proposal of the action to ensure that the most vulnerable and appropriate households benefit from the intervention. Beneficiary selection committees were established in each kebele in close collaboration with local government authorities and community members. Although each partner developed criteria jointly with the GoE and designated community members in target woredas in line with the existing realities, the criteria for beneficiary selection were mainly framed as stated in the proposal.

Using the selection criteria, a list was presented to the community for approval of beneficiaries in a community meeting. In the meeting any inclusion and exclusion issues were discussed and reconciled by both kebele and woreda Food Security Task Force (FSTF) in the presence of project staff. Final beneficiary lists were displayed in public areas for transparency and accountability purposes. The partners' project staff in each woreda took responsibility to ensure that the vulnerable households mentioned in the list were given priority in the selection. Emphasis was also given to female small-holder farmers, as women (especially widows, single and/or divorced mothers and pregnant and lactating women) were identified by both male and female focus group participants as the most vulnerable and the most drought-impacted group.

The mentioned lists of criteria in the proposal were taken as the basis for the selection of beneficiaries.

In addition to the targeted HHs who received emergency seed, a total of 882 government officials, development and woreda extension agents were trained on various technical trainings and received close technical support across the 49 intervention woredas.

Overall, the action reached 1,271,747 individuals (1,270,925 individuals benefited from seeds distribution in the Meher and Belg cropping seasons and 882 government officials, DAs and woreda extension agents/experts benefited from trainings).

The total individuals number has been calculated based on the national average of 5 persons per household: 254,185 HH reached * 5 + 882 government officials.

4. LOGIC OF INTERVENTION

4.1 Principal objective

To contribute to the food security and livelihood recovery of drought-affected smallholder farmers in target woredas of Amhara, Oromiya, Tigray and SNNP Regions, preventing further asset depletion and food shortages.

4.2 Specific objective

4.2.1 Specific objective - Short description

Improve the production of targeted drought-affected small-scale farmer households through provision of seeds and conditional cash transfers for agriculture.

4.2.2 Specific objective - Detailed description
Through the provision of much-needed seeds or cash for seed resources, the action anticipates that there will be an increase in agricultural production of long and short cycle crops in target areas as a result, provided that pre-conditions are met and risks are mitigated.

4.2.3 Specific objective - Indicators

4.2.3.1 Specific objective indicator (1/2)

Indicator
Custom

Description
% of targeted small-holder farmers in target woredas who demonstrate improved agricultural crop production as compared to previous year

Baseline
0

Target value
50%

Progress value
-

Achieved value
50%

Source and method of data collection
Existing data from the 2015 Belg and Meher harvests; post-distribution and post-harvest monitoring; quarter joint field monitoring reports; final evaluation including HH survey

Comments on the indicator and the achievement of the target value
-

[INT] Progress report on indicator
-

[FIN] Progress report on indicator
The action did not establish baseline due to the urgency to start-up the project and meet the planting window for the Meher cropping season. Assumption was that as targeted hot spot woredas there was very little amount of staple food available in local markets stocks based on HRD, assessments, and emergency needs requirements. During the rapid seed assessment, it was learned that there was also inadequate seed supply in the market. The post distribution assessment findings also figured out that the lands of most vulnerable farmers would remain uncovered had the seed not been provided. The post distribution and post harvest assessment noted that more than 50% of the targeted households demonstrated improved agricultural practices given that they received improved/quality seed on time, continuous technical support by Development/Extension Agents and Community Facilitators (assigned by agencies) as well as trainings provided on improved agricultural practices.

4.2.3.2 Specific objective indicator (2/2)

Indicator
Custom

Description
Average % of population coverage through project of small-holder drought-affected HHs in need in target woredas

Baseline
0

Target value
50%

Progress value
Achieved value
50%

Source and method of data collection
Post-distribution and post-harvest monitoring; quarter joint field monitoring reports; final evaluation including HH survey

Comments on the indicator and the achievement of the target value
-

[INT] Progress report on indicator
-

[FIN] Progress report on indicator
The Emergency Seed Working Group report showed that 50% of the small-holder drought affected households in the hot spot priority woredas were covered by the emergency seed support. The average population coverage of the consortium is not different.

4.3 Results

Result (1/2) - Details
Title
Targeted households gained increased access to adequate seed quality and quantity enabling increased food production following the Meher 2016 and Belg 2017 harvest period

Sector
Food security and livelihoods

Sub-sectors
Conditional or unconditional cash/voucher food assistance
Availability of, access to and consumption of food
Short-term livelihood support
Conditional or unconditional in-kind food assistance

Estimated total amount
3.541.185,00

[FIN] Estimated incurred total amount
3.460.328,23

Result (1/2) - Beneficiaries
Estimated total number of direct beneficiaries targeted by the Action

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Total individuals</td>
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[FIN] Estimated total number of direct beneficiaries targeted by the Action

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total individuals</td>
<td>1.270.925</td>
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</table>
Beneficiaries type
Local population

Does the Action specifically target certain groups or vulnerabilities?
No

Specific target group or vulnerabilities

More comments on beneficiaries

Beneficiaries are targeted as per the targeting criteria described in section 3. The action will seek to prioritise and ensure targeting of vulnerable groups and inclusion of Female Headed HHs and those with disabled members and PLW. It is estimated that 52,070 HHs targeted will be female headed. The HHs breakdown planned by partner is as follows: CARE 110,171 HHs, Concern 44,273 HHs, DCA 31,964, and SC 21,083 HHs.

[INT] Report on beneficiaries

[FIN] Report on beneficiaries

Beneficiaries were targeted as per the targeting criteria described in section 3 of the proposal. The action prioritized and ensured targeting of vulnerable groups and inclusion of Female Headed HHs and those with people with disabilities members and PLWHA. The action planned to reach 41,553 female headed HHs. It reached 44,438 female headed households (107%) in the Meher and Belg cropping seasons (41,392 in Meher and 3,046 in Belg). This represents 17.5% of the total beneficiary households. It means female headed households were properly prioritized to benefit from the action. The beneficiaries households reached by each agency were: CARE: 111,542 HHs (16,584 FHHs, 94,958 MHHs); DCA: 37,818 HHs (5,295 FHHs, 32,523 MHHs); Concern: 59,370 HHs (44,760 MHHs, 14,610 FHHs); and SCI: 45,455 HHs (7,949 FHHs, 37,506 MHHs). See annex Seeds distribution.

Result (1/2) - Transfer Modalities

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<tr>
<td>Voucher</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>In kind</td>
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</table>

[FIN]

<table>
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<th>Origin</th>
<th>Estimated total net amount</th>
<th>Estimated number of individuals</th>
<th>Conditional transfer?</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voucher</td>
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<td>-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>In kind</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments on transfer modalities in this result

[INT] Comments on transfer modalities in this result

[FIN] Comments on transfer modalities in this result
Direct seeds distribution was practiced in 48 woredas. Exceptionally, cash transfer for seeds was exercised in one of the Save the Children woredas namely Raya Kobo. The action provided cash only in one woreda due to the unavailability of the preferred teff seed variety (Boset) in the local market.

**Result (1/2) - Indicators**

**Result 1 - Indicator 1**
**Type / Subsector**
Custom
**Indicator**
-
**Definition**
Total number of hectares planted by targeted HHs

**Baseline**
0,00

**Target value**
54.703,25

**Progress value**
-

**Achieved value**
79.901,62

**Source and method of data collection**
Procurement records; activity reports; quarterly joint field monitoring reports; post-distribution and post-harvest monitoring; final evaluation including HH survey

**Comments**
This target is calculated based on the average number of ha per HH and total amounts of seed distributed by the action. There is no baseline for action, however the assumption is that most target HHs are not able to plant without support from the intervention as they have been targeted as in need of emergency support and therefore the baseline is assumed as 0. The estimated breakdown by partner is CARE 17.836 ha, Concern 14.151 ha, DCA 12.706 ha and SC 10.010 ha.

**Result 1 - Indicator 2**
**Type / Subsector**
Custom
**Indicator**
-
**Definition**
Average amount of yield per household in kg

**Baseline**
0,00

**Target value**
500,00

**Progress value**
-

**Achieved value**
Source and method of data collection
Procurement records; activity reports; quarterly joint field monitoring reports; post-distribution and post-harvest monitoring; final evaluation including HH survey

[FIN] Source and method of data collection
The yield estimate was conducted through the standard pre and post harvest assessment in each woreda. Moreover, the consortium undertook joint post harvest assessment. The post harvest assessment employed a combination of different data collection tools such as structured household interviews, focus group discussions and key informants. The assessment covered 20 woredas from the total 49 woredas.

Comments
No baseline for action but the assumption is that most target HHs did not have a yield the year before and would not have one this year without support from the intervention as they have been targeted as in need of emergency support. The target is calculated by the seeds to be distributed and the estimated average this would yield if the action does not face any issues out of its control (poor rains, etc.). This will certainly vary by region/zone and is an average of all combined.

Target: average of 500 kg per household

Result 1 - Indicator 3
Type / Subsector
Increase availability of food

Indicator
Quantity of staple food commodity available in both markets and private stocks has increased by the Target % (please describe the name of the food commodity under the comment of the indicator)

Definition
The baseline value is the current staple food commodity available.

Baseline
0,00

Target value
50,00

Progress value
-

Achieved value
50,00

[FIN] Source and method of data collection
Procurement records; activity reports; quarterly joint field monitoring reports; post-distribution and post-harvest monitoring; final evaluation including HH survey

Comments
The main target staple food commodities are wheat, teff, maize, sorghum and haricot beans. This target is calculated based on an average estimate increase in percentage. There is no baseline for action, however the assumption is that most target HHs are not able to plant without support from the intervention as they have been targeted as in need of emergency support and therefore the baseline is assumed as 0.

Result (1/2) - Indicators comments
Additional comments on indicators
The action will not have time to run a baseline due to the urgency to start-up the project and meet the planting window for the Meher cropping season. Therefore, existing data and previous year data will be used for comparison purposes where possible. Assumption is that as targeted hot spot woredas there is very little amount of staple food available in local markets stocks based on HRD, assessments, and emergency needs requirements.
Progress report on the indicators of one result

Indicator 1: A total of 79,901.62 hectares of land was covered by the seeds provided to targeted beneficiaries. The average land holding size of a household ranges from 0.25 to 0.5 ha as per the Emergency Seed Working Group guideline. The actual area coverage broken down by partner showed: CARE = 22,145.12 ha; Concern = 27,605 ha; DCA 11,534 ha and SC 18,617.5 ha. The action achieved 146% of the planned area of land. This was mainly associated with the change in seeds type which influenced the seeding rate.

Indicator 2: The post harvest assessment findings revealed that the average yield per household was 431 kg per hectare during the Meher cropping season. In fact, the sample size was inadequate to represent the whole targeted households as there were households who got more yields. Factors that could have reduced the expected yield were mentioned as moisture stress, diseases and pests incidence. However, this was good performance in comparison with last year's average yield.

Indicator 3: Quantity of staple food available in both markets and private stocks increased by 50%. This achievement was compared with the last year Meher crop production. Overall, due to good harvest, the number of food aid needy people reduced by 50%. The same is true across the intervention woredas that indicated the action has contributed to increased household food availability.

Result (1/2) - Activities

Result 1 - Activity 1

Short description
1.1: Conduct Rapid Market Assessments

Detailed description
Partners will conduct rapid market assessments (specific to seeds) in all target zones to identify the following: beneficiary "seeds of choice" for both long and short cycle crops; availability of seeds in the markets; sources for seeds (formal, intermediate or informal); modalities for seed provision (direct distribution or cash) in each target area; analysis on the impact of seed and/or cash influx into the local context. With limited time before the end of current planting window, the Consortium partners recognise the challenges involved in mobilising and disbursing funds and procuring "seed of choice" in particular if this seed is not readily available in the formal and intermediate seed systems. For this reason, members have either conducted or are preparing to conduct a rapid market assessment and have initiated procurement scoping processes and have these processes ongoing through other operational actions.

Emergency that is appropriately supported by senior MoANR and FAO technical staff. With the support of the Seeds Working Group (ESWG) and regional/zonal DRM ATFs, and through these links, the Consortium partners will quickly learn if 'seeds of choice' are available or not. Where it then becomes apparent that formal and intermediate seed suppliers do not have adequate amounts of 'seeds of choice' at regional and zonal level, the project may need to consider procure seed from the informal seed sectors, while applying appropriate quality controls or provision of cash instead in these cases.

Report on the activity

All consortium members conducted rapid market assessments (specific to seeds) in all target zones. The assessments identified beneficiary "seeds of choice" for both long and short cycle crops; availability of seeds in the markets; sources for seeds (formal, intermediate or informal); modalities for seed provision (direct distribution or cash) in each target area; analysis on the impact of seed and/or cash influx into the local context.

With the support of the Seeds Working Group (ESWG) and regional/zonal DRM ATFs, and through these links, the Consortium partners quickly learned if 'seeds of choice' were available or not. Where it then became apparent that formal and intermediate seed suppliers did not have adequate amounts of 'seeds of choice' at regional and zonal level, the project considered procuring seed from the informal seed sectors, while applying appropriate quality controls or provision of cash instead in these cases.

There was flexibility in terms of changing seed types depending on the local context. This enabled to achieve more than the planned target in terms of reaching vulnerable households, area coverage and amount of seed distributed.
**Result 1 - Activity 2**

**Short description**
1.2: Procurement of high quality long and short cycle crop seeds

**Detailed description**

CARE and implementing partners will aim to procure 33,563 quintals of high quality, locally adapted and, as much as possible, improved crop seeds to targeted households according to the criteria described below.

Updated information from consortium partners on the ground indicate that adequate seed is available in the planned project areas. Consortium partners will continue to assess the availability with the unions in the zone. However, due to the extensive demand for seeds, it may be challenging to obtain adequate seed in certain areas. The Consortium partners will seek seeds through three parallel sources:

- **Formal seed systems** including federal and regional research centres and seed enterprises as well as an increasing number of private registered seed companies. These institutions are authorized to test and release new seed varieties.
- **Intermediate seed systems** are an emerging system in Ethiopia that bridges the formal and informal seed systems and is centred on community-managed seed production that improves local seed varieties. The intermediate seed system producers - multi-purpose and seed cooperative unions and primary cooperatives and farmers groups - receive support from the national agriculture research system, universities and NGOs while operating under the regulatory oversight of regional bureaus of agriculture. Community-managed seed systems may also support the formal seed system to release new varieties. As a last resort, informal seed systems that are unregulated, smallholder managed and centred seed systems. Over time, these cultivars have adapted to Ethiopia's diverse agro-ecological zones. Informal seed supplies - including private farms, un-registered seed producing cooperatives and smallholder farmers, seed fairs and other community-based initiatives - provide up to 80 per cent of all smallholder seed needs and play a pivotal role in Ethiopian agriculture. However, the action will not source seeds directly that are not quality certified and instead distribute cash in these cases for farmers to purchase seeds (see activity 1.5).
- As a last resort, informal seed systems that are unregulated, smallholder managed and centred seed systems. Over time, these cultivars have adapted to Ethiopia's diverse agro-ecological zones. Informal seed supplies - including private farms, un-registered seed producing cooperatives and smallholder farmers, seed fairs and other community-based initiatives - provide up to 80 per cent of all smallholder seed needs and play a pivotal role in Ethiopian agriculture. However, the action will not source seeds directly that are not quality certified and instead distribute cash in these cases for farmers to purchase seeds (see activity 1.5).

Additionally a small amount of vegetable seeds will also be procured to support some of the same targeted female headed HHs who were suffering from malnutrition. All seed amounts are subject to change based on availability in markets during procurement processes.

One (1) quintal = 100 kg; 1000 kg = 1 ton

**[FIN] Report on the activity**

Initially, CARE and implementing partners aimed to procure 33,563 quintals of high quality, locally adapted and, as much as possible, improved crop seeds to targeted households.

Consortium partners assessed the availability of seed with the unions in the zones. However, due to the extensive demand for seeds, it was challenging to obtain adequate seeds in certain areas. The Consortium partners attempted to get seeds through three parallel sources (formal, intermediate and community managed seed systems). The action did not source seeds directly that are not quality certified and instead distribute cash in these cases for farmers to purchase seeds.

Additionally, a small amount of vegetable seeds were also procured to support some of the same targeted female headed HHs who were suffering from malnutrition.

Throughout the implementation of the action, 38,867.95 quintal of high quality crop seeds (including vegetable seeds) were procured and distributed in the Meher and Belg cropping seasons (37,155.01 quintal in Meher and 1,712.94 quintal in Belg season).

**Result 1 - Activity 3**

**Short description**
1.3: Selection and targeting of project beneficiaries

**Detailed description**

192,855 beneficiary HHs will be selected as per the selection criteria described above in section 3 and based on CARE's and Implementing Partners' cumulative and proven experience of managing seed distribution to drought-affected communities in the country.
Report on the activity

254,185 HHs (44,438 FHH, 209,747 MHHs) were selected as per the selection criteria described in the proposal of the action and based on CARE’s and Implementing Partners’ cumulative and proven experience of managing seed distribution to drought-affected communities in the country. From the 254,185 HHs, 234,905 have been selected during the Meher and 19,280 HHs in the Belg season. The beneficiary households reached by each agency is as follow: CARE: 111,542; DCA: 37,818; Concern: 59,370; and SCI: 45,455.

Result 1 - Activity 4

Short description
1.4: Distribution of seeds to targeted small-holder farmer households

Detailed description

Once the beneficiary households have been identified, preferred planting seeds will be distributed directly to them. The likelihood of changes on planned seed types and varieties is high. Procured seeds will be distributed in the presence of an agency representative in collaboration with woreda agronomists and Development Agents.

Each targeted household (as per activity 1.3) will receive an amount that will be sufficient to cover a minimum of 0.25 ha up to a maximum of 0.5 ha of land (depends on HH agricultural land size). The action will promote “climate smart” agriculture through provision of drought-resistant crop varieties as a way to sustain the impact of all agricultural interventions. The action will also promote sustainable agricultural practices in the area by advising farmers to use organic fertilizers, such as compost, as well as soil and water conservation through physical and biological soil conservation activities. In order to avoid any negative environmental impacts of the crop production activities, the action will not engage in the provision of any artificial fertilizer or chemical pesticides.

Report on the activity

Once the beneficiary households were identified, preferred planting seeds were distributed directly to them. There was changes on planned seed types and varieties in line with the changing demands. Procured seeds were distributed in the presence of agency representatives in collaboration with woreda agronomists and Development Agents.

Each targeted household received an amount that was sufficient to cover a minimum of 0.25 ha up to a maximum of 0.5 ha of land (depends on HH agricultural land size). The action also promoted “climate smart” agriculture through provision of drought-resistant crop varieties as a way to sustain the impact of all agricultural interventions and provided training on the topic. The action also promoted sustainable agricultural practices in the area by advising farmers to use organic fertilizers, such as compost, as well as soil and water conservation during improved agronomic practices, early warning and disaster risk reduction trainings. In order to avoid any negative environmental impacts of the crop production activities, the action did not engage in the provision of any artificial fertilizer. Please refer to the annex Seeds distribution for more details on the type of seeds distributed by each agency.

Result 1 - Activity 5

Short description
1.5 Set-up and provision of conditional cash transfers to targeted HH

Detailed description

The amount of cash and this activity as a whole depends on the seed availability and sources in target areas. It will be known after the rapid market assessments and procurement processes take place. The action is prioritising in kind seed distribution over cash to ensure rapid planting and seed quality to largest extent possible. We estimate that up to 20% of the overall seed budget may be required in cash transfers to meet the need however this is a tentative amount.

Report on the activity

[FIN]
The action determined whether seeds had to be given in the form of in-kind or cash once the rapid seed market assessment was done in the target areas. This helped to verify the availability of seeds in the local market and the available seeds sources. The action prioritized in kind seed distribution over cash to ensure rapid planting and seeds quality to largest extent possible. It was initially planned to an estimated 20% of the overall seed budget would be required in cash transfers to meet the needs though this was a tentative amount. Likewise, as the preferred seed variety namely Boset was not available in bulk, 2.3 million Ethiopian Birr was distributed to 6,288 HHs in 16 kebeles of Raya Kobo Woreda. This was the only woreda where cash transfer was exercised during the action.

**Result 1 - Activity 6**

**Short description**
1.6 Post-distribution monitoring and reporting

**Detailed description**
All partners will ensure that data and progress on seeds and cash distributed will be collected systematically with government stakeholders through post-distribution monitoring and reported by all partners on a monthly basis to the emergency seed working group/ATF.

**[FIN] Report on the activity**
All partners closely worked with the respective government offices in their intervention areas in monitoring whether the seeds and cash were delivered to the beneficiaries. Government stakeholders were actively involved in post-distribution monitoring across all intervention woredas. Most importantly, joint post distribution assessment was carried out at consortium level. Five monitoring teams were organized in a way that encourages cross learning. Two separate post distribution assessments were done for the Meher and Belg seasons. In both assessments, 20 woredas out of the 49 total intervention woredas were taken. Data was collected through the combination of qualitative and quantitative methods (structured household survey, key informant interviews and focus group discussions). The findings of the report were shared with the emergency seed working group/ATF. Please refer the annexed post distribution and post harvest assessment reports.

**Result 1 - Activity 7**

**Short description**
1.7 Conduct training for selected HHs on crop production husbandry

**Detailed description**
Capacity building training on crop production husbandry for selected beneficiaries will be organized by partner technical experts and crop production experts from the woreda agricultural office. The training is aimed to enhance the knowledge of participants on crop production practices and enhance food security. To the largest extent possible, partners will prioritise female farmers for these trainings because they usually do not receive access to agricultural extension services.

**[FIN] Report on the activity**
Trainings on improved agricultural practice, crop production husbandry, pre and post harvest management, early warning and disaster risk reduction were provided for selected beneficiaries with partner technical experts and crop production experts from the woreda agricultural office. To the largest extent possible, female farmers were prioritized for these trainings because they usually do not receive access to agricultural extension services. In this regard, 2,832 farmers (1818F, 1014M) were trained on the mentioned training topics. The trainings enhanced the knowledge of participants on crop production practices and enhanced therefore their food security.

**Result (1/2) - [INT] Overall update on activities of the result**

- 

**Result (1/2) - [FIN] Conclusions on the result**
The action reached more beneficiaries (132%) against the planned target in both the Meher and Belg cropping seasons. At the same time, it reached 107% of the planned female headed households. It also covered more hectare of land (146%) and distributed more quantity of seeds (116%) in comparison with the planned targets. In terms of seeds distribution, the project was very successful in targeting and reaching out the most vulnerable households affected by the drought. The average production of vulnerable households immensely improved and significant number of households (78%) reached the capacity to reserve seed for the next cropping season, as the post harvest assessment findings revealed. The seed provision also contributed a lot for the availability of staple food in the local market in addition to increasing the supply of food for household consumption. According to the post distribution assessments, quality seed was delivered timely (91%). Majority of the farmers (93%) believed that they received their seeds of choice. Overall, farmers were satisfied with the emergency seed support and the production they obtained, according to the post distribution and post harvest assessment.

**Result (2/2) - Details**

**Title**

Improved coordination, learning and capacity of government and implementing partners in operational areas for drought response and recovery efforts.

**Sector**

Coordination

**Sub-sectors**

Country level (sector/intersector) coordination

**Estimated total amount**

239,128,00

**[FIN] Estimated incurred total amount**

275,841,22

**Result (2/2) - Beneficiaries**

**Estimated total number of direct beneficiaries targeted by the Action**

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<td>Individuals per household</td>
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<td>Total individuals</td>
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**[FIN] Estimated total number of direct beneficiaries targeted by the Action**

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<tr>
<td>Individuals per household</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total individuals</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Beneficiaries type**

Others

**Does the Action specifically target certain groups or vulnerabilities?**

No

**Specific target group or vulnerabilities**

-
All beneficiaries of the trainings and coordination efforts under Result 2 are government officials target woredas, zones and regions (mainly from sectors and line departments of agriculture; women's affairs; disaster prevention and food security). Partners will place emphasis on training female government officials as much as possible. It is planned that 3 officials minimum per woreda will be supported (45 woredas) however this figure may change if the woredas change during the course of the action. Additionally, 410 DAs will also be targeted for close technical support and training.

[Int] Report on beneficiaries

[FIN] Report on beneficiaries

In order to enhance the capacity of government staffs and the coordination mechanisms, CARE and partners organized trainings on improved agronomic practices, early warning and disaster risk reduction, cash transfer programming, seed banking approach, climate smart and nutrition sensitive agriculture, and pre- and post-harvest management. In this regard, a total of 882 (173F, 709M) government officials, development agents and woreda experts were trained.

Result (2/2) - Transfer Modalities

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</table>

Comments on transfer modalities in this result

[Int] Comments on transfer modalities in this result

[FIN] Comments on transfer modalities in this result

Result (2/2) - Indicators

Result 2 - Indicator 1

Type / Subsector

Custom

Indicator

Definition
Total number of stakeholder meetings/events attended or organised by project partners

Baseline
0,00

Target value
361,00

Progress value
-

Achieved value
972,00

Source and method of data collection
Meeting minutes; workshop and training reports; meeting, workshop and training attendance sheets; final evaluation, including KIs/FGDs

Comments
There is no baseline (as explained) therefore we have not added a baseline amount. It is assumed there is already coordination meetings happening in all areas, however the project will track the number of meetings that partners attend and organise. The target is based on the different coordination mechanisms and frequency of meetings at the different levels of engagement (federal, regional, zonal and woreda) as well as the events such as the Launch workshops, AAR workshops in each zone and final validation workshop. If the number of woredas changes in the action, this target figure will change.

Result 2 - Indicator 2

Type / Subsector
Custom

Indicator
-

Definition
Number of government officials receiving capacity building trainings and activities through the project

Baseline
0,00

Target value
410,00

Progress value
-

Achieved value
882,00

Source and method of data collection
Meeting minutes; workshop and training reports; meeting, workshop and training attendance sheets; final evaluation, including KIs/FGDs

Comments
This target is based on number of capacity building trainings/activities budgeted and planned for each partner in target areas (410 total) which will seek to support DAs on the ground in each woreda. As mentioned the number of woredas could change during the action therefore this is only an estimate.
**Result 2 - Indicator 3**

**Type / Subsector**
Custom

**Indicator**
-

**Definition**
Number of government officials in all target woredas engaging in post-distribution monitoring and post-harvest assessment activities

**Baseline**
0,00

**Target value**
135,00

**Progress value**
-

**Achieved value**
147,00

**Source and method of data collection**
Meeting minutes; workshop and training reports; meeting minutes, workshop and training attendance sheets; final evaluation

[FIN] **Source and method of data collection**
The data sources include post distribution and post harvest assessment reports; periodic monitoring reports; and progress reports. Government officials were overseeing progresses and were also involved as key informants during the assessments.

**Comments**
It is estimated that there will be 3 officials on average who will engage per target woreda (planned 45 woredas) which is a target of 135 officials total who will have their capacity built in post-distribution monitoring and post-harvest assessment methods and techniques. However the level of engagement and time of officials will vary by target area. As mentioned the number of woredas could change during the action therefore this is only an estimate.

**Result (2/2) - Indicators comments**

**Additional comments on indicators**
All indicators and target values are based on the plans of each partner to engage with coordination mechanisms and carry-out trainings and other related activities for government staff and engage them in post-distribution monitoring and post-harvest assessment in each of the respective target woredas/zones. It will however vary by target area and context.

[INT] **Progress report on the indicators of one result**
-

[FIN] **Progress report on the indicators of one result**
Indicator 1: All partners were actively taking part in all coordination forums and organized coordination events at zonal, regional and national levels. As a result, 972 meetings/events have been organized or attended by the project partners during the action period.

Indicator 2: 882 government officials, DAs and woreda extension agents (173F, 709M) were trained on different topics including improved agronomic practices, early warning and disaster risk reduction, seed banking approach, pre- and post harvest management, and cash transfer programming.

Indicator 3: 147 government officials were involved in post distribution and post harvest assessment activities in the form of oversight and as key informants.

**Result (2/2) - Activities**
Result 2 - Activity 1

Short description
2.1 CARE and implementing partners to attend government and humanitarian coordination forums

Detailed description
This includes woreda level monthly food security meetings and early warning monthly meetings plus zonal level quarterly GO-NGO forum bureau and regional and federal level monthly coordination ATF meetings. This is important to strengthen at the woreda levels especially as the coordination mechanisms at this level are not as strong and consistent as at zone and regional level.

[FIN] Report on the activity
CARE and implementing partners have been actively participating in the DRM-ATF and Emergency Seed working Group at national level. Additionally, all field offices have attended regional monthly DRM-ATF meetings and woreda level monthly Food Security and Early Warning meetings. In this way, 972 stakeholder meetings/events have been attended/organized during the project period.

Result 2 - Activity 2

Short description
2.2 CARE and implementing partners to facilitate joint monitoring visits in target woredas with key stakeholders including community leaders and local authorities

Detailed description
Each partner will ensure that the appropriate stakeholders are invited and budgeted to attend joint project monitoring in all respective target woredas.

[FIN] Report on the activity
Each partner ensured that the appropriate stakeholders were invited and budgeted to attend joint project monitoring in all respective target woredas. The joint monitoring visits helped to recognize strengths and weaknesses; identify challenges; and provide shared decisions on the identified gaps. It also provided opportunities for sharing lessons. Thus CARE and partners organized 141 joint monitoring visits during the action period.

Result 2 - Activity 3

Short description
2.3 CARE and implementing partners to provide capacity building trainings to government sector officials

Detailed description
Trainings and capacity building activities will differ by partner and context/need in each area, however examples are: Early warning and DRR; emergency seed security assessment; cash transfer programming (CTP). Selected and relevant government officials will also be invited to some of the agricultural focused trainings under ER1. One of the main target groups of this action is the local level Development Agents (DA) who engage with the farmers thorough technically support throughout the growing season as their responsibility is mainly agricultural extension. Therefore, the action will work with DAs for regular follow-up during land preparation, planting, fertilizer application, timely weeding, harvesting and trash ing for maximum production. To this end partners have planned for training/capacity building activities to support a total of 410 DAs through this action.
In line with the original plan, trainings and capacity building activities varied by partners and context/needs in each area. The training topics included Early warning and DRR; cash transfer programming (CTP); climate smart and nutrition sensitive agriculture; seed bank approach; and pre-and post harvest management. The action closely worked with DAs for regular follow-up during seasonal crop production activities (land preparation, planting, weeding, harvesting etc.) to maximize productivity and production. To this end, 882 government officials, DAs and woreda experts (173F, 709M) were trained on the above mentioned topics during the action period.

Result 2 - Activity 4

**Short description**

2.4 CARE and implementing partners to Conduct Participatory Post-Harvest Assessment in Collaboration with Zonal and Woreda Level stakeholders

**Detailed description**

At least 3 officials per woredas will engage in these processes (linked to indicator 2.3). Each partner will lead the process in their respective woredas/zone

Result 2 - Activity 5

**Short description**

2.5 CARE and implementing partners to conduct internal learning reviews, documentation of processes, results and capture human interest stories.

**Detailed description**

As per the normal practice, the action will ensure to capture learning and beneficiary experiences and share with ECHO.

Result 2 - Activity 6

**Short description**

2.6 CARE and implementing partners to organise and facilitate an After Action Review and Reflection (AAR) Workshop with key stakeholders to assess performance, ensure accountability, and share learnings per zone

**Detailed description**

This activity will take place at the zonal level near the end of the project period. Each partner will lead the process in their respective regions and engage key stakeholders and where partners are in the same zones, they will conduct these workshops jointly.
Each partner organized after action review workshop in their respective regions and engaged key stakeholders. After action review workshops were organized at zonal, regional and national levels. The workshops helped to assess performance, ensure accountability, and share learnings with key stakeholders. In this regard, seven After Action Review Workshops were organized across the geographic areas of the action.

**Result 2 - Activity 7**

**Short description**

2.7 CARE and implementing partners to facilitate Project Final Evaluation to be commissioned and managed by CARE

**Detailed description**

All partners will engage and also ensure the coordination of involved government sectors in the end-line evaluation for the action which will be conducted by project end.

This evaluation will be commissioned and managed by CARE but all partners will dedicate staff and resources to support. A validation workshop with all stakeholders will be held to share the findings.

**[FIN] Report on the activity**

It was originally planned to carry out final evaluation. During the seed emergency working group coordination meetings, it was suggested to undertake one national evaluation instead of doing separate project based evaluations. The strategic advisory group (SAG) was tasked to facilitate the evaluation process jointly with Tuft University. In line with this proposal, the CARE consortium members in close consultation with ECHO Ethiopia decided to re-allocate the budget for organizing Joint After Action Review and Learning Workshop at national level. This workshop was aimed at identifying key lessons, challenges, opportunities and areas of improvement at each stages of the project. The workshop was held from March 21-22, 2017 in Adama town and facilitated by external consultant. 44 participants (5F, 39M) from respective government offices at zonal, regional and national level were invited and actively took part. The workshop output was documented in the form of workshop proceeding. During the workshop, communication materials such as banners, t-shirts, capes, and key holders were delivered bearing ECHO logo as part of donor visibility. Participants acknowledged that the workshop enhanced learning among key partners/actors regarding major accomplishments, coordination and accountability, key lessons and recommendations.

**Result (2/2) - [INT] Overall update on activities of the result**

**Result (2/2) - [FIN] Conclusions on the result**

The project was properly coordinated at consortium level including conducting monthly coordination meetings where the meeting provided the avenue to track progresses, identify challenges and learn from each other. CARE and implementing partners were actively involved in all coordination mechanisms including DRM-ATF and emergency seed working groups at all levels. Capacity building trainings were provided to government officials, DAs and woreda experts on different topics such as improved agronomic practices, early warning and disaster risk reduction, cash transfer programming, climate smart and nutrition sensitive agriculture, seed bank approach, pre and post harvest management. CARE and implementing partners also organized after action review and learning workshops at zonal, regional and national level to enhance learning. Overall, the coordination activities and mechanisms were implemented as planned. The execution of these activities came up with effective and strong coordination among partners and relevant stakeholders.

**4.4 Preconditions**
Project agreements are signed in a timely manner with relevant government authorities. Availability of appropriate and quality seeds in sufficient amounts both in the formal and informal seed sectors to reach the need. Targeted farmers are ready, able and willing to prepare their land and use the seeds provided or cash transfers for seeds Security and political stability in project areas continues and the political atmosphere will remain supportive of NGO operation; The forthcoming Kiremet rain will be optimum for crop farming as forecasted by the national meteorological agency. Emergency Seed Technical Working Group, Strategic Advisory Group and FAO surge team support (in terms of liaising with government facilitate, accessing seed from certified formal seed sources, etc.). The government will provide reliable information on the availability of seeds and should also support seed quality checking and inspection. In addition, government support is also required to ensure security; prevent fraud and ensure that the targeted beneficiaries access seeds.

4.5 Assumptions and risks

Below are the key risks and assumptions identified by partners: Risks -Late start and early withdrawal of the Meher rainy season, resulting in a poor growing season. This would limit the potential impact of project outputs. -Inadequate seed supply in terms of quantity and quality available in the market. -The project agreement process is delayed and hinders timely response; the community and/or government does not take active ownership of project implementation. -Continued high inflation rates could negatively impact and inflate market prices of agricultural inputs. - Heavy rainfall and flooding in operational areas prevents farmers from planting or washes away planted seed therefore destroying chances for increased production. -Conflict between ethnic or tribal clans breaks out in operational areas due to tensions around resources availability and competition Assumptions -Further weakening of El Niño conditions is expected in the coming months, which could positively impact the 2016 Meher rainy season to resume normal agricultural production. -Availability of the required seeds on the market from formal, intermediate and non-formal sectors remain adequate. -Government, rural district councils, and communities are interested and willing to cooperate with the project, based on their requests for assistance and recent consultation and the 2016 HRD. -Inflation remains at a normal rate throughout the project and loss of exchange rate of Euro to local currency will not be significant, which would likely affect planned activities. -There are additional resources and contingency actions made immediately available by Government, donors and the humanitarian community in the case of flooding in target areas. -The Government will enact conflict resolution measures in the case of any conflict over resources in target areas. -Use of cash for non-seed resources by beneficiaries - Limited or poor Engagement and commitment of local authorities in result 2 activities - It is the assumption that targeted HHs will want to use the cash for seeds as farming is their main livelihood and food source. -By requesting assistance and through previous consultations with government, they are committed to engaging in the action activities.

4.6 Contingency measures

Below are the key identified contingency measures to address the risks and assumptions mentioned above.

-CARE and partners works closely with the federal Agricultural Task Force (ATF) and woreda agriculture offices to track and respond to weather forecasts. Shifting of long cycle crops to short maturing and drought-tolerant crop varieties will also be considered, depending on their suitability.

-CARE and partners works with the ATF seed working groups and timely approach to both formal and non-formal seed suppliers within or outside the region. Where partners cannot directly procure seeds for distribution, conditional cash transfers will be provided to beneficiaries with close monitoring. Procurement processes are up and running through other emergency seed interventions and have been scoped for this action to enable rapid start-up. Partners will also work and coordinate closely with the Regional Agriculture Bureaus while trying to access seed from the Formal and the Intermediate seed sources as per the advice of the DRM ATF.

-The participation of local government and communities is at the core of the project design. Partners will build on its existing good relationships with stakeholders in the target areas for the implementation of the proposed operation and include all key stakeholders in decision making. All partners will obtain "go-ahead letters" from government in each region to facilitate rapid start-up before official agreements in place.

-CARE will inform the donor in a timely manner to arrange any necessary budget adjustments in this regard. If necessary, CARE and partners will seek funding from other sources to complement the intervention.

-CARE and partners will closely monitor the climatic conditions in target areas and call for immediate and early response in the case of overly heavy rains and flooding. In extreme cases, a change in activities (i.e.
from seed to other emergency response) would need to be taken.

-CARE and partners will closely monitor the security situation in target areas and use existing relationships with communities and local authorities to mitigate and address conflict over resources. In extreme cases, the area in question would need to be evacuated by the project.

-Targeting and beneficiary selection and monitoring processes will help to ensure proper use of cash resources. The action will develop cash transfer guidance and checklist to be used based on past experience and learning on CTP.

-Partners will use their long-standing relationships with government officials to promote active engagement and commitment to the project activities.

4.7 Additional information on the operational context of Action

Many of the targeted operational areas have experienced harvest failure in consecutive years which has contributed to the lack for seed on the market. In this context, effective coordination among consortium partners and local government is of paramount importance to avoid competition over seed purchase and maintain normal and uniform price of seeds

As result of loss of Meher harvest and unreliable Belg production prospects, farmers are exposed not only to food shortages, but also to critical seed deficiency for the forthcoming Meher cropping season. Available reports indicate that most Meher benefiting areas in South Wollo and East Gojjam in Amhara region plus East and South Eastern zones in Tigray region have already exhausted whatever reserve left in their home including seeds and planting materials. This is very troubling, as it could jeopardize the 2016 Meher planting seasons. There is a real risk that the current food crisis could be exacerbated, if quality seeds are not distributed to vulnerable communities in a timely manner.

See section 6.5 for safety and security situation in proposed operational areas.

4.8 [INT] Report on precondition, assumptions and risks

4.9 [FIN] Report on precondition, assumptions and risks

Below are the key risks and assumptions identified by partners during the implementation stage:

Risks:

-As anticipated during the planning, both late onset and early cessation of the Meher rainy season occurred, that impacted the crop production performance. There was also shortage of moisture in lowland areas. This limited the potential impact of project outputs (average yield per household was planned to be 500 kg while the actual figure became 431 kg).

-Inadequate seeds supply in terms of quantity and quality available in the market.

-The project agreement process with government signatories was good except delay in intervention woredas in SNNPR targeted by CARE Ethiopia. This created delay in starting up procurement processes. However, it was overcome by holding frequent discussions with the signatory authorities. In the other cases, government authorities provided go ahead letters before the formal agreements were signed off. It was learned there was mutual understanding between all stakeholders unless and otherwise the planting window would have been elapsed in the normal procedures.

-There was high demand and limited supply of agricultural seeds that resulted in inflated market price.

-Heavy rainfall and flooding in some operational areas prevented farmers from planting or washed away planted seed therefore destroying chances for increased production.

-There was political instability and social unrest in Amhara and Oromia regions during the peak time of planting, that impacted monitoring activities (movement was restricted).

-There was pest and disease infestation in some intervention areas of Save the Children International. The negative impacts were mitigated by closely working with the government bodies.

Assumptions

-No major changes to report.
5. QUALITY MARKERS

5.1 Gender-age markers

5.1.1 Marker Details

- Does the proposal contain an adequate and brief gender and age analysis? Yes
- Is the assistance adapted to the specific needs and capacities of different gender and age groups? Yes
- Does the action prevent/mitigate negative effects? Yes
- Do relevant gender and age groups adequately participate in the design, implementation and evaluation of the Action? Yes
- Initial mark 2

5.1.2 Additional comments and challenges

Partners recognise that emergencies affect women and girls differently from men and boys. Women are often more vulnerable in emergencies due to their lower social and economic status. In this regard, key measures will be taken under the proposed project to properly understand and address specific aspects related to gender:

- Project teams will aim to consist of a balanced number of men and women at both Country and Field office levels;
- Equal and proportional representation of women and men in decision-making processes will be prioritised;
- All data will be disaggregated by age and sex; where possible, data collected from women will be collected by women;
- Women, Children's and Youth Affairs offices at both woreda and kebele level will be a core partner; the action will seek to consult with woreda level women's associations on the targeting criteria and beneficiary selection processes.
- Beneficiary selection for seeds will aim to target an average of 30% female headed HHs where possible and will also prioritise female farmers for training activities provided by the project.
- Activities will be gender sensitive in terms of considering the time of day, distances and women's workloads accordingly.
- The Gender in Emergency Advisor at CARE is dedicated for 30% of their time and will provide support for the project team and partners on addressing/consideration of gender in emergencies at the start of the project and will provide close support and follow-up for the duration of the action. All consortium partners also have dedicated Addis Ababa level gender advisory staff to support the project in terms of review and quality assurance processes.

5.1.3 [INT] Additional comments and challenges

- 

5.1.4 [FIN] Additional comments and challenges
The action was gender sensitive. Project teams attempted their best to balance number of men and women at both Country and Field office levels. Equal and proportional representation of women and men in decision-making processes were prioritised. All data have been disaggregated by sex. Women, Children's and Youth Affairs offices at both woreda and kebele level were core partners. The action consulted with woreda level women's associations on the targeting criteria and beneficiary selection processes. All activities were gender sensitive in terms of considering the time of day, distances and women's workloads accordingly. All consortium partners also dedicated gender advisors to support the project in terms of review and quality assurance aspects.

Initially, beneficiary selection for seeds was aimed to target an average of 20% female headed HHs and also prioritized female farmers for training activities provided by the project. In the actual implementation, 44,438 of the households that received seed support were female headed households from the total of 254,185 households which is 17%. This figure is not far from the national average.

5.2 Resilience

5.2.1 Marker Details

- **Does the proposal include an adequate analysis of shocks, stresses and vulnerabilities?**  Yes
- **Is the project risk informed? Does the project include adequate measures to ensure it does not aggravate risks or undermine capacities?**  Yes
- **Does the project include measures to build local capacities (beneficiaries and local institutions)?**  Yes
- **Does the project take opportunities to support long term strategies to reduce humanitarian needs, underlying vulnerability and risks?**  Yes

**Initial mark** 2

5.2.2 How does the Action contribute to build resilience or reduce future risk?

The consortium views effective emergency response not only as a goal per se but also as a pre-requisite for sustaining long-term development gains and protecting the lives of the most vulnerable beyond the emergency phase. As a result, any emergency response work always seeks ways of mitigating the risks of future disasters and making communities and authorities more resilient. This project is no exception: the project will impart lessons learned to local families and communities strengthen their capacity in preparedness of future similar hazards in saving seed from their harvest, accessing improved seed from certified seed sources, etc.

Furthermore, the agriculture production component of this action directly aims to make beneficiaries more resilient to future shocks. Provision of seeds will enable the target households to resume the normal agriculture activities thereby enabling them to maintain or in some cases restore their assets and bridge food gaps. The action prevents further livelihoods crisis and encourages economic growth; rebuilds, improves and develops community assets. This contributes to the resilience of drought affected households in the long-term.

In addition, the coordination and capacity building elements of the action will assist to work with government to build the capacity of the humanitarian community as a while to manage current and future shocks in relation to drought response and recovery.

5.2.3 [INT] Report on Resilience marker

- 

5.2.4 [FIN] Report on Resilience marker
As per the post harvest assessment findings, it is noted that the provision of seeds enabled the target households to resume the normal agriculture activities thereby enabling them to maintain or in some cases restore their assets and bridge food gaps. FGD and key informants witnessed that the action prevented further livelihood asset depletion. This contributed to the resilience of drought affected households in the long-term. The post harvest assessment findings revealed that 78% of the respondents confirmed that they will be in a position to reserve seed for the next season. In the same assessment, significant number of respondents believe they will be able to cover their household consumption needs without looking for external food aid.

Moreover, the coordination and capacity building elements of the action assisted government counterparts to plan, manage and respond future shocks in relation to crisis. It was learned at all levels that coordination enhances timely response to save lives and livelihoods.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Human resources and Management capacities

The proposed Action will be led by CARE with consortium partners responsible for their respective target areas (see details on each below) in close coordination with respective Woreda Agricultural Office and Disaster Prevention and Preparedness structure staffs (different depending on the region/zone), along with direct technical support from CARE and Partners’ field based staffs in each target area.

CARE has managed ample emergency and long-term development project consortia and has well-established systems and structures in place to ensure quality oversight, donor compliance and coordination with partners.

Overall coordination and management by the Addis Ababa Head Office based Emergency Unit. A dedicated Project Manager will be hired for this action. The Project Manager will be responsible for the overall management and coordination with partners for this Action. The Project Manager will be managed by the CARE Emergency Program and Operations Manager, with technical support from the Emergency Food Security, Livelihoods and DRR Advisor who will provide technical and managerial support for the overall coordination and implementation of project activities. A dedicated M&E officer will be hired to oversee all M&E centrally and ensure process and quality of partners’ M&E as well as manage the external evaluation for the end-line. The gender in emergencies advisor at CARE Ethiopia will also dedicate 30% of their time to overseeing the gender mainstreaming and quality markers identified in the project. All consortium partners also have dedicated gender advisory staff who will work with the action for quality assurance an accountability from a gender perspective.

The Emergency team at the Head Office level will also provide rigorous technical backup and responsible for overseeing the technical quality of activities. Programme staff at field level will be responsible for day-to-day activity implementation and management of the project. The field staff responsibility includes the preparation of a detailed implementation plan in conjunction with the community and concerned government staff, on-site technical support, monitoring, and reporting of activities to CARE Ethiopia and their respective government partners, and providing feedback to communities.

Head Office based Programme Support staff from Finance and Administration will also provide necessary backing and relevant management oversight throughout the life of the Action.

All consortium partners also have a similar mirrored HR structure with HQ and Addis Ababa level based emergency team support and technical teams who advise and support implementing staff in the field and monitor the progress (field visits, training, etc). Similarly field based staff of partners are responsible for day to day operations of the project and meeting the deliverables outlined in the work plan. Partner staff at all levels engage in relevant coordination mechanisms and share this information.

CARE Austria Desk Officer will be liaising with DG ECHO Headquarters while also monitoring the project implementation at the country level to ensure compliance with ECHO regulations.

6.1.1 [INT] Human resources and Management capacities

6.1.2 [FIN] Human resources and Management capacities
The Action was led by CARE with consortium partners responsible for their respective target areas (see
details on each below) in close coordination with respective Woreda Agricultural Office and Disaster
Prevention and Preparedness structure staffs (different depending on the region/zone), along with direct
technical support from CARE and Partners’ field based staffs in each target area.

CARE has managed ample emergency and long-term development project consortia and has
well-established systems and structures in place to ensure quality oversight, donor compliance and
coordination with partners.

Overall coordination and management was done by the Addis Ababa Head Office based Emergency
Unit. A dedicated Project Manager was hired for this action. The Project Manager was responsible for
the overall management and coordination with partners for this Action. The Project Manager was
managed by the CARE Emergency Program and Operations Manager, with technical support from the
Emergency Food Security, Livelihoods and DRR Advisor who provided technical and managerial
support for the overall coordination and implementation of project activities. A dedicated M&E officer
was hired to oversee all M&E centrally and ensure process and quality of partners’ M&E. The gender in
emergencies advisor at CARE Ethiopia dedicated 30% of her time to overseeing the gender
mainstreaming and quality markers identified in the project. All consortium partners also dedicated
gender advisory staff who worked with the action for quality assurance an accountability from a gender
perspective.

The Emergency team at the Head Office level also provided rigorous technical backup and was
responsible for overseeing the technical quality of activities. Programme staff at field level were
responsible for day-to-day activity implementation and management of the project. The field staff
responsibility included the preparation of a detailed implementation plan in conjunction with the
community and concerned government staff, on-site technical support, monitoring, and reporting of
activities to CARE Ethiopia and their respective government partners, and providing feedback to
communities.

Head Office based Programme Support staff from Finance and Administration also provided necessary
backing and relevant management oversight throughout the life of the Action.

All consortium partners also have a similar mirrored HR structure with HQ and Addis Ababa level based
emergency team support and technical teams who advise and support implementing staff in the field
and monitor the progress (field visits, training, etc). Similarly field based staff of partners were
responsible for day to day operations of the project and meeting the deliverables outlined in the work
plan.Partner staff at all levels engaged in relevant coordination mechanisms and shared this information.

CARE Austria Desk Officer liaised with DG ECHO Headquarters while also monitoring the project
implementation at the country level to ensure compliance with ECHO regulations.

CARE has charged salary costs of his project manager and her finance officer during the two months
following project end for final report purpose as well as for the Post Distribution Assessment of the Belg
season (project manager).

Please refer to the staff list in the financial report for more details.

6.2 EU Aid Volunteers

No

6.2.1 [FIN] EU Aid Volunteers

No

6.3 Equipment and goods

The primary goods to be procured under this action are seeds of both long and short cycle variety
depending on the context and planting windows in each operational area. In addition, a small amount of
IT equipment such as laptops for key staff implementing the intervention directly will be purchased and
utilised as per ECHO guidelines. Partners will not be procuring vehicles, but will rent vehicles for field
activities and seed distribution as required and budgeted for this accordingly. All partners have prepared
detailed procurement forecasts and start process of procurement immediately to ensure rapid field level
start-up and implementation.
6.3.2 [INT] Equipment and goods

6.3.3 [FIN] Equipment and goods

The primary goods procured under this action were seeds of both long and short cycle variety depending on the context and planting windows in each operational area. In addition, a small amount of IT equipment such as laptops for key staff implementing the intervention directly were purchased and utilized as per ECHO guidelines. Partners did not procure vehicles, but rented vehicles for field activities and seed distribution as required as per the budget plan. All partners prepared detailed procurement forecasts and undertook procurement immediately to ensure rapid field level start-up and implementation.

Please refer to the financial report for the list of low value equipments and for a CARE list of transfer of equipment to the ECHO action: ECHO/-HF/BUD/2017/91033.

No equipment above 2500 Euro has been purchased.

No stock of seeds is remaining after project end.

6.4 Use of HPCs

No

6.4.1 [FIN] Use of HPCs

No

6.4.2 [FIN] Name of HPC

-

6.4.3 [FIN] Report on supplies

N/A

6.6 Specific security constraints

According to recent information from local authorities, community representatives, and staff on the ground

the security situation in the proposed intervention areas in the 4 targeted regions can be considered stable with no current security related problem identified. No immediate security risks, which could endanger visits to the communities and implementation of the project. There are some pocket areas that can be prone to ethnic and clan resource based conflict, such as Mieso Woreda in West Hararghe Zone, however the steps outlined below will be taken in all areas to monitor and respond in cases of conflict or other security risks.

Partner staff are very familiar with the target communities and have developed good relationships with key local and regional actors, which will allow for on-going monitoring of the security situation. Furthermore, all partners have standard security procedures to maintain staff safety: situational awareness, safety and prevention in the use of vehicles. As part of these procedures, security conditions throughout the country are constantly reviewed and evaluated, along with their possible effect on staff and work places.

Throughout the implementation, all partners will abide by the standard security rules and regulations and continue to closely monitor and assess the security situation in the area in collaboration with other stakeholders like UNDSS (United Nations Department for Safety and Security) on an on-going basis.

Partners will put in place all necessary security measures to safeguard beneficiaries, staff, property and interests.

Furthermore, some of the targeted areas are difficult to access, marked by rugged topography, and can be associated with risks of car accidents, especially during the rainy season (slippery roads). To mitigate this, partners intend to use good quality, well equipped vehicles, in order to guarantee the
safety of their teams.

6.6.1 [INT] Specific security constraints

6.6.2 [FIN] Specific security constraints
There were frequent political instability and social unrest in the middle of the action period particularly in Oromia and Amhara regions. This created inconveniences and impeded implementation at some points. There were some pocket areas that were prone to ethnic and clan resource based conflict, such as Mieso Woreda in West Hararghe Zone. However, the steps outlined below were taken in all areas to monitor and respond in cases of conflict or other security risks.

Partner staff were very familiar with the target communities and have developed good relationships with key local and regional actors, which allowed for on-going monitoring of the security situation. Furthermore, all partners had standard security procedures to maintain staff safety: situational awareness, safety and prevention in the use of vehicles. As part of these procedures, security conditions throughout the country are constantly reviewed and evaluated, along with their possible effect on staff and work places.

Throughout the implementation, all partners were governed by the standard security rules and regulations and continued to closely monitor and assess the security situation in the area in collaboration with other stakeholders like UNDSS (United Nations Department for Safety and Security) on an on-going basis.

Partners put in place all necessary security measures to safeguard beneficiaries, staff, property and interests.

Furthermore, some of the targeted areas were difficult to access, marked by rugged topography, and could bring risks of car accidents, especially during the rainy season (slippery roads). To mitigate this, partners used good quality, well equipped vehicles, in order to guarantee the safety of their teams.

6.7.1 Are there Implementing Partners ?

Yes

6.7.2 Implementing Partner added value

CARE starts with the explicit recognition that each partner brings important expertise, experience and adds value to the action. In order to reach the largest coverage possible and bring the action to scale to meet the need, it is recognised by CARE and partners that a consortia approach with partners that have long-standing presence and humanitarian experience in the target areas is the most efficient and effective way to achieve the results of this intervention and respond to the level of current needs to the largest extent possible with the available donor resources and time constraints.

6.7.2.1 [FIN] Implementing Partner added value

CARE started with the explicit recognition that each partner brings important expertise, experience and adds value to the action. In order to reach the largest coverage possible and bring the action to meet the wider gaps and needs, it was highly recognized by CARE and partners that a consortium approaches was efficient and effective way to achieve the results of this intervention and respond to the level of needs to the largest extent possible with the available donor resources and time constraints.

Overall, the consortium approach enhanced the coordination mechanisms and provided the opportunity to learn from each other.

6.7.4 Coordination, supervision and controls
CARE, as lead applicant for this project, will work closely with and oversee the other implementing partners, Concern Worldwide, DanChurchAid, and Save the Children to ensure activities are designed, implemented, monitored, and followed up in a consistent fashion. CARE Ethiopia and partner staff have met to develop the activities and approaches for this proposed action and a specific Financial Risk and Compliance Workshop will be organized to ensure that key staff are refreshed on policies and regulations of ECHO.

CARE will ensure that regular coordination meetings will be held between all partners to provide regular updates on progress, challenges faced, and how best to overcome these. Joint field monitoring visits between agencies will also be a regular feature of the implementation and monitoring process for this project. Partners will be responsible to provide project reports and financial updates to CARE as per the ECHO guidelines which will also be checked in depth for quality and donor compliance by CARE before submission to ECHO.

CARE's successful management of several large programs in Ethiopia, each including multiple and diverse partners, is based on a common commitment to mutual accountability. In a consortium such as the one proposed by this ECHO-funded emergency seed response implementation, CARE cultivates a management and governance climate which favours each partner holding the others (beginning with CARE itself) accountable for the achievement of objectives and compliance with rules, regulations and standards. Achieving maximum synergy across a consortium of this nature requires clear role definition, results-driven performance management, decision-making based on evidence and consultation, and transparent communication about program resources, plans and performance.

CARE will also be implementing all aspects of the action in hot spot 1 (majority) and hot spot 2 priority woredas of East and West Hararghe of Oromiya Regional State and South Gonder Zone and Simada Zone of SNNP Regional State (subject to flexibility based on situation and need).

6.7.4.1 [FIN] Coordination, supervision and controls

CARE, as lead applicant for this project, worked closely with and oversaw the other implementing partners, Concern Worldwide, DanChurchAid, and Save the Children to ensure activities were designed, implemented, monitored, and followed up in a consistent fashion. CARE Ethiopia and partner staff met to develop the activities and approaches for the action and a specific Financial Risk and Compliance Workshop was organized to ensure that key staff are refreshed on policies and regulations of ECHO.

CARE ensured that regular coordination meetings were held between all partners to provide regular updates on progress, challenges faced, and how best to overcome these. Joint field monitoring visits between agencies were also a regular feature of the implementation and monitoring process for this project. Partners provided project reports and financial updates to CARE as per the ECHO guidelines which were also checked in depth for quality and donor compliance by CARE.

CARE's successful management of several large programs in Ethiopia, each including multiple and diverse partners, is based on a common commitment to mutual accountability. In a consortium such as this ECHO-funded emergency seed response implementation, CARE cultivated a management and governance climate which favours each partner holding the others (beginning with CARE itself) accountable for the achievement of objectives and compliance with rules, regulations and standards. Achieving maximum synergy across a consortium of this nature required clear role definition, results-driven performance management, decision-making based on evidence and consultation, and transparent communication about program resources, plans and performance.

Implementing Partners

Implementing Partner (1/3)

Type (FPA/Non FPA)
FPA

Implementing Partner name
CONCERN WORLDWIDE, (IRL)

Estimated share
20 %

Address
Concern Worldwide will be implementing all aspects of the action in target woredas of East Gojjam Zone and South Wollo Zone of Amhara Regional State and East Zone of Tigray Regional State (subject to flexibility based on situation and need).

Type of relationship with implementing partner(s) and the expected reporting by the implementing partner

CARE will have overall contractual responsibility for the proposed action, ensuring compliance with donor requirements and timely implementation of project activities. A contract for the action will be signed between CARE and all implementing partners that passes the same donor compliance and expectations to the partner and any local sub-grantees with a defined reporting and payment schedule. Each partner has agreed to pre-finance activities in their respective target areas. CARE will provide training and support as required to the other implementing partners on the compliance and will have a monitoring role over the full action. Implementing partners are responsible for ensuring reporting deadlines and implementation according to the final approved work plan of the project, in their respective target areas. They are also responsible for providing CARE with timely and regular monitoring information as well as to their respective woredas/zones/regions and the emergency seed working group. All implementing partners will provide CARE with accurate financial information as per their contract. Implementing partners will be available to participate in joint monitoring and evaluation activities. As such all implementing partners will budget for staff time accordingly and offer cooperation to CARE in such exercises.

Implementing Partner (2/3)
Type (FPA/Non FPA)
FPA
Implementing Partner name
FOLKEKIRKENS NODHJAELP, (FKN)
Estimated share
20 %
Address
-
Status
? - -1
If other status, please specify
**Narrative field (in case of non-FPA implementing partner)**

- **Role to be carried out by each implementing partner**
  DanChurchAid (FOLKEKIRKENS NODHJAELP) will be implementing all aspects of the action in target woredas of North Wollo Zone, Waghimra Zone and South Wollo Zone of Amhara Regional State and Bale Zone of Oromiya Regional State (subject to flexibility based on situation and need).

**Type of relationship with implementing partner(s) and the expected reporting by the implementing partner**

CARE will have overall contractual responsibility for the proposed action, ensuring compliance with donor requirements and timely implementation of project activities. A contract for the action will be signed between CARE and all implementing partners that passes the same donor compliance and expectations to the partner and any local sub-grantees with a defined reporting and payment schedule. Each partner has agreed to pre-finance activities in their respective target areas. CARE will provide training and support as required to the other implementing partners on the compliance and will have a monitoring role over the full action. Implementing partners are responsible for ensuring reporting deadlines and implementation according to the final approved work plan of the project, in their respective target areas. They are also responsible for providing CARE with timely and regular monitoring information as well as to their respective woredas/zones/regions and the emergency seed working group. All implementing partners will provide CARE with accurate financial information as per their contract. Implementing partners will be available to participate in joint monitoring and evaluation activities. As such all implementing partners will budget for staff time accordingly and offer cooperation to CARE in such exercises.

[FIN] **General update on implementing partner**

CARE took overall contractual responsibility for the action, ensuring compliance with donor requirements and timely implementation of project activities. A contract for the action was signed between CARE and all implementing partners that passes the same donor compliance and expectations to the partner and any local sub-grantees with a defined reporting and payment schedule. Each partner agreed to pre-finance activities in their respective target areas. CARE provided training, orientation and support as required to the other implementing partners on the compliance and monitored the full action. Implementing partners were responsible for ensuring reporting deadlines and implementation according to the final approved work plan of the project, in their respective target areas. They also provided CARE with timely and regular monitoring information as well as to their respective woredas/zones/regions and the emergency seed working group. All implementing partners provided CARE with accurate financial information as per their contract. Implementing partners actively took part in joint monitoring and evaluation activities. DanChurchAid implemented its activities through two local implementing partners namely EOC-DICAC and EECMY-DASSC. It signed separate cooperative agreements in line with the ECHO rules, guidelines and compliances. The agreement was almost direct reflection of the agreement which CARE signed with ECHO. Partners other than DCA implemented the action by their own without sub granting to local implementing partners.

**Implementing Partner (3/3)**

**Type (FPA/Non FPA)**

FPA

**Implementing Partner name**

THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND (GBR)

**Estimated share**

20 %

**Address**

-

**Status**

? - -1

**If other status, please specify**

-

**Narrative field (in case of non-FPA implementing partner)**
Role to be carried out by each implementing partner

SC will be implementing all aspects of the action in Waghimra Zone, North Wollo Zone of Amhara Regional State and Gurage Zone and other special administrative zones of in SNNP Regional State (subject to flexibility based on situation and need).

Type of relationship with implementing partner(s) and the expected reporting by the implementing partner

CARE will have overall contractual responsibility for the proposed action, ensuring compliance with donor requirements and timely implementation of project activities. A contract for the action will be signed between CARE and all implementing partners that passes the same donor compliance and expectations to the partner and any local sub-grantees with a defined reporting and payment schedule. Each partner has agreed to pre-finance activities in their respective target areas. CARE will provide training and support as required to the other implementing partners on the compliance and will have a monitoring role over the full action. Implementing partners are responsible for ensuring reporting deadlines and implementation according to the final approved work plan of the project, in their respective target areas. They are also responsible for providing CARE with timely and regular monitoring information as well as to their respective woredas/zone/regions and the emergency seed working group. All implementing partners will provide CARE with accurate financial information as per their contract. Implementing partners will be available to participate in joint monitoring and evaluation activities. As such all implementing partners will budget for staff time accordingly and offer cooperation to CARE in such exercises.

FIN] General update on implementing partner

CARE took overall contractual responsibility for the action, ensuring compliance with donor requirements and timely implementation of project activities. A contract for the action was signed between CARE and all implementing partners that passes the same donor compliance and expectations to the partner and any local sub-grantees with a defined reporting and payment schedule. Each partner agreed to pre-finance activities in their respective target areas. CARE provided training, orientation and support as required to the other implementing partners on the compliance and monitored the full action. Implementing partners were responsible for ensuring reporting deadlines and implementation according to the final approved work plan of the project, in their respective target areas. They also provided CARE with timely and regular monitoring information as well as to their respective woredas/zones/regions and the emergency seed working group. All implementing partners provided CARE with accurate financial information as per their contract. Implementing partners actively took part in joint monitoring and evaluation activities.

6.8 Are there any subdelegatees?

No

6.8.1 Subdelegatees explanation

-

6.8.2 [INT] Subdelegatees explanation

-

Subdelegatees

6.9.1 [FIN] General update on Implementing Partners list

-

6.10 [INT] Report on Implementing Partners

-

7. FIELD COORDINATION
7.1 Operational coordination with other humanitarian actors
CARE and all implementing partners work in close coordination and have good relationships with humanitarian actor counterparts in all of the proposed operational areas and are members of national, regional, zonal and woreda emergency taskforces.

CARE and implementing partners are all active participants of emergency coordination and humanitarian response mechanisms (working groups, cluster system, etc) and attend DRM ATF meetings. CARE’s and implementing partners’ Addis based and field based technical staffs currently participate in Government, UN, and partner I/NGO assessments, situation monitoring, targeting, and coordination meetings and the proposed Action’s technical staff will continue in this manner.

The consortium partners will work in close cooperation with the Agricultural Task Force (ATF) at regional and zonal levels, led by the regionals DPPFSCO (Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Food Security Coordination Office). All needs, gaps and responses will be assessed and coordinated through this coordination body to ensure alignment with government priorities, to avoid duplication, and complement existing and forthcoming humanitarian responses implemented by this consortium, the government and other partners. CARE and implementing partners also work closely with partner NGOs at an operational level for all of its emergency and development interventions. All consortium partners have already mapped ongoing responses by different implementers to ensure that there is no overlap or duplication of activities.

7.2 Action listed in
UN Consolidated Appeal Process

- Flash Appeal
- ICRC / IFRC appeal
- Other
  - Not applicable
    Yes
    If other, please specify

7.3 Coordination with National and local authorities
All partners in the consortium for this action regularly attend federal level DRM-ATF and ESTWG meetings and at regional level GO-NGO forums. All partners will sign MoUs with their respective regional governments of operation to ensure roles and responsibilities are clearly defined during project implementation. Synergy and complementarity occur between the proposed seed response and the work and services of the respective woredas, therefore officials gave their full support and expressed willingness to collaborate. Close coordination with institutions will serve to ensure seed of choice is provided to beneficiaries in line with emergency seed guidelines and operational framework established by the DRM ATF SAG.

7.4 Coordination with development actors and programmes
All partners will closely collaborate with other actors operating in the areas in order to harmonize the seed provisioning approach in a way that maximizes impact. Data related to the needs, gaps and available resources will be collected in collaboration with government counterparts and shared regularly by each partner with national emergency seed technical working group. The consortium will use long-term presence and established relationship with the communities and regional authorities to smoothly implement the project.

7.5 [INT] Report on Field Coordination
7.6 [FIN] Report on Field Coordination

The consortium partners worked in close collaboration with humanitarian actors in all of the operational areas and are members of national, regional, zonal and woreda emergency task forces.

CARE and implementing partners are all active participants of emergency coordination and humanitarian response mechanisms (working groups, cluster system, etc) and regularly attended DRM ATF meetings. CARE's and implementing partners' Addis based and field based technical staffs participated in Government, UN, FAO, and partner I/NGO assessments, situation monitoring, targeting, and coordination meetings and the Action's technical staff continued in this manner.

The consortium partners worked in close cooperation with the Agricultural Task Force (ATF) and Emergency Seed Working Group at regional and zonal levels, led by the regionals DPPFSCO (Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Food Security Coordination Office). All needs, gaps and responses were assessed and coordinated through these coordination bodies to ensure alignment with government priorities, to avoid duplication, and complement existing and forthcoming humanitarian responses implemented by this consortium, the government and other partners. The consortium partners also worked closely with partner NGOs at an operational level for all of its emergency and development interventions. All consortium partners mapped ongoing responses by different implementers to avoid overlap or duplication of activities.

All partners closely collaborated with other actors operating in the areas in order to harmonize the seed provisioning approach in a way that maximizes impact. Data related to the needs, gaps and available resources were collected in collaboration with government counterparts and shared regularly by each partner with national emergency seed technical working group. The consortium used long-term presence and established relationship with the communities and regional authorities to smoothly implement the project.

8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

8.1 Monitoring of the Action

CARE places great emphasis on the dignity of beneficiaries and has developed a Humanitarian Accountability Framework (HAF) For more information on CARE's Humanitarian Accountability Framework, please visit [Link replaced / shortened automatically]. The HAF guides all of CARE's humanitarian interventions and contains eight benchmarks: a) Leadership on accountability; b) Impartial assessments; c) Design and monitoring; Participation; d) Feedback and complaints; e) Information sharing; f) Evaluation and learning; and g) Capacity of CARE staff and human resources management. Consortium partners will use their own internal systems and/or the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) to ensure the accountability towards beneficiaries and to also ensure that any complaints or grievances are addressed. Concern and DCA are both HAP certified while SC (like CARE) has its own internal humanitarian accountability system and procedures.

As there is no time to conduct a full baseline in project areas due to the urgency of seed distribution to meet the Meher planting window, each partner will be responsible to carry out rapid market assessments in target areas, in order to identify seeds of choice, availability in local markets, different sources for seeds, and analysis of cash influx into the market, in the case of cash transfers. These rapid assessments will take place in the first couple of weeks of the action and used to verify project plans for seed and cash transfers in all areas. Please see the activity on rapid market assessment and the work plan for more detailed information.

In order to improve performance and maximize project impact towards livelihood recovery, CARE and partners will conduct regular reporting on seed distribution and planting in all target areas, using a standard format and report to the responsible zonal offices and federal DRM ATF on a monthly basis. In addition, post-distribution and post-harvest monitoring will take place in all areas and be compiled centrally by CARE and shared with ECHO.

All partners will conduct After Action Reviews (AAR) at the zonal level to assess performance and identify learnings - where partners are operating in the same zone they will conduct these AARs jointly with key stakeholders from the zone.

Gender-disaggregated performance and impact indicators will be elaborated and data regularly
collected and reported against those performance and impact indicators.

Participatory monitoring will be used to refine or modify the implementation process, track implementation progress, and verify attainment of technical indicators. Participatory monitoring will contribute to enhancing accountability and transparency of overall project implementation.

All consortium partners have dedicated M&E staff who will dedicate some of the time to support the project and ensure quality M&E standards and process. CARE will employ a full time Learning Design and Monitoring (LDM) advisor to the action to coordination and oversee the action M&E processes.

As the M&E processes will take part with relevant government stakeholders, these activities will also contribute to the capacity building coordination elements of result 2.

CARE Austria will further support monitoring of the project. CARE Austria’s Desk Officer will visit project areas to monitor, ensure quality control, and offer technical support in terms of finance, procurement and donor compliance.

8.2 Evaluations

Internal evaluation
- 

External evaluation
Yes

External audit
No

8.2.1 Further details
The real impact of this project will be realized when the crops will be harvested in December 2016 and January 2017. For this reason, an external endline evaluation will be conducted. CARE Ethiopia will take responsibility for contracting and managing a thorough post-harvest assessment with zonal, woreda and kebele partners, including the local agriculture offices, in order to evaluate the yield as well as farmer satisfaction with the outcome. All partners will participate in the endline in their target areas and be responsible for supporting the evaluation and evaluation team. This assessment will take place within two months of the action end date. CARE and partners will include a full analysis and all relevant data from the post-harvest assessment in the final report submitted to ECHO. Consortium partners will hold a validation workshop with key stakeholders to share the findings.

8.3 Studies carried out in relation to the Action (if relevant)
No

Explain the content of these studies
-

8.4 [INT] Report on monitoring and evaluations
-

8.5 [FIN] Report on monitoring and evaluations
All monitoring and evaluation activities were undertaken as planned in the proposal of the action except the final evaluation. It was originally planned to carry out a final evaluation. However, during the seed emergency working group coordination meetings, it was suggested to undertake one national evaluation instead of doing separate project based evaluations. The strategic advisory group (SAG) was tasked to facilitate the evaluation process jointly with Tuft University. In line with this proposal, the CARE consortium members, in close consultation with ECHO Ethiopia, decided to re-allocate the budget for organizing a Joint After Action Review and Learning Workshop at national level. As a result, the workshop was organized as detailed in activity 7 of result 2.

Although the results by and large exceeded targets for most of the indicators, the implementation of the action was never without challenges. Major and common challenges faced during the action were thoroughly discussed and identified at the joint action learning and review workshop. These challenges
could be grouped into three major categories: challenges related to seeds, political/leadership, and natural hazards.

1. Seeds related challenges

- Limited supply of improved variety of crop seeds in the local market: the quantity of quality seed available in the local market was far from sufficient indicating persisting gap between supply and demand. In order to tackle this challenge, consortium partners were forced to using alternative seeds.

- Lack of preferred seeds variety from suppliers (e.g. Boset seed teff in Raya Kobo Woreda of Amhara region)

- Limited supply of quality seeds within a region; and restrictions put by regional governments seed from other regions. It is noted that the restrictions may be necessary to minimize potential risks of using a seed type developed for a particular context in to another context.

2. Political/Leadership related:

- Much of 2016 has been characterized by political instability and deteriorating security situations in Amhara and Oromia regions. Movement of staff and beneficiary communities was affected during the critical planting window period.

- Inclusion and exclusion errors in targeting: it was noted that there were instances whereby households who are relatively better off were included in place of those who needed the intervention most.

- Project approval timing against the planting window: Bureau of Finance and Economic Cooperations’ flexibility was identified as key to addressing this challenge. The project was permitted to proceed implementation while the approval processes were progressing.

3. Natural Hazard related

- Unforeseen agricultural risks and crop pests/diseases such as army worm and wheat rust outbreak were reported as challenges necessitating timely response to mitigate their impact on productivity of the seed provided.

9. COMMUNICATION, VISIBILITY AND INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

9.1 Standard visibility

A. Display of EU Humanitarian Aid visual identity on

A1. Signboards, display panels, banners and plaques

Yes

A2. Goods and equipment

Yes

Please provide additional details on section A

The consortium partners under this action are committed to giving credit to its donors and to acknowledging ECHO’s support and adhering to ECHO’s visibility policy. Partners will make sure that ECHO’s visual identity will be displayed on project banners in operational areas and at project events. ECHO’s new logo with a message (Funded by ECHO) will be used in banners at distribution sites and events to acknowledge the contribution made by ECHO. Where appropriate and possible. The project will also make project T-shirts and caps with ECHO logo for beneficiaries and project and government staff.

Distinctive ECHO stickers will be purchased and placed on vehicles and logistical elements where possible (not all partners display logos on vehicles). The ECHO identity will be used on all reports and printed materials, equipment, and will be highly visible at all events, trainings etc. and will be audibly acknowledged in all communication materials supported with the activity funding.

B. Written and verbal acknowledgement of EU funding and partnership through

B1. Press releases, press conference, other media outreach

Yes
B2. Publications, printed material (for external audiences, not operational communication)
Yes

B3. Social media
Yes

B4. Partner's website (pages related to EU funded projects)
Yes

B5. Human interest blogs, photo stories
Yes

B6. Audiovisual products, photos
Yes

B7. Other
-

Please provide additional details on section B

All partners will share information on the action and its donor at the humanitarian coordination level and at the field level with all stakeholders involved. When representing the action to key targets/audiences, the ECHO identity will have a high level of visibility so that audiences grasp the extent of ECHO's assistance.

Partners will use the following written and published materials to acknowledge ECHO:

- Social media (Twitter, partner websites and Facebook pages)
- Printed material / folder, leaflets about the action and as a part of publications about partners' overall emergency response in Ethiopia
- Photos and video content

Furthermore, partners will mention ECHO as a donor in relevant agreements and Memorandum of Understanding and in communication material such as media and human interest stories.

9.2 Do you foresee communication actions that go beyond standard obligations?
No

9.3 [INT] Report on progress
-

9.4 [FIN] Report on progress

The consortium partners showed strong commitment in acknowledging ECHO's financial support. Throughout the implementation of the action, ECHO visibility guidelines were adhered. The action acknowledged the financial support of ECHO in different ways. During beneficiary selection, all beneficiaries were informed on the source of funding stating that "the project is fully financed by ECHO (European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Department)". The donor was recognized in various stakeholder meetings, review meetings, capacity building trainings and after action review workshops. Communication materials such as T-shirts, caps, key holders, notebooks, posters and banners were produced with ECHO logo in different capacity building trainings, workshops and meetings organized by the action. Signposts were also hanged in different areas bearing ECHO logo. During the action, 1,025 t-shirts (CARE: 875; SCI:150); seven signboards (DCA:5 and SCI:2); eight banners (all by CARE); 75 key holders (all by CARE); 75 caps (all by CARE) and 75 notebooks (all by CARE) were produced with ECHO logo.

Case stories and human interest stories were developed and shared to recognize the donor's impact on the lives of individual vulnerable households. Online case story was developed and shared in SCI's website. The donor has been duly acknowledged, you can find the story on the link [Link replaced / shortened automatically]. The ECHO logo was also properly included on all reports and printed materials and was highly visible at all events funded by the action.

CARE Austria has also added the project in its website as well as two Human Interest Stories. See links
10. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF THE ACTION

10.1 Estimated expenditure

<table>
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<th></th>
<th>Initial budget</th>
<th>Revised budget</th>
<th>Interim report incurred costs</th>
<th>Final report incurred costs</th>
<th>Final report final update</th>
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<td>Total costs</td>
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10.3 Funding of the Action

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Initial budget</th>
<th>Revised budget</th>
<th>Final budget</th>
<th>Final report final update</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Direct revenue of the action</td>
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<td>Contribution by applicant</td>
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<td>Contribution by other donors</td>
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<td>Contribution by beneficiaries</td>
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<td>Contribution requested from ECHO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total funding</td>
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<td>4.920.084,74</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*) Rounding to the second decimal. To compute the final payment, the real percentage until four decimals will be applied.

10.4 Explanation about 100% funding

Other

If other, please explain

This action is part of a wider programme with complementary funding by other donors, in line with Consortium Partners' emergency response in different locations. 100% financing for this specific project will simplify management, administration and reporting. Other donor grants run on different timetables and have different complementary programmatic areas. Furthermore CARE and all consortium partners have been implementing the emergency drought response for the past 10 months and allocated all potential resources from other sources already. In order to ensure the needs are met in a timely manner, 100% financing is requested. CARE already provided matches for another ongoing emergency seed response project in Ethiopia as well as for another ECHO El Nino project. Unfortunately, due to lack of media interest, it is difficult to fundraise for this crisis and there are no other available resources for co-financing of this action.

10.5 Contribution in kind

N/A

10.6 Financial contributions by other donors
10.7 VAT exemption granted? (applicable only to NGO’s)

Do not know yet

Please specify

All partners have different VAT exemption agreements and status with the Government of Ethiopia. For this action, partners will attempt to receive VAT exemption on goods and services procured for the action. However, where this is not possible, partners will ensure to provide the required evidence as per ECHO compliance rules in order to qualify for eligibility of any VAT expenses incurred.

10.8 [FIN] The organisation confirms that the co-financing has not led to a double funding of the activity

? - 2

10.9 [FIN] Report on financial issues

CARE confirmed that CARE expenses incurred between 26/03 to 25/06/2017 are either related to the PDM or the final report preparation. The other expenses booked after the end date of the project are related to costs incurred during the project period namely until 25/03/2017.

11. REQUESTS FOR DEROGATION

11.1 Specific derogations

# Derogation

11.2 Permanent derogations

# Derogation

12. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

12.1 Name and title of legal representative signing the Agreement

Ms Andrea Barschdorf-Hager - National Director

12.2 Name, address, e-mail and phone of the contact person(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Office location</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
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13. CONCLUSIONS AND HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATION’S COMMENTS

13.1 Possible comments

The reports released by different agencies indicate that the overall food security situation in most parts of the country is improving with the newly harvested Meher crops available for household consumption. The significance of the emergency seed distribution for drought affected small scale farmers in Meher growing areas was enormous. The largest ever emergency seed support in the country was implemented prior to the onset of the 2016 Meher planting season which was made possible by generous support from different donors including ECHO. This support contributed to helping many households begin to recover from the severe impacts of the El Nino induced drought.

However, preliminary field level assessment findings shows that still high level of food insecurity persist in low land areas of both East and West Hararghe areas. These areas were among the highly affected by the 2015/2016 El Nino induced drought. The overall onset of the seasonal (Kiremet)
rains was good, however, below-average amounts, erratic distributions and long dry spell in pocket low land areas resulted in yield reduction in some cases and total damage and loss in others. There were areas which were impacted by heavy rains which triggered floods and landslides negatively affecting crop performance. Unfortunately the repeated natural hazards in these areas is leading to loss of productive assets and resource of the farmers living in these areas. They have diminished coping strategies to help them recover their losses unless external assistant is sought. Thus poor households in the pocket areas will continue to require further assistance including seeds for the Belg season 2017. In general, as a result of these food production challenges, seasonally linked malnutrition peaks have been recorded and forecasts indicate malnutrition will continue to be a serious problem in the coming months.

In consideration of the extreme situation and in an effort to prepare for the eventual need, local government officials submitted an appeal for Belg season emergency seed assistance to NGOs working in the area. In this regard, CARE has received an official request from zonal government officials to consider Belg seed provision to highly affected small holder farmers. As per the national metrological information, the upcoming Belg season is forecasted to be normal to above normal which would allow for good Belg crop production and replenishment of pasture and water for livestock.

To meet the existing needs and gaps in emergency seed support, CARE would like to request a two months no cost extension of the action until 25 March 2017, for the following reasons:

- In order to address the needs of the localized affected community in the Hararghes, an additional seed response is required to meet the upcoming seasonal Belg planting window. The extension and remaining budget will help for the purchase and distribution of seeds for the Belg planting season.

- The agricultural production timeframe does not match the current project duration (harvesting could possibly extend into late January in high land areas) and therefore full monitoring may not be possible if the project terminates as originally planned and is not extended.

With this no cost extension, CARE plans to reach additional 13,729 HH with Belg crop seeds which will enable them to cover their land size (on average at least 0.25 ha land/HH). Seven woredas namely Chiro, Gemchis, Anchar and Odabutum in West Hararghe and Kurfachele, Girawa and Haramaya in East Hararghe have been prioritized based on the severity of the drought impact, the anticipated low Meher harvest and high potential for Belg production. A total of 1,925 quintals of different crop seeds (potato, teff, wheat, maize and haricot bean) will be distributed to be planted during the Belg planting window.

Changes made in the eSF:

- Update/increase of beneficiaries number where relevant: 1.3; 3.2.1; 3.2.6; 4.3.1; 4.3.4 & activity 3 of result 1
- Result 1 title: addition of Belg 2017
- Total budget of result 1 and 2
- Increase of ha in target of indicator 1 & activity 2 of result 1
- Update of final evaluation date under activity 7/result 2 & in section 8.2.1.

13.2 [INT] Comments

- 

13.3 [FIN] Conclusions

The action reached more beneficiaries (132%) against the planned target in both the Meher and Belg cropping seasons. At the same time, it reached 107% the planned number of female headed households. It also covered more hectar of land (146%) and distributed more quantity of seed (116%) in comparison with the planned targets. In terms of seed distribution, the project was very successful in targeting and reaching out the most vulnerable households affected by the drought. The average production of vulnerable households immensely improved and significant number of households (78%) reached the capacity to reserve seed for the next cropping season, as the post harvest assessment findings revealed. The seed provision also contributed a lot for the availability of staple food in the local market in addition to increasing the supply of food for household consumption. According to the post distribution assessments, quality seed was delivered timely (91%). Majority of the farmers (93%)
believed that they received their seeds of choice. Overall, farmers were satisfied with the emergency seed support and the production they obtained, according to the post distribution and post harvest assessment.

The project was properly coordinated at consortium level including conducting monthly coordination meetings where the meeting provided the avenue to track progresses, identify challenges and learn from each other. CARE and implementing partners were actively involved in all coordination mechanisms including DRM-ATF and emergency seed working groups at all levels. Capacity building trainings were provided to government officials, DAs and woreda experts on different topics such as improved agronomic practices, early warning and disaster risk reduction, cash transfer programming, climate smart and nutrition sensitive agriculture, seed bank approach, pre and post harvest management. CARE and implementing partners also organized after action review and learning workshops at zonal, regional and national level to enhance learning. Overall, the coordination activities and mechanisms were implemented as planned. The execution of these activities came up with effective and strong coordination among partners and relevant stakeholders.

13.4 [FIN] Lessons learned

While implementing the action, the consortium gained useful lessons to be shared for future interventions. Major and common lessons learned during the action were thoroughly discussed and identified at the joint action learning and review workshop. These include:

-The active involvement of government partners from the outset was crucial for timely beneficiary selection and seeds delivery.

-Flexibility of the project in accommodating frequent seed changes and consideration of additional woredas helped to make context based decisions in line with changing demands and scenarios.

-Consistent joint planning and monthly coordination meetings enabled to track progresses of all partners timely, identify challenges, share experiences and take timely measures.

13.5 [FIN] Final report final update