# Dinki site-specific topic: food aid and credit-related packages

*Overall have regular food aid and credit-related interventions increased the asset-base of the community and reduced the number of households dependent on food aid?*

NA

*Do the interventions benefit poor people equally to the better-off?*

In FFW relatively poorer people benefit much as compared to well to do people. Sometimes the support in FFW is given to poor and vulnerable people.

And credit is available in ACSI where people form groups and get a support letter from the Kebele, then they can get the service. The people need to have land and other property; this is considered as a collateral in case they fail to repay the credit. But people getting the service is not that significant, as they might have seen people who did not succeed after taking the credit. They are afraid to take the risk.

*Is the credit system more efficient for richer people?*

The credit system is skewed to richer people, as people who have no land cannot benefit from ACSI. Those people who do not have land are in a precarious condition, but the credit service is not available to them.

Rich people are relatively better in using the credit service as they have already known what profit means.

*What other things should be in place for the credit system to work well and grow?*

Some people who take the credit use it for immediate consumption purpose and they face problem to repay the credit. So it was good if ACSI provides in kind rather than in cash. This puts much pressure on ACSI as the people working there have to think and work hard to meet the interest of the people and to give the people professional advice about how to go about the activities.

The people do not think the farmers will be able to change because credit is available to them. The credit system is more efficient for people in towns. Only strong farmers who think for their family and for the future succeed. Most of the people who take the credit lose their own let alone to improve what they have.

*How have shocks (e.g drought, deaths, increased prices of inputs) affected the use of food aid resources and credit resources?*

FFW is introduced because the people are not able to cover all their consumption needs all year round. It is especially important for people who do not have land. It supports the family for a short time. And the development works are also important for the people. But the people are not happy with the administration as they said that there is no good administration and they are angry as the people in the administration use the grain that comes for their own personal benefit.

Some people use the credit for consumption due to crop failure. These people since they did not invest the money they get by credit, they are faced with greater problem at the end of the year. There are people who are forced to sell their ox; other livestock and even their land might be taken. The credit service is for the people to use the profit they get from it, but the people use the initial amount and repayment is difficult.

Still some people were affected as the animals they bought by the credit they took died. They had to pay the credit at the end of the year.

The people are not used to the meticulous planning for businesses. Therefore they spend the money they receive little by little, and finally they realize that they have spent much of it and the remaining cannot do anything meaningful.

The credit service is not effective as far as there is the local alcoholic drink ‘Areke’. They might drink for a while, buy clothing for wives and children…There are people who think the amount of money they received is too much to spend.

There are also people who use the money they get from the credit service to pay prior debt. And these people are again in debt at the end of the year.

*What projects and policies have best insulated households from shocks? Why*

One respondent said that the government usually sent food aid, but the name was changed to FFW when it reached to Ankober. And the distribution after the people involved in the work is not fair. A person is given 3kg of grain for one day; all the days in which the people work might not be covered by the aid. The number of people in each household is taken to the government but when the support comes, it is only for one person that the support is given. That cannot support the family. Therefore, this is not successful to help households to any significant degree.

*How have the community’s coping mechanisms changed since 2003?*

It is not changed. People used to borrow from others in times of crisis; and they still do that.

The other coping mechanism is that the people that are most affected engage in daily work; and people also sell their animals to buy grain for household consumption.

*Effect of regular food aid on informal social protections systems*

The food aid is not regular and it has not affected the social protection systems. Household member numbers are usually high, but FFW only gives grain for one person, which does not serve any good purpose when it comes to the household.

The aid the people receive is insignificant as compared to their need. And they say that if it was not for their support with one another no one would have survived.

The time on which the food is given is also another problem. The people face problem in September. But food aid through FFW might be given in January, after they get their harvest.

*Has regular food aid increased dependency?*

The people are trying to work hard and this is improving every coming year. But they were unable to improve their situation, as the weather is not as good. The weather is the cause and the people are affected. But they people do not depend on it, and they want to work hard and eliminate its name from their community. And they do not consider it as sensible.

The harvest people get had dramatically decreased, but this is inversely related with the endeavours of the people. But the people at the Wereda take this as depending on aid. The people had no choice but they do not like to receive aid. The officials say that the people are living on the support they give them since 1977EC. Some people say that they would rather receive no aid, than to be insulted. The amount of aid given is not enough for chicken let alone for large sized households. But this is only in this Wereda and Kebele, it is not the government that is answerable for this.

*Has the natural resource base of the community changed?*

The people are engaged in work just not to give the grain to them freely. In 2002 the people are engaged in NRM works, which is meaningful as compared to previous works. But the effect is yet to be seen in the future. They do not have shade from trees on mountains in which to rest from the sun whether for the people or to animals. Places where there are some trees and other places where there is nothing, the difference is like the sky and the ground. So they are hoping to see some positive changes starting from this year.

The people are working in NRM or other things because they are forced by FFW. And they do not care for the things accomplished. They do not say that the things are for us, though they might be benefiting from them. They are not angry when some of the works are damaged, which shows that the people do not consider them as their own. And there must be a strong body to look after the things done.

*How have food aid and related interventions affected relationships with other communities?*

No one can say that the FFW is not important; it might be useful for one day for a family. And that is good even if it is very small. But in Region 2, which shares border with the community, the people receive direct food aid and the amount is much higher. Thus they people complain about the difference. They said that the Afar people did not work and simply waited for the aid to come. They also said that they did not like that they are idle, but no one asked them why they did not work.

Food aid is not provided now; it was available in the Derg regime. It is only benefiting female heads that are living alone. It is not any good for households with many members.

It did not affect their relations with other communities. They know that other areas benefit more from food aid, but there is nothing that they can do.

*What do people think of the community projects that has been done through Food-for-Work?*

They maintain the road after each rainy season, as the topography is mountainous and the water pressure damages the roads. In this year they were involved in NRM activities. They are engaged in the activities after discussing on different issues, and this is the willingness of the people and that they are not forced.

But others agree that the people do not engage in community development activities unless the name FFW is mentioned. Even in FFW they do not work, they simply go and return back after having their names registered. The people laugh when the things they worked on are damaged, they do not have the awareness.

*What problems have their been related to the food aid, and the work programme?*

The problem the people mentioned was that they were expected to work while the government sends them direct food aid; those people at the Wereda changed it to FFW. Some people complain saying that it was not fair it was changed to FFW. They said that they would have been doing the same things without food aid because the things are very necessary.

The works that are done by FFW do not have guards or other people to see that they are kept well. Since the people witness other things being damaged they are reluctant to work on new ones. They say that these things are going to be damaged anyway. If the people can get any benefit, they are after damaging the things that are worked with community labour.

They are also unhappy because they are not usually given food aid for all the days they work. It is usual that some days are not covered with food aid.