Ways of approaching a WIDE4 round of research

This paper mainly consists of a series of questions which we will need to consider in the design of a WIDE4. WIDE3 was an extremely labour-intensive learning arena during which everyone involved put in much more time than they expected, or was funded. The results in terms of outputs have been very satisfactory but, as discussed below, the process is not repeatable. The first question is why do we want to do another round – and the first answer is that we want to know what has happened to these communities and the people in them .

What do we want to know?

How have continuing modernisation processes have affected the communities and the different kinds of people living in them?

What contributions to the community modernisations have been made by government development interventions?

What contributions to the community modernisations have been made by other forces and people?

Of particular interest are the interactions among economic, social, political and cultural developments initiated 'from below' and 'top-down' interventions by government in the community and wider context.

One of our donors raised two issues when the idea of seeking funding for a WIDE4 round came up. The first was that we should pay some attention to urban areas, and the second that we should include some new communities from the so-called 'emerging regions'.

How do we pay attention to urban areas?

There is a recent policy discussion brief and book chapter on how urbanisation has been affecting the WIDE communities in the years up to 2010-13 (Bevan, forthcoming 2016). They show that some of the communities had expanding kebele centres which were becoming urbanised, some had urbanising ribbon development along main roads running through them, and that many were adjacent to towns – municipalities, larger towns and cities. Some were close enough to a town that people could commute for work and all had migration links with one or more towns. It would be possible to design a tailored urban module for each community through which we could learn a lot

about urbanisation. I am reluctant to add any urban communities to the WIDE set as our experience in 2003-5, when we tried to study urban 'communities' in Shashemene and Kolfe, was that our qualitative methodological approach did not work well in places which were not well socially integrated.

Do we add any new communities?

Appendix 1 contains some suggestions of new communities in the emerging regions which we could add to the study, and of two new communities in Tigray, since the two in the current sample do not exemplify many of the rural communities in Tigray. However, new community research would be much more intensive than a re-visit to the twenty existing communities about which we know a lot, since we would have to create a baseline from scratch. Another point is that managing a project with twenty communities was very onerous and that adding four or six more would increase the burden and the budget. Also it is important that senior researchers are familiar with all the communities and this is hard enough with twenty. My personal preference would be to stick to the twenty that we have.

How do we manage a WIDE4?

WIDE3 was managed through a division of labour in which Catherine Dom took the lead on policy matters and connections, Alula Pankhurst managed the fieldwork process, and I (Philippa Bevan) designed the methodology and led the writing of the final reports[1]. We were all involved in liaising with the Research Officers and data interpretation and analysis and writing up. We tried various appointments of people to help with supervising the fieldwork and editing the date report documents none of which were very successful. In Stage 2 we brought in Rebecca Carter to take responsibility for two Community reports, and in Stage 3 Tom Lavers and Anthea Gordon did the same. In a WIDE4 we would need more experienced researchers to take charge of community report writing given that we would be doing twenty (or twenty-six) simultaneously. For the existing communities this would focus on the changes since the writing of the WIDE3 report; if there were new communities the community reports would be a bigger exercise.

The management of the fieldwork process would also be different from the experiences of WIDE3 where the highest number of communities which we did at one time was eight in Stage 2. It was possible to work quite intimately with sixteen Research Officers but this would be difficult with 40 or 52. One possibility, which is briefly described in Appendix 2 would be to construct teams that would visit three or four communities near to each other.

References

Bevan, P. 'Rurbanisation, urban expansion, and thickening rural-urban links 2010-13' in A. Pankhurst (ed) *Change and transformation in twenty rural communities in Ethiopia: selected aspects and implications for policy'* Addis Ababa.

Appendix 1: Potential research sites for WIDE4

Options

1. Stick to the 20 existing WIDE communities
or
2. Add a community from each of the Emerging Regions plus two more (in Tigray)

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[1] I would like to hand these responsibilities over to others in WIDE4, potentially acting as an adviser but not the main doer.

Find communities where there has already been some anthropological research

Suggestions for additions

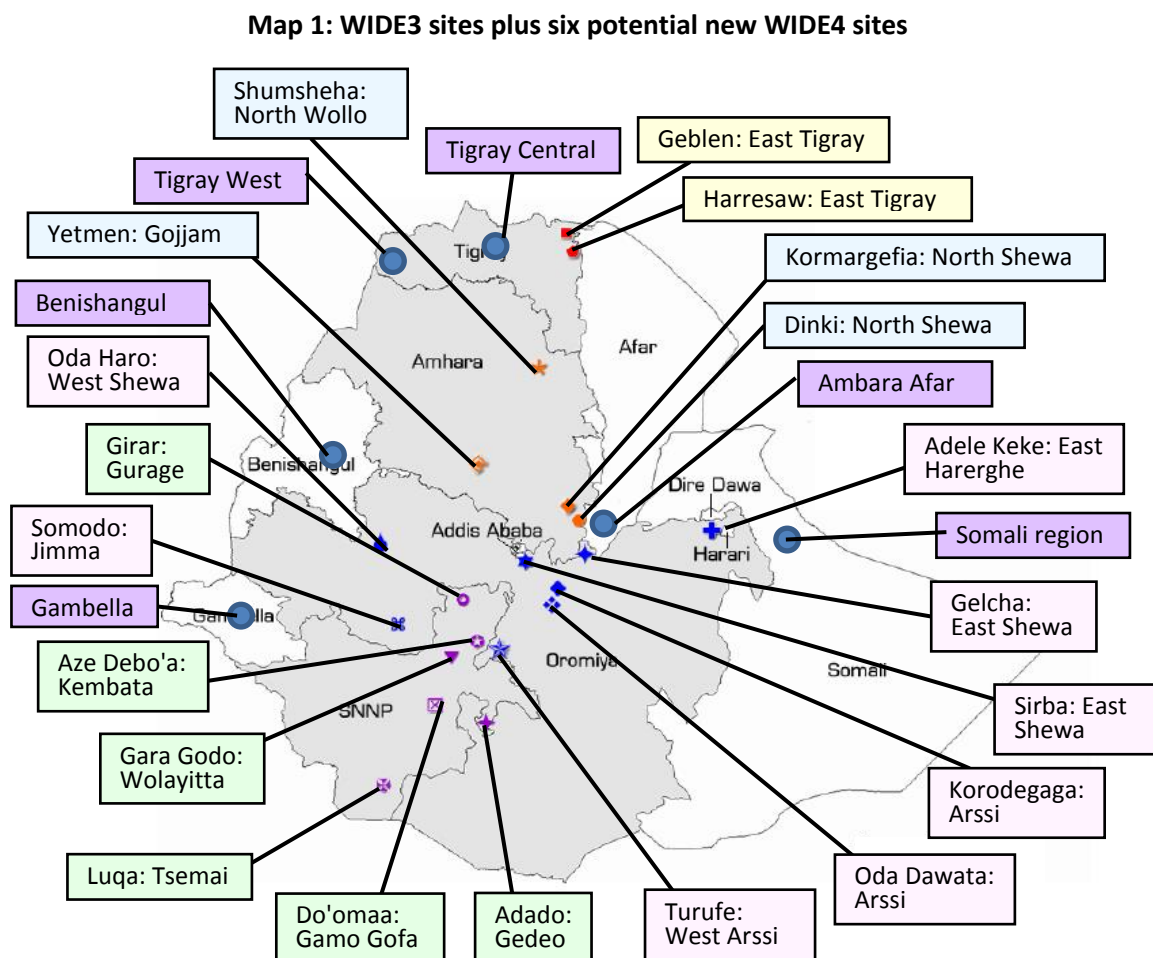Tigray Central – near Abiy Adi – research done

Tigray West– Ada Bai – research done

Afar - Amibara district in Middle Awash – research done

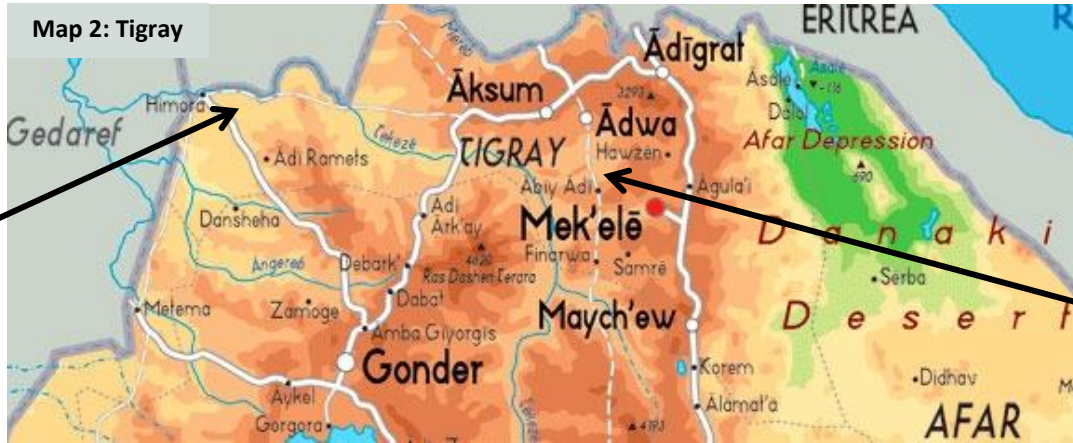Benishangul – Metekel – research done

Gambella ?

Somali Region ?

Map 1: WIDE3 sites plus six potential new WIDE4 sites

Tigray Central

Near Abiy Adi – where Catherine and Alula did research with Irish Aid 2010-11?

Tigray West

Ada Bai? – where Laura Hammond did research November 1993-July 1995
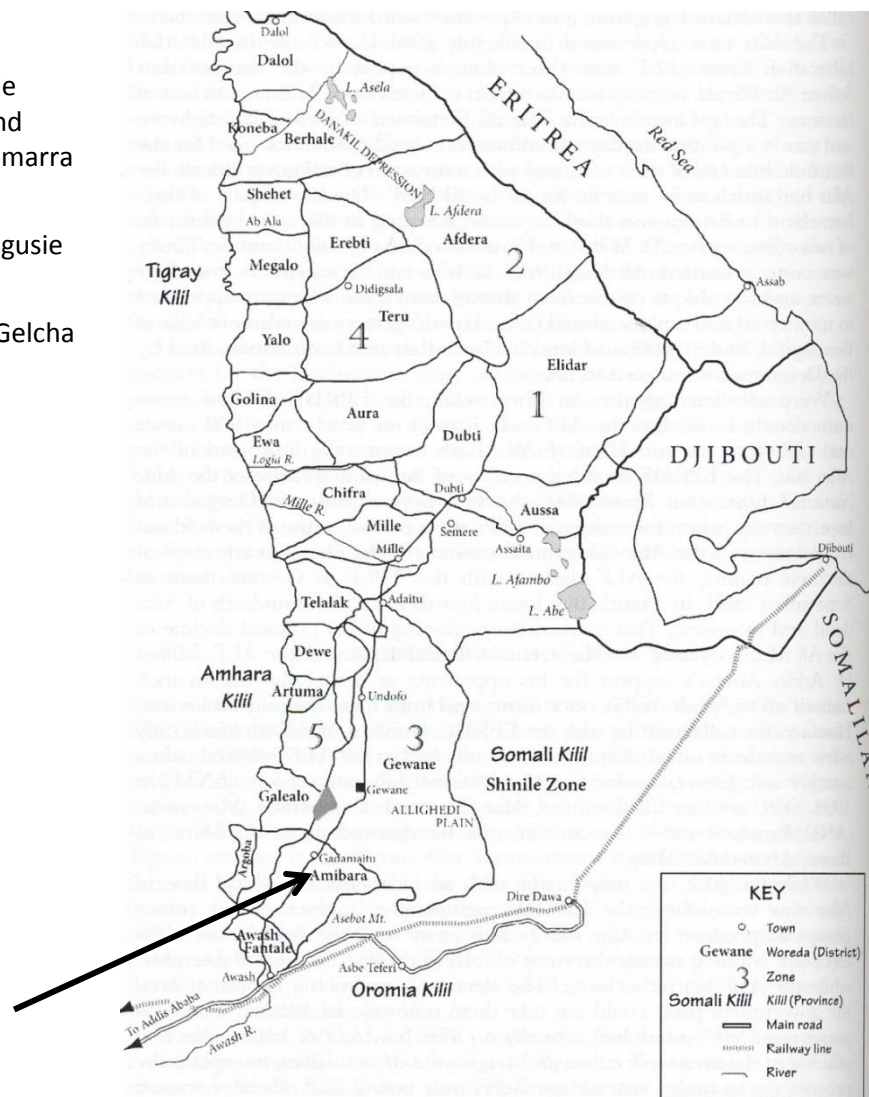
Map 2: Tigray

Afar

Amibara district of the Middle Awash, among the Debine and Weima sections of the Adohimarra Afar

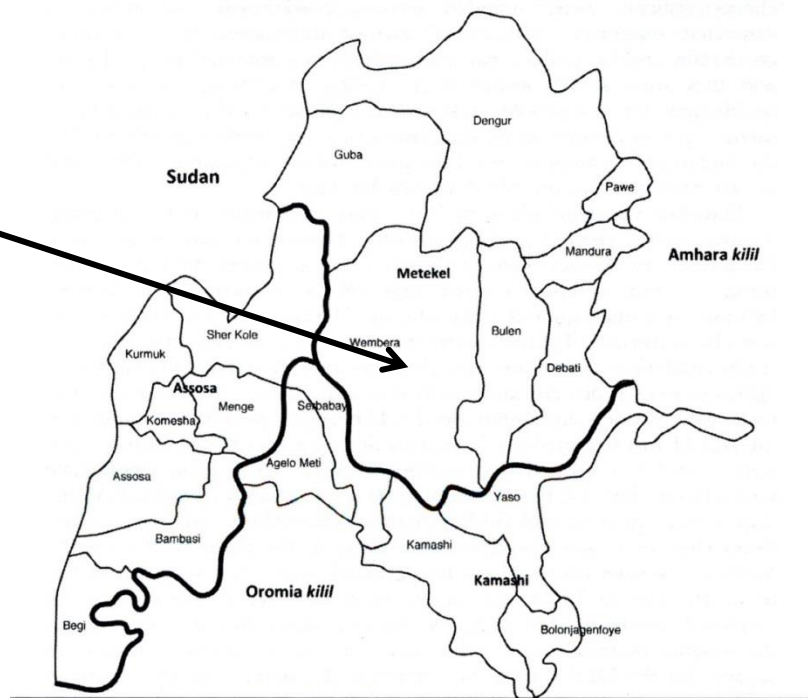Study by Getachew Kassa Negusie covers 18 months 1994-5

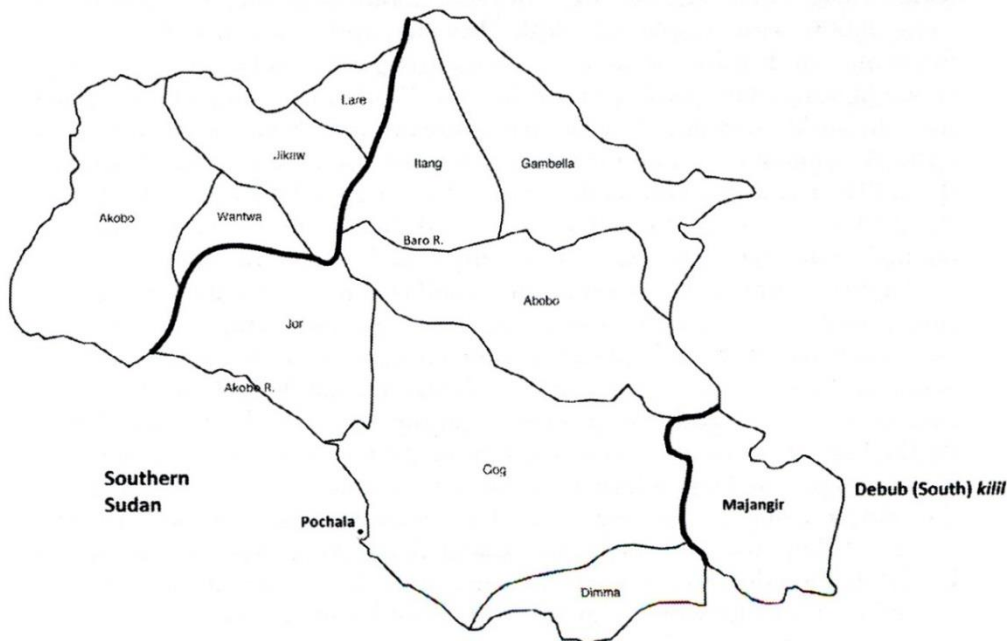Advantage – near Dinki and Gelcha

Map 3   Afar *kilil*: zones & *woreda*

Beneshangul

Work of Berihun in Metekel zone?

Map 4   Beni Shangul Gumuz *kilil*: zones & *woreda*

Gambella

Need to find
a community

Map 5   Gambella *kilil*: zones & *woreda*
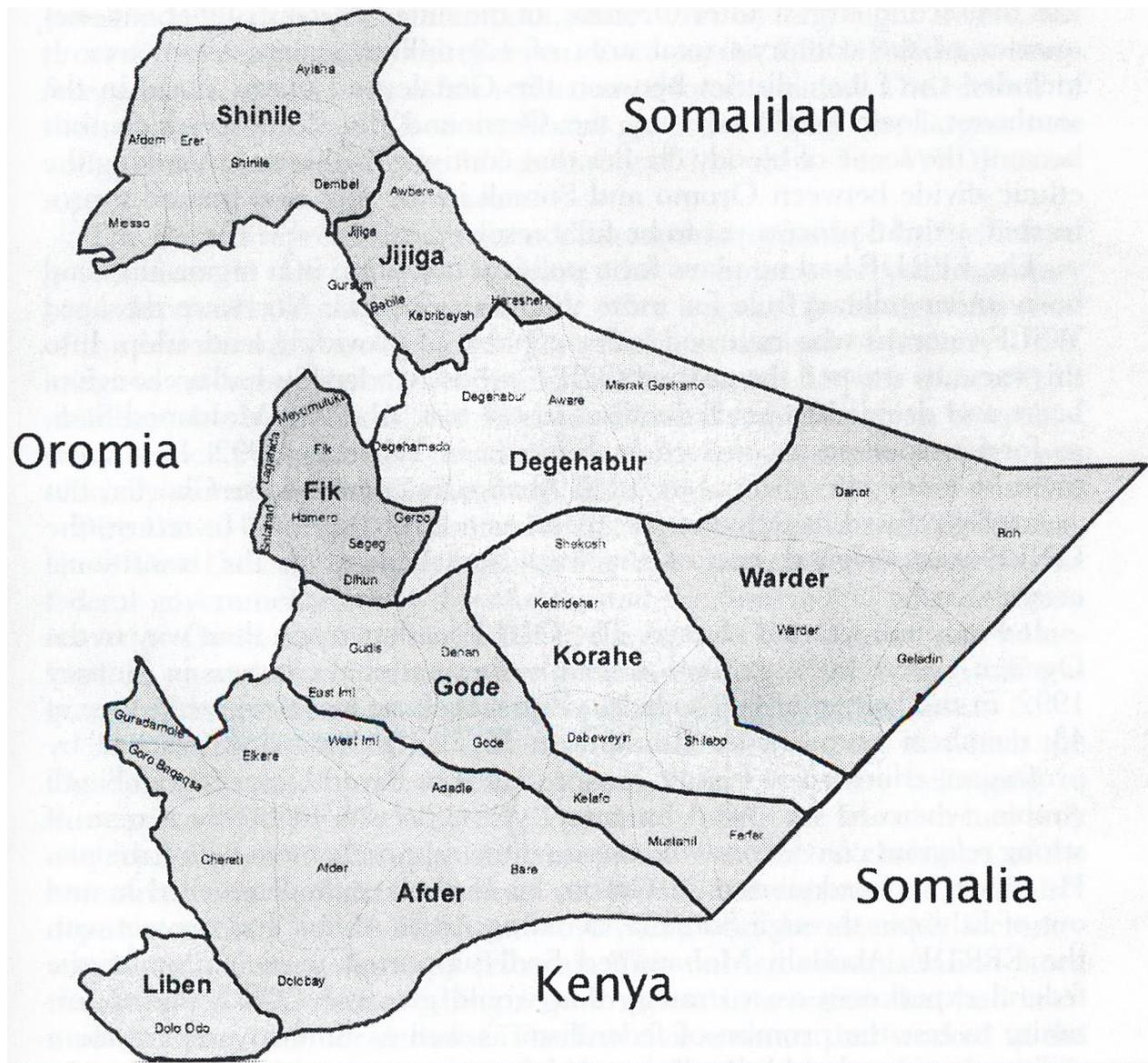
Somali

Map 6   Somali *kilil*: zones & *woreda*

Need to find a community

Appendix 2: One scenario of team organisation for WIDE4

Teams

- Each team to cover 3 or 4 sites
- Resulting in 7 teams – see below
- Each team to have at least 1 Senior Researcher – to supervise fieldwork, write up first draft community report, and complete analysis matrices
- The 3 teams with two new sites to have 2 senior researchers? Ideally 1 male and 1 female
- Each team to be managed by a senior researcher

Region	Regional communities		Fieldwork communities	WIDE4 teams	SRO	RO
Tigray	Harresaw		Harresaw	Tigray team Senior RO (M/F) 4 ROs 2M,2F	2	4
	Geblen		Geblen			
	Tigray Central		*Tigray Central*			
	Tigray West – Ada Bai?		*Tigray West*			
Amhara	Shumsheha		Shumsheha	Amhara team Senior RO 3 ROs	1 or 2	3
	Yetmen		Yetmen			
	Kormargefia		Kormargefia			
	Dinki		Dinki			
Oromiya 'East'	Adele Keke		Gelcha	Eastern team Senior RO(M/F) 4 ROs+interpreters	2	4+
	Gelcha		Adele Keke			
	Oda Dawata		*Somali*			
	Korodegaga		*Afar*			
Oromiya 'West'	Sirba		Sirba	Central Oromiya team Senior RO 3 ROs	1 or 2	3
	Turufe		Korodegaga			
	Oda Haro		Oda Dawata			
	Jimma		Turufe			
SNNP	Girar		Oda Haro	Western team Senior RO (</F) 4 ROs+interpreters	2	4+
	Aze Debo'a		Jimma			
	Gara Godo		*Beneshangul*			
	Do'oma		*Gambella*			
SNNP	Adado		Girar	Eastern SNNP team Senior RO 2 ROs	1 or 2	2
	Luqa		Aze Debo'a			
Beneshangul	*Beneshangul*		Adado			
Gambella	*Gambella*		Gara Godo	Central SNNP team Senior RO 2 ROs	1 or 2	2
Afar	*Afar – nr Escarpment? Nr Gelcha and Dinki?**		Do'oma			
Somali	Somali		Luqa			
				Total	**10 or 14**	**22**

* Kassa Negussie's area studied 1994-5

Staff

Potential senior researchers – need 10 or 14?

1. Kiros
2. Asmeret
3. Damtew
4. Tefera
5. Bizuayehu
6. Jerry
7. Aster
8. Workneh
9. Alima
10. Samuel
11. Dagne
12. Shiferaw
13. Yohannes?
14. Tolosa?
15. Demissie?

Any Young Lives fieldworkers?

Potential researchers

Mulu?
Advertise online

Fieldwork plan

- Two months per site – preparation – fieldwork (21 days – 3-6 researchers = 63-126 days) - report writing – matrix completion – each site should be done before the next is started
- For those with 4 sites this adds up to eight months
- Those with 3 sites – and only 3 researchers - could have more fieldwork days
- The use of new technologies for recording and exporting data should be explored

Work plan

Durations	Phases	Activities/plans
2 months	Inception phase	Final update of Macro Level Policies, Programmes and Models Entering Rural Communities
		Final revision of Paper WIDE4 Methodological Framework and Fieldwork Plan
		Design of draft research instruments, reporting documents and analysis matrices
		Consultative workshops and meetings with stakeholders re topics
		Final design of research instruments, reporting documents and analysis matrices
		Recruitment of fieldworkers
9 months	Fieldwork	Fieldwork training Supervisory visits to the communities New fieldwork and preparation of database De-briefing workshops
0.5 months	Early dissemination & feedback in workshops	Early dissemination – Rapid Briefing Note and topic workshops for feedback in Addis Ababa
4 months	Data interpretation & analysis	Data interpretation and writing of community reports
		Comparative data analysis
4 months	Writing	Writing of Final and Summary Reports
		Writing of Policy Discussion Briefs
		Writing of methodology guide
0.5 months	Policy dissemination	High Level Forum and donor meetings presenting Discussion Briefs
20 months		