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LL.M.in Human Rights Law

The Right of the Child to Food: the Case of Seqota Woreda

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Degree in Human Rights Law

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Declaration

I, Markos Mamo, hereby declare that this thesis is my original work and it has never been presented in any other University. All source materials used in this work have been duly acknowledged.

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Acronyms

AGP	Agricultural Development Program
ACHPR	African Charter on Human and People's Right
ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CRC	Convention on the Right of Child
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
FSP	Food Security Program
GC	General Comment
GTP	Growth and Transformation Plan
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NNCB	National Nutrition Coordination Body
ORDA	Organization for Rehabilitation Development in Amhara
NNP	National Nutrition Program
NSFP	National School Feeding Program
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Program
RNCB	Regional Nutrition Coordination Body
SDIP	Seqota Declaration Implementation Plan
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
WFP	World Food Program

Abstract

Ethiopia is prone to recurrent drought and famine. Food insecurity and poverty are also intertwined with the country. The right to food is protected under international and regional human right instruments that are ratified by Ethiopia. However, the right to food is not clearly recognized in the FDRE constitution as fundamental right of the people rather as state policy and objectives. There are also no subordinate proclamations or regulations that protect the right to food in Ethiopia. In Seqota Woreda, due to reasons such as lack of enough food production and lack of nutrition knowledge children are susceptible to both food and nutrition insecurity. The government has taken measures to realize adequate food of a child however the problem is still not resolved. This paper therefore examines the status of the right to food of a child in Seqota Woreda. It mainly assesses the practical impediments to realize the right to food, the measures taken by the government, and possible solutions that helps to ensure the right to adequate food of a child in Seqota Woreda.

Chapter One

1. Introduction

1.1. Background of the Study

The right to food realized when every man, women, and child has physical and economic access for adequate food.¹ The right to adequate food is guaranteed under international and regional human rights instruments. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR),² International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR),³ International Convention on Rights of Children (CRC),⁴ and International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW),⁵ are among the international human rights instruments that guaranteed the right to food. The ICESCR has provided two-fold protection for the right to food; these are the right to adequate standard of living and freedom from hunger.⁶

In addition to the international human right instruments, regional human right instruments have also guaranteed the right to adequate food. In the regional human rights instruments of Africa, the right to food is protected under the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa⁷, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC),⁸ and the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR)⁹.

Ethiopia is a party¹⁰ to all of the above international and regional human rights instruments however, the right to food is not recognized explicitly in the Constitution of the Federal

¹Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Committee of Economic Social and Cultural Rights General Comment No.12 : The Right to Adequate Food (Art.11) (12 May 1999) Par 6

² The Universal Declaration of Human Rights(adopted 10 December 1948), Article 25

³ International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (adopted 16 December 1966, entered into force on 23 March 1976), Article 11(1)

⁴ Convention on the Rights of Children (20 November 1989, entered into force 2 September 1990), Article 24 (2) (c)

⁵ Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (adopted 18 December 1979, entered into force 3 September 1981), Art. 14(2) (h)

⁶(n3) Art 11

⁷ Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Adopted 11 July 2003), Article 14 and 15

⁸ African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (entered into force 29 November 1999), Article 14 and 20

⁹ African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (adopted 27 June 1981, entered in to force 21 October 1986)

¹⁰Ethiopia ratified ICESCR 11 June 1993, ACHPR 15 June 1998, ACRWC 02 Oct 2002

Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) as a fundamental right of the people but as “National Policy Principles and Objectives.”¹¹

Creating a world free from hunger and malnutrition by the year 2030 is the aim of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) but, in the last three consecutive years, hunger has increased after a prolonged decline and the undernourished people in the world reached 821 million, which means one out of nine people.¹² In the 2017 Food and Agricultural Organization’s (FAO) report, in Ethiopia, 7.8 million people were food insecure that required emergency food aid.¹³ Malnutrition rate increased in 2016 as a result of weather fluctuation that attracted humanitarian assistance and the problem of food shortage is also continual in some parts of the country.¹⁴

In Ethiopia 45 percent of child death is associated with under-nutrition emanating from multi-dimensional causes.¹⁵ Inadequate dietary intake and disease are the immediate causes while household food insecurity, poor caring practices, lack of access to basic services including safe water supply, health services, and unhealthy living environment are the principal causes for child death in Ethiopia.¹⁶

Lack of adequate food is a challenge in many parts of the country including Seqota Woreda. In this Woreda the effects of under-nutrition of children is apparent that Government officials who visited the area during a particular time of stress agreed to join hands and work out a multi-sector and multi-partner plan with the purpose to bring under-nutrition of children under the age of two back to zero by 2030.¹⁷

¹¹ The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (coming into effect 21 August 1995), Article art 85 to 92

¹² The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organizations, *the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World* (Rome 2018) 2

¹³ The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organizations, *Situation Report of Ethiopia* (May 2017) 1

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ R Black et al. Lancet, *Maternal and Child Nutrition 1: Maternal and child under-nutrition and overweight in low-income and middle-income countries* (2013)

¹⁶ Darek D. Headey, ‘An Analysis of Trends and Determinants of Child Under-nutrition in Ethiopia, 2000 - 2011’ (2014), 7, ESSPII Working Paper
<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/57a089cbcd915d622c0003d9/ESSP_working_paper_70.pdf>
accessed 11 February 2021.

¹⁷ Ton Haverkort, Capital News Paper (4 September 2018)

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Ethiopia is known for a recurrent drought for instance the 1984 devastating drought and famine took hundreds of thousands of lives that associated the name of the country with drought and famine.¹⁸ Ethiopia is one of famine affected and food insecure country.¹⁹ Drought, environmental degradation, population pressure, flood, limitation in technology, lack of product diversification and market integration,²⁰ land fragmentation and degradation, population growth, lack of infrastructure, absence of multi-party political system, and armed conflict with neighboring countries are the main causes of food insecurity in Ethiopia.²¹

In the 2016 National Nutrition Program report of Ethiopia, two out of three children have anemia, two out of five children are stunted, and 67 % of the adult population suffered by stunting as children.²² Malnutrition contributes 51% of under-five child death, which is greater than the death contribution of malaria, pneumonia, diarrhea, HIV/AIDS and Measles summed in once.²³

Lack of adequate food contributes to the infringements of the right to education, health, life, work, adequate housing, and other civil, political, and economic rights of the child.²⁴ Lack of nutritious food at an early age has obstructed the mental progress of the child, which later manifests in educational competence.²⁵

¹⁸ EyerusalemSiba and Biruk Tekle, *Ending Rural Hunger: The Case of Ethiopia* (December 2017) 44, Availableat:<WWW. Endingruralhunger.com> accessed 30 March 2019

¹⁹ Abduselam Abdulahi, 'Food Security Situations in Ethiopia: A Review Study' (International Journal of Health Economics and Policy. Vol. 2, No. 3, March 2, 2017) 86

²⁰ Experience of the Productive Safety Net Program, Government of Ethiopia (October 2013) <https://www.mcgill.ca/globalfoodsecurity/files/globalfoodsecurity/psnp_ethiopia.pdf> accessed on 25 January 2021

²¹ Yenesew Sewnet, 'Cause and Coping mechanisms of food insecurity in rural Ethiopia: Agriculture and Biology Journal of North America' (2015) Agric. Biol. J.N. A 123

²² National Nutrition Program Overview, Presented to Participants of National Nutrition Program Research Dissemination Workshop (Adama 2016) <https://www.ephi.gov.et/images/pictures/National%20Nutrition%20Program%20Overview%20.pdf> accessed 11 February 2021

²³ Ibid

²⁴ Rolf Kunnemann and Sandra Epal-Ratjen, *The Right to Food: A Resource Manual for NGOs* (AAAS Science and Human Rights Program Washington DC 2005) 68-71

²⁵ Children's Defense Fund – Ohio, *The Early Child Hood Hunger Imperative*, (January 2016)1

Numerous studies have disclosed that learning begins as early as a baby is born and food is like a fuel to build strong neuron connections of a brain.²⁶ Research conducted in different parts of the world has reached a similar conclusion that a child's brain during the first three years of life develop rapidly through the generation of neurons, however any interruption on this process, such as under-nutrition, trauma, and stress have a long-term effect on the brain's structure, socio-economic development, and academic performance of the child.²⁷ The effect of lack of adequate food manifests in the mental progress and physical wellbeing of the child.²⁸ A weak immunity system exposes the child to be infected by easily preventable diseases.²⁹ The effect of under-nutrition continues throughout the lifetimes of the affected and diminishes their income-generating capacity. As per the estimation of the World Bank, the malnourished children will lose more than 10 % of his lifetime income.³⁰

The extent of absence of adequate food varies across the country which is very high in some remote and abandoned places. Seqota Woreda is found in the Amhara Region, Waghimira Zone which is known by recurrent drought and famine. In this study area, only 15 % of the land is plain and most households possess fragmented and degraded lands and population increase has exacerbated the problem of insufficient cereal production.³¹ The Communities in Seqota Woreda are food insecure, only produce enough food for survival in a good year but at the time of food shortage months, the people migrated to distant places to search for daily labor or begging.³² Moreover, lack of adequate food is one factor that causes child under-nutrition that affects their health, educational performance, and put lifetime negative impact on the child.³³

In Seqota Woreda, due to lack of adequate food the households have left their dwellings and temporarily settle to other better areas beyond WagHimra Zone mainly Raya and Bahirdar.³⁴ After passing some months in other places they returned to their homes and engaged

²⁶ Ibid

²⁷ Kudzai Chinyoka, 'Impacts of Poor Nutrition on the Academic Performance of Grade Seven Learners: A Case of Zimbabwe' (International Journal of Learning and Development V.4, No.3, 74, 2014)

²⁸ Interview with Dr. Amare, Physician, Tefera Hailu Memorial Hospital (Seqota, June 2021 at 10:00AM)

²⁹ Ibid

³⁰ World Bank, Copenhagen consensus of 2012

³¹ Carly Bishop and Dorothea Hilhorst, 'From Food Aid to Food Security: The Case of the Safety Net Policy in Ethiopia' (Cambridge University Press 2010) 191

³² Ibid, 190

³³ (n 28)

³⁴ Interview with Abreham Beninu, Head of Seqota Woreda Agriculture Office (Seqota Woreda, 21 April 2021)

in the usual farming activities.³⁵ Children have also migrate with their parents and involved in income generating activities that the family engages and also in begging.³⁶ Therefore, these show that the right to adequate food of a child is violated in Seqota Woreda.

1.3. Research Questions

1.3.1. The Main Question of the Paper

How do the legal and institutional frameworks coupled with the practices helps to realize child's right to food in SeqotaWoreda?

1.3.2. Specific Questions of the Research

- What are the obligations of the government for the fulfillment of the right to food?
- What has been done for the full enjoyment of the right to food of a child in SeqotaWoreda?
- What are the factors that hinder the full realization of the right to food of a child in Seqota Woreda?
- What shall be done to ensure the full enjoyment of the right to food of a child in SeqotaWoreda?

1.4. Research Methodology

This study employs both qualitative and doctrinal methods of inquiry. Both primary and secondary sources have employed, to collect the necessary information. The primary sources are collected from interviews, laws, precedents, and policies of government body. Secondary sources gathered from books, articles, thesis, and reports of government bodies and non-governmental organizations.

A purposive sampling method is applied to gather the necessary data through interviews. Both government sectors and non-governmental organizations have selected for interview based on their involvement and contribution for the realization of the right to food in Seqota Woreda. From the government sector, an interview is conducted at Seqota Woreda Agriculture Office, Seqota Declaration Coordination Office in Seqota Woreda, and Seqota Woreda Health Protection Office to identify the practical barriers in the realization of the right to adequate food of a child

³⁵ Ibid

³⁶ Ibid

and to propose possible solutions in the study area. Seqota Declaration Coordination Office has only one focal person in Seqota and an interview has conducted with him. Three representatives from the agriculture office and two representatives from the health protection office who have relevant knowledge regarding the right to adequate food were purposely selected for interview. Action against Hunger and Organizational for Rehabilitation Development in Amhara (ORDA), have actively participated to realize adequate food mainly to children in Seqota Woreda. Two representatives from ORDA and one representative from Action Against Hunger purposely selected for interview considering their knowledge about the realization of adequate food of a child in Seqota Woreda.

To identify the obligations of the government for the fulfillment of the right to adequate food and to analyze the legal and institutional frameworks that can be put in place for adequate food, data is gathered from international and national laws, books, articles, thesis, precedents, and policies of government sectors and reports of government sectors and non-governmental organizations.

1.5. Significance of the Research

This study is significant for the government, as a duty bearer to take appropriate measures that prevent violations of the right to adequate food of a child. Human rights are not the sole concerns of the states rather the involvement of NGOs and other interested organs play a significant role in respecting the rights. This study will elucidate what has been done and what must to do to realize the right to adequate food for children in Seqota Woreda which helps the area to get the attention of interested stakeholders. The study scrutinizes the place of the right to food go through in international instruments and national laws. This enlarges the awareness of inhabitants of Seqota Woreda to claim their rights.

1.6. Literature Review

Nandini Ramanujam and others³⁷ have written an article in the title '*From Justiciability to Justice: Realizing the Human Right to Food*'. The article explores the state's role in facilitating the realization of food security in India and Ethiopia. The article sets out a justice-based framework to food security such as strengthening institutions, improving access to justice, empowering right holders, and supporting food sovereignty.³⁸ This article stated that there is a link between effective institutions and food security.³⁹ Every victim of violation of the right to adequate food should have access to effective judicial or other appropriate remedies at both national and international levels and individuals must also have access to and be educated about the effective and impartial process that adjudicate disputes.⁴⁰

Ana Ayala and Benjamin Mason Meier⁴¹ argue that for the full realization of food and nutrition security progressively to the maximum of the available resource, the state should be a duty bearer under the international law for the ratification of treaties.⁴² Individuals should be empowered to seek actively the government's responsibility rather than passive recipients of government benevolence and international law offers global standards by which to frame government responsibilities that evaluate policies and outcomes under law, shifting the policy debate from political aspiration to legal obligation.⁴³ The enactment of national laws in accordance with international standards and the specific countries domestic scenario helps for the human rights-based protection of food and nutrition security and from these legislations important policies and programs that reinforce food and nutrition security can be developed.⁴⁴

³⁷Nandini Ramanujam, Nicholas Caivano, & Semahagn Abebe, 'From Justiciability to Justice: Realizing the Human Right to Food' (2015) JSDLP Online 11:1

³⁸Ibid

³⁹Ibid13

⁴⁰Ibid 14-15

⁴¹Ana Ayala and Benjamin Mason Meier, 'A Human Rights Approach to the Health Implications of Food and Nutrition Insecurity' (09 March 2017) 38:10 Public Health Reviews, 1

⁴²Ibid

⁴³Lawrence O. Gostin LO.Global Health Law. Geneva: Harvard University Press; 2014.

⁴⁴ Ibid

Rose Nathan⁴⁵ stated that to enforce and implement the right to adequate nutrition legislative reform is needed in most countries. The applicable law established by the government should regulate nutrition interventions that impose duties on governments, employees, food companies, and non-state actors in violations of specific obligations imposed by the law.⁴⁶ Established regulation is less time consuming than enactment of new legislation and updating regulation is more efficient than legislation where technical requirements of nutrition interventions are likely to change due to changes in nutritional status of the population, changes in industry practices or other factors.⁴⁷ However, enactment of a new legislation is significant when there is no adequate authority in existing legislation to address the full range of nutrition interventions and when there are matters that the future government officials may not fully support these nutritional programmes and requirements.⁴⁸ Creating a justiciable right and mechanisms for monitoring and accountability are points raised in the article.

Last but not the least Rajeev C. Patel⁴⁹ dealt with people die not because of absence of food in the famine affected areas but rather lack of an entitlement to get food.⁵⁰ The question is therefore about social and political configurations around power over food but not the presence or absence of food around the hungry individuals.⁵¹ Hunger is also a violation of a broader set of social, economic and physical conditions not as a deficit of calories.⁵² The paper further underlined that attention ought to be given to the food system since power is concentrated in the hands of few corporations.⁵³ Gender is key to food insecurity because women and girls are disempowered through current process and politics of food production, consumption, and distribution and the communities have also the right to define their own food and agriculture policy.⁵⁴ The aforementioned pieces of literature may have relevance in enriching the discourses relating to the right to adequate food. This paper however differs from the aforementioned studies since it deals the right to adequate food of a child specifically and limited in SeqotaWoreda.

⁴⁵ Rose Nathan, *Realizing Children's Rights to Adequate Nutrition through National Legislative Reform* (November 2008)

⁴⁶ Ibid 6

⁴⁷ Ibid 7

⁴⁸ Ibid

⁴⁹ Rajeev C. Patel, 'Food Sovereignty: Power, Gender, and the Right to Food' (June 26, 2012) *Plos Medicine* 9, 1

⁵⁰ Ibid

⁵¹ Ibid

⁵² Ibid

⁵³ Ibid

⁵⁴ Ibid 2-4

1.7. Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is limited to exploring the legal basis of the right to food in international and national level, examining the pragmatic application of the right to food of a child and the impediments in SeqotaWoreda.

1.8. Organization of the Paper

The paper has five chapters. Chapter one is an introductory chapter that includes the background of the study, statement of the problem, research question, methodology, literature review, the significance of the study, scope, and organization of the paper. Chapter two address about conceptual frameworks of the right to adequate food. Chapter three is about the legal basis of the right to adequate food at the international, regional, and national levels. It also deals with the institutional basis of the right to food in Ethiopia. Chapter four has examined the status of the right to food, challenges, and possible solutions to realize the right to food in SeqotaWoreda. Finally, chapter five is conclusion and recommendations of the research.

Chapter Two

2. Conceptual Foundations of the Right to Adequate Food

2.1. Contents of the Right to Adequate Food

Adequacy, accessibility, and availability are contents of the right to adequate food.⁵⁵

2.1.1. Adequacy

The CESCR under General Comment 12 stated that adequacy is the sufficiency of food both in terms of quantity as well as quality to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals that is free from adverse substances, and acceptable within a given culture.⁵⁶ A dietary need implies that “*a whole containing nutrients for physical and mental growth, development and maintenance, and physical activity compliance with human physiological needs at all stages throughout the life cycle.*”⁵⁷

In order to protect food from adverse substances both public and private protective measures should be taken that avoid contamination of food through the bad environment and inappropriate handling throughout the food chain.⁵⁸ The Committee further explained cultural acceptability of food which stated that “*Cultural or consumer acceptability implies the need also to take into account, as far as possible, perceived non-nutrient-based values attached to food and food consumption and informed consumer concerns regarding the nature of accessible food supplies.*”⁵⁹ An aid food that is taboo for recipients’ culture or eating habits and food which is contaminated in agricultural or industrial processes is not adequate.⁶⁰

⁵⁵ Marie Ruel, *Food Security and Nutrition: Linkages and Complementarities*, 29

⁵⁶ General Comment 12, Par 8

⁵⁷ Ibid, Par 9

⁵⁸ Ibid, Par10

⁵⁹ Ibid, Par11

⁶⁰ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Right to Adequate Food, Fact Sheet No. 34, 3

2.1.2. Accessibility

The supply of enough amount of food at the national or international level does not guarantee food security of the household rather the concerns of policies on incomes, expenditures, markets, and prices have an impression on the food access of the household.⁶¹ Food access stems from the households or individual's ability to obtain enough food at all times for an active and healthy life through production, purchase and it also includes government transfers and food aid.⁶² Food accessibility encompasses both physical and economic accessibility.⁶³ Economic accessibility implies that the acquisition of food for an adequate diet through personal and household costs should not compromise or affect other basic needs while physical accessibility refers to adequate food must be accessible to everyone including the vulnerable, such as infants, young children, elderly, physically ill and so on.⁶⁴ Special attention and priority should be given to these vulnerable groups to access adequate food.⁶⁵

2.1.3. Availability

Feeding oneself from well-functioning distribution, productive land or natural resources, and the movement of food from production site to demand area through processing and market system refers to availability of food.⁶⁶

2.2. The Right to Food and Vulnerable Groups

Due to socio-economic, discrimination, and stigma or biological factors, some groups or individuals such as women, indigenous people, unemployed, children, the elderly, and people with a disability encounter impediment to realize the right to food.⁶⁷ Children are one of the vulnerable groups susceptible to lack of adequate food.⁶⁸ For the child's physical and mental development, safe and nutritious food is important.⁶⁹ According to article 27 of the CRC “*States Parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's*

⁶¹ (n 55) 29

⁶² General Comment 12, Par 13

⁶³ Ibid, Par 13

⁶⁴ Ibid

⁶⁵ Ibid, Par 13

⁶⁶ Ibid, Par 12

⁶⁷ Fact Sheet No. 34, 10

⁶⁸ Ibid, 16

⁶⁹ Ibid

physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.”⁷⁰ However, lack of adequate food within sufficient health care, and poor water and sanitation services has caused malnutrition that leads to a weak immune system, illness, mental and physical impairment, and death of the child.⁷¹ FAO described malnutrition as “*An abnormal physiological condition caused by inadequate, unbalanced or excessive consumption of the macronutrients that provide dietary energy (carbohydrates, protein, and fats) and the micronutrients (vitamins and minerals) that are essential for physical and cognitive growth and development.*”⁷² The term malnutrition denotes both over and under nutrition however for developing countries including Ethiopia child under-nutrition is the challenging problem.⁷³

The CESCR interpreting the right to adequate food protected under Article 11 (2) of the ICESCR stated that states should take immediate and urgent steps to ensure the fundamental rights to freedom from hunger and malnutrition.⁷⁴ The Committee also observed that hunger and malnutrition which are acute in developing countries are not fundamentally a result of lack of food but due to inaccessibility of food and poverty.⁷⁵ Create an enabling environment and foster the capacity of the family and caregivers is significant to realize sufficient and adequate food to the child. This is because the right of the child to enjoy adequate food depends on the capacity, choice, and knowledge of the family or caregivers.⁷⁶ When the families or care givers are unable to feed the child, the government should support the child through a school feeding program or by provision of food aid.⁷⁷

⁷⁰ CRC, Article 27 (1)

⁷¹ (n 55)

⁷² Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *The State of Food and Agriculture: Food Systems for Better Nutrition* (2013) <<http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3300e/i3300e00.htm>> accessed 15 Nov 2020

⁷³ World Food Program, *A Manual Measuring and Interpreting Malnutrition and Mortality*, P 15

⁷⁴ General Comment 12, Para 1

⁷⁵ *Ibid*, Par 5

⁷⁶ Fact Sheet No. 34, 16

⁷⁷ *Ibid*, 17

2.3. The Relationship Between the Right to Food with Other Human Rights

All human rights shall be treated equally since they are universal, indivisible, and interrelated.⁷⁸The violation of the right to food violates other human rights such as the right to life, education, health, adequate housing, and other socio-economic and civil and political rights.

2.3.1. The Right to Health

According to article 12 (2) of the ICESCR, everyone has the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Various socio-economic factors such as food and nutrition determine the healthy life of the people.⁷⁹ The CESCR in its general comment 14 stipulates that access to sufficient, adequate nutrition and safe food is significant for the right to health and ensures everyone for freedom from hunger.⁸⁰Lack of nutritious food of the pregnant or breastfeeding woman caused malnourishment both herself and the child.⁸¹Child health problems such as developmental failures and delays, weak immune system, anemia, and iron deficiency are a direct causes of hunger and malnutrition.⁸²

2.3.2 The Right to Life

According to article 6 (1) of the CRC, state parties shall recognize the inherent right to life to every child. State parties shall also ensure the survival and development of the child to the maximum extent possible.⁸³The right to life will be entered at stake when the people are exposed to death with malnutrition, starvation, or illness due to lack of adequate food.⁸⁴The right to life shall not be reduced and limited for the protection of arbitrary killings rather it should encompass broad scope.⁸⁵The Human Rights Committee interpreted the right to life protected under article 6 of the ICCPR broadly, by imposing obligation on states to take positive action to prevent malnutrition and hunger to protect the right to life.⁸⁶The Indian Supreme Court while interpreted the right to life protected under article 21 of the Indian constitution with the right to food stated

⁷⁸ Vienna Declaration and Program of Action (Vienna 25 June 1993) Par 5

⁷⁹ (n 27), 68

⁸⁰General Comment 14, (Par 43)

⁸¹ (n 55) 5

⁸² (n 27) 69

⁸³ CRC, art 6 (2)

⁸⁴ General Comment 12, Para 5

⁸⁵ (n 27) 72

⁸⁶ Ibid

that, the right to life does not mean that protecting life from arbitrary sentences but it also includes the right to livelihood because no one can live without having a means of living.⁸⁷

2.3.3. The Right to Education

There is close relationship and influence between the right to food and the right to education.⁸⁸The learning capacities of the child is hampered by hunger and malnutrition that forced him to drop out of school and engaged in income-generating working activities.⁸⁹Malnutrition and nutritional deficiencies are also contributes to educational delays and failures in children.⁹⁰The skills and ability of the individual to produce and obtain nutritious food as a livelihood is significant to be free from hunger and malnutrition.⁹¹However, normal education impeded by hunger and poverty and the poor people give priority to food rather than education.⁹² Since a large share of the family's income is expended on food costs, children forced to support the family's income by working in the parent's land or engage in other income generating works.⁹³ On the other hand, education is a significant precondition to earn sufficient income through work and led adequate living.⁹⁴

The right to food also related with the right to housing and freedom from child labor. A Child who has not realized the right to adequate food has a high probability to involve in child labor such as recruit for child soldiers or prostitution for survival.⁹⁵

2.4. The Relationship of the Right to Food with Food and Nutrition Security

Food security and nutrition security are interrelated but not identical concepts. Food security refers to having the right food at all times and depends on the availability of food globally, locally, at the household level, and individual's access and proper utilization.⁹⁶Food security realizes when safe, nutritious and sufficient food that fulfills the necessary dietary needs and

⁸⁷*Olga Tellis and OrsVs Bombay Municipal Corporations* (1985) Indian Supreme Court 180

⁸⁸ (n 24) 72

⁸⁹ Ibid, 6

⁹⁰ Ibid, 72

⁹¹ Ibid

⁹² Ibid, 72

⁹³ Ibid

⁹⁴ Ibid

⁹⁵ Fact sheet No. 34, 6

⁹⁶ (n 60) 25

significant for an active and healthy life is accessible for all people at all times.⁹⁷ Nutrition security on the other hand refers that in addition to having enough of the right food, requires having access to adequate feeding, hygiene practices, care-giving, health, water, and sanitation services.⁹⁸ Therefore, food security is necessary but not sufficient condition to ensure nutrition security and to prevent child malnutrition.⁹⁹

Food security is not a legal concept and it doesn't enshrine entitlements to individuals or groups or impose a legal obligation on the stakeholders however it is a precondition for full enjoyment of the right to adequate food.¹⁰⁰ The right to food on the other hand is a legal concept that enshrines entitlements to the right holders and imposes an obligation on duty-bearers.¹⁰¹ Food and nutrition insecurity in a given population is a result of lack of recognition of the right to adequate food.¹⁰² This caused either by lack of ability to produce or purchase food or absence of food on the local market¹⁰³ and the final goal of the right to food is empowering the people to feed themselves either by producing their own food or financial ability to access food.¹⁰⁴

2.5. A Human Rights Based Approach of the Right to Adequate Food

A human rights based approach refers that the autonomy of the right holders either individuals or groups to participate in the realization of their right to food and it also requires the obligations of the government to respect, protect, and realize their right to food.¹⁰⁵ It has also an objective to empower the right holders to claim and exercise their rights and to strengthen the capacity of the duty-bearers since they have a particular obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of the peoples.¹⁰⁶ The human right based approach to the right to adequate food has characteristic such as it puts people at the center of development, recognizes right to access to food as a human

⁹⁷ FAO, World Food Summit Plan of Action (Rome, 13 Nov 1996) Para 1 <<http://www.fao.org/3/w3613e/w3613e00.htm>> accessed 12 February 2021.

⁹⁸ (n 55) 25

⁹⁹ Ibid

¹⁰⁰ Fact sheet 34

¹⁰¹ Dubravka Bojic Bultrini, *Right to Food Hand Book 1: The Right to Food Within the International Framework of Human Rights and Country Constitutions*, 9, available <<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3448e.pdf>> accessed 06 Feb 2021

¹⁰² Frank Mischler, *Right to Food Hand Books 7: Assessment of the Right to Food*, 6, available <<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3454e.pdf>> accessed 06 Feb 2021

¹⁰³ Ibid, 6

¹⁰⁴ Ibid, 5

¹⁰⁵ Ibid, 4

¹⁰⁶ FAO, *Methods to Monitoring the Human Rights to Adequate Food* (Vol 1, Book 2, 2008) 3

right, recognizes human beings as right-holders not a mere beneficiaries, enables states to aware their obligations, it helps to prevent harmful policies on the right to food and so on.¹⁰⁷

FAO member countries have reached a consensus to promote food security through a human rights-based approach in all critically relevant policy areas. The consensus has reflected in the Right to Food Guidelines that support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.¹⁰⁸ The right to food also reinforces the four pillars of food security; these are availability, access, stability, and utilization with human rights principles.¹⁰⁹The FAO, jointly with International Fund and Agricultural Development (IFAD), and World Food Program (WFP) have developed a ‘twin-track’ approach to food security.¹¹⁰This approach has been used consistently by the Right to Food Guidelines in its areas of action.¹¹¹ The purpose of track one is to create an opportunity for the food insecure and vulnerable through improving livelihoods, policy reforms, and investments whereas track two involves direct action to fight hunger by providing the hungry with immediate access to food.¹¹²Therefore, the right to food in its human rights-based approach to food security puts people at the center of development and recognized as right holders rather than mere beneficiaries.¹¹³

2.6. Obligations of the Government for the Right to Adequate Food

Paragraph 15 of General Comment 12 provides three types or levels of obligations on state parties in similar with other human rights and these are the obligation to respect, protect, and fulfill.¹¹⁴

Obligation to respect entails a negative obligation that the state should abstain from intervening on the enjoyment of the people’s right. The state has a duty not to eliminate a person’s only available means of subsistence or duties to avoid depriving.¹¹⁵ On the other hand, obligation to protect presupposes a positive action from state parties. It may include duties to protect people

¹⁰⁷ Frank Mischler, 5

¹⁰⁸ *Right to Food Making it Happen: Progress and Lessons Learned Through Implementation*, 6 available <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i2250e.pdf> accessed 06 Feb 2021

¹⁰⁹ Ibid

¹¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹¹ Ibid

¹¹² Ibid 6-7

¹¹³ Ibid

¹¹⁴ (n 1), Par 15

¹¹⁵ Angela Wong, ‘The right to food,’ in “Article 2 (April 2003) Asian Legal Resource Centre v.2 n.2, 13 -14.

against deprivation of the only available means of subsistence by other people and duties to protect from deprivation.¹¹⁶Obligation of protect compels the state to establish the necessary legal and institutional frameworks to protect the enjoyment of the right to food from the encroachments of a third party.

The third obligation that is the obligation to fulfill requires the positive actions of the state to take intervention measures including legislation, judicial, budget, and administration which is important for the satisfaction of the right to food.¹¹⁷ The obligation to fulfill needs more resource availability than the obligation to respect and protect.¹¹⁸The obligation to fulfill (facilitate) the right to food needs the state to engage in activities that strengthen accessing and utilization of food, including food security of the individuals and groups.¹¹⁹ The obligation to fulfill (promote) refers to the obligation of the state to give attention to the right to food in public affairs and decision making process and also includes awareness creation to the people on adequate nutrition.¹²⁰ There are also situations where the right holders are unable to procure food by their own means and in this regard, the governments directly fulfill (provide) food for the individuals or groups.¹²¹

Each government obligation of respect, protect and fulfill contains obligation of conduct and obligation of result.¹²²The obligation of conduct refers to reasonable action that is designed to realize a particular right, for instance in the right to food requires the adoption and implementation of a plan of action to reduce those who have no adequate food.¹²³The obligation

¹¹⁶ Ibid

¹¹⁷Victor Dankwa, CeesFlinterman and Scott Leckie, *Commentary on the Maastricht Guidelines on Violations of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, (Guideline 6) 21

¹¹⁸ Sven Sollner and Jennie Jonsen, 'The Breakthrough of the Right to Food: The Meaning of General Comment 12 and the Voluntary Guidelines for the Human Rights to Food', (2007) Vol 11 Max Planck Yearbook of United Nations Law, 391

¹¹⁹ Ibid, 8

¹²⁰ (n 56) 63

¹²¹ Ibid

¹²² The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Fact Sheet No.16 (Rev.1) Article 2, available <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4794773cd.pdf> accessed 06 Feb 2021

¹²³Maastricht Guidelines on Violations of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, (Maastricht, January 22-26, 1997) Par 7 available <http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/instreet/Maastrichtguidelines_.html> accessed 06 Feb 2021

of result, on the other hand, requires the actions of states to achieve a specific target,¹²⁴ for instance to reduce the absence of adequate food at a specifically agreed level.

2.6.1. Progressive and Immediate obligations

2.6.1.1. Progressive Obligations

Immediate realization on some socio-economic rights is impossible may be due to financial reasons or the enjoyment of the right may take a longer period of time.¹²⁵ The progressive obligation under article 2 of the ICESCR often does not perceive that the right is not claimed and realized unless the state reaches a certain economic level.¹²⁶ The progressive realization would not also mean that depriving of the right rather it refers to considering the difficult situations and understanding of the real world to safeguard the realization of social, cultural, and economic rights.¹²⁷

2.6.1.2. Immediate Obligations

There are obligations immediate action of the government is required. The obligations to take steps for the enjoyment of socio-economic rights, non-discrimination, realizing minimum core rights, and prohibition of retrogressive measures require immediate measures of states.¹²⁸

2.6.1.2.1. Obligation to Take Steps

A reasonable period may take to fully realize the right to food. However, this does not mean that states are allowed to be inactive from taking steps within a reasonable short period for full recognition of the right to food.¹²⁹ Once the covenant entered in to force in the concerned state, the latter should take concrete and targeted actions to comply with the obligations stipulated in the instrument.¹³⁰ Taking a legislative action is one step of the state to realize socio-economic

¹²⁴ Ibid

¹²⁵ Ibid, Par 8

¹²⁶ Ibid, Par 5

¹²⁷ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, CESCR, General Comment 3: The Nature of States Parties' Obligations (Art 2, Para 1 of the Covenant) (Adopted 14 Dec 1990) Para 9

¹²⁸ (n 55) 20-22

¹²⁹ Ibid, 21

¹³⁰ Yves Berthelot and Michael Windfuhr, *Voluntary Guidelines for the Implementation of the Right to Adequate Food: A Joint North South Contribution* (March 2003) Par. 2.1, 16 available at <

rights after the adoption of the convention and discrimination cannot be also avoided without adopting proper legislation.¹³¹ In addition to adopting adequate laws taking administrative, judicial, policy, economic and social measures are significant to ensure socio-economic rights including the right to food.¹³²

2.6.1.2.2. Elimination of Discrimination

The state must adopt measures to eradicate discrimination that deteriorates access to food on the grounds of race, language, sex, color, age, religion, national or social origin, political or another opinion, disability, birth, or another status.¹³³ The State party should take legislative actions when the law in a given country is discriminatory especially if it allows the violations of rights that require the state's negative duties.¹³⁴

2.6.1.2.3. Protection of the Right in a Minimum Essential Level

For each right recognized under the ICESCR, every state party of the Covenant has a minimum core obligation to ensure at the minimum essential level.¹³⁵ In the right to food, freedom from hunger is recognized as a minimum essential level right and the obligation of the government in this regard is to ensure the survival of the individuals.¹³⁶ Since rights are interrelated and indivisible the state should take proper measure to eradicate hunger and malnutrition and its failure to take this measure violates not only socio-economic rights including the right to food but also civil and political rights for instance the right to life.¹³⁷ This indicates that the obligations of the state to protect the right to life requires the adoption of all possible measures that eliminate malnutrition and epidemics in order to reduce child mortality and to increase life expectancy.¹³⁸

https://www.fian.org/fileadmin/media/publications_2015/Voluntary-Guidelines-for-the-Implementation-of-the-Right-to-Adequate-Food-2003.pdf > accessed 06 Feb 2021

¹³¹ Ibid, Par 4

¹³² Ibid, article 2 Paragraph 6

¹³³ General Comment 3, Para 20

¹³⁴ ICESCR, Art 2 (2)

¹³⁵ General Comment 12, para 10

¹³⁶ Dubravka Bojic Bultrini, *Guide on Legislating for the Right to Food* (FAO, Rome 2009), 21 available < http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/righttofood/documents/RTF_publications/EN/1_toolbox_Guide_on_Legislating.pdf > accessed 06 Feb 2021

¹³⁷ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Human Rights Committee General Comment 6, The Right to Life (Adopted 30 April 1982) Par 5

¹³⁸ Ibid

The state should make sure that people are free from starvation at the very least, provide food for those who are unable to feed themselves and susceptible to starvation and should refrain from acts that obstructs food access of the people.¹³⁹

2.6.1.2.4. Prohibition of Retrogressive Measures

States cannot deteriorate the existed level of fulfillment of the right to food without justiciable reasons.¹⁴⁰ For instance, State cannot take retrogressive measures such as freezing vital services for smallholders, extension services, or productive resources.¹⁴¹

2.7. Obligations Imposed upon Non - State Actors

Recently a significant number of NGOs believe that the responsibility of enforcing the right to food lies not only with states¹⁴² but also increasingly with other actors. This was made especially clear in the Profit for Few or Food for All resolution of the NGO Forum at the World Food Security.¹⁴³ The NGOs stated that the globalization of the world economy along with the lack of accountability of multilateral corporations and spreading patterns of overconsumption has increased world poverty.¹⁴⁴ This statement highlights the fact that many actors including civil societies have responsibilities in supporting the realization of the right to food.¹⁴⁵

Increasing numbers of NGOs are working on issues such as defending land rights, demarcation of indigenous territories, and guaranteed access to water or fishing grounds and preserving biological diversity.¹⁴⁶

¹³⁹ Ibid

¹⁴⁰ (n 55) 21

¹⁴¹ Ibid

¹⁴² Michael Windfuhr, *NGOs and the right to adequate food*, 9 available <http://bvspcr.paho.org/texcom/nutricion/booklet_2.pdf> accessed 06 Feb 2021

¹⁴³ Ibid

¹⁴⁴ Ibid

¹⁴⁵ Ibid

¹⁴⁶ Ibid

Chapter Three

3. Legal Frameworks of the Right to Food

Food is an inalienable right of people and an essential requirement for human existence.¹⁴⁷ Non-fulfillment of the right to food causes food insecurity and issues like poverty and food insecurity primarily linked to a concept of human rights.¹⁴⁸ Moreover, combating hunger and malnutrition is more than a moral duty or a policy choice in many countries and it is a legally binding human rights obligation.¹⁴⁹

3.1. The Right to Food in International Human Right Instruments

3.1.1. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The adoption of UDHR in 1948 becomes a foundation for fundamental rights and freedoms. Under the UDHR, the right to food is recognized in the perspective of the right to adequate standard of living. Article 25 (1) of the UDHR stated that:

*“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.”*¹⁵⁰

Sub-article 2 of article 25 of the UDHR entitled special care and assistance for mothers and children. After the UDHR, various international and regional human right instruments have adopted which guaranteed fundamental rights of people including the right to food.

¹⁴⁷ Joao N. Pinto, *Right to Food and Food and Nutrition Security in the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries* (June 2013)11

¹⁴⁸ *Ibid*, 4

¹⁴⁹ (n 55) 1

¹⁵⁰ UDHR, Article 25 (1)

3.1.2. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Article 11 (1) of the ICESCR stated that:

*The state parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions.*¹⁵¹

Sub article 2 of article 11 of the ICESCR recognized the fundamental right to free from hunger and imposed an obligation on the state parties to improve production, conservation, and distribution of adequate food.¹⁵²

The right to adequate food is a progressive right, the obligation of the state in this respect is to use all appropriate means including the adoption of legislative measures for the full realization of the right.¹⁵³ Freedom from hunger on the other hand is an absolute and minimum right secured for all people irrespective of the economic level of the state.¹⁵⁴ According to General Comment No.12, every state should ensure everyone under its jurisdiction has access to minimum essential food that is sufficient, nutritionally adequate, and safe, and to ensure they are free from hunger.¹⁵⁵ On the other hand, the right to adequate food is the same as any other human rights and the obligation of the state concerning this is to respect, protect and fulfill the right.¹⁵⁶

3.1.3. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

This convention recognizes the fundamental rights of women. Article 12 (2) of CEDAW recognizes that during pregnancy, postnatal and lactating periods, women have the right to get appropriate services including adequate nutrition. According to article 14 (1) and (2) of CEDAW, rural women have a right to adequate living conditions including equal access to land, water, credit, social security, and other services.¹⁵⁷

¹⁵¹ ICESCR, Article 11 (1)

¹⁵² ICESCR, Article 11 (2)

¹⁵³ McLaren (n 64)12

¹⁵⁴ Ibid12

¹⁵⁵ (n 1) Par 15

¹⁵⁶ Ibid

¹⁵⁷ CEDAW, Art 12 (2) and 14 (1, 2)

3.1.4. Convention on the Rights of the Child

The CRC is the main international human rights instrument its objective is to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of the child in general and the right to food in particular. Having adequate food at an early age is recognized as a significant factor for the mental and physical development of the child. The state party shall combat diseases and malnutrition by taking proper measures including by providing adequate nutritious food and clean drinking water.¹⁵⁸The state party shall also recognize the physical, mental, spiritual, moral, and social development of the child.¹⁵⁹The State shall assist parents or others responsible for the child through the provision of material assistance and support programs particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing, and housing.¹⁶⁰

3.1.5. Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons

As per article 20, the stateless persons have the same right as the nationals when the products have distributed to the people.¹⁶¹ Article 23 of the same convention stipulates that the states shall treat in the same way for stateless persons lawfully staying in their territory regarding public relief and assistance.¹⁶²

3.1.6. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees

As per article 20, the refugees have the same right as the nationals when the products have distributed to the people.¹⁶³ Article 23 of the same convention stipulates that the states shall treat in the same way for refugees lawfully staying in their territory regarding public relief and assistance.¹⁶⁴

¹⁵⁸ CRC, Art 24 (2) (C)

¹⁵⁹ Ibid, Art 27 (1)

¹⁶⁰ Ibid, Art 27 (3)

¹⁶¹Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Adopted on 28 September 1954, Entered into Force 6 June 1960), Article 20

¹⁶² Ibid, Article 23

¹⁶³Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (Adopted On 28 July 1951), Article 20

¹⁶⁴ Ibid, Article 23

3.2. Non-Binding International Instruments

Even though they are non-legally binding, guidelines, resolutions, declarations, and recommendations are significant to guide the implementation of the right to food.¹⁶⁵ Among others Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization's (FAO) Voluntary Guidelines helps to realize the right to food.

In 2015, leaders from 193 countries came together to face the future by setting 17 sustainable development goals that will be achieved by the year 2030 and some of the objectives of the SDGs countries have entered a commitment are end extreme poverty in all forms, achieve food security, and end hunger and malnutrition once and for all.¹⁶⁶

The FAO voluntary guidelines were adopted by consensus on FAO Councils in November 2004 and the guideline has an objective to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of National Food Security.¹⁶⁷ The guideline aimed to guarantee the availability of adequate food, sufficient dietary needs of an individual, and physical and economic accessibility for everyone including the vulnerable groups.¹⁶⁸ While developing strategies, programs, policies, and activities, states are encouraged to apply the voluntary guidelines.¹⁶⁹ Even though states are the primarily responsible organ for the implementation of this guideline, the contribution of civil society at large including non-governmental organizations is also significant.¹⁷⁰

¹⁶⁵ (n 55) 8

¹⁶⁶ United Nations Development Program, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) <<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf> > accessed 07 Feb 2021

¹⁶⁷ Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security (Adopted November 2004)

¹⁶⁸ Ibid, Para 1

¹⁶⁹ Ibid, Para 9

¹⁷⁰ Ibid, Para 8

3.3. The Right to Adequate Food in the African Human Rights System

3.3.1. The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights

The right to food is not explicitly recognized in the ACHPR. However, the Charter enshrines the right of all people for the free use of their wealth and natural resources, the right of all people to health, and the right of all peoples to a satisfactory and global environment that promotes development.¹⁷¹The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights adopted the Principles and Guidelines on the Implementation on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights in 2011.¹⁷²The guiding principle adopted to implement the African Charter on Human and peoples' Right states that "*the right to food is inherent in the Charter through the protection of the rights to life, health and the right to economic, social and cultural development.*"¹⁷³

The guiding principle further stated that the state should take appropriate measures to protect everyone to be free from hunger, not to use food as a political weapon, to guarantee food sources from contamination and destruction, develop national plans and policies that guarantee food security, ensure accessibility of quality food that meets the requirements of nutrition and acceptable in a given culture.¹⁷⁴The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights has interpreted the right to food concerning the right to life, health, and the right to economic, social and cultural development in the case of the Social, and Economic Rights Action Centre (SERAC) and another vs. Nigeria.¹⁷⁵

3.3.2. Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

According to article 15 of the Protocol, states parties shall ensure that women have the right to nutritious and adequate food. In this regard, the state shall take appropriate measures to provide women with access to clean drinking water, source of domestic fuel, land, and the means of producing nutritious food and establish adequate systems of supply and storage to ensure food

¹⁷¹Christophe Golay, *The Right to Food and Access to Justice: Examples at the National, Regional and International Levels* (Rome 2009) 37

¹⁷²Principles and Guidelines on the implementation of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the African Charter on Human and people's Rights (48th session, November 2010)

¹⁷³ Ibid

¹⁷⁴ Ibid

¹⁷⁵*Social and Economic Rights Action Centre (SERAC) v. Nigeria* (2001) AHRLR 60 (ACHPR 2001) para 65.

security.¹⁷⁶Moreover, the protocol confers women the right to health and nutritional services during pregnancy and breastfeeding.¹⁷⁷

3.3.3. African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

The State should ensure the protection of the rights of the child through the provision of adequate nutrition, safe drinking water, combat disease, and malnutrition.¹⁷⁸The State is also under the obligation to "take all appropriate measures to assist parents and other persons responsible for the child and in case of need, provide material assistance and support programs particularly with regard to nutrition, health, education, clothing, and housing."¹⁷⁹

In addition to the above African Human Right Instruments, there are decisions passed by the African Commission regarding socio-economic rights including the right to food. Even though the right to food is not clearly provided under the African Charter of Human and Peoples Rights, African Human Right Commission has interpreted the right to food with the right to life (Article 4), health (Article 16), and the right to economic, social and cultural development (Article 22) in the case of the Social, and Economic Rights Action Centre (SERAC) and another vs. Nigeria.¹⁸⁰ The Commission recognized that the right to food is inseparable to the dignity of human beings and significant for the fulfillment and enjoyment of other rights such as work, education, health, and political participation.¹⁸¹ The Commission further stipulated that Nigeria should improve the existing food sources of the people and ensure that all citizens have access to adequate food.¹⁸²

¹⁷⁶Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, Article 15 (a) and (b)

¹⁷⁷ Ibid, Art 14 (2) (b)

¹⁷⁸ACRWC, Article 14 (2) (c) and (d)

¹⁷⁹ Ibid, Art 20 (2) (a)

¹⁸⁰*Social and Economic Rights Action Centre (SERAC) v. Nigeria* (2001) AHRLR 60 (ACHPR 2001) para 65.

¹⁸¹ Resolution on Economic, Social And Cultural Rights in Africa, ACHPR /Res.73(XXXVI)04, (2004), Para 65

¹⁸² Ibid

3.4. The Right to Food under National Laws and Policies

3.4.1. The Right to Food under the FDRE Constitution

The right to food is recognized in state constitutions through explicit and direct recognition, implicit recognition in broader human rights, explicit recognition as a goal or directive principles within the constitutional order, and indirect recognition through the interpretation of other human rights through the judiciary.¹⁸³ Ethiopia has ratified international human right instruments of ICESCR, CEDAW, CRC and a party to the regional human right instruments of ACHPR and ACRWC. The international human right instruments ratified by Ethiopia are an integral part of the law of the land and the fundamental rights and freedoms specified in chapter three of the FDRE constitution shall interpreted in conforming with the UDHR, International Covenants in Human Rights and International Instruments adopted by Ethiopia.¹⁸⁴ In this sense, it forces to argue that the right to food is nationally applicable even if no provision is included in the bill of rights chapter.¹⁸⁵

Unlike civil and political rights, the coverage of socio-economic rights under chapter three of the FDRE constitution is not clear. However, this does not mean that socio-economic rights including the right to food is totally absent in the Constitution. Article 41(3) of the FDRE Constitution states that, “*Every Ethiopian national has the right to equal access to publicly funded social services.*” Article 41(4) of the Constitution also stipulates “*The State has the obligation to allocate an ever increasing resource to provide to the public health, education and other social services.*”

Some scholars have read a number of socio-economic rights including the right to food in the FDRE Constitution. For example, Sisay Alemahu argues:

The right to health and education are guaranteed in article 41 (4) of the Constitution and from the open ended phrase of “other social services”, one may add the rights to

¹⁸³Lidija Knuth and Margret Vidar, *Constitutional and Legal Protection of the Right to Food Around the World* (Rome 2011) 14

¹⁸⁴ The FDRE Constitution, Art 9 (4) and 13 (2)

¹⁸⁵ Yeshewas Ebabu, *the Human Right to Food and the Post-1991 Ethiopian State’s Obligation: A Case Study on Simada Woreda and Gulele Sub-City* (Addis Abab, 2019), 115

*housing, to social security, to safe and potable water, to food etc.*¹⁸⁶Article 43(1) of the Constitution provides that ‘The Peoples of Ethiopia as a whole, and each Nation, Nationality and People in Ethiopia in particular have the right to improved living standards and to sustainable development. This article may be interpreted as including such socio-economic rights as the rights to adequate food, clothing and housing that are listed to define ‘adequate standard of living’ under Article 11/1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).¹⁸⁷

Article 43 (1) of the FDRE Constitution provided that the peoples of Ethiopia as a whole, and each Nation, Nationality, and People, in particular, have the right to improved living standards and to sustainable development.”¹⁸⁸Yeshewas Ebabu argues that by way of analogy and interpretation it can be argued that the right to food is protected under Article 43 (1) of the FDRE Constitution part of the right to adequate standard of living as it is indicated in Article 25 (1) and Article 11(1) of the UDHR and ICESCR respectively.¹⁸⁹ The right to property is recognized under article 40 of the FDRE Constitution. Yeshewas argues that property is the outcome of labor and labor allows people to access food through food production directly or indirectly through income generating activities.¹⁹⁰ He further argues that chapter three of the FDRE constitution recognizes fundamental human rights like the right to life, liberty, and the right to security of person and these broader human rights embody the human right to food.¹⁹¹ The right to life includes the right to food, clothing, and food which is significant to live a life with dignity.¹⁹²

As per Article 90 (1) of the FDRE constitution, to the extent of the country resource permit policies shall aim to ensure the people’s right to food. The FDRE constitution seems to follow the generational classification of human rights in which the enforcement of them depending on the availability of resource.

¹⁸⁶Sisay Alemahu, ‘The Constitutional Protection of Economic and Social Rights in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia’, 140

¹⁸⁷ Ibid

¹⁸⁸ FDRE Constitution, Article 43 (1)

¹⁸⁹ Yeshewas Ebabu, the Human Right to Food and the Post-1991 Ethiopian State’s Obligation: A case Study on Simada Woreda and Gulele Sub-City (Addis Abab, 2019), 117

¹⁹⁰ Ibid

¹⁹¹ Ibid, 115

¹⁹² Ibid, 116

To bring in to effect of such provisions detailed policies that identify the responsible organs and period of time to implement is required and such policies is served as a mechanism for the realization of the right to food in Ethiopia.¹⁹³To realize food and nutrition security even though these concepts are not the same with the right to food, the government of Ethiopia has took various policy measures such as the nutrition program, food security program, growth and transformational plan and so on.

The Growth and Transformation Plan with the overall objective of bring equitable economic growth and eradicate poverty is one of the measures implemented by the government of Ethiopia.¹⁹⁴Improving the food and nutrition security of the people¹⁹⁵and give priority to vulnerable children and female-headed households in the food security programs is among the objectives of the first GTP (2010/11-2014/15).¹⁹⁶After GTP I is ended, the GTP II (2015/16 – 2019/20) continued with a target to ensure food security in the household level,¹⁹⁷ ensure urban food security and employment through productive safety net programs,¹⁹⁸improve child health condition, and elimination of child malnutrition problems.¹⁹⁹

To eradicate nutrition insecurity in Ethiopia, the National Nutrition Program (NNP) has been implemented since 2008. The NNP has been implemented in two phases; phase one (NNP I) from 2008-2013/2013-2015²⁰⁰and phase two (NNP II) from 2016 to 2020.²⁰¹The NNP II was developed for the purpose of high impact intervention of government to reduce malnutrition of children, adolescents, women on reproductive age and also the population in general.²⁰²

Improve the nutritional status of women from the age of 15 to 49 years and adolescent girls from 10-19 years of age, improve the nutritional status of women from birth up to ten years, improve the delivery of nutrition services for communicable and non-communicable related diseases, reinforce the implementation of nutrition-sensitive interventions across sectors, and finally

¹⁹³ Ibid,148

¹⁹⁴Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Growth and Transformation Plan I (GTP I), 2010/11 -2014/15 (Nov 2010, Addis Ababa) 21

¹⁹⁵Ibid, 25

¹⁹⁶ GTP I, 17

¹⁹⁷Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Growth and Transformation Plan II, 2016 -2020, 7

¹⁹⁸ Ibid 51

¹⁹⁹ Ibid 65

²⁰⁰ Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, National Nutritional Program II (NNP II, 2016-2020), 3

²⁰¹Ibid, 19

²⁰² Ibid, 24

improve Multi-Sectoral coordination for the implementation of national nutrition program are the five strategic objectives of NNP II.²⁰³

Each ministry²⁰⁴ representing the government of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia recognized and entered a commitment to achieve targets stipulated in NNP document and Seqota Declaration implementation manual.²⁰⁵ They entered a commitment to take Multi-Sectoral action for the realization of optimal nutritional status for all Ethiopians, to end hunger by 2030, and to eliminate malnutrition from Ethiopia since this is also one of the primary objectives for Second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II).²⁰⁶ Implementation of NNP is not only the responsibility of the federal government rather it cascades to Regions, Zones, Woredas, and Kebeles levels.²⁰⁷

Before Seqota Declaration is launched various interventions including National Nutrition Program have implemented however millions of children remain malnourished and it becomes precise that a new approach is needed to maintain food security in most food insecure parts of the country.²⁰⁸

Mrs. Firiealem Shibabaw, has written a book that stated how and why Seqota Declaration is initiated. She has visited the town of Seqota by the invitation of the local people that requested her to launch milk provision for school children, she was already started the project in other places.²⁰⁹ Based on the invitation she arrived in the town of Seqota, started milk provision for children at two schools. She has also visited a town called Korem, the place where plenty of people suffered by the 1984 drought and the situations of the victims have also publicized by international Medias.²¹⁰

²⁰³ Ibid, 25-54

²⁰⁴ State Minister of Health, State Minister of Education, State Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, State Minister of Livestock and Fishery Resource Development, State Minister of Industry, State Minister of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, State Minister of Trade, State Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation, State Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, State Minister of Women and Children Affairs, National Disaster Risk Management Coordination Commission, State Minister of Government Communication Affairs, and State Minister of Youth and Sport, Deputy Prime Minister.

²⁰⁵ NNP II, 3

²⁰⁶ Ibid

²⁰⁷ Ibid, P 57

²⁰⁸ Ibid

²⁰⁹ የፌዴራል ዲሞክራሲያዊ ጊዮርጊያዊ ሪፐብሊክ (ጥቅምት 2011 ዓ.ም.) 105

²¹⁰ Ibid, 107. Korem is a town located in 100 Kilo Meter in the south east of Seqota.

In her visit, she observed that, Seqota and surrounding areas have not rehabilitated from the effects of recurrent drought and the people are also living in serious poverty situations.²¹¹ She drafted a proposal document and named it ‘Seqota Declaration’ with a goal to eradicate hunger in Ethiopia within ten years.²¹² She submitted the document to the federal government, the latter accepted it and decided to implement instantly.²¹³ The reason why she named the document ‘Seqota Declaration’ is that, the area is suffered by the recurrent drought with 10 years of gaps and due to lack of precautionary measures plenty of people were suffered by the 1984 devastating drought and famine, at the time when the Derg government was in civil war.²¹⁴

Firstly, on July 2015, the declaration has announced by Ethiopian government in the meeting called ‘Finance for Development Conference’ where leaders of foreign countries were participated, then regional presidents has signed the declaration at the city of Seqota with entering a commitment to end child under-nutrition within fifteen years of period.²¹⁵

Zero stunting for children less than two years of age, one hundred percent access to adequate food all year round, transformed small holder productivity and income, reduction of post-harvest loss, innovate and promote sustainable and climate smart food system, improve the accessibility and supply of safe and adequate drinking water, prevent the transmission of intergenerational poverty and initiate school feeding and nutritional education, and finally give an attention on poverty reduction and support to children under the age of two as well as pregnant and lactating women are the main objectives of Seqota Declaration.²¹⁶

The Seqota Declaration is a component of NNP II, managed under NNP II, and implemented by the same sectors in the most food insecure parts of the country.²¹⁷ The declaration has implemented in to three phases; innovation phase (2016-2020), expansion phase (2021-2025), and national scale-up phase (2026-30).²¹⁸ The innovation phase implemented in 26 Woredas from

²¹¹ Ibid, 107

²¹² Ibid

²¹³ Ibid, 109

²¹⁴ Ibid, 108

²¹⁵ Ibid, 109

²¹⁶ Ibid 5

²¹⁷ NNP II, 20

²¹⁸ Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Seqota Declaration Innovation Phase Investment Plan, 2017 -2020 (January 2018), VI

Amhara region and 6 Woredas from Tigray region.²¹⁹The 26 Seqota Declaration Woredas of Amhara region located in the Tekeze River Basin, the place where social services is low and stunting is high due to geographical nature.²²⁰

Stunting in the Amhara region is decreased from 63.3 % to 43.3 % between 2000 to 2016, but in the Seqota Declaration Woredas is above 50 percent, greater than the regional average.²²¹ The SDIP differs from other initiatives conducted in the country is that it targets in particular Woredas, operated with a combination of nutrition intervention and economic development and aims to transform the lives of Ethiopian children.²²²

The National Nutrition Coordinating Body (NNCB) is established in the federal level representing from eleven government sectors, nutrition development partners, the academia, and the private sector.²²³The NNCB submit a report about the progress of Seqota Declaration Implementation Plan to the Deputy Prime Minister with the aim to foster accountability and maximize ownership.²²⁴In regions, Regional Nutrition Coordinating Body (RNCB) is established that report the progress to the regional president's office.²²⁵

3.5. The Role of National Institutions on the Realization of the Right to Food

The state assumes primary responsibility to protect and promote human rights including the right to food. In many countries, particular established institutions coordinate the right to food or food and nutrition security.²²⁶Because the realization of adequate food and eradication of malnutrition is not the task of few institutions but, it requires the involvement of various concerned governmental and non-governmental sectors in a coordinated manner. In Ethiopia, various sectors have taken measures to realize food and nutrition security and bring overall development of the people. Among the government bodies, the Ministry of Agriculture has launched different programs such as Agricultural Development Program (AGP) and Food Security Program (FSP) to bring development and realize food security of the people.

²¹⁹ Ibid

²²⁰ Ibid 4

²²¹ Ibid

²²²Seqota Declaration Implementation Plan, Summary Program Approach Document, 2016-2030 (March 2016) 16

²²³ NNP II, 62

²²⁴ (N 2055), 14

²²⁵ NNP II, 62

²²⁶ (n 55) 28

The AGP has implemented in two phases with the support of World Bank and USAID.²²⁷The first phase (AGP I) initiated in 2010 in selected Woredas of Oromia, Amhara, Tigray and Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples.²²⁸ The AGP I has launched to avoid impediments for agricultural growth and to support rural development.²²⁹AGP II (from April 2017 to 2021) has launched in 157 Woredas encompassing 95 Woredas from AGP I and focused on nutrition, climate-smart agriculture, increasing the consumption of the households, and evading problems of dietary diversity.²³⁰

In Ethiopia, before 2005, emergency food assistance was provided for the chronically food insecure people but, this approach was insufficient and unpredictable which failed without addressing the principal causes of food insecurity.²³¹However, in 2005, Ethiopia has started the implementation of FSP in a comprehensive approach to address the challenges of food insecurity.²³²Enable the chronically food-insecure people to attain food security and to improve the food security situations of the transitory food insecure people is the purpose of FSP.²³³ Resettlement Program, Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), Household Asset Building Program (HABP), and Complimentary Community Investment (CCI) are components of Food Security Program in Ethiopia.²³⁴The PSNP is one of the largest social protection programs in Africa that has launched by the Ministry of Agriculture effective from 2005²³⁵and achieved through the transfer of food and cash to food-insecure households and chronically poor people.²³⁶

The PSNP has two components; these are the public works component and the direct support component. Households who could not participate in the public works due to old age, sickness,

²²⁷ (n 18) 37

²²⁸ Ibid 38

²²⁹ Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development .2010. Agricultural Development Program (AGP). Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Program Implementation Manual.

²³⁰ (n 18) 39

²³¹ DemeseChanyalew, Berhanu Adenew and John Mellor, *Ethiopia's Agricultural Sector Policy and Investment Framework 2010-2020* (Draft Final Report, 15 September 2010), 4

²³² Ibid

²³³ Food Security Program of Ethiopia <
http://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/p2p/Publications/presentations/FSP_presentation_at_Accra_Ghana.pdf>accessed 13 February 2021

²³⁴ Experience of the Productive Safety Net Program, Government of Ethiopia (October 2013)

²³⁵ Ibid

²³⁶ (n 233) 12

or disablement²³⁷ receive unconditional permanent direct support for twelve months which is linked with social protection services.²³⁸ Households who have able-bodied and adult labour engaged in public works and receive six months transfer within a year.²³⁹The participation of able-bodied household members in environmental conservation activities of land terracing, reforestation, and infrastructure projects such as irrigation and rural roads in exchange for cash or in-kind payments are the aim of the public works component.²⁴⁰The final objective of the PSNP and HABP in combination is to enable the food insecure to fulfill their food needs without transfers for the twelve months and finally graduate from the program.²⁴¹

To achieve the targets laid out in the National Nutrition Program Document and the Seqota Declaration Implementation Manual each ministry have entered a commitment.²⁴²The Ministry of Agriculture has already contributed directly or indirectly for the reduction of child under-nutrition through its programs such as the Food Security Program, the Agriculture Growth Program, and the Livestock Master Plan and so on.²⁴³To achieve the nutrition outcomes the agriculture sector has reinforced these programs and also engaged on the nutrition sensitive initiatives.²⁴⁴

Some of the initiatives of the Ministry of Agriculture on the National Nutrition Program II are; transfer of safety net initiatives for households with a malnourished child, scale up the implementation of nutrition sensitive public works, increase households access to safe and nutritious food through enhancing agricultural research and adoption of technology, develop food and nutrition policy and improve the awareness of households about dietary diversity.²⁴⁵

The Ministry of Education has contributed for the reduction of under-nutrition in the country through the provision of school feeding program and school health and nutrition

²³⁷ (n 18) 47

²³⁸ Productive Safety Net Program Phase IV Program Implementation Manual, Ministry of Agriculture, (Version 1.0, First Release Date December 2014) 2-1<
https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1866/psnp_iv_programme_implementation_manual_14_dec_14.pdf > accessed 13 February 2021

²³⁹ Ibid

²⁴⁰ (n 18) 47

²⁴¹ Ibid

²⁴² NNP II, 3

²⁴³ Ibid, 40

²⁴⁴ Ibid

²⁴⁵ Ibid, 41-42

interventions.²⁴⁶The school feeding program has provided balanced meals for school children who came mainly from food insecure and impoverished households.²⁴⁷The Ministry of Education designed the national school feeding program (NSFP) to improve the nutrition and health status of school children, to scale up education access, increase the incomes of smallholder farmers through their access to school feeding market and focus on the vulnerable groups, and reduce social and gender inequalities.²⁴⁸The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA) has contributed to the nutrition status through ensuring access to productive work for people, creating peaceful and stable work for people, and securing social welfares.²⁴⁹

The National Disaster Risk Management Coordination Commission has played its role in the reduction of malnutrition related risks caused by disasters.²⁵⁰Under Disaster Risk Management, the food security directorate supports food insecure households by preventing asset depletion at the household level in chronically food-insecure Woredas and contributes to the growth of productivity and asset building by facilitating access to credit for farm and non-farm activities.²⁵¹ All ministers which are not discussed here have their initiatives for the implementation of national nutrition program because end hunger and realize optimal nutritional status for all Ethiopians by the year 2030 is a commitment they have entered.²⁵²

²⁴⁶ Ibid, 45

²⁴⁷ (n 211)18

²⁴⁸ NNP II, 20

²⁴⁹ Ibid, 49

²⁵⁰ Ibid, 50

²⁵¹ Ibid

²⁵² Ibid 40-61

Chapter Four

4.1. The Right to Food of a Child in Seqota Woreda

Every child has a right to a standard of living adequate for his physical, mental, spiritual, moral, and social development.²⁵³ Since human rights are indivisible and interrelated, non-respect of the right to food violates the right to life, health, education, and other civil and socio-economic rights. People denied the right to food not because of the absence of enough food but lack of access to available food.²⁵⁴ Adequacy, accessibility, and availability of food are the normative contents that have to be fulfilling for the full realization of the right to food.²⁵⁵ The state and the family have an obligation to fulfill the right to food of a child which is significant for him to lead healthy and active life.²⁵⁶ The state is the primary duty bearer to comply with human right obligations including the right to food hence it should take legislative, administrative, economic, financial, educational, and social measures to achieve the full and progressive realization of the right to adequate food and to protect the people from hunger which is the minimum right.²⁵⁷

Ethiopia has ratified various international and regional human rights instruments that recognized the right to adequate food. Various measures have also been implemented across the country including Seqota Woreda to realize food and nutrition security of the people and special attention is given to children. This chapter mainly explores the practical gaps that hinder the full enjoyment of the right to adequate food and the measures made by the government to realize adequate food to a child in Seqota Woreda.

²⁵³ CRC, Art 27 (1)

²⁵⁴ Fact Sheet No 34, The Right to Adequate Food, 4

²⁵⁵ GC 12, Paragraph 7 & 8

²⁵⁶ CRC, Art 27 (1, 2)

²⁵⁷ Dubravka Bojic Bultrini, The Right to Food within the International Framework of Human Rights and Country Constitutions (Right to Food Handbooks 1), 5.

4.2. The Status of the Right to Food in Seqota Woreda

4.2.1. Availability

Availability indicates that feeding of oneself either directly from productive land or other natural resources or through well-functioning distribution, processing, and market systems that can move food from the site of production to demand.²⁵⁸

The economic basis of the people in Seqota Woredais mainly cereal production and some others practiced mixing farming and pastoralism.²⁵⁹ The people in the study area have produced insufficient amount of cereals because of low amount of rainfall, rainfall failure, livestock diseases, cereal pests, practicing of traditional farming system, soil infertility, population increase, elimination of natural resources such as forests and soil degradation.²⁶⁰ In the warm temperature parts of the Woreda, the people has relied more on animal husbandry because the area is unsuitable for cereal production, for instance shortage of rainfall and soil infertility.²⁶¹ Lacks of grazing land, shortage of water, animal diseases, and absence of veterinary services have also affected their livestock production.²⁶²

There is no enough arable land since the area is full of plateaus which are unsuitable for agriculture so the people have not produced sufficient amount of crops that fulfills the family's food consumption.²⁶³ Cereal production in Seqota is conducted in a single season, during winter "Kiremit" that produced mainly wheat, barley, beans, and sorghum.²⁶⁴

In the study area, since the cereal production is insufficient for the family's food consumption, the people have migrated with their children to adjacent areas of Waghimra Zone, mainly in Raya Kobo to search for a job and involved in begging activities.²⁶⁵ But in this time due to the political instability around Raya, they have migrated to Bahirdar and other safe places.²⁶⁶ After passing some months in other places beyond Waghimra Zone, they again returned to their home

²⁵⁸ GC 12, Para 12

²⁵⁹ Interview with Abreham Beninu, Head of Seqota Woreda Agriculture Office (Seqota Woreda, 21 April 2021).

²⁶⁰ Interview with Betesilassie Awoke, Project Manager of ORDA in Seqota Woreda (Seqota, 28 April 2021).

²⁶¹ (n 259)

²⁶² Ibid

²⁶³ Ibid

²⁶⁴ Ibid

²⁶⁵ (n 260)

²⁶⁶ (n 259)

mainly in May and June and involved in the agriculture activities.²⁶⁷ Compared to other parts of the Woreda, more people have migrated to other places frequently from Kebeles called Zuna, Ekimtsirwa, Mygundo, Tsemerna, Qeba, and Faya.²⁶⁸ The government administrators of Seqota Woreda have tried to convince the migrated people that only the family members who can engage in works and generate income to migrate rather than the whole families but, they refused and migrate with their children because the latter generates income by engaging in begging activities.²⁶⁹

When the people are unable to fulfill adequate food by their own means the government has an obligation to provide the necessary assistance.²⁷⁰ To protect the people who cannot provide food for themselves, the state should establish and maintain social safety and food safety nets with the Country's resource permit.²⁷¹ For the progressive realization of the right to adequate food states should provide necessary resources and maintain the existing capacities of the people.²⁷²

Seqota Woreda is drought prone area among the people, 58 % have not ensured their food security therefore they are subsidized by safety net provisions and emergency food aid however this doesn't fulfill their food consumption.²⁷³ The cereal production of the community is also affected by animal deaths and insects.²⁷⁴

In Seqota Woreda, the agricultures sector has taken actions such as the provision of food through a safety net program and emergency aid for those who are unable to feed themselves however the safety net provision has provided in a quota system that includes a maximum of five members even if the number of individuals living in the family is above that.²⁷⁵ So, it can't cover the food consumption of the households. There are experts established in the federal level that identifies

²⁶⁷ Ibid

²⁶⁸ Interview Lijalem Tsegaw, Team Leader of Early Warning, Seqota Woreda Agriculture Office(Seqota, 21 April 2021)

²⁶⁹ Ibid

²⁷⁰ Sven Sollner and Jennie Johsen, the "Breakthrough" of the Right to Food: the Meaning of General Comment No. 12 and the Voluntary Guidelines for the Interpretation of the Human Right to Food (Working Paper, 22 and 23 May 2006, Mannheim) 397

²⁷¹ Voluntary guideline of the Right to Adequate Food, Para 14.1

²⁷² Ibid

²⁷³ (n 259)

²⁷⁴ (n 268)

²⁷⁵ Ibid

which areas need safety net provisions.²⁷⁶The safety net quotas are determined and released by the regional government to Woredas which are insufficient in Seqota to cover the food consumption of the people.²⁷⁷ Once a limited safety net quota is provided to the Woreda, a committee established and identified households who are poor of the poor among the community for food aid but due to the quota limitation households who couldn't realize adequate food also excluded from the provision. This forced the households to migrate to other places with their children.²⁷⁸

Until the safety net provision has started some households migrate with their children because the provision lasts only six months within the year.²⁷⁹ In the study area, some households have migrated to cover other costs but 78 % of migrants are due to absence of enough food production.²⁸⁰

Lack of infrastructure mainly absence of roads that connect the rural villages to towns has impeded the people to exchange their products and to buy food for their families.²⁸¹ Vegetables and fruits which have adequate nutrients for children are available in the town of Seqota relatively with better price however due to absence of roads the rural people can't access these products.²⁸² The safety net provision and food aid has been provided to the people in the town of Seqota. But, the beneficiaries have sold the provision food they received and take the money due to absence of roads to transport the food to their home. Even if there is road access in limited Kebeles, they have not enough money that covers the transport cost, so they forced to sell the food.²⁸³

4.2.2. Adequacy

Food should be available in sufficient quantity and quality that satisfy the dietary needs of the individual, free from adverse substances, and acceptable in a given culture.²⁸⁴ A diet should

²⁷⁶ Ibid

²⁷⁷ Ibid

²⁷⁸ Ibid

²⁷⁹ (n 259)

²⁸⁰ Ibid

²⁸¹ Interview with Getinet, Project Manager, Action Against Hunger, SeqotaWoreda (Seqota, 28 April 2021)

²⁸² Interview with Habtu Sibhat, Seqota Declaration Coordinator, SeqotaWoreda (Seqota, 06 May 2021)

²⁸³ Interview with Assefa, Head of SeqotaWoreda Health Protection Office (Seqota, 28 April 2021)

²⁸⁴ GC 12, Para 8

contain nutrients that are important for the physical and mental growth, development, and maintenance compliance with human physiological needs throughout the life cycle.²⁸⁵

In Seqota Woreda, the people have not produced enough amount of food due to the reasons mentioned above. When new households are established they needed arable land for crop production but they couldn't get enough so they have produced insufficient amount of food and forced to depend on the safety net and emergency food aid provisions or migrated to other places.²⁸⁶The farmers have extended their agricultural land by deforesting communal areas due to shortage of arable land and searching for fertile soil but this exposed the land for soil erosion and grazing land shortage that results fall of food production.²⁸⁷

The right of the child to access adequate food depends on both on the economic capacity and the knowledge of the householders and/or the caregivers. States have an obligation to take appropriate measures to combat malnutrition and diseases through provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking water.²⁸⁸Children in Seqota Woreda are susceptible for both food and nutrition insecurity because at the beginning there is no enough production and plus to that the people have not the know-how regarding providing of nutrients and diversified food for their children.²⁸⁹Even if sufficient amount of food is produced in the household, lack of knowledge on nutrition and feeding practices hinders the child to get adequate food.²⁹⁰

The state has an obligation to ensure appropriates service including adequate nutrition for women during pregnancy, post-natal, and lactation period.²⁹¹ The agriculture sector has been delivered training to the community of Seqota Woreda in relation to feeding of additional food for a pregnant and lactating woman than the normal days both for the sake of herself and the child. However, the training is not practiced properly firstly because of absence of enough production in the household. Secondly, in the community's culture, woman can't consume food

²⁸⁵ GC 12, Para 9

²⁸⁶ (n 259)

²⁸⁷ (n 268)

²⁸⁸ CRC, Art 24, 2, c

²⁸⁹ (n 259)

²⁹⁰ Ibid

²⁹¹ CEDAW, Art 12, (2)

for herself before feeding the whole family members that affected her from accessing adequate food.²⁹²

Both government sectors of the Woreda and NGOs have provided awareness creation training to the community in Seqota Woreda that woman should get adequate food even prohibited in the fasting days starting from pregnancy up to two years after delivery of a child which is significant for her and the child.²⁹³ However, religious leaders have challenged that if the woman eats food that is prohibited in the fasting days during pregnancy and after birth up to two years, there are no days she will fasting mainly if she successively became pregnant and get a child.²⁹⁴

4.2.3. Accessibility

Accessibility of food refers to both economic and physical accessibility. The Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural rights while interpreting the right to adequate food stipulated under article 11 of the ICESCR underlined that hunger, malnutrition, and under-nutrition which relate to the right to adequate food which is mainly acute in the developing countries are not fundamentally caused by due to lack of food but results from lack access to available food.²⁹⁵

In Seqota Woreda, the reason why children couldn't get adequate food is first that their families have not access sufficient amount of food because of lack of enough production and the other reason is that whether the family produces enough food or not, the child couldn't get adequate food due to poor feeding practice and lack of nutrition knowledge.²⁹⁶ The physical and mental developments of the child determined in the 1000 days starting from pregnancy up to two years after birth. During this time having adequate nutritious food for the mother and the child is significant. In the study area due to lack of enough crop production, the householders have sold the nutritious food significant for children such as milk and egg produced by themselves and buys less quality food to cover the consumption of the whole family members.²⁹⁷

²⁹² (n 255)

²⁹³ (n 260)

²⁹⁴ Ibid

²⁹⁵ GC 12, Para 5

²⁹⁶ (n 259)

²⁹⁷(n 268)

Every child has the right a standard of living adequate for his physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development and the state has an obligation to recognize this right.²⁹⁸ The state should provide material assistance and support programs to the parents or others responsible for the child in case of need mainly with regard to nutrition, clothing, and housing.²⁹⁹

In Seqota there is a ‘Fresh Food’ aid program implemented with the financial assistance of WFP to provide fresh food for under-nutrient children. Cash is transferred to the parents’ bank account then the latter buys fresh and nutrient food for their children who found in under-nutrition status from designated shops.³⁰⁰ However, the orthodox Christian priests have influenced the people to refrain from receiving this aid because they teach the people that the aim of the provision is to convert their religion.³⁰¹ In addition to this, the householders who received the cash utilized to cover other costs rather than buying nutrient food for their children.³⁰²

Children in Seqota Woreda are susceptible to under-nutrition due to reasons such as lack of access to adequate food, diseases such as diarrhea, lack of proper feeding practices, and absence of health services.³⁰³ In this study area, 35 % of under-five age children have infected by under-nutrition, which includes stunting, wasting, and underweight.³⁰⁴ At this time, 3291 children who are below age two are found in under-nutrition status and they have got assistance and treatment depending on the extent of the problem they have encountered.³⁰⁵ Children who are in moderate under-nutrition status have provided nutrient food while children who are in acute and severe under-nutrition status have been admitted to health centers for medical treatment.³⁰⁶

Children who are in acute and severe under-nutrition status expected to get treatment at health centers up to four months but due to lack of enough budgets they have not treated fully and returned to their home after getting some treatment.³⁰⁷ Even if the health center can treat the child up to four months, the mother of the child can’t give care to her child in the health center

²⁹⁸ CRC, Art 27 (1)

²⁹⁹ CRC, Art 27 (3)

³⁰⁰ Interview with Getinet, Project Manager, Action Against Hunger, SeqotaWoreda (Seqota, 28 April 2021).

³⁰¹ Ibid

³⁰² Ibid

³⁰³ Interview with Asimrew Gedamu, SeqotaWoreda Health Protection Office, Youth and Women Officer (Seqota, 28 April 2021)

³⁰⁴ (n 268)

³⁰⁵ (n 283)

³⁰⁶ Ibid

³⁰⁷ Ibid

for long time because she comes from distant rural villages.³⁰⁸ So, the child back to home without getting the full treatment, then again exposed to the same problem.³⁰⁹

4.3. Measures Taken to Realize Adequate Food in Seqota Woreda

To alleviate the food insecurity of the people, which is prevalent in the study area, the Agriculture Sector has taken measures. To increase cereal production, it has conducted activities such as water conservation, terracing, small canal construction, digging of small walls, and reforestation.³¹⁰ However, the food security of the people has not been realized due to reasons such as low level of rainfall, loss of soil fertility, lack of enough arable land, lack of awareness of both the government officials and the farmers for the utilization of technologies and better agriculture inputs such as seeds and fertilizer that increases cereal production.³¹¹

The voluntary guidelines on the realization of the right to food stipulated that, the government shall create an environment that enables people to feed themselves in dignity and when people are unable it shall provide safety nets.³¹² To fulfill the food and nutrition security of households and individuals, measures such as the PSNP and nutrition program have been taken place in Seqota Woreda .

The households, who have under-nutrition and disabled child, have get priority to include in the safety net program. Households who have assisted by emergency food aid for two or three years and identified by the committee as poor of the poor among the community have included in the safety net program because this shows that the households are living in serious food insecurity situations.³¹³ If the food insecurity of the households or individuals lasts only one year, they encompassed in transitory/emergency food aid, not in the PSNP.³¹⁴

Currently, close to one hundred thousand people are living in Seqota Woreda, among these 25994 people are beneficiaries of PSNP with participating in public works while 5250 people

³⁰⁸ Ibid

³⁰⁹ Ibid

³¹⁰ (n 259)

³¹¹ Ibid

³¹² Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, iii

³¹³ (n 259)

³¹⁴ (n 268)

have received direct support without participating in the public work activities.³¹⁵ Totally 31, 244 people which are close to one-third of the population living in the Woreda have encompassed in the PSNP provision. The public works participated in watershed activities such as water and soil conservation, extension of canals, digging of water holes, roads, and irrigation activities.³¹⁶ Not to affect the agricultural activities of the beneficiaries, the public works mainly conducted in the dry months.³¹⁷ The purpose of public works in Seqota is to increase soil fertility, water conservation, and reforestation which help to increase crop production and alleviate food insecurity situations of the people.³¹⁸ However, the problem in the public works is that, the activities lack continuous implementation and follow-up.³¹⁹

Both international and national NGOs have participated in the PSNP and the development and intervention activities in Seqota. NGOs that want to work in the PSNP with the agriculture sector are required to compete. Those which have better capacity for assisting and implementing the program are selected to work with the agriculture sector for five years term.³²⁰

Currently in Seqota, ORDA has been working with the agriculture sector for the development activities doing by the agriculture sector and safety net programs.³²¹ Save the children has involved in activities that are not covered by the government development and intervention programs. It has excavated water walls for areas where water is inaccessible. It also involved in water and soil conservation activities.³²²

The agriculture sector has its own nutrition workers that creates awareness to foster the knowledge of the people about harvesting of vegetables in their yard, provides better chicken breeds that lay egg, and they gives a lesson about how to prepare and nourish their children and themselves.³²³ The aim of the intervention measures is to improve nutrition, strengthen resilience that helps households to be food sufficient, and finally food secure.³²⁴

³¹⁵ Report of Seqota Woreda Agriculture Office

³¹⁶ Interview with Tesfu Hailu, Food Security Officer, Seqota Woreda Agriculture Office (Seqota, 21 April 2021)

³¹⁷ Ibid

³¹⁸ (n 268)

³¹⁹ (n 259)

³²⁰ (n 282)

³²¹ (n 259)

³²² Ibid

³²³ Ibid

³²⁴ Ibid

4.4. Measures Taken on the Realization of Food and Nutrition Security in Seqota Woreda

Assessment of the right to food includes both the assessment of food and nutrition insecurity and the assessment of various settings such as legal, political, and institutional frameworks, civil society participation, and budget analysis.³²⁵ Assessment of the causes of food and nutrition insecurity involves identifying who suffers from food insecurity, where those people are, and what are the causes of their food insecurity and vulnerability.³²⁶

In 2015, Seqota Declaration announced to end child under-nutrition by 2030 to promote nutrition security in most food-insecure parts of the country and innovation is the central point to achieve its goals.³²⁷ In Seqota, the declaration has been implemented with giving attention to pregnant and lactating women and children up to two years of age, and awareness has been created to the communities through the Social Behavioral Change Communication Program regarding the indispensability of nutritious food for these groups.³²⁸ Currently, 3928 under age two children have found in under-nutrition status and included in Seqota Declaration program.³²⁹ To increase the understanding of the people on nutrition and feeding practices, individuals who have social acceptance in the community and priests have participated in the awareness creation activities conducted in all 25 kebeles of the Woreda.³³⁰

In Seqota, there is a program called ‘preach one’ for sick persons of all age and ‘preach two’ for children up to seven years that conducted by Seqota Declaration Implementation Coordination Office. In this awareness creation program, they tried to convince the people to eat nutritious food such as meat, milk, and egg which is prohibited in Orthodox Christian religion during the fasting days but the society has resisted to accept the program since this is unacceptable for them.³³¹

³²⁵ Frank Mischler, ‘Stephen Carlin & Beth Gelb (Transr), Assesment of the Right to Food,’ Right to Food Hand Books 7 (FAO 2014), 3

³²⁶ Ibid

³²⁷ (n 222) 4

³²⁸ (n 222)

³²⁹ Ibid

³³⁰ Ibid

³³¹ Ibid

The declaration has been implemented in the study area with the involvement of among others the health, education, agriculture, water and energy, and women and child affair sectors.³³² The Health Sector has created awareness on the feeding practice of the community, provided advice and follow-up the condition of pregnant women since the health of the child starts from the womb.³³³

In Seqota Woreda, 178 pavilion schools are found.³³⁴ These schools have not water services, which is significant for the health of students. The students have also come to school without getting enough food.³³⁵ In consideration of the situation of the students, the feeding program has started by the Seqota Declaration program in selective schools for zero and one-grade students as they are more susceptible but the provisions cannot address additional schools and students due to financial constraints.³³⁶ Labor and Social Affairs has involved in the implementation of Seqota Declaration particularly it approached persons who have certain challenges and depending on their problems it sends them to agriculture sector if their problem is lack of adequate food and to health sectors if they have health problems.³³⁷

Seqota Woreda Health Sector has measured the nutrition status of children and provides the necessary data to the concerned sectors for their action. After the health sector measured the nutritional status of the children and finds lacks of adequate food, it sends the data to the agriculture sector for provision of adequate food and if the nutrition status is severe it admitted the children in health centers and hospital for medical treatment.³³⁸

Realize the right to adequate food for the people is primarily the responsibility of states however civil societies including NGOs and the private sector have played significant roles.³³⁹ In Seqota Woreda, Action Against Hunger and ORDA have involved to realize food and nutrition security of the people. Action Against Hunger have provided vegetable seeds and fruits that are produced in the yard and better animal breeds to increase the nutrient food of children, pregnant, and

³³² Ibid

³³³ Ibid

³³⁴ Ibid

³³⁵ Ibid

³³⁶ Ibid

³³⁷ Ibid

³³⁸ (n 283)

³³⁹ Right to Food Guideline, Para 8

lactating women.³⁴⁰ It also identified that the varieties of food found in one household is not available in other neighbor households. So, it has created awareness to the community that two or more households have contributed food that they have but the other have not and then they feed their children in one designated place for twelve days and children have got 200 gram weight within these days.³⁴¹ However, this practice has not implemented consistently, so children again lose their weight.³⁴²

Action Against Hunger has also provided logistics support such as transport service to bring children in the health services from rural areas when they get a sick.³⁴³ It has also provided food for the mothers who care their sick children in the health sector since they comes from distant areas and unable to access food.³⁴⁴

4.5. Challenges for the Full Realization of the Right to Food in Seqota Woreda

The agriculture sector of Seqota Woreda believes that all children in this area have not accessed adequate food because the households have produced insufficient amount of food. Moreover, children can't access adequate food due to lack of awareness on feeding practices and lack of nutrition knowledge.³⁴⁵ The main challenge for the people to produce enough amount of food is due to the area is prone to recurrent drought, shortage of rainfall, shortage of arable land since the area is full of plateaus but the population that needs arable land is increasing, animal diseases, and land degradation which diminished soil fertility.³⁴⁶

58 % of the people in the Woreda have not realized its food security and one-third of the people are dependent on safety net provisions while some others received emergency food aid but the provision is not enough to cover food consumption of the people. Implementation of the PSNP in Seqota has faced various challenges such as lack of enough budget to move the program, phase-out of donor projects before bring the proposed result, absence of consistent development

³⁴⁰ (n 281)

³⁴¹ (n 260)

³⁴² Ibid

³⁴³ (n 281)

³⁴⁴ Ibid

³⁴⁵ (n 259)

³⁴⁶ (n 316)

activities, lack of monitoring and follow up about the impact of safety net on beneficiaries, and dependency syndrome of the beneficiaries.³⁴⁷

The safety net is provided to the household with a limited quota which does not include all family members and insufficient to cover their food consumption.³⁴⁸ It also provided to the people only for six months but they cannot produce enough food that covers the remaining six months consumption.³⁴⁹ The dependency mentality of the beneficiaries regarding the safety net program is the other impediment to build their economic self-sufficiency. Some beneficiaries have refused to get credit service by fearing that if they receive the credit service they will graduate from the safety net program.³⁵⁰

Absence of infrastructures such as absence of roads that connect towns to rural villages, poor feeding practice, lack of social services such as water, schools, electricity, and health are other challenges to bring economic development and realize the right to adequate food of the child in Seqota.³⁵¹ In Seqota, the agriculture sector has worked to increase the food production of the people, the health sector has worked on awareness creation about nutrition, and women and child affair sector has worked on identifying of children who are found in under-nutrition status.³⁵² However, all these sectors have not involved in the activities with full capacity and commitment so children in Seqota are still living under food and nutrition insecurity situations and health problems.³⁵³

There is awareness gap about providing of nutrient food for children. Due to awareness gap on nutrition, children get the same food that the whole family consumes specially in the fasting seasons.³⁵⁴ The Orthodox Christians householders don't eat foods like milk, egg, and meat during fasting seasons and days. They have not also provided these foods for their children in the fasting seasons because they have limited cooking utensils and they don't need to prepare these foods by the same cooking materials.³⁵⁵

³⁴⁷ Ibid

³⁴⁸ Ibid

³⁴⁹ (n 260)

³⁵⁰ Ibid

³⁵¹ Ibid

³⁵² (n 259)

³⁵³ Ibid

³⁵⁴ Ibid

³⁵⁵ Ibid

4.6. Violated Child Rights in Seqota Woreda

General Comment 12, Paragraph 4, stipulated that “the right to adequate food is indivisibly linked to the inherent dignity of the human person and is indispensable for the fulfillment of other human rights enshrined in the International Bill of Human Rights.”³⁵⁶In Seqota, violations of the right to adequate food forced the households to leave their local place and temporarily live in other areas beyond Waghimra zone for searching of job to generate income and begging.³⁵⁷ The households migrate to other places after harvesting their lands, mainly from December to June and children who migrate with their family forced to drop out of school.³⁵⁸ To generate income and to subsidize the food consumption of the household, children forced to drop out school and engaged in income generating works where as girls get marriage in the early age which is another cause for food insecurity.³⁵⁹

Violation of the right to food also causes child under-nutrition even if it is not the only causes. According to ACRWC, the child has the right to enjoy attainable physical, mental and spiritual health. In this regard, the state has an obligation to provide adequate nutrition and safe drinking water and combat diseases and malnutrition.³⁶⁰ In Seqota above three thousand children under age two have found in under-nutrition status and have got medical treatment depending on the severity of their case.³⁶¹ Mr. Assefa, Head of Seqota Health Protection Office said that “there is no conducted research that shows that child under-nutrition in Seqota is caused by lack of adequate food or other reasons such as health, and sanitation problem. However, I believe that food insecurity in Seqota is high so it might be one cause of child under-nutrition. It is known that the farmers have not produced enough food for their families and they assisted by safety net programs. In addition they have not awareness regarding feeding of nutrient food for their children. Because, under-nutrition caused by factors such as absence of adequate food, diseases, poor feeding practice, and lack of proper hygiene.”³⁶²

³⁵⁶ GC 12, Para 4

³⁵⁷ (n 259)

³⁵⁸ Ibid

³⁵⁹ Ibid

³⁶⁰ ACRWC, Art 14, 2, c & d

³⁶¹ (n 283)

³⁶² Ibid

4.7. Measures to be Takeon to Realize the Right to Food in Seqota Woreda

Measures have been taken to eradicate food and nutrition insecurity in Seqota Woreda however the problem is still pervasive even though some progress is witnessed. In Seqota Woreda, the economic basis of the people is mainly cereal production that requires fertile arable land and enough rainfall however these are not found in this area.³⁶³ Therefore, to realize food security of the people the concerned government sectors in the Woreda with the participation of NGOs and the community shall work on activities such as terracing, construction of canals, reforestation, area closure, and irrigation agriculture by construction of small dams.³⁶⁴

Mr. Betesilassie Awoqe, Project Manager of ORDA stated that “due to decreasing of soil fertility in the Woreda, the people have not produced enough crops that cover their consumption. Since long period of time, both the Woreda sectors and national and international NGOs have made an intervention to evade the food insecurity of the people however no fundamental change is achieved. Unless other income generating and income diversifying activities are start in Seqota, it is difficult to realize adequate food of the people by agriculture production.”³⁶⁵

Projects and development activities are seasonal that lacks consistency because of absence of enough budgets to finalize the task. Therefore, the regional government should allocate enough budgets to engage on activities that contributes the realization of adequate food in the study area.³⁶⁶ Both the government sectors in the Woreda and other stakeholders such as NGOs should coordinate properly to resolve the food insecurity and to bring overall development of the people.³⁶⁷ Mainly to eradicate child under-nutrition by the date set in both at Serota Declaration and NNP, the close coordination of the Woreda implementing sectors is necessary. During the Seqota Declaration is started to implement in Seqota, a consensus was reached to work coordinately between all the implementing sectors and all NGOs working in the Woreda also to operate within the program but now these stakeholders have not worked jointly.³⁶⁸

³⁶³ (n 259)

³⁶⁴ (n 346)

³⁶⁵ (n 260)

³⁶⁶ (n 346)

³⁶⁷ Ibid

³⁶⁸ Ibid

The number of beneficiaries graduated from the safety net program in a year is few that show that the program has not realized food security of the people.³⁶⁹ Some PSNP beneficiaries have refused to get credit service and reluctant to establish their own income by a fear that they will exclude from the safety net program so awareness creation to the beneficiaries is important to avoid the dependency mentality and to enable them to realize adequate food by themselves.³⁷⁰

NGOs are involved in activities that give temporal reliefs therefore they should involve in works that brings everlasting solutions for the food insecurity problems of the people.³⁷¹ The safety net program has brought some changes mainly by giving a temporarily relief for the poor who have not enough food but it has poor achievement on rehabilitating of the environment and natural resources which is significant for the self-sufficiency of the people in Seqota.³⁷² Moreover, the people should access transport, health, education, and clean drinking water services which are significant to realize the right to adequate food and to eradicate child under-nutrition in Seqota.³⁷³

³⁶⁹ (n 260)

³⁷⁰ Ibid

³⁷¹ Ibid

³⁷² (n 316)

³⁷³ Ibid

Chapter Five

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1. Conclusion

The right to food has been protected under various international and regional human right instruments. Ethiopia has ratified international and regional human right instruments that protected the right to food. International treaties ratified by Ethiopia are also an integral part of the law of the land as per article 9 (4) of the FDRE Constitution. The right to food is not clearly recognized under the constitution as fundamental rights of the people rather state policy and objectives. There is no also other subordinate law such as proclamations or regulation that addresses the right to food in Ethiopia. However, with the objectives to realize food and nutrition security of the people, the Ethiopian government has taken policy measures that give special attention to children and women mainly during pregnancy and lactation period.

The study assessed the status of child rights to food, the effectiveness of the measures, and the practical impediments to realize adequate food of a child in Seqota Woreda. In Seqota, the people depend on agriculture that produces cereals. They have not enough arable land since the area is unsuitable for farming activities, it is a drought prone area that received low rain fall, soil fertility has decreased time to time, and natural resources such as forests have eliminated. In addition to this animal diseases and insects affected the agriculture production of the people. In this study area, 58 % of the people is food insecure and dependent on safety net provision and emergency food aid. The households are also forced to migrate to other places beyond Waghimra Zone to search of food and children mainly engaged in begging. Absence of infrastructures mainly roads have also impeded the rural people to access food which is relatively available in the towns relatively with better price. The government has tried to realize adequate food of the people through implementing development activities that increases cereal production and safety net and emergency food aid provisions however the people are still in food insecurity situations.

The right of the child to get adequate food depends on the food security status and feeding knowledge of his parents and/or care givers. The right of the child to get adequate food in SeqotaWoreda has violated because the parents have not produced sufficient amount of food and they have not also the knowledge regarding feeding of adequate food to their children. Children

in Seqota Woreda are susceptible to both for food and nutrition insecurity. Currently, 3928 under age 2 children who are found in under-nutrition status in all 25 Kebeles of Seqota Woreda have included under Seqota Declaration program and received food. The CESCR underlined that hunger, malnutrition, and under-nutrition which relate to the right to adequate food which are mainly acute in the developing countries are not fundamentally caused due to lack of food but results from lack access to available food.³⁷⁴To combat diseases and malnutrition the state has also an obligation to take appropriate measures such as provision of adequate nutritious foods for the child.³⁷⁵

The government has taken measures to realize the food and nutrition security of the child in Seqota Woreda but the required result is not achieved due to multi-dimensional reasons. Lack of adequate budget, lack of belongingness and poor coordination between the concerned sectors, lack of infrastructure especially absence of roads that connect the rural villages to the town, and absence of social services such as health, water, education are the main impediments for the ineffectiveness of the measures taken by the government. The government has also provided safety net and food aid provisions to alleviate the problem of food insecure people but the provision doesn't realize their food security due to quota limitation. Quota limitation on the safety net provision excluded food insecure people from the food aid. So, they forced to migrate to other areas with their children and the latter involved in begging. Therefore, the right to food of a child is violated in Seqota Woreda.

5.2. Recommendation

To realize the right to adequate food of a child in Seqota Woreda, the author has made the below recommendations.

- The government of Ethiopia should enact a law that clearly recognized the right to food of the people. This is because the right to food is not clearly recognized under the FDRE constitution and also there are no subordinate laws such as proclamations and regulations that protect the right to food of the people.

³⁷⁴ GC 12, Para 5

³⁷⁵ CRC, Art 24 (2, c)

- To alleviate the food and nutrition insecurity of the child, the government and NGOs have taken measures such as provision of safety net and food aid but the problem is still persistent. So, there should be a coordinated and large –scale intervention and development activities that fundamentally resolve the problem and realize the right to food of a child.
- Human rights are interrelated and indivisible that the violation of the right to food violates other rights such as the right to health and education. In SeqotaWoreda, child under-nutrition is fundamental problem that caused by reasons such as lack of adequate food, diseases, sanitation problems, and so no. Therefore, the measures taken by the government should be inclusive enough that realize the child’s right to adequate standard of living.
- There is practical limitation while implementing national nutrition program and Seqota Declaration in the study area. There should be proper coordination between the concerned government sectors and NGOs, consistency of activities, close follow-up and monitoring mechanisms, and the government should provide adequate budget.
- PSNP is provided to the beneficiaries in a limited quota which is not enough for the beneficiaries and some others have not included in the provision at all even if they are food insecure and therefore forced to migrate in other areas for work and their children mainly engaged in begging activities. The government should understand that it has an obligation to provide adequate food when the people are unable to procure food by their own means and recognizes the people as right holders not a mere beneficiaries.
- In Seqota Woreda, the right to adequate food of a child has not realized mainly because the area is prone to drought, shortage of arable land, and unsuitability of the area for cereal production. The policies and strategies launched by the government should increases income diversification of the people which is significant to realize the right to food of the people.

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- Interview with Dr. Amare, Physician, Tefera Hailu Memorial Hospital (Seqota, May 2019 at 08:00AM)
- Interview with Asimrew Gedamu, SeqotaWoreda Health Protection Office, Youth and Women Officer (Seqota, 28 April 2021)
- Interview with Assefa, Head of SeqotaWoreda Health Protection Office (Seqota, 28 April 2021)
- Interview with Betesilassie Awoke, Project Manager of ORDA in SeqotaWoreda (Seqota, 28 April 2021)
- Interview with Getinet, Project Manager, Action Against Hunger, SeqotaWoreda (Seqota, 28 April 2021)
- Interview with Habtu Sibhat, Seqota Declaration Coordinator, SeqotaWoreda (Seqota, 06 May 2021)
- Interview with Lijalem Tsegaw, Team Leader of Early Warning, SeqotaWoreda Agriculture Office (Seqota, 21 April 2021)
- Interview with Tesfu Hailu, Food Security Officer, SeqotaWoreda Agriculture Office (Seqota, 21 April 2021)

Appendix



Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Seqota Declaration Innovation Phase Investment Plan 2017 – 2020

January 2018





FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA



The Seqota Declaration

Innovation Phase Investment Plan

2017 – 2020

June 2018

Addis Abeba, Ethiopia

Vision:

To see Ethiopian children being free from under nutrition

Goal:

To end stunting in children under two by 2030.

Mission:

We will work to end stunting in Ethiopia for children less than two years through effective coordination and collaboration of sectors, communities and our development partners, focusing on high impact nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions and social behavioral change communications with special consideration for crosscutting issues such as gender mainstreaming, environment and integrated community development approach.

Objectives:

1. Improve the health and nutritional status of adolescent, women and children.
2. Ensure 100% access to adequate food all year round.
3. Transform smallholder productivity and income
4. Ensure zero post - harvest food loss.
5. Enhance innovation around promotion of sustainable food systems (climate smart).
6. Ensure universal access to water supply, sanitation and adoption of good hygiene practices.
7. Improve health and nutrition status of school children.
8. Improve nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women and children through PSNP interventions.
9. Improve gender equity, women empowerment and child protection.
10. Improve multi-Sectoral coordination and capacity

When the declaration is being signed and endorsed by respective regional leaders in the presence of high government echelons





Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia



The Seqota Declaration

Innovation Phase Investment Plan

2017 – 2020

June 2018

Addis Abeba, Ethiopia





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Foreword

The Seqota Declaration is the Government of Ethiopia's commitment to end child undernutrition by 2030. It reaffirms the government's commitment to nutrition as a foundation for economic development with a focus on human capital development. This investment plan demonstrates the proactive step taken by the government to translate the 15-year Seqota Declaration roadmap into action involving the active participation and commitment of multiple stakeholders including the government, community, donors and implementing partners.

The Government of Ethiopia recognizes that investing in nutrition is critical for attaining its vision of becoming a lower middle-income country by 2025. The Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) study produced for Ethiopia indicates that factors associated with undernutrition lower Ethiopia's GDP by 16.5 percent with huge consequences on economic and inclusive growth. Investing in nutrition offers one of the highest returns in international development as each USD invested reaps 10 – 16 USD thus underscoring the contribution of Seqota Declaration to the achievement of the Second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II) overarching objective.

Although Ethiopia has recorded steady and impressive reduction in stunting over the past decade, levels remain high and stark geographical inequalities persist. The innovation phase of Seqota Declaration focuses on the Tekeze River Basin, an area characterized by high stunting levels ranging from 60 to 80 percent and food insecurity. This area is geographically challenging, and interventions have not registered the desired improvements in stunting rates due to a combination of inadequate investments and interventions. In this regard, additional resources are required from the government and her development partners if the rate of stunting reduction is to be accelerated in order to eliminate child undernutrition by 2030.

The Government of Ethiopia recognizes that child undernutrition cannot be successfully tackled without behaviour change at the individual and household level. Bringing about such profound changes in behaviour requires a shift in attitudes and cultural expectations which in turn requires campaigns to engage and mobilize local communities to take active roles in their own development, create ownership and achieve the desired sustainable changes for ending child undernutrition. This has informed the development of a public movement that will utilize food and nutrition champions, gatekeepers and key institutions to bring about the desired socio-cultural transformation.

The Government of Ethiopia is setting up a Food and Nutrition Council along with its Secretariat at federal level. This structure is expected to be replicated at regional, zonal, woreda and kebele levels in order to transform the current food and nutrition landscape of the country. The government is committed to the functionality of this new structure by engendering ownership by political leaders.

Finally, it has to be recognized that the innovation phase is a learning phase. Lessons and insights from this phase will allow the Government of Ethiopia to outline a sustainable model for addressing child undernutrition that can ultimately be replicated in other regions during the expansion and national scale-up phases. In this regard, all development partners are invited to support this effort.

Kebede Worku (MD, MPH)
State Minister of Health,
Chair Person, NNCB



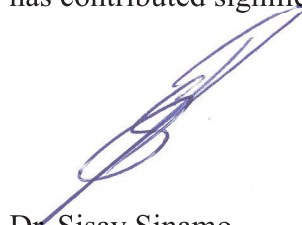
Acknowledgment

The development of Seqota Declaration Investment Plan has been possible because of the active participation of federal sector ministries Seqota Declaration focal persons and their supervisors, regional, zonal and woreda sector office heads and experts, development partners operating in the Seqota Declaration woredas and the Federal and Regional Program Delivery Units (PDUs). The leadership and guidance provided by Amhara and Tigray Regional Presidents in creating an enabling environment for undertaking the necessary consultations with all stakeholders has been instrumental in further refining the plan to ensure relevance to the local context.

The Government of Ethiopia recognizes the technical and financial contributions of development partners in support of Seqota Declaration. In this regard, the government would like to recognize and appreciate the technical and financial contribution received from Big Win Philanthropy since the announcement of the Seqota Declaration which has led to the establishment of the federal and regional Program Delivery Units (PDUs) and hiring of technical partners including Synergos, Cultiv-Aid and Johns Hopkins University to provide start-up support for the innovation phase. The government also recognizes the contributions made by UNICEF Ethiopia towards the baseline household survey, learning tour to Israel and logistical support for convening multisectoral planning and review meetings; Nutrition International (NI) for supporting the program in terms of recruiting two technical advisors along with other additional human and financial resource commitments made; Save the Children International/Growth through Nutrition for funding part of the Seqota Declaration evaluation design workshop and recruiting the Implementation Advisor deployed to the federal PDU.

This investment plan would not have been possible without the strong commitment and relentless efforts of seven implementing sectors and eleven development partners. The Government of Ethiopia recognizes this investment plan is a living document that will be updated in recognition of changing contextual factors. Hence, we call upon all stakeholders to join hands to make this plan a reality by supporting and contributing to government's effort to end child undernutrition in the country.

Finally, special thanks to the leadership and support provided by the Director of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Directorate, Nutrition Case Team Coordinator and Senior Advisor to the Minister and Office of the First Lady who have all been steadfastly committed to the implementation of the Seqota Declaration roadmap. Their guidance and assistance was particularly instrumental in the establishment of Program Delivery Units at federal and regional levels and their unflinching support has contributed significantly to the progress made till date.



Dr. Sisay Sinamo
Senior Program Manager,
The Seqota Declaration, Federal Program Delivery Unit



Executive Summary

The Seqota Declaration is a high-level commitment unveiled by the Government of Ethiopia in July 2015 to end child undernutrition by 2030. Recognizing the role of nutrition in propelling sustainable development, Seqota Declaration builds on and supports the implementation of the National Nutrition Program (NNP II). Informed by a conceptual framework built around three pathways of change, the 15-year Seqota Declaration Roadmap focuses on delivering high-impact nutrition specific, nutrition smart and infrastructure interventions across multiple sectors namely health, agriculture and natural resources, livestock and fishery, water, irrigation and electricity, education, labour and social affairs, women and children affairs, as well as environment, forest and climate change.

The Seqota Declaration Roadmap will be executed in three phases over a 15-year period involving an *innovation phase* (2016 – 2020) which focuses on the implementation of priority intervention packages that will be monitored and evaluated to generate learnings and evidence for the *expansion phase* (2021 – 2025), which will reach more vulnerable woredas before a *national scale-up phase* (2026 – 2030) involving full-blown implementation of evidence-based multisectoral interventions. The innovation phase investment plan has ten strategic objectives and 50 strategic initiatives which will be implemented in 32 selected high stunting prevalence woredas in Amhara and Tigray National Regional States.

Through an extensive consultative process at federal, regional and woreda levels aimed at increasing understanding about the Seqota Declaration and facilitating local ownership, a comprehensive and integrated three-year costed innovation phase implementation plan has now been completed. Utilizing the PDUs as central facilitators and coordinators, the planning process was conducted in collaboration with multiple stakeholders. Apart from the seven sectors primarily responsible for implementation, development partners, community based organizations and implementing partners have prepared and submitted three-year costed plans for their respective sectors. Adopting a common planning framework enabled all stakeholders to harmonize their approaches for achieving the 2025 target. The federal and regional PDUs also used the common planning framework to develop the monitoring and evaluation system including the selection of key performance indicators for tracking the progress of each sector against its quarterly and annual targets.

The main components of the Innovation Phase include the establishment of PDUs, Community Labs, a robust nutrition data management system, Agriculture Innovation and Technology Centers (AITEC farms), and costed woreda-based comprehensive nutrition investment plans. In addition, the first 1000 days plus public movement and government leadership and coordination at all levels are key implementation approaches. The federal and two regional PDUs are responsible for providing technical leadership and performance management of the implementing sectors and development partners. The Food and Nutrition Councils at federal and regional levels will provide overall strategic guidance.

The total investment cost needed to implement the three-year Seqota Declaration investment plan is \$538,718,444. Out of this, 48.3% has been mobilized from the government and development partners leaving a funding gap of 51.5% of the total investment cost.

Background

The Seqota Declaration is a high-level commitment unveiled by the Government of Ethiopia in July 2015 to end child undernutrition by 2030. Recognizing the role of nutrition in propelling sustainable development, Seqota Declaration builds on and supports the implementation of the National Nutrition Program (NNP II). Informed by a conceptual framework built around three pathways of change, the 15-year Seqota Declaration Roadmap focuses on delivering high-impact nutrition specific, nutrition smart and infrastructure interventions across multiple sectors namely health, agriculture and natural resources, livestock and fishery, water, irrigation and electricity, education, labour and social affairs, women and children affairs, as well as environment, forest and climate change.

The Seqota Declaration Roadmap will be executed in three phases over a 15-year period involving an *innovation phase* (2016 – 2020) which focuses on the implementation of priority intervention packages that will be monitored and evaluated to generate learnings and evidence for the *expansion phase* (2021 – 2025), which will reach more vulnerable woredas before a *national scale-up phase* (2026 – 2030) involving full-blown implementation of evidence-based multisectoral interventions. The innovation phase investment plan has ten strategic objectives and 50 strategic initiatives which will be implemented in 32 selected high stunting prevalence woredas with 26 woredas located in Amhara National Regional State and 6 woredas in Tigray National Regional State.

The Innovation Phase of Seqota Declaration is divided into two stages comprising a preparatory period (2016 - 2017) and an implementation period (2017 - 2020) during which multi-sectoral nutrition specific, nutrition smart and infrastructure interventions will be implemented, rigorously monitored and evaluated. Lessons and insights from this phase will allow the Government of Ethiopia to outline a sustainable model for addressing child undernutrition that can ultimately be replicated in other regions during the expansion and national scale-up phases.

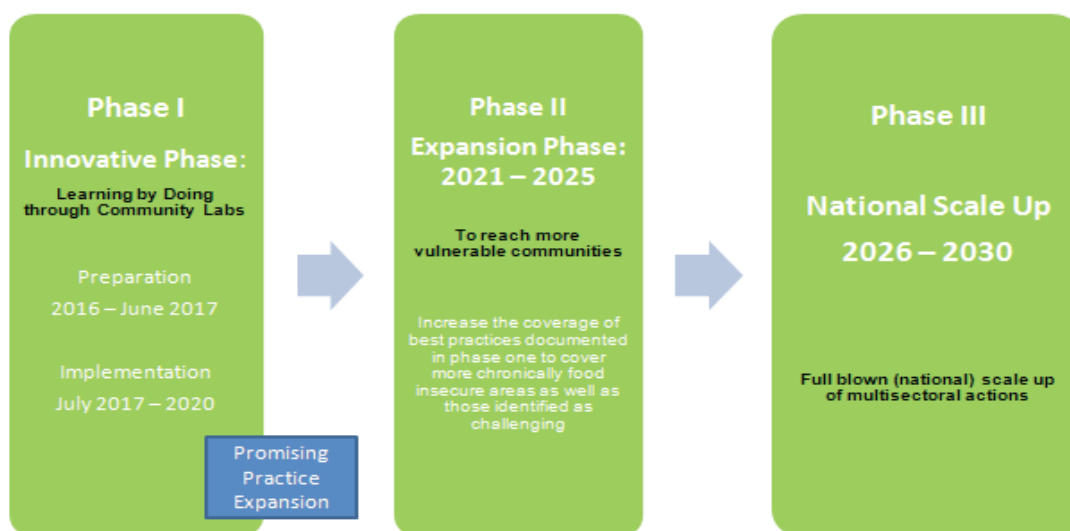


Figure 1: Seqota Declaration Implementation Phases



The Government of Ethiopia recognizes that investing in nutrition is critical for attaining its vision of becoming a lower middle-income country by 2025. The Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) study produced for Ethiopia indicates that factors associated with undernutrition lower Ethiopia's GDP by 16.5 percent with huge consequences on economic and inclusive growth. Investing in nutrition offers one of the highest returns in international development as each \$ invested reaps \$10 – \$16 thus underscoring the contribution of Seqota Declaration to the achievement of the Second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II) overarching objective.

The current level of investment in nutrition is inadequate for achieving significant reduction in stunting levels in Ethiopia. According to the Results for Development (2017) study, Ethiopia is currently investing \$33 per child to achieve an annual average stunting reduction rate of 1%. By inference, such levels of investment will not allow the government of Ethiopia to achieve the World Health Assembly target of 40% reduction in stunting as well as meeting the SDG 2 goal.

The GTP II subsection 6.2 states that the government of Ethiopia is determined to build a nutritionally secure country. Nutrition security is expected to be attained through coordinated multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder efforts made in areas of food security, maternal and child care, access to health services, creation of an healthy environment, and addressing the root causes of undernutrition. That is why the government of Ethiopia is strongly committed to making investments to end stunting by focusing on pro-poor and service-focused spending in order to make significant gains in social indicators. Hence, this multi-sectoral investment plan provides a framework for the government and development partners to allocate resources to ensure nutrition security in the country where stunting is a marker and maker of development. In addition, this investment plan will also serve as an accountability and performance management tool to track the amount of resources directed towards ending stunting as well as the progress made by each of the implementing sectors and development partners towards achieving their respective targets.

The Planning Process

The Seqota Declaration Investment Plan adapted three core principles – known as the “Three Ones” – to ensure better coordination of the broad based multi-sectoral nutrition response. The “Three Ones” are: One Goal, One Plan that provides the basis for coordinating the work of all partners and One Monitoring and Evaluation System. The planning process for implementation of Seqota Declaration commenced with situation analysis followed by woreda level planning in the respective regions incorporating the woreda-based investment plans of federal sector ministries and development partners. As shown in the diagram below, the initial plan has gone through a review process including consultations at regional level. Regional Presidents, woreda and zonal administrators, sector experts and development partners have all jointly reviewed and endorsed the innovation phase investment plans for both regions. The following diagram outlines the bottom-up planning process adopted for the development of the Seqota Declaration Innovation Phase investment plan.

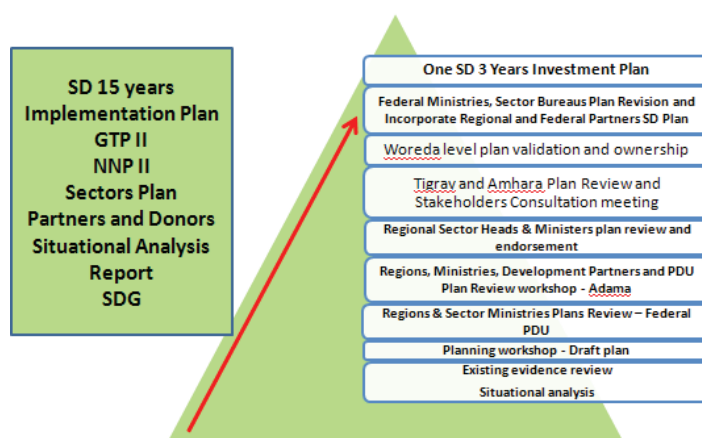


Figure 2: Seqota Declaration Planning Process

There are six implementing sectors at federal level namely: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (formerly called Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resource and Ministry of Livestock and Fishery), Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Women and Children. Due to the fact that federal sector ministries have limited authority to implement and monitor interventions at woreda level, these sectors have prepared their three-year costed plan focusing mainly on capacity building, technical support for regions, supplies of materials, and the development of different guidelines, policies and manuals. At regional, zonal and woreda levels, their counterpart bureaus and offices have planned costed interventions and they will be directly responsible for implementation, monitoring and reporting. Three technical partners namely Synergos, John Hopkins University (JHU)/Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) and Cultiv-Aid will provide various technical services in support of implementation and their roles are further described in the following sections.

Geographic Location and Population

The innovation phase will cover 32 food insecure, high stunting prevalence and water stressed woredas situated around the Tekeze River Basin comprising 6 in Tigray region and 26 in Amhara region.

In Tigray National Regional State, six woredas namely: Ofla, Saharti Samre, Tanqua Abergele, Kola Tembien, Tselemti and Naedar Adiet are included in the Seqota Declaration innovation phase. Majority of the population in these woredas are food insecure because of severe land degradation, deforestation, low soil fertility, and low agricultural productivity. The situation is further compounded by the challenging geographical nature of the Tekeze River Basin which has contributed to low social service coverage and high prevalence of diseases resulting in high prevalence of stunting. Although stunting prevalence has shown a declining trend in the region, levels remain unacceptably high in the selected innovation phase woredas. The six woredas in Tigray consist of a total population of 807,671 people residing in 192,303 households. The innovation phase of Seqota Declaration aims to directly reach a total of 27,461 pregnant and lactating women and 53,306 children under two years.

Amhara National Regional State (ANRS) has 26 woredas included in the Seqota Declaration innovation phase. As reported by EDHS 2016, the prevalence of stunting in the region decreased by 27 percent (from 63.3 percent to 46.3 percent) between 2000 and 2016. However, the prevalence of stunting in the Seqota Declaration woredas is even higher than the regional average as over 50% of children are stunted. The total estimated population living in the 26 Tekeze River Basin woredas is 3,202,486 with plans to directly reach 165,019 children under two years and 108,323 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) through various interventions. Of the total population, about 2,877,436 people (84.9 percent) were living in rural areas entirely dependent on rain-fed agriculture and animal husbandry with the remainder of 484,949 people (15.1percent) being urban residents.

Table 1: Profile of Seqota Declaration Innovation Phase Woredas

Region	Number of woredas	Total population	Total number of households	Total number of children under two	Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW)	Stunting prevalence*
Amhara	26	3,202,486	762,497	165,019	108,323	Over 50%
Tigray	6	807,671	192,303	53,306	27,461	Over 50%
Total	32	4,010,157	192,303	218,325	135,784	

*SD woredas estimates based on district level surveys

**Please refer to annex for the socio-economic and demographic data of Seqota Declaration Innovation Phase woredas



4

1. Vision, Mission and Goal

The vision, mission, goal and strategic initiatives of Seqota Declaration are:

Vision: We aspire to see Ethiopia’s children free from undernutrition.

Mission: We will work to end stunting in Ethiopia for children under two years through effective coordination and collaboration of efforts across sectors, communities and our development partners, focusing on high impact nutrition specific and nutrition smart interventions and social behavioral change communication with special consideration for cross-cutting issues such as gender mainstreaming, environment and integrated community development approach.

Goal: To end stunting in children under two by 2030.

Strategic objectives and Initiatives

With an ambitious goal of ending stunting in children under two by 2030, the Seqota Declaration innovative phase investment plan has 10 strategic objectives and 50 strategic initiatives to which all stakeholders (government sectors ministries, regional bureaus, development partners and technical partners) are contributing resources using the common planning framework. The following section provides a detailed description of each of the 10 strategic objectives and 50 strategic initiatives. The activities under each strategic initiative are described separately in annual plans.

5.1 Strategic Objectives

5.1.1 Improve the health and nutritional status of women, children under two and adolescent girls

Rationale:

There is a fixed and critical window of opportunity to address undernutrition. Undernutrition in the first 1,000 days – from the start of a woman’s pregnancy until her child’s second birthday – has a devastating and irreversible impact on the child’s future potential as it affects physical stature, the ability to do physical work, and cognitive development. Consequently, this locks the child into poverty and entrenches inequalities.

This strategic objective will enable implementation of nutrition specific interventions at scale focused on the first 1,000 days of life as well as an emphasis on integrating these interventions into a range of nutrition smart health programs delivered at health facility and community levels.

The main strategic initiatives under this objective include:

- 1) Community Based Nutrition (CBN) program.
- 2) Complementary feeding program.
- 3) School health and nutrition services.
- 4) Nutrition Assessment and Counseling Service (NACS) at facility and community levels.
- 5) Early detection and management of acute malnutrition and common childhood illnesses.
- 6) Delivery of nutrition smart maternal, child and adolescent health interventions including family planning, immunization and management of childhood illnesses.
- 7) Multi-channel social and behavioral change communication (SBCC) campaign.

As part of the health sector response, nutrition smart interventions like water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), environmental health, and health extension services will be also strengthened and integrated with the other nutrition specific interventions.

5.1.2 Ensure 100% access to adequate food all year round

Rationale:

Despite significant gains recorded in the past decade, Ethiopia is yet to realize its full agriculture potential and remains highly vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition. Ethiopia’s agricultural sector is characterized by subsistence oriented, low input/low output, rain-fed farming



which is highly susceptible to climate change, including extreme events such as droughts. Although Ethiopia is endowed with abundant natural resources and some of the most diverse ecological zones in the world, the production of diversified foods, fruits and vegetables and consumption of nutritious foods among the farming community is constrained by a combination of socio-cultural factors and lack of knowledge on safe food groups and dietary diversity, very limited access to farmland, inputs and relevant technologies including modern irrigation schemes, inadequate finance, and poor market linkages.

This strategic objective will be achieved by integrating climate- and nutrition-smart agriculture into existing agricultural programs and combined with awareness creation and behaviour change communication in order to improve the knowledge, attitudes and practices of smallholder farmers and their households to promote sustainable agriculture and achieve food security and improved nutrition.

The priority initiatives under this strategic objective focus on:

- 1) Production and consumption of fruits and vegetables.
- 2) Production and consumption of staple crops and pulses.
- 3) Production and consumption of milk (primarily goat) and dairy products.
- 4) Production and consumption of red meat and meat products.
- 5) Production and consumption of poultry and poultry products.
- 6) Production and consumption of fish and fish source foods.
- 7) Production and consumption of honey and honey products.
- 8) Improving animal feed provision and health services.

Modern technological and innovative solutions drawn from the experience of Israel will be tested to improve nutrient dense horticulture and the production of crops and pulses, poultry (egg) production, dairy, fish production and animal feed preparation. The details are indicated in the following sections.

5.1.3 Transform smallholder productivity and income

Rationale:

Investments in agriculture have demonstrable positive impact on poverty reduction, food insecurity and malnutrition especially as 75 percent of the world's poor are rural and work in agriculture. The Tekeze River Basin is characterized by water stress, environmental degradation and chronic vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity. Hence, introduction of locally appropriate and scaleable agricultural innovation systems that can enable smallholder farmers overcome these challenges is critical for improving their crop and livestock productivity. These innovations are expected to bring new products, processes and forms of organization into social and economic use to achieve food and nutrition security, economic development and sustainable natural resource management.

In this regard, two 20-hectare Agricultural Innovation and Technology Centers (AITEC Centers) will be established - one in each region – to serve as integrated demonstration sites for innovations on short maturing and drought resistant crops, improved technologies for livestock production and productivity, farmer training, testing of water technologies and knowledge transfer centers. The AITEC centers will also serve as centralized training and education centers for farmers, agronomists, development agents, and agriculture students from near-by universities and technical colleges. To ensure integration and build the capacity of Agriculture Extensions workers that are stationed at the Farmers Training Centers (FTCs), these AITEC centers will be replicated into additional woredas through smaller 0.5 – 1.0 hectare satellite demonstration sites that will be established on FTCs so that more farmers can gain access to these services closer to their vicinity. The key lessons and experiences



drawn from the two Israel tours will be used as start-up interventions for the AITEC centers. The identified key short, intermediate and long-term interventions are described in the following section.

Innovative approaches to be adopted from Knowledge and Technology Tour to Israel:

Following the approval granted by His Excellency Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, a high-level delegation from Ethiopia participated in a 5-day study tour to Israel focused on four priority sectors -health, agriculture, livestock, and water resources - which are central to achieving accelerated stunting reduction. The Ethiopian delegation comprised the President of Amhara National Regional State, Deputy President of Tigray National Regional State, Minister of Health, Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Minister of Livestock and Fisheries, Minister of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, Director of Tigray Development Association, Director of Relief Society of Tigray Director, Director of Organization for Rehabilitation of Development in Amhara, Senior Nutrition Advisor of Ministry of Health and Officer of H.E. First Lady and Senior Program Manager of the Seqota Declaration Program Delivery Unit – Federal level.

The tour delegates identified short, intermediate and long-term technology transfer, training, capacity building and partnership opportunities relevant to the Seqota Declaration. These will now be developed into innovative interventions to be implemented in the pilot woredas and monitored for impact. This investment plan outlines some of the priorities identified by the Ethiopian delegation for implementation by the various sector ministries and their regional equivalents.

1. Fruit production, increased productivity and market linkages

Rationale:

Improvements in fruit production is critical for increasing access to and consumption of fruits as part of dietary diversity interventions for improving nutrition outcomes in communities around the Tekeze River Basin. The soil type and landscape for Israel’s high achieving fruit production sector is similar to the land available in the Seqota woredas and provides an opportunity to transfer the knowledge and technology for replicating Israel’s success by facilitating greater economic activities such as post-harvest sorting, processing, and marketing. Ultimately, this will increase the income of fruit tree growers and improve disposable income available to their households.

Intervention approach:

Avocado is a highly nutritious fruit and can be processed into very nutritious complementary food for children to provide essential nutrients for healthy growth and development. The development of orchards for training and production purposes is critical for improving overall fruit production in Ethiopia along with the underlying investments in drip irrigation, protected agriculture and other supporting infrastructure. The adoption of water pricing systems and other cost recovery systems provide an opportunity to recoup the high investment costs for establishing the water system and structures necessary for transforming the Tekeze River Basin.

Lesson Learned on fruit production, productivity and market linkages: This learning was drawn from Ashdot Yaakov kibbutz in northern Israel located to the south of the Sea of Galilee near the Jordanian border and covering 420 hectares. The fruit production is conducted in similar landscape and soil type to Seqota woredas. The farms provide fruit varieties tested and recommended for farmers use. The production is conducted in net house and protected agriculture which has a well developed value chain development. The Kibbutz produce Avocado which is highly nutritious fruit. The use of drip irrigation, water pricing in relation to social equity which enabled to recover the high investment costs of water structures were the key lessons.



In collaboration with Israeli experts, the activities to improve production and productivity of avocado and other fruits that will be implemented during the innovation phase are:

- Design and implement training and demonstration sites in fruit tree production, fruit tree nursery sites and mother tree sites and research sites in fruit tree production that aims to evaluate different varieties in Amhara and Tigray region
- Professional development of Ethiopian farmers through short and medium term knowledge sharing and capacity building program
- Involvement of Ashdot Yaakov as a training site, 1 – 3 months
- Follow up training and support for establishing demonstration at Tanqua Abergele and Gondar University
- Growth protocols and written materials for avocado cultivation
- Establishment of packaging plant owned by farmers

In this regard, the Agriculture and Natural Resources sector is expected to improve access to agricultural inputs for fruit tree production, establish fruit tree board, establish cooperatives to support the marketing and/or processing of fruits, and develop export-oriented production that will include packaging houses.

2. Goat production

Rationale:

Ethiopia practices a subsistence production system based on traditional management practices with a fragmented marketing system characterized by weak market linkages. Goat farming and its available approaches and technologies are applicable to the Seqota region especially because of the predominance of Abergele goats and there are opportunities to improve production and productivity and increase its contribution to farmers' livelihoods. This will help transform smallholder productivity and income – an objective of Seqota Declaration.

Intervention approach:

Lesson Learned on Goat production: The lesson on goat production was taken from Alumot, a Kibbutz in Northern Israel located south-west of the Sea of Galilee. The kibbutz operates a goat farm for milk which contains 900 adult goats, 550 kids and 50 males for breeding. The goats are kept in pens and fed using Total Mixed Ration (TMR) practices which are prepared in a large feed center adjacent to the pens and delivered on a daily basis. Feeding is done based on several parameters including age, sex, physiological condition, milk quantity, etc. in order to deliver the appropriate ration for each stage of the goat's development. This innovative practice enables high-quality production even in areas that do not have natural grazing lands.

The farm has mostly Alpine goats, bred to a minor degree with local Shami breed to provide resistance to diseases. This mixed variety provides high potential for milk production. The farm uses modern technologies to milk goats, collect, store milk and to monitor the goats daily. The average yield is 1,000 liters of milk per mature goat over a period of 300 days. All dairy data and veterinary events of the goats are compiled on the central database through an individual tracking device on the leg of each goat. The database enables the farm to conduct economic analysis and take informed decisions to ensure high yields and the farm's productive/economic efficiency.



Adoption of lessons and insights from the knowledge and technology transfer program between Israel and Ethiopia is expected to improve goat productivity by increasing local knowledge and capacity of farmers and professionals in Amhara and Tigray regions, and ensuring improved accessibility to necessary inputs e.g. feed, animal health services, equipments and technologies. Some of the priority interventions to be implemented during the innovation phase of Seqota Declaration include:

- Construct modern goat farms that include training and demonstration, research, milk and meat production, breed development etc,
- Develop modern goat raising technology and training centers
- Establish goat feed cooperatives to provide for penned goat systems
- Introduce data storage and electronic tracking of goats
- Introduce new goat breeds
- Establish market based government regulated mechanisms for production
- Encourage external investments into feed processing plans and encourage private enterprise development

The Livestock and Fisheries sector is expected to improve access to animal feed and support regulations that promote farmer productivity.

3. Aquaculture

Rationale:

Ethiopia is a land locked country depending only on inland water resources for the supply of fish as a source of low cost protein. It is estimated that there are more than 1300 subsistence fish farmers in Ethiopia with a pond size of about 100 - 300 m². According to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), annual production is approximately 25,000 tons. Improvement in fish production can create new jobs and support growth of the industry whilst promoting nutrition smart interventions.

Intervention approach:

Lesson Learned on Aquaculture: Ma'agan Michael is world class fish breeding center. The center uses high technologies to produce 2000 tons of edible fish annually. The farm uses mechanical feeding system using pumps. Harvesting is done either by emptying the ponds or using fish nets. There is a constant circulation of water in and out of ponds. The farm is operated by professionals (20% university graduates). There is a strong linkage of market inputs such as feed, constant control over the water quality and products are sorted out in size and type, and stored in cold chain at a temperature of 4°C. In Ethiopian context improvement in fish production can create new jobs and support the growth of the industry while promoting nutrition smart interventions.

In Seqota Declaration context, improvement in fish production can create new jobs and support the growth of the industry while promoting consumption of fish and other nutrition smart interventions. The key short-term/intermediate interventions that will be implemented during the innovation phase are:

- Feasibility study of Tekeze Dam and the surrounding bodies of water
- Strategic plan to address issues identified from the feasibility study



- Establish training programs in Israel for aquaculture professionals in Ethiopia
- Establish pilot-scale fish farms in selected SD woredas in Amhara and Tigray regions
- Implement social and behavior change campaigns to promote fish consumption

Medium- and long-term interventions that will occur beyond the innovation phase include:

- Develop modern aquaculture production technologies and training centers in Ethiopia
- Develop fish feed processing plants and establish fingerling sites in Ethiopia
- Construct fish farm research, fish processing and cold storage, waste treatment and ponds
- Establish market based government regulated mechanisms for fish production
- Establish research programs to develop the industry and the required capacity in processing, packaging and transportation.

4. Dairy Production

Rationale:

A productive dairy sub-sector can be an important pathway for economic development and food and nutrition security in Ethiopia. Dairy offers a pathway out of poverty for a large number of households keeping livestock and it creates new jobs across the supply chain. At the same time, the dairy industry can provide much needed food products to meet the nutritional requirements of an expanding population.

Intervention approach:

Lesson Learned Dairy Production: The Israel dairy industry is a stellar example of country’s innovation agriculture. The nation’s industry is small, but they are the world leaders in dairy production per cow. The success is as a result of strategic breeding and advanced technology carefully developed by dairy farmers. Maagam Michael dairy farm has 320 milking cows which give over 4 million liters of milk annually. The farm has a main shed for milking cows and calves. Pregnant and male cows are kept separately from the rest of the herd. The farm has milking parlor, storage of milk, silage bunkers and a waste treatment system. Management of Feed and water is decisive for high productivity. There is economic management of cows, control of breeds, quota control over milk production and dairy producer association.

The key short-term/intermediate interventions that will be implemented during the innovation phase are:

- Conduct of a joint assessment of dairy farming around the Tekeze River Basin led by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, REST, ORDA, Seqota Declaration Program Delivery Units, CultivAid and technical staff from Ma’agan Michael Dairy Farm
- Development of an implementation plan for transforming the dairy sector in Seqota Declaration woredas in Amhara and Tigray regions
- Development of a 3-month knowledge transfer and capacity building program at Ma’agan Michael Dairy Farm (Israel) for Ethiopian dairy professionals and farmers
- Conduct of training programs on dairy farming leveraging Kallamino AITEC farm
- Provision of on-going technical support and training to dairy farmers by graduates of the trainee program with supportive supervision from an Israeli expert
- Pilot testing of small-scale animal feed programs in Amhara and Tigray



- Improvement of artificial insemination programs and extension services in Amhara and Tigray
- Development of cheese and other dairy products to address issues of dairy products consumption during fasting

Medium- and long-term interventions that will occur beyond the innovation phase include:

- Introduction of data storage and electronic tracking of animals
- Establishment of feed cooperatives to provide for dairy farms
- Establishment of modern dairy production technology and training centers in Ethiopia
- Establishment of modern dairy farms in Ethiopia
- Establishment of market-based government regulated mechanisms for dairy farming

5. Community Drip Irrigation

Rationale:

Agricultural production methods in Ethiopia are almost entirely rain-fed, subsistence-based and informed by traditional management practices. Whilst there are opportunities to improve production and productivity in the agriculture sector and increase its contribution to farmers' livelihoods, the marketing system is currently fragmented, and producers are poorly linked to the market. Modern agricultural technologies will enable the transformation of smallholder productivity and income, which is applicable to the Tekeze River Basin.

Intervention approach:

Lesson Learned on Community Drip Irrigation: Netafim is a \$1 billion corporation and the global leader in smart irrigation solutions. Netafim delivers irrigation solutions to growers of all sizes, from smallholders to large-scale agricultural producers in over 110 countries. The company specializes in drip irrigation, sprinkler systems, fertigation, pumps, pipes, filters, valves and agricultural accessories. With 17 manufacturing plants, Netafim manufactures water-efficient irrigation products for 2 million customers in over 110 nations. Netafim delivers irrigation solutions to growers of all sizes - from smallholders to large-scale agricultural producers.

Ramthal Community Drip Irrigation Project (11,700 hectare) in India is a ground-breaking project that ensures equal distribution of water to all farmers regardless of proximity to the water source is an example of how Netafim is shaping the future by sustaining social rest, building the confidence of farmers and bringing prosperity to a drought ridden area. This is a model we aim to replicate in the areas surrounding the Tekeze River Basin.

Key priority interventions for the innovation phase include:

- Conduct of an assessment visit by Netafim and a combined team of Ethiopian experts to selected Seqota Declaration woredas to understand the existing difficulties and propose possible solutions in terms of community irrigation programs
- Development of two pilot model community irrigation programs in Amhara and Tigray in conjunction with the AITEC sites. The farms would introduce modern technologies to grow different crops.

6. Egg and Poultry Production Farm

Rationale:

There are over 59 million poultry in Ethiopia and poultry represents a significant part of the rural economy. Besides the provision of employment and easily disposable cash income for smallholder



farmers, particularly in the cropping off-season, rural poultry integrates very well into other farming activities as it requires relatively little labour and capital. Eggs are often referred to as “ATM of the poor”, an indication of their role as a quick source of protein for the household. Therefore, improved production and market regulation can significantly impact the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

Egg and Poultry Production Farm

Lesson Learned: The poultry farm is owned by an Algeria descendent industrious old lady and contains 3,500 chicken for egg production. During good time the chickens give her 2,400 eggs per day. The poultry farm is equipped with modern technologies to enable efficient production and the chicken produce 300 eggs per day. The farm established market linkage through the government set quota system and partner companies provide them feed and training, buy the eggs and provides other support services required. The farmer get technical support from the extension services when every needed. Considering the SD woredas potential for egg and poultry production the following short and long term activities are identified from the learning tour.

Intervention approach:

The innovation phase of Seqota Declaration will replicate a model seen in Israel of a poultry farm. Considering the potential of the Seqota Declaration woredas for egg and poultry production, the following short-term and intermediate interventions have been prioritized the following short term interventions:

- Conduct situational analysis of the poultry sector and all on-going interventions around the Tekeze River Basin in order to identify bottlenecks and determine appropriate interventions for scale up
- Develop and implement a strategic plan to address identified issues from the situational analysis, especially related to inputs e.g. feed production, veterinary services, etc.
- Develop training programs for Ethiopian poultry farmers in Israel
- Establish poultry trainings and demonstration sites as part of the AITEC center
- Organize and/or strengthen existing cooperatives of women and/or youth groups
- Conduct social and behavioral change campaigns focused on improving consumption of eggs

Proposed medium- and long-term interventions include:

- Establishment of market-based government regulated mechanisms for promoting production and strengthening market linkages
- Development of enterprises to produce eggs and day-old chicks
- Introduction of new breeds into Ethiopia
- Development of modern poultry production technology and training centers in Ethiopia.

5.1.4 Ensure zero post-harvest food loss

Intervention approach:

The promotion of post-harvest technologies with an emphasis on reducing both quantitative (i.e. increasing food availability) and qualitative (i.e. loss in edibility, nutritional quality, caloric value, and consumer acceptability) losses in horticultural commodities between harvest and consumption is a priority approach for the innovation phase of Seqota Declaration. Proper utilization and harvesting, post-harvest and value addition interventions focusing on post-harvest handling, storage, processing and marketing of agricultural products are the key prioritized



interventions for ensuring zero post-harvest food loss. Besides the provision of extension services on harvesting, threshing, processing and storage of agricultural and animal source food, key interventions that will be implemented to achieve this strategic objective will include awareness creation and training communities and service providers on post-harvest technologies, promoting preservation and cold chain facilities, developing quality assurance and food safety guidelines, establishing sheds for harvesting and packaging of perishable food items, and developing market strategy and linkages at household and community levels.

5.1.5 Enhance innovation around promotion of sustainable food systems (Climate-smart Agriculture)

Rationale:

In Ethiopia, vegetables are important for good nutrition, health, increased smallholder farmer productivity, and attraction of foreign direct investments. However, advancements of this sector is constrained by spatial and time gaps in seed supply systems. The high demand for horticultural products, availability of suitable agro-ecology, and increasing irrigation schemes development focusing on vegetable production have resulted in increased demand for quality seeds of improved varieties of various vegetable crops. In Ethiopia, there is a constant lack of access to high quality seeds and technological know-how which creates a bottleneck for higher yields. There is also insufficient testing of different crop varieties to determine the most suitable varieties and a need to strengthen linkages among supply chain actors. The restoration of natural habitats is an important factor in improving soil fertility, reducing pest infestation, and reintroducing local varieties. This approach supports smallholder farmers' productivity through improving the availability of climate and nutrition smart agricultural interventions at an affordable price and in usable conditions.

Intervention approach:

The main focus areas of this strategic objective include:

- Providing extension services on improving soil productivity by making better use of green water (i.e. rainfall and soil moisture)
- Undertaking combined soil and water conservation activities (tree planting and management programs, agro-forestry activities and seed bank projects)
- Promoting alternative energy sources, introducing improved fertilizer usage, promoting fodder production, zero grazing and protection of pasture land.

Hazera Genetics

Lesson Learned: Hazera is a global leader in the seed industry operating in 120 countries with 706 employees. Hazera brings expertise, commitment and technical support that combines decades of experience with state-of-the-art technology. Hazera breeds, develops, produces and markets varieties and seeds for a wide range of vegetable crops around the world. Hazera has been working with farmers to transfer knowledge, not just seeds. Near Dire Dawa in Ethiopia, the company has shown how improved seeds along with proper training can significantly improve farmer production. Hazera's annual sales has now reached €200 million.

Seqota Declaration woredas have similar geographical terrain and rainfall characteristics to Israel. In this regard, partnership will be established with Hazera and Ethiopian Agriculture Research Institutes to identify climate resilient crops appropriate for Seqota Declaration woredas.



Proposed short-term/intermediate interventions include:

- Establishment of variety testing sites in specific agro-ecologies
- Establishment of training programs in Israel for agricultural professional development of suitably qualified Ethiopians
- Establishment of an Ethiopian entity of Hazera
- Establishment of training programs in crop production in Ethiopia
- Establishment of greenhouse nurseries and production of seedlings for Ethiopian farmers
- Establishment of market linkages to agricultural inputs and reduction of bureaucratic hurdles to accessing high quality seeds

Proposed medium- and long-term interventions include:

- Establishment of a Hazera-owned and operated farm for seed production in the vicinity of the Tekeze River Basin
- Development of seed production industry in Ethiopia

5.1.6 Ensure universal access to water, sanitation and adoption of good hygiene practices

Rationale:

50 percent of undernutrition is associated with infections caused by poor water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). A quarter of all stunting is attributed to five or more episodes of diarrhea during the first two years of life and estimates suggest that poor sanitation is the second leading cause of stunting worldwide. Poor quality water supply increases the susceptibility to diarrhea and persistent diarrhea reinforces the vicious cycle that leads to stunting in children. Essential WASH actions, including hand washing with soap at critical times, treatment and safe storage of drinking water, and sanitary disposal of human feces, have been shown to effectively reduce the prevalence of diarrhea which is the major cause of child under nutrition.

Furthermore, it is noted that a key cause of child undernutrition is a subclinical disorder of the small intestine known as tropical enteropathy or environmental enteropathy (EE). This condition is characterized by malabsorption and increased gut permeability, which allows microbes to pass across the intestinal wall into blood circulation and chronically trigger immune activation and which, in turn, suppresses growth. EE may be caused by ingesting large quantities of faecal contamination.

Investment in sanitation makes economic sense. Economic studies conducted in Africa have shown that impacts resulting from poor sanitation and hygiene cost the economies between 0.9 percent and 2.4 percent of annual GDP. In the calculation of these costs, the following factors were taken into account: adverse health effects, costs of treating these health problems, loss of productivity, time spent to access services and child mortality. In Ethiopia, where GDP per capita is US\$345, a strong argument exists for investing health budgets in water and sanitation. When, in addition to improving access to water supply, interventions are added to improve water quality by treating it at the point that it is used, the cost-effectiveness is even more favourable, approximating those of other preventive health interventions such as those commonly used against malaria and HIV/AIDS. Water and sanitation at schools can improve school enrolment, attendance and completion, and at the workplace can increase female participation in the workforce. Hence water and sanitation promote social equality and economic growth.

Intervention approach:

The main initiatives under this strategic objective are:

- Increasing coverage of safe and adequate water supply to households in the Seqota Declaration woredas



- Establishment of the Tekeze River Basin Authority
- Scaling up school WASH program in the Seqota Declaration woredas
- Promoting hygiene practices
- Increasing the number of open defecation free woredas (from ODF kebeles to ODF woredas) via construction and utilization of household and community latrines.

In order to achieve the above initiatives the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity and regional counterparts has planned various activities to implement the learning from Israel. The following section described key learning and proposed interventions.

Providing Access to Water Supply for Human Consumption, Food Production and Livestock and Fishery

Lesson Learned from Israel National Water Company: Mekorot is Israel's national water company which has been established since 1937. It operates 3000 facilities and plants across the country. Mekorot supplies 80% of the drinking water in Israel and 70% of the total water supply. Today Mekorot is one of the most advanced waer companies in the world as a leader in the management of water resources, desalination, waste water treatment and reuse of effluents, rainfall enhancement, water quality, drinking water and engineering of water projects. During the visit it has been able to see Mekorot different water sources; surface water including runoff harvesting and ground water source, government regulations on the water supply system, integrated water supply system which crosses large areas, water pricing based on proper study and contextualization to local context, water harvesting, management and treatment practices. Farmers are supported by water association and supply of water from long distance to the head of farmers plot. Farmers receive access of private finance to farmer association, the combination of Agricultural, water and energy sectors that are used to supply water to the agricultural lands and value chain development - Farmers produce large amounts of fruits that are provided to distributors.

Considering the learning from Israel the following activities will be conducted in the Water, Irrigation and Electricity Sector:

- Conduct water resource mapping in Tekeze river
- On-site technical assessment visit to selected sites in order to study the current challenges and select sites for possible piloting of technologies
- Develop a proposal for implementation of selected technologies
- Establishment of training program with the water associations for developing professionals in selected technologies
- Establishment of water associations
- Implementation of pilot program and establishment of training centers in Ethiopia.



Lesson Learned on NUFiltration - Water Treatment Technology: NUFiltration is a young, innovative and dynamic global company operating in the field of water treatment. The technology is based on the world granted patent which provides for the reuse of sterilized dialyzers (ultra-filtration filters at 3.3nm). it uses used dialyzers from dialysis centers, sterilizes these used elements according to strict standards. NUFFilters are able to purify water from organic, matters, microbiological contaminants (bacteria, viruses etc) with no chemicals – at the highest standards and at an extremely competitive price. The proposed solutions are scaleable, with optional products that can provide clean water to small off-grid villages (300 -500), off-grid centers (2000 people) and also to bigger communities with larger industrial plants. During the visit there is introduction and implementation of NUF water purification technology (Or other) to provide clean water for rural communities around the Tekeze River Basin.

Proposed short-term/intermediate interventions include:

- Pilot-testing of NUFiltration technology in selected Seqota Declaration woredas in Amhara and Tigray regions
- Development of a training program for water technicians in Ethiopia
- Introduction of technologies for water monitoring and quality testing in Ethiopia

Proposed medium- and long-term interventions include:

- Scaling-up of NUFiltration technology to other communities throughout the Seqota Declaration woredas and beyond
- Implementation of water technicians training programs in Seqota Declaration woredas

NUF offers several possible solutions that can be implemented at different sites in the Seqota woredas.

- 1) NUF 500: Portable Water Purifier: NUF-500 is a manual unit which manufactures up to 8 liters/minute of safe drinking water with no electricity and no chemicals. The system can provide water to a few hundreds of people. Unit cost: \$1,000.
- 2) Solar Unit: The solar unit produces up to 1.5m³/hour out of power produced by three solar panels. The unit is composed of a special electrical pump (fed by the solar panels), a NUF purification system and operates during day-time hours while the capacity depends on the amount of sun exposure. Unit cost: \$7,000
- 3) Electrical Systems: Electrical systems are available in three designs:
 - 1 m³/hour: The design is based on the NUF-500 unit plus additional components. Unit cost: \$3,000 (ex-works)
 - More NUF membranes to allow for a capacity of 1 m³/hour (instead of 500 litres/hour)
 - An electric pump to boost the raw water to the system
 - Automatic backwash mode
 - 5 m³/hour: A complete NUF system with automatic backwash to treat and purify surface water at a capacity of 5 m³/hour Unit cost: \$12,000 (ex-works)
 - 10 m³/hour: A complete NUF system with automatic backwash to treat and purify surface water at a capacity of 10 m³/hour. Unit cost: \$23,000 (ex-works)



NUFiltration will design, produce, ship and install the systems in Ethiopia. In addition, NUF will provide a full training on site as well as remote services. Cultiv-Aid will provide on-going technical and logistical support for this intervention. In addition, Cultiv-Aid will develop a training program for water technicians to ensure capacity for piloting and scaling up.

5.1.7 Improve health and nutritional status of school children

Rationale:

School health and nutrition programmes contribute to the quality of education by addressing fundamental health and nutrition needs that keep children out of school and reduce their ability to learn effectively while in school. School-age children in Ethiopia are affected by a wide range of health- and nutrition-related problems that constrain their ability to thrive and benefit from education. Investing in the early years of life is one of the smartest investments Ethiopia can make to break the cycle of poverty, address inequality, and boost productivity later in life of its children which is critical for economic competitiveness.

Intervention approach:

A comprehensive school health and nutrition programme meets a greater proportion of health, nutrition and psychosocial needs of school-age children as schools provide an organized structure that is conducive for the promotion and provision of health and nutrition services as well as a key avenue for disease prevention and control such as through deworming campaigns and other immunization services. In order to realize a healthy and hygienic school environment, the promotion of safe and adequate water supply, proper sanitation and hygiene promotion are priority interventions to reduce acute watery diarrhea, intestinal worms, trachoma, and to increase levels of self-esteem from a clean toilet/latrine. In addition, teachers, students and parents associations, school clubs and linkage with the health and agriculture sector will be strengthened to promote school health and nutrition services and use children as change agents in the community.

School feeding programs contribute to alleviating short-term hunger but also help children concentrate better on their studies. Moreover, it enables them to gain increased cognition and better educational outcomes through addressing micronutrient deficiencies such as vitamin A, iodine, and iron. Hence, school feeding programs is promoted with the intention of providing balanced meals for children in schools especially for those coming from poor and food insecure households. School demonstration gardens will serve as resources for school feeding programs in addition to serving as a learning platform for students.

In order to improve the health and nutrition status of school children, the main interventions are:

- Scaling up home grown school feeding programs
- Expanding school health and nutrition programs
- Scaling up school WASH activities emphasizing on strengthening linkages with health, agricultural, water and social protection programs.

5.1.8 Improve nutrition status of pregnant and lactating women and children through nutrition sensitive Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) 4 interventions

Intervention approach:

Productive Safety Net Program 4 (PSNP 4) aims to enhance nutrition outcomes and offer a ‘temporary transition to direct support’ (cash or food) for pregnant and lactating women (PLW), starting from the time of registration of pregnancy up to the time when the newborn child reaches 12 months of age. PSNP4 will also promote other links to social activities and services like day-care and health and



hygiene in general and is putting emphasis on actions to support empowerment of women in general. The ultimate outcome of this strategic objective is to improve the resilience of families to economic shocks through the expansion of the Productive Safety Net Program whilst improving the nutrition status of children as well as pregnant and lactating women.

In order to achieve this strategic objective, the following interventions will be implemented:

- Scaling up PSNP4 in the woredas around the Tekeze River Basin
- Promoting implementation of gender-sensitive social safety net programs
- Promoting provision of credits, grants, microfinance services and other income generating initiatives to support increased access to nutritious foods among vulnerable groups
- Increasing access to basic nutrition services for all vulnerable groups
- Scaling up Tigray's Social Cash Transfer Program

5.1.9 Improve gender equity, women empowerment and child protection

Rationale:

Gender equality and empowerment of women are essential components of human development, influence nutrition across the entire lifecycle, and are critical to achieve nutrition objectives.

Gender and nutrition are inseparable components of the vicious cycle of poverty as gender inequality can be a cause as well as an effect of hunger and under nutrition. Along with unequal, gender-based resource distribution at the household level, a number of harmful traditional practices, such as food taboos for women and girls (especially pregnant and lactating women), early marriage, and violence against women, have contributed to the poor nutritional status of the majority of infants, young children and women in Ethiopia. Evidence has shown that when women are empowered, educated, and can earn and control income, maternal and infant mortality declines, child health improves, nutritional status and development of the household improves, agricultural productivity rises, population growth slows, economies expand, and cycles of poverty are broken. Consequently, applying a gender lens on all nutrition programmes is crucial for successful interventions.

Intervention approach:

Ethiopia is registering remarkable achievements especially with respect to gender equity in access to primary school education and in the number of government positions held by women, including seats in Parliament. Highly educated mothers possess the skills to secure better job opportunities and increased income and will therefore be in a better position to feed, care for and educate their children. In order to promote the empowerment of women, nutrition interventions implemented across sectors should be gender sensitive.

As part of efforts to end child undernutrition, the Government of Ethiopia has put in place several efforts that directly contribute to nutrient intake and health such as improving the decision-making capacity of women in households, access to education, and economic resources, to name a few. The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MWCA) has been mandated to ensure and strengthen gender-sensitive nutrition interventions across sectors.

Hence, in collaboration with MWCA and their regional, zonal, woreda and kebele level counterparts, this strategic objective will be achieved by focusing on increasing economic and social empowerment of women, increasing community awareness and participation on gender equity and child protection and through promoting of child protection initiatives.



5.1.10 Improve multisectoral coordination and capacity

Rationale:

Nutrition has a multidimensional and multisectoral nature in terms of both effect and outcomes.

Achieving nutrition's full impact on health and development outcomes requires a multisectoral approach. Nutrition specific interventions are key to accelerating progress. Nonetheless, it is also critical that all relevant sectors - like agriculture, water, education, women, children, and social welfare – work jointly in order to tackle undernutrition. A truly multisectoral approach will achieve optimal nutrition outcomes through greater coverage and better targeting, whilst also helping other programmes achieve more powerful results and demonstrate their own potential for impact.

Thus, in order to accelerate the implementation of Seqota Declaration, strong governance and program implementation arrangements, along with innovative coordination mechanisms that will create a sense of ownership and the enabling environment among the implementing sectors are critical tasks that needs to be performed.

In fulfillment of their mandate as a multisectoral coordinating body, the Seqota Declaration Program Delivery Units will focus on:

- Strengthening the functionality of the federal, regional and woreda level coordinating structures that will provide political leadership, technical coordination, harmonization of interventions among implementing sectors and partners, influence sectors to integrate nutrition into their workplan, foster stakeholders engagement and resource mobilization, implement a robust M&E system, and strengthen the PDUs' capacity to perform effectively.
- In this regard, the establishment of the federal and regional Food and Nutrition Council and Governing Body will be of paramount importance for the success of this effort. These structures cascade down to zonal, woreda and kebele levels.

6



Implementation Approach

6.1 Innovations

The innovative approaches that will be tried and tested during the innovation phase are:

6.1.1 Program Delivery Unit (PDU)

In order to address the challenge of limited horizontal ministerial-level and intersectoral coordination mechanisms at federal and regional levels in Ethiopia, a two-tiered government delivery unit has been established. The primary role of the PDUs is performance management and facilitating coordination among the implementing sectors. The PDUs are staffed with a multi-sectoral team comprising Senior Program Manager, Agriculture Manager, WASH Manager, Program Analyst and Communications Advisor. In addition, Amhara and Tigray PDUs have assigned Senior Presidential Advisors to facilitate effective engagement between the PDUs and the Regional Presidents.

6.1.2 Establishment of Community Labs

A community lab approach is a multi-sectoral platform that involves all woreda-level stakeholders working collaboratively to find innovative solutions to complex and multi-dimensional problems such as stunting and testing prototype innovations at pilot scale before scaling up successful innovations. Based on the community labs evidence review and implementation manual is developed by Synergos. The manual will serve as a step-by-step guide to establish community labs in Seqota Declaration woredas during the innovation phase.

6.1.3 A robust nutrition data management system

In an era of increasingly tight fiscal space and budgets, public sector policymakers need more objective and impartial means of reviewing publicly funded programs to determine if the greatest value is being provided effectively and efficiently. In this regard, the federal level Seqota Declaration PDU will utilize the Unified Nutrition Information System for Ethiopia (UNISE) based on the work that has been initiated by Federal Ministry of Health and UNICEF. The Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University (JHU) will serve as lead technical partners in the establishment of data management systems for performance management and impact assessment. The performance management tools and UNISE will inform the scorecards that will be used to assess the performance of each implementing sector.

6.1.4 Agricultural Innovation and Technology Transfer Center (AITEC Center)

Government owned 20-hectare demonstration farms called Agricultural Innovation and Technology Transfer Centers (AITEC centers) will be established in Tanqua Abergele and West Belesa woredas in collaboration with the regional agriculture bureaus, Gonder and Mekele University and research institutes. AITEC is based on the model developed by Cultiv-Aid which is currently being piloted in Kallamino, Tigray. The AITEC centers will serve as a centralized training and education centers for



farmers, agronomists, development agents and agricultural students from universities and technical colleges. They will also serve as a central mechanism for implementation of additional agriculture and nutrition interventions under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources and its various agencies. Each AITEC center will support the establishment of 3 – 5 smaller satellite AITEC sites on Farmer Training Centers (FTCs) which will strengthen the FTCs to serve as training sites for local small holder farmers.

AITEC sites will implement integrated interventions and solutions linked to improved agricultural production, economic empowerment, conservation of soil and water resources, adaptive management of natural resources at farm levels, post-harvest processing and improved nutrition and education. The AITEC centers promote modern irrigation methods like drip irrigation, high yield and better nutrition crop varieties and diversification, on-site experiments on the use of old and new fertilizers, new growth protocols to increase vegetable yield, links to market access and school feeding programs for locally produced foods, training and information centers, testing of new methods for postharvest processing, addressing issues of animal feed, production and quality, nutrition education and demonstration, ensuring and monitoring safe use of pesticides and other chemicals, construction of demonstration fish ponds and promoting production, consumption and preservation of fish, fruit tree planting and cultivation, alternative energy technologies, improved productivity of local breed animals, establishment of Abergele goat ranches and promotion of modern honey production and market linkage.

6.1.5 Costed woreda based comprehensive nutrition investment plan (One Plan)

In the past, the Government of Ethiopia and its partners have been implementing various nutrition interventions. However, these plans were neither coordinated nor geared towards one goal. Seqota Declaration has enabled the government and its partners to develop woreda-based comprehensive costed nutrition investment plans – the first ever effort of its kind in Ethiopia. The innovation phase will utilize innovative approaches that will later be expanded into other woredas and regions if found effective and successful.

6.1.6 Capacity Building and Knowledge Transfer

In addition to the capacity building activities that will be implemented in agriculture, livestock and fisheries, and water sector, additional capacity building activities will be undertaken in partnership with research institutes, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, MASHAV – Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation and other Israeli organizations. Some of the capacity building and knowledge transfer activities identified from the Israel tour are summarized as follows.

Southern Negev, MOPDAROM Agricultural Research Center

Stage 1: Establishment of modernized agricultural training centers at universities linked to the Seqota Declaration. These centers will introduce modern agricultural practices such as drip irrigation, sprinkler systems, greenhouse nursery production, greenhouse crop production, reservoirs and enable ongoing training. Through university programs, research activities will be promoted at these sites in order to facilitate proper data collection on modern agricultural practices and establish a written and online library of knowledge (in collaboration with Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Stage 2: Development of training programs and professional development courses through the training centers. The centers will become focal places for building the knowledge infrastructure of Ethiopia. These sites will conduct open days, tours of the available technology, develop written and published materials and provide consultation and guidance to FTCs and farmers.



The Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Hebrew University

Proposed short-term/intermediate interventions include:

- Increasing the number of Ethiopian students studying in Israel
- Identifying specific research priorities and sources of funding
- Developing a strong network of Ethiopian alumni who have studied in Israel
- Conducting a study tour of Israeli researchers to the Tekeze River Basin
- Deploying Hebrew University researchers to conduct training courses

Proposed medium- and long-term interventions include:

- Establishment of an Endowment Fund that can provide continuous support towards research and development activities with emphasis on capacity building of researchers and enabling access to equipments. This would enable undertaking of collaborative research initiatives between Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Ethiopian Universities in support of Seqota Declaration.
- Establishment of a scholarship program for agricultural students to conduct their Masters' program at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Establishment of short term training programs at the Faculty of Agriculture for Ethiopian researchers.

MASHAV

Proposed interventions include:

- Encourage MASHAV to be committed to supporting Seqota Declaration
- Ensure training courses in Israel attract participants from the Seqota Declaration woredas
- Encourage MASHAV to fund technologies that will be demonstrated in Seqota Declaration woredas e.g. NUfiltration, Netafim, etc.

6.2 Government leadership and coordination at all levels

In order to provide leadership and coordination, the Government of Ethiopia has established Program Delivery Units at federal and regional levels. At federal level, under the leadership of H.E. Deputy Prime Minister, the federal PDU is responsible for developing the Seqota Declaration Investment Plan and providing updates on achievements, challenges and additional investment opportunities. The federal PDU is also responsible for coordinating and managing performances of federal sector ministries, international and national development partners and regional PDUs. At regional level, under the leadership of H.E. Regional Presidents, the regional PDUs are responsible for developing the Seqota Declaration Investment Plan whilst coordinating and managing the performances of the regional sector bureaus, implementing partners and Seqota Declaration woredas. At woreda level, the Woreda Administrators are the primary owners of the woreda-level investment plan with the regional PDUs, bureaus and partners providing technical support. Coordination platforms will be established at all levels to enable the PDUs to review progress.

6.3 First 1,000 Days Plus Public Movement

A key part of the Seqota Declaration is the development across multiple sectors of a national public movement for better child nutrition.

The ambition is to create a movement across society. The aim is to mobilize influential organizations and individuals to build a powerful momentum across society that generates action on child undernutrition. This involves key ministries such as those for health, agriculture, livestock, water,



education and women, as well as sectors outside government such as religions and the private sector. The idea was proposed in 2016 by the then Minister for Health, H.E. Kesetebirhan Admasu, and backed by the Deputy Prime Minister, H.E. Demeke Mekonnen.

The name is also a key message. The movement takes its name from the internationally-recognized phrase for the issue of child under-nutrition, “1000 Days Plus”. This refers to the key window in a child’s life from conception to the age of two. Children who are undernourished during the 1000 days plus become “stunted”, suffering permanent deficits in health, strength and cognitive ability. The full name of the movement is First 1000 Days Plus.

The core aim is behaviour change. The most important actions that the public movement aims to drive are those which promote changes in behaviour at the household level. Changes in behaviour are an important way to improve nutrition during the 1,000-day window, such as through breastfeeding practice, which “complementary” foods are given to children under two, and whether patterns of production and consumption enable pregnant and lactating women to have a diverse diet. Good hygiene practices are needed to avoid the intestinal infections that limit nutritional absorption. Changes in harmful traditional practices are also important, such as changing the practice of applying religious fasting rules to pregnant and lactating women and young children even though this is not required by the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, and changing the practice of men being given priority at mealtimes.

Face-to-face contact is crucial. The movement will reach millions of people at household level by utilizing existing channels to engage them. The most important channels are those involving face-to-face contact with families - via front line workers such as health extension workers, agricultural workers, teachers, community volunteers in the Women’s Development Army and local priests and imams.

Key activities to build the movement include:

- Engaging with gate keepers to mainstream behaviour change: working with political leaders, officials and managers to increase the extent to which behaviour change activities are mainstreamed into their own core workplans, for example in federal ministries and regional bureaus. Such plans need targets and resource allocation to make them impactful and sustainable.
- Securing champions: mobilizing influential individuals to put their backing behind the movement. This includes political, traditional, religious and cultural leaders at national and regional levels.
- **Catalyzing communications: generating communications activity by a wide range of organizations that use routes such as** radio, text messages, festivals and events.

Six priority behaviour changes. The many sectors involved in the Seqota Declaration Program have agreed to prioritize six key behaviour changes. These will be measured in the program’s evaluation surveys and following the initial baseline survey, targets will be set for each priority. The priorities are:

- 1) Breastfeeding. For mothers to exclusively breastfeed their babies during the first six months following birth.
- 2) Complementary feeding. For children between the ages of six months and two years to receive an adequate “complementary” diet.
- 3) Diverse diet. For pregnant women and lactating women to receive a sufficiently diverse diet.
- 4) Fasting. The SD implementing woredas in the two region are Coptic Orthodox Dominant Christians. In this regard trained priests will provide congregational as well as one to one nutrition education for pregnant and lactating mothers in accordance with the sermon guide of



the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in the practice of applying religious fasting rules to pregnant and lactating women and young children.

- 5) Gender roles. For a change to the traditional practice of men eating their fill before other members of the household eat what is left.
- 6) Handwashing. For household members to have good handwashing behaviour.

In addition to the above priorities, the program will measure levels of awareness at household level, of the concept of stunting and of the “1000 days” message.

Region-specific areas of focus. The two regions involved in the first three years of the Seqota Declaration program, Amhara and Tigray, each have additional areas of focus to help deliver on the above six priorities. For example, Tigray has an emphasis on the production and consumption of food at the household level, and Amhara has an emphasis on breaking dependency culture, the education of girls and women’s empowerment.

Coordination and Governance

7.1 Coordination

One of the unique approaches of Seqota Declaration is the establishment of Program Delivery Units (PDUs) both at federal and at Amhara and Tigray regional states for the effective delivery of the program and performance management. The Federal PDU, currently based at FMOH, is responsible for facilitating and coordinating Seqota Declaration activities with the two regional PDUs and bringing various stakeholders onboard. The federal PDU is also responsible for mobilizing resources for successful implementation of the implementation plan. The regional PDUs are supported by Seqota Declaration Presidential Advisors who utilize their influence to create ownership by the sector bureaus for the implementation of priority sector-led and partners' interventions. The federal PDU comprises of six staff members whilst each regional PDU comprise sof six members of staff. The structure and head count is subject to change as the need for additional human resource arises.

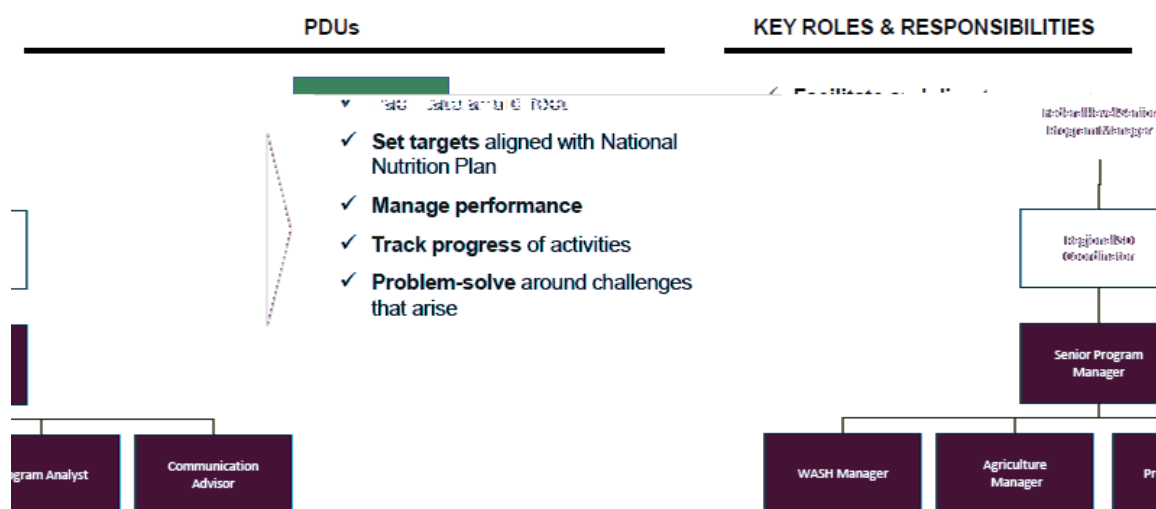


Figure 3: Key Role and Responsibilities of the PDUs

Since PDU structures do not exist at zonal, woreda and kebele levels, the respective administrative bodies will be responsible to provide leadership for SD implementation and performance management using the score cards.

7.2 Governance

The Food and Nutrition Council, led by the Deputy Prime Minister, will be the governing body responsible for food and nutrition policy implementation and providing leadership and guidance for Seqota Declaration. The Council will establish the Food and Nutrition governing body where the PDU will be stationed. At regional level, the current Seqota Declaration Steering Committee will be replaced by Regional Food and Nutrition Councils to provide leadership and coordination for implementation of food and nutrition policy at regional level as well as all the Seqota Declaration



activities. At regional level, the Councils will be led by the Regional Presidents. In Amhara and Tigray regional states, the regional PDUs will play a leading role in the establishment of the regional Councils and the governing bodies where they will be stationed. The regional Councils, assisted by regional governing body, will be responsible for establishing similar structures at zonal, woreda and kebele levels. These structures will be responsible for the implementation of food and nutrition policy for which Seqota Declaration will be the main agenda.

8



Monitoring and Evaluation

8.1 Performance Management

One of the key roles of the PDUs is performance management. Annual key performance management indicators will be set for the respective sectors and development partners. This tool will serve as a dashboard to assess progress of sectors and partners' plan at federal and regional levels. PDUs will be responsible for tracking the performance management indicators and following-up with respective sectors and development partners to identify bottlenecks for areas that are not progressing well or draw lessons where there is high performance. Currently, the federal PDU is finalizing preparations to use a web-based performance management tool, called Unified Nutrition Information System for Ethiopia (UNISE). Access will be given for all the partners to upload their targets as well as their results. Moreover, based on the sectors and partners' performance, the web-based platform will reveal the overall Seqota Declaration performance and score cards at woreda, zonal, regional and federal levels with possible disaggregation by sector or strategic initiatives.

8.2 Performance Review

Monthly Performance Review: At kebele and woreda level, monthly performance review meetings will be conducted under the leadership of the woreda and kebele administrators respectively. They will be responsible for convening the performance reviews and sharing the performance reports with zonal and regional government structures.

Quarterly Performance Review: The federal PDU will conduct quarterly review meetings with the implementing sectors and development partners at federal level. Regional PDUs will do the same at regional level. In addition, federal and regional PDUs will conduct joint quarterly review meetings and will share the outcomes with the respective political leaders who are championing efforts around the Seqota Declaration.

Biannual and Annual Performance Review: Biannual and annual review meetings will be held at regional level under the leadership of the Regional Presidents. After completing the regional review meetings, joint bi-annual and annual review meetings will be held in collaboration with the federal PDU. These meetings will be chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. The annual targets and performances of the respective sectors will be assessed based on the annual performance targets. The following table presents the Amhara and Tigray regions key performance indicators and targets for the innovation phase.



Table 4: Key Performance Indicators 2017 - 2020

Table 4: Key Performance Indicators and Target Seqota Declaration Investment Plan 2010 – 2012 E.C				
Key Performance Indicators	2010 – 2012			
	Reporting Frequency	Amhara Region	Tigray Region	Total
Health				
Number of children participating in GMP	Monthly	525,726	159,918	685,644
Number pregnant women receiving IFA supplements for at least 90 days	Monthly	342,309	82,383	424,692
Number of children age 6 to 59 months received VAS	Monthly	1,328,700	313,779	1,642,479
Number of pregnant women participated in ANC4	Monthly	339,261	82,383	421,644
Number of health facilities that have access to safe and adequate water supply	Quarterly	95	Incomplete	95
Number of health facilities that have access to latrine	Quarterly	44	Incomplete	44
Agriculture and NR				
Number of households with backyard gardening with vegetables and fruits	Quarterly	67,512	15,433	82,945
Number of HH participated in Bio-fortified crop Production	Biannual	39,537	4,002	43,539
Number of HH participated in nutrition dense pulses Production	Biannual	69,699	20,012	89,711
Number of households used improved post-harvest technology (Hermatic Bag)	Biannual	44,595	24,014	68,609
Hectares of land irrigated	Biannual	124,158	4,003	128,161
Livestock and Fisheries				
Number of households with milking shoats	Quarterly	39,345	8,005	47,350
Number of households with with poultry	Quarterly	49,992	16,009	66,001
WASH				
Number of Hoouseholds that have access to safe and adequate water supply.	quarterly	926,649	13,000	939,649
Number of Hoouseholds tha have access to improved toilets /latrines	quarterly	129,375	No data	129,375
EDUCATION				
Number of schools with home grown School Feeding Program	quarterly	2,058	No data	2,058
Number of schools with safe and adequate water supply	Quarterly	1,236	298	1,534
Number of schools with health and nutrition clubs	Quarterly	4,758	387	5,145
Labour and Social Affairs				
Number of PL'W' who participated in Nutrition BCC programs	Quarterly	100,852	18,223	119,075
Number of pregnant and lactating women considered for soft conditional support in PSNP	Quarterly	68,169	19,101	87,270

8.3 Baseline and Evaluation

Baseline, process evaluation and final evaluation will be conducted with technical leadership provided by Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) and John Hopkins University (JHU). EPHI/JHU will be responsible for the development of study proposal and tools, ethical approval, recruitment and training of data collectors, data collection, analysis and report writing. The federal PDU will provide leadership and guidance for the entire process, provide technical inputs into the study proposal, tools and reports, as well as for mobilizing resources. The regional PDUs will facilitate the recruitment of data collectors based on set criteria, logistics arrangement like hiring of vehicles as needed, as well as overseeing the day-to-day study implementation. Unlike the key performance management indicators which measure progress, baseline and endline evaluation findings will enable PDUs to measure the outcome and impact achieved by the program. A process evaluation will also be conducted to draw lessons and assess the contributions of Seqota Declaration innovations.

Innovation Phase Investment Cost

The table below shows the proportion of budget contribution across different stakeholders. Based on the prior commitment of the Government of Ethiopia to cover fifty percent of the program budget, it is expected that the government will now allocate additional resources to address the funding gap. Moreover, additional resource mobilization strategies will now be required to fill the funding gap.

Table 5: Seqota Declaration Innovation Phase Investment Cost

Total SD Innovation Phase Investment Budget (2010 -2012 E.C)						
2010						
Level	Government allocation	Donor through government	Implementing Partners	Community contribution	Funding gap	Total
Federal Ministries	1,381,844	10,858,789	12,148,927	89,537	2,641,409	27,120,506
Amhara Region	12,795,078	15,490,233	975,065	8,616,021	54,793,804	92,670,201
Tigray Region	5,032,612	6,705,217	17267676.37	9,490,934	25,159,674	63,656,112
Total	19,209,534	33,054,239	30,391,668	18,196,491	82,594,887	183,446,819
Contribution (%)	10	18	17	10	45	
2011						
Level	Government allocation	Donor through government	Implementing Partners	Community contribution	gap	Total
Federal Ministries	1,785,243	14,145,095	9723822	76,237	3,240,210	28,970,607
Amhara Region	275,887	9,858,575		10,835,098	80,368,238	101,337,798
Tigray Region	7,548,917	10,057,824	13340332	14,236,400	37,739,512	82,922,985
Total	9,610,047	34,061,494	23,064,154	25,147,736	121,347,960	213,231,391
Contribution (%)	5	16	11	12	57	
2012						
Level	Government allocation	Donor through government	Implementing Partners	Community contribution	funding gap	Total
Federal Ministries	1,674,291	14,338,563	8644658	100,959	3,415,825	28,174,297
Amhara Region	283,850	6,579,796		11,780,453	58,687,288	77,331,387
Tigray Region	2,516,306	3,352,608	13340332	4,745,467	12,579,837	36,534,550
Total	4,474,447	24,270,967	21,984,990	16,626,879	74,682,951	142,040,234
Contribution (%)	3	17	15	12	53	
2010 - 2012						
Level	Government allocation	Donor through government	Implementing Partners	Community contribution	Funding gap	Total
Federal Ministries	4,841,378	39,342,447	30,517,407	266,732	9,297,445	84,265,410
Amhara Region	13,354,815	31,928,604	975,065	31,231,573	193,849,330	271,339,387
Tigray Region	15,097,834	20,115,649	43,948,340	28,472,801	75,479,023	183,113,648
Total	33,294,027	91,386,700	75,440,812	59,971,106	278,625,799	538,718,444
Contribution (%)	6.2%	17.0%	14.0%	11.1%	51.7%	



Table 5: Federal Sector Ministries SD Investment Budget

implementers	2010	2011	2012	Total
MOH	717,054	3,340,170	3,389,612	7,446,836.0
MOAL	1,015,726	2,568,911	3,008,290	6,592,927.3
MOFIE	1,711,879	2,033,525	2,221,172	5,966,576.3
MOLSA	10,074,034	10,074,497	10,074,774	30,223,304.5
MOE	36,071	26,795	26,795	89,661.0
MOWC	131,238	150,372	131,358	413,568.1
FPDU	801,704	578,333	477,593	1,857,629.6
Implementing Partners	12,148,927	9,723,822	8,644,658	30,517,407.0
Total	26,636,632	28,497,025	27,974,252	83,107,909.9

implementers	Contributed by Govt	Donors	Implementing partners	Contributed by community	GAP	Total
MOH	61,936	5,679,221	-	-	1,705,679	7,446,836
MOAL	1,269,629	3,036,289	-	266,732	2,020,277	6,592,927
MOFIE	2,704,263	-	-	-	3,262,314	5,966,576
MOLSA	130,370	30,092,338	-	-	-	30,223,308
MOE	40,032	49,629	-	-	-	89,661
MOWC	164,815	-	-	-	248,753	413,568
FPDU	4,074	484,370	-	-	1,369,259	1,857,704
Implementing Partners	-	-	30,517,407.0	-	-	30,517,407
Total	4,375,118	39,342,447	30,517,407	266,732	8,606,283	83,107,987.6
contribution(%)	5	47	37	0	10	100

Table 6: Amhara Region SD Investment Budget

Sector	2010	2011	2012	Total
Health	8,607,929	7,524,989	11,413,730	27,546,648
Agriculture and Livestock	33,070,280	45,587,211	17,626,696	96,284,187
Water irrigation and electricity	22,600,833	19,756,370	19,204,074	61,561,278
EDUcation	25,887,278	26,803,265	27,373,344	80,063,887
Social and Labor Affair	246,956	378,392	433,783	1,059,130
PDU	1,281,860	1,287,571	1,279,760	3,849,191
Implementing Partners	975,065	-	-	975,065
Total	92,670,201	101,337,798	77,331,387	271,339,387

Sectors	Allocated by govt	donors	imp partners	Community contribution	GAP	Total
Health	735809	2672990	0	18477598	5660252	27,546,648
Agriculture and Livestock	5596019	20615713	0	10888889	59183567	96,284,187
Water irrigation and electricity	3307432	6827150	0	0	51426696	61,561,278
labour and social affairs	0	573682	0	1865086	77625119	80,063,887
Education	160000	679130	0	0	220000	1,059,130
PDU	0	36296	0	0	3812895	3,849,191
Implementing Partners	0	0	975065	0	0	975,065
Total	9799259	31404961	975065	31231573	197928529	271339387
Contribution by (%)	3.6	11.6	0.4	11.5	71.2	100.0



Table 7: Tigray Region SD Investment Budget

Tigray Region Year Based Investment Cost (USD)				
Sector	year 1	year 2	year 3	Total
Health	2,277,195	3,415,793	1,138,598	6,831,586
Agr & livestock	18,469,958	27,704,937	9,234,979	55,409,874
Water, irrigation and Electricity	17,489,760	26,234,640	8,744,880	52,469,280
EDUcation	3,154,402	4,731,603	1,577,201	9,463,207
Social and Labor Affair	2,388,887	3,583,331	1,194,444	7,166,662
PDU	2,608,233	3,912,350	1,304,116	7,824,699
Implementing partners	17,267,676	13,340,332	13,340,332	43,948,340
Total	63,656,113	82,922,986	36,534,549	183,113,648

Tigray Region Investment Cost By Contribution						
implementers	Budget contribution (USD)					Total
	Govt	Donors	imp partners	Community	GAP	
Health	1,324,780	1,216,641		410,299	3,879,867	6,831,586
Agriculture and Livestock	2,512,171	7,784,236		23,124,942	21,988,524	55,409,873
Water irrigation and electricity	7,870,392	-		2,623,464	41,975,424	52,469,280
labour and social affairs	143,545	6,495,116		99,280	428,721	7,166,662
Education	266,503	2,684,215		511,111	6,001,378	9,463,207
PDU	2,919,111	1,935,442		1,703,704	1,266,442	7,824,699
Implementing partners	-	-	43,948,340	-	-	43,948,340
Total	15,036,501	20,115,649	43,948,340	28,472,801	75,540,356	183,113,648
Contribution by (%)	8	11	24	16	41	100

Table 8: Development Partners SD Investment Budget

Implementing Partners SD 2010 -2012 Investment Budget													
Partners	Federal				Amhara				Tigray				Grand Total
	2010	2011	2012	Total	2010	2011	2012	Total	2010	2011	2012	Total	
UNICEF	80,000			80,000	349,518			349,518	42,474			42,474	471,992
HI	267,580	141,450	67,200	476,230									476,230
GTN					625,547			625,547	145,326			145,326	770,872
CARE		7,891	2,704	10,595									10,595
concern WW	748,468	571,181	57,201	1,376,850									1,376,850
world vision	6,397,817	5,323,608	5,270,753	16,992,178					255,327			255,327	17,247,505
FH	3,126,049	2,688,871	2,400,018	8,214,938									8,214,938
AAH	1,529,013	930,821	846,782	3,366,616									3,366,616
SNV									1,708,535			1,708,535	1,708,535
save the children									1,775,683			1,775,683	1,775,683
REST									13,340,332	13,340,332	13,340,332	40,020,996	40,020,996
Total	12,148,927	9,723,822	8,644,658	30,517,407	975,065	-	-	975,065	17,267,676	13,340,332	13,340,332	43,948,340	75,440,812



Annexes

Annex 1: Program Delivery Unit Contacts

S/N	Name	Role	e-mail	Telephone
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Table1: Social services and economic data for Seqota Declaration woredas in Tigray Region (by sector)

<p>Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Regional stunting rate in children under five 39% ❖ Skill birth attendance rate <65% ❖ Five of the pilot Woredas except Naeder Adet are hot spot priority one ❖ Low coverage of basic nutrition and health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Skilled Birth Attendant 65% ○ Family planning coverage 68% ○ Iodized salt 15% ○ VA coverage is < 63% ❖ Poor hygiene and sanitation ❖ High prevalence of trachoma and STH/SCH ❖ High burden of childhood illness (e.g. diarrhea, pneumonia & malaria) 	<p>Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Separate latrine 29.6%, ❖ Water supply 23%, ❖ Poor linkage b/n health extension workers and school (ODF) ❖ No home-grown school feeding in all primary schools, ❖ Only 95 schools with water (383 primary + 26 high school) ❖ 124 schools without latrine (32%) and 172 schools with common latrine (45%) <p>Labor and social affairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ All are PSNP4 woredas <p>Implementation of Social protection policy is not yet started on the ground.</p> <p>Water, irrigation and electricity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Safe water access coverage 58%, ❖ Irrigation potential 53919 Hectares (33%) ❖ Unutilized dams (Tselemti) – 400 hectares ❖ Low capacity of underground water and low surface water harvesting technologies
<p>Agriculture and livestock:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Agro-ecology is semi-arid with average rainfall 350 - 1230 mm ➢ Weak coordination to establish an authorized and well-managed program around the Tekeze River Basin ➢ Infertile soil and recurrent droughts & weak utilization of soil-based fertilizers ➢ Low coverage of treated SWC and biological waste only (32%) hectares ➢ Low coverage of homestead gardening (4%) ➢ Poultry 8.7%, fattening 4.6%, improved milking 2% ➢ Low agricultural production and irrigated land 20.2%. ➢ Only 5% (132) FTCs are advanced ➢ Shortage of improved seed and animal breeds, and burden of hazards like pests and disease 	



Table 2: Social services and economic data for Seqota Declaration woredas in Amhara Region (by sector)

<p>Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No. of HPs: 603 ➤ No HCs: 561 ➤ TFP coverage: 93% ➤ Health service coverage: 83% ➤ Vaccination coverage: 29 - 41% ➤ ODF Kebeles: 206,341 HHs (60%) ➤ Vitamin A supplementation: 83% ➤ Deworming coverage: 84% ➤ GMP coverage: 59%. 	<p>Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Primary schools with no latrines: 81.8% ➤ Primary schools with no access to adequate and safe water: 83.3% <p>Labor and Social Affairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The woredas are highly venerable area towards food insecurity and those are covered by PNSP. ✓ Direct support beneficiaries, 98,497 ✓ Temporary direct support beneficiaries: 504,279 ✓ Total beneficiary addressed in a year 602,776.
<p>Agriculture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kebeles with community vegetable seed and fruit seedling multiplication centre...2.8% • FTC with a community vegetable seed and fruit seedling demonstration site: 6.5% • HHs with backyard gardening: 2% • HHs with irrigation beneficiaries: 45%. • Woredas with nutrition focal person: 52% • Woredas with nutrition teams: 10.4% • FTC involved in nutrition sensitive interventions; 36% • No of FTCs: 500 • Percentage of post-harvest loss: 23.3% • Household heads with poultry: 60% • Egg productivity per hen is 122.4 per year • Milk productivity per cow: 1.4 litters, • Smallholder HHs with improved breeds cattle, (2.6%) • Household with improved poultry 72164 (10 %), • Households with improved sheep 5851(0.8%) • Households with improved goats 1808 (0.25%) • Potential rivers for fish production: 27 • Total fish production 1094.9 tones. • Households with traditional and transitional beehives 30546 (4%) and 15466 (2%)respectively • Total honey production reached 2707.3 tones • Area covered with improved forage and fodder production: 22,773 ha. 	<p>Water, Irrigation and Electricity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HH heads who are irrigation beneficiaries (45%) • kebeles declared ODF (less than 1%) • Population who have access to latrine: 42.7% • Pit latrines, handwashing facilities: 66.3% • HCs' with access to latrine: (92.56%) • HCs' with access to water: (29%) • HPs' access to latrine: (58.3%) • Hand washing at critical time: 77% • Secondary schools have access to safe & adequate water: 57.6% • Elementary schools have access to safe & adequate water: 18.1% • NGOs' involved in irrigation program: (5) • # water source schemes: 5506, Functionality (84.6%)



The Seqota Declaration: a quick glance

- It is a high level government commitment unveiled in July 2015 at the periphery of the ‘International Financing for Development Conference’ convened in Addis Ababa.
- It is accountable to the Prime-mister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
- It is managed under NNP2
- It is Implemented by NNP2 implementing sectors

Why after Seqota?

The very reason behind naming the declaration after the Seqota Town, the capital of Wagehemera zone, is that the prevalence of stunting in and around is very high. Of course lessons, best practices and experiences in fighting stunting to be gained from target areas will be expanded and scaled up to the other parts of the country in due course.

Our Innovative components include, among others

1. Establishing and organizing Program Delivery Units(PDUs)
2. Establishing and utilizing Community Labs'(CLS)
3. Establishing Agricultural Innovation and Technology Transfer (AITEC) Centers and demonstration sites.
4. Establishing and utilizing a robust Nutrition Data Management System
5. Launching an all out First 1000 Days Plus public Movement

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FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

