



CENTER FOR FOOD SECURITY STUDIES

COLLEGE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

**LIVELIHOOD COPING MECHANISMS OF WOMEN ENGAGED IN THE INFORMAL
SECTOR AMID COVID-19 IN ADAMA CITY, ETHIOPIA**

BY

AZMERAW ZERIHUN NAGARA

NOVEMBER, 2021

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA



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**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO CENTER FOR FOOD SECURITY STUDIES, COLLEGE
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FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF
SCIENCE IN FOOD SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT**

NOVEMEBER, 2021

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

DECLARATION

I, **Azmeraw Zerihun Nagara**, do hereby declare to Addis Ababa University School of Graduate Studies that this thesis is a product of my original research work, and it has not been submitted to any other university for any academic degree. Materials and information other than my own are duly acknowledged.

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Acronym and abbreviations

AU	African Union
BoLSA	Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs
CSA	Central Statistical Agency
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DFID	Department for International Development
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
EEA	Ethiopian Economics Association
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HH	Household
ILO	International Labor Organization
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
JCC	Job Creation Commission
KII	Key Informant Interview
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NGOs	Non-Governmental organizations
PPS	Proportionality Proportional to size
SLA	Sustainable Livelihoods Approach
SLF	Sustainable Livelihoods Framework
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
UN	United Nation
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WB	World Bank

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Abstract

The main objective of this study was to examine livelihood coping mechanism of women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19 Adama city. Cross-sectional survey and mixed research approach has been used. Accordingly, 138 women engaged in the informal sector were identified from three kebeles using multi-stage sampling technique. In doing so, quantitative data were collected from women engaged in the informal sector using structured questionnaire and qualitative data were collected using focus group discussion, key informant interview and observation. It was found that all respondents have reported to have disproportionately impacted by adverse impacts such as reduced income, quit self-employment, displaced or went/ traveled out of city to seek support of their loved ones or search job, quite schooling, lost job/employment and evacuated from the house they rented. Besides, migrant women engaged in the informal sector were more impacted by the adverse impacts of the pandemic. The finding revealed that the women engaged in the informal sector have very limited livelihood assets such as of human capital, physical capital, financial capital. Whereas social capital was the most used livelihood asset amid COVID-19. However, natural capital was missing. They have used a combination of two or more livelihood coping mechanisms such as assistances from family or relatives, involved paid children in labor, sold their assets, used their savings and borrowed cash, traveled in search of work or assistance, pension and urban safety in order of importance. It was also found that significant majority of the respondents did not receive assistances from formal institutions such as government and non-governmental organizations amid COVID-19. To the contrary, the majority have received assistances such as food, cash, paid work and psychosocial support from extended family or relatives amid pandemic. Drawing on the results, the author recommended devising of interventions mechanism customized to context of the informal sector and women such as social security packages to be triggered amid shocks like COVID-19 such as in kind (food item) or cash assistances or transfers by government. In addition, government should device or adopt policies help to provide relief measures such as utility bill suspension in which the government pays utility bills such as water and electricity for private house renters who gives relief house rent fee for in the informal sector amid shocks. Besides, the government should device financial assistances and micro financing tailored to women engaged in the informal sector so as to enable them engage in small and micro business enterprises. Furthermore, the non-governmental organizations should design feasible projects or programs that would help the women engaged in the informal sector amid shock like COVID-19 and should also device mechanism to strongly monitor and evaluate whether the selection of target beneficiaries are as per the criteria and support provided has brought about the required change on the livelihood/living standard of project target group. Moreover, the local government should have completed the record of or data base of women engaged in the informal sector in all kebeles of the city. Above all, the local government should conduct need assessment of women engaged in the informal sector in city and provide vocational, life skill trainings like saving and provision of space for work etc. Lastly, the researchers should conduct comprehensive study on informal sector in Adama city and in Ethiopia in general.

Key words: Asset, coping mechanism, Informal sector, livelihood, COVID-19 pandemic, Adama

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the study

Across the globe, COVID-19 shock has caused massive disruption to lives and livelihoods. Besides, it has created disruption to social and economic system globally. In this regard, the pandemic has resulted in economic recession, resulted in closure of many businesses, job loss, disrupted global supply chains, brutally impacted on health services, financial capacity and safety nets, and disrupted global solidarity and multilateralism in moment their interventions are looked-for most. just when they are needed the most (United Nations Ethiopia,2020). In addition, government containment measures such as social distancing and mobility restriction added with individual fear of the pandemic have had consequential impact on consumption and working behavior (Egger et al.,2021). Furthermore, the pandemic has impacted on food system and farm system. There have been major disruptions to food system in the aftermath of lockdown measures, which have impacted on the availability, pricing, and quality of food (Barrett, 2020). Moreover, in countries, farm production is typically more labor intensive, with many processes such as planting and harvesting of staple crops bringing workers close together which make the farmers more susceptible to the pandemic (David et al.,2021).

Studies show that, in times of facing a shock household do not merely stay unresponsive, rather utilize various livelihood coping mechanisms. The coping strategy literature recommends that there is a wide-ranging type of mechanisms that households pursue sequentially as strain turn out to be lengthier, early on adopting mechanisms that will not threaten future earnings, and only resorting to strategies that will reduce future earnings if necessary. Hence, the particular responses adopted by a household vary according to the causes of the crisis, types of crises, and household features (Frankenberger ,1992). Moreover, empirical results from models of adoption of livelihood coping mechanisms reveal important patterns of how households respond to different types of shocks according to household characteristics, most importantly the number of income sources and access to stable income sources, household ownership of assets, and education level of household head (Rashid et al., 2006). Regarding the outcome of livelihood, during and in the aftermath of a shock household might show an upward trajectory “bounce back better”, a relatively flat trajectory “bounce back”, a downward trajectory “recover, but worse than before”, and a catastrophic decline “collapse”. All of which shows a comparison not only with their state of

affairs that existed previously, but also some kind of previous path that is interrupted by a shock (Frankenberger et al., 2012).

Across the globe, women earn less, save less, hold less secure jobs, are more likely to be employed in the informal sector. They have less access to social protections and are the majority of single-parent households. Their capacity to absorb economic shocks is therefore less than that of men. As women take on greater care demands at home, their jobs will also be disproportionately affected by cuts and lay-offs (United Nation, 2020). In the current recession, the negative economic effect of COVID-19 has been most pressing for women, and predominantly women working in the informal sector, given 432 million women in developing countries are engaged in informal work (Turkan,2020).

Women in Africa, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa are the hardest hit by adverse impact of pandemic. The main reason is the lower income and higher poverty rate among women in the sub-Saharan Africa. Moreover, more than 70% women in non-agricultural jobs in the region are predominantly in the informal sector (Aoyagi,2021).

In Ethiopia also COVID-19 disproportionately affects the poor. The expected vulnerability increases due to the virus is the further marginalization of the bottom poor and additional costs to the most vulnerable. The informal sector such as vendors and laborers are likely to be most impacted due to loss of jobs and livelihoods (Donna et al.2020). Moreover, according to United Nation Ethiopia the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 will also be much more noticeable in cities than other locations including in rural areas particularly affected by the pandemic. One of these consequences is the loss of jobs and the failure of industries and services sector to create new jobs in urban centers. However, the dominant majority of women are in the low paying and informal sector and at risk of being left furthest behind compared to those in the formal sector.

Adama city is an economic center and the city has been serving as a major focal point for trade and small-scale industries. The major business sectors in city are hotels, trade and industry. The presence of major sectors is pulling migrants, who came following the trade route in search of jobs and livelihood. Besides, the city is an important center of distribution of goods that are manufactured locally by various industries in the city and its suburbs. Thus, there are a lot of hotels, big and small, restaurants, bars and cafes and the majority of population gets its livelihood from sundry commercial activities and services (Adama City Administration, 2020). These sectors have

created a bulk of job for men and women showing their vulnerability to the impact of COVID-19 loss livelihoods of the employee in general and women in particular. Hence, this study is conducted with the objective of examining the livelihood coping strategies of women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19 in Adama city.

1.2. Statement of the problem

Individual or households plan strategically for facing risks associated with livelihood security. When facing shock which risks their livelihood security, they choose livelihood coping mechanism to sustain their life. However, choosing a particular set of livelihoods coping mechanism is reliant on various factors such as the categories of crisis households face and alternatives available at disposal. Often, poor households risk future income generating capacity for maintaining current food consumption (Rashid et al., 2006). In addition, the choice of a livelihood coping mechanism that a household pursues is reliant on the socio-economic features of the household together with the livelihood skills which the members possess (Kamwi et al.,2018).

Kasahun et al., (2016), conducted study on women`s Livelihood in the informal Sector mainly on micro sellers or Guilit in Addis Ababa with objective of assessing the livelihood condition of women engaged in the informal sector. Accordingly, the study found out that women engaged in the informal sector have very poor human and financial capital. To the contrary, they have good social capital. Besides, the finding revealed that during shock times engaging own children in income making activities is the main livelihood coping strategy adopted. Moreover, women engaged in the informal sector have challenges such as poor health, absence of formal education, and financial assets that have hindered them to engage in better income generating activities. The study also found out that owing to lack of livelihood diversification the women engaged in the informal sector are vulnerable to livelihood shock coping.

Another study conducted with the objective of examining women engaged in the informal sector and socio-economic responses in Dessie city showed that the informal sectors are crowded by women with less education, who are divorced and widowed, and increase in family size. Besides, the dominant majority of women engaged in the informal sector in the study area reliant on street net, those are, street, pavements, sidewalk or open-air selling. In addition, the main source of initial capital to engage in street net were family saving and borrowed from relatives. Moreover, the main challenges faced in the women engaged in the informal sector include lack of work places, lack of access to finance, inadequate attention by local government etc. (Sebsib,2015). Women are

engaged in urban informal sector as coping strategy to rural-urban migration and inability of the formal sector to absorb the fast-increasing job seekers with little formal education and lack of skills and financial asset (Ebisa,2012).

The current shock, that is, COVID 19 pandemic has endangered the live and livelihood of human globally, the most vulnerable social groups are in place to fare the worst (Gundersen et al., 2020). Workers in the informal sector are among the most vulnerable, due to their inherent susceptibility to the pandemic itself and loss of livelihood (Valetin ,2020). Likewise, in Ethiopia people in the informal sector are the most impacted by massive job losses and loss of livelihoods (Donna et al.,2020). According to an assessment made on COVID-19 effects and response measures in Ethiopia and its livelihoods and welfare implications revealed that substantial number of jobs lost has been registered in sectors such as construction, hotels and restaurants, wholesale and retail, industry/manufacturing, transport and personal services. It is expected that the individual and the household will pursue livelihood coping mechanisms (Ethiopian Economic Association (EEA),2020).

When hit by COVID-19 pandemic, like any other shock, individual and household adopt livelihood coping mechanism to sustain their living. Studies show that poor urban adopted various coping strategies including changes to foodstuffs and meals; requesting support from social network; sending family members to relatives (e.g., children); engaging in uncommon jobs (engaging in works that they wouldn't engage in normal condition); dependence on safety net; migration of family members; diversification of income means; renting out houses; Involvement in “undesirable” activities (commercial sex, theft, begging, etc.) (Degefa,2010 and Ephrem,2015) and borrow money /credit; buy food on credit basis; and selling household assets (Ephrem,2015).

However, the impact of COVID 19 on women livelihood is more complex. The fact that women are at the heart of the fighting COVID-19, facing gender-based violence at home, involved in unpaid care work, and loss of job and livelihood of work and disrupted or made inaccessible supports have further exacerbated the preexisting inequalities (United Nation (UN), 2020). This could force women to engage in negative livelihood coping mechanism such as consuming less food where women and eat last and least. Moreover, such a situation has a tendency of pushing women to engage in informal, dangerous, jobs or become victims of transactional sex for food (United Nation Ethiopia,2020). Above all, an assessment amid COVID-19 revealed that the

majority of the households 55.2% responded that they do not have livelihood coping mechanisms to deal with the adverse impact of the pandemic (EEA,2020).

Though studies have been conducted on women engaged in the informal sector with prime focus on the informality of the work they engaged, major pushing factors, and challenges women are facing in the sector. As a result, less emphasis has been given in the studies on livelihood coping strategies adopted by women engaged in the informal sector amid shocks. In addition, the informal sector was included under the socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19, thus do not provide comprehensive picture of livelihood coping strategies of women engaged in the informal sector, they are not focused and detailed. Furthermore, in Adama city there is rapid increase in migration and majorities are resource poor people. Some of the migrants who estranged from different social networks typically forced to work menial labor and lead rudimentary life in the city due to increased living cost. Some other are working as the construction workers, domestic servants and informal employment like mechanics, guards, metal works and employed in other low-level activities in different city development schemes being they arrive with low skill and resources without bonded labor (Adama City Administration, 2020).

Given the sectors are the most hardly hit by the impact of COVID-19 and the disproportionate vulnerability of women, studying the livelihood coping strategies employed by women in the sector is necessary to investigate how they are coping amid the inequalities further widen due to COVID-19. Hence, based on the above assumptions the study on livelihood coping mechanism of women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID 19 in Adama city is deemed essential.

1.3. Objectives of the research

1.3.1. The major objective

The overall objective of this study is to examine livelihood coping mechanisms of women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19 in Adama city.

1.3.2. Specific objective

- Identify adverse impacts and major livelihood coping mechanism of women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19 in Adama.
- Identify livelihood assets used by women engaged in the informal sector for sustaining life amid COVID-19 in Adama.
- Assess response of the government and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) for women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19 crisis in Adama.

1.4. Research question

In an attempt to study the livelihood coping mechanisms of women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19 in Adama city, these specific research questions were developed to guide the research.

- How were women engaged in the informal sector have coped with livelihood insecurity posed by adverse impacts of COVID-19 in Adama city?
- How were women engaged in the informal sector in Adama city draw on different types of livelihood assets/capitals to cope with livelihood shocks and sustain life amid COVID-19?
- How were the Government and NGOs responded to the livelihood shock on women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19 in Adama city?

1.5. Scope and limitation of the study

This study was conducted on the livelihood coping mechanism of women engaged in the informal sector in Adama city. However, given the participants were street vender administering survey and focus group discussion was challenging and time taking. Besides, office work load added with staying long days in Adama city was very challenging. Above all, falling ill of my mother during field data collection was one of the unanticipated and very challenging issues. Yet, with the help of God and with solution crafted by the author all the challenges were very well handled.

1.6. Significance of the study

The study provides scientific based information concerning livelihood coping mechanisms of women engaged in the informal sector in Adama city amid COVID-19 for stakeholders. It also helps local government to understand the impact of COVID 19 on the livelihood security of women engaged in the informal sector in Adama city. Furthermore, it also helps in showing the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on the women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19 and what has been done by NGOs and local government and what should be done in the future.

Moreover, the study serves as a base for further studies on the areas and helps as reference source. Above all, it helps other researcher in providing the ground for further research in area. Last but not least, it contributes to policy makers on livelihood coping strategies of women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19 and policy gaps.

1.7. Outline of the thesis

The current thesis comprises of five chapters. Chapter One presents the introduction of the thesis which contains sections such as background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives (major and specific objectives) and research questions, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study and definition of key words. Whereas chapter two dedicated for the review of relevant literature under which relevant studies were reviewed. Chapter three covered the research methodology which comprises of sub sections such as description of the study area, research design and approach, data type and data sources, sampling techniques and sample size determination, method of data collection, and data analysis. Chapter four in its part is dedicated to discussion and analysis of the study. Last but not least, chapter four comprises of two sections namely conclusion and recommendation of the study.

CHAPTER TWO: LITREATURE REVIEW

2.1. Concepts and definition

Livelihood: A livelihood comprises people, their capabilities and their means of living, including food, income and assets. Assets may be tangible assets such as resources and stores, or intangible assets such as claims and access (Ronan,1991).

Coping mechanism: It refers to Livelihood strategies encompasses the variety and blend of activities and selections that people Carryout so as to ensure their livelihood goals. They are not static processes, rather people blend activities to realize their diverse needs at different times, geography or economical levels (Keeley, 2001).

Informal sector: The Informal Sector is defined as household type establishments/activities; which are mainly engaged in marketed production; which are not registered companies or cooperatives; which have no full written book of accounts; which have less than 10 persons engaged in the activity; and which have no license (Central Statistical Agency (CSA) ,2004).

COVID-19 pandemic: COVID-19 pandemic, also known as the coronavirus pandemic, is an ongoing pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Baloch et al.,2019).

Asset: Assets are resources endowments and capabilities that people have to sustain their livelihood and enhance their welfare. In development literature, capital assets have generally been understood to include human, social, physical, natural, and financial capital (Bebbington,1999).

2.2. The Theoretical framework of livelihoods

According to Chambers and Conway (1991), livelihood encompasses persons, their abilities and their means of living, including food, income and assets. As per the definition assets may be touchable assets such as resources and stores, or intangible assets such as claims and access. Regarding sustainability of livelihood, Chambers and Conway (1991), a livelihood is sustainable when it can cope and recover from stresses and shocks and sustain or improve its abilities and assets both present day and in the upcoming, while not compromising the natural resource base. In order to achieve their livelihood goals people chose and engage in the range and combination of activities. However, the choice of livelihood coping mechanism is dependent on their available resource base and their knowledge and understanding of alternatives available. Besides, the different households develop and pursue various livelihood coping strategies, which include short-

term strategies such as ways of dealing with shocks and handling risk. Moreover, livelihood coping strategies could be helpful, assisting households to turn out to be further resilient, or undesirable when they expose in the further loss and decrease of the asset base.

2.2.1. Sustainable livelihoods approach

As highlighted above, the concept of sustainable livelihoods is credited to Chambers and Conway (1991), and has its roots in concepts of sustainability stemming from the Brundtland Commission report (1987). Primarily conceived as a development orientated, poverty reduction approach, and has been advanced and advocated by the British Department for International Development (DFID). Since then, different agencies including the international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) whose focus is on poverty alleviation such as Oxfam and CARE have accepted and used the sustainable livelihood approach (SLA) in their work. In addition, international donor agencies such as the United Nations development Program officially adopted the approach in the 1990s.

According to Chambers and Conway (1991), the **sustainable livelihood approach** is defined as

“A Livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims, and access) and activities required for a means of living: a livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels in the short and long term.”

The main focus of the sustainable livelihood approach is on the household. Mainly, the approach focuses on the ways in which the household uses its livelihood assets to carry out a variety of livelihood activities so as to guarantee livelihood security, defined as, “adequate and sustainable access to income and other resources to enable households to meet basic needs,” (Frankenberger, 1996). Household basic needs include a range of food, education, health, and personal needs (Ronan,2007).

Therefore, livelihood approach has two principal elements. The first one is that, livelihood contains the assets and activities needed for a means of living, whereas the other element is that a livelihood is sustainable when it be able to deal with and recover from shocks and stresses, and

maintain or enhance its assets now and in the future (United States Agency for International Development (USAID,2009).

According to Serrat (2008), the sustainable livelihoods approach encourages thinking out of the box. It frees development practitioners from conventional approaches that are often restricted to identifying problems and finding solutions. It invites them to look at contexts and relationships so that development activities can become more process-oriented. It compels them to look for multiple entry points and to move beyond a homogenous “community” view and a narrow sectoral perspective. It represents an important shift away from the focus on project inputs and outputs and the assumed mechanical links between them. In particular, the sustainable livelihoods approach stresses the importance of understanding institutions by mapping the institutional framework and linking the micro to the macro and the formal to the informal. Therefore, it calls for a new style of policy appraisal that moves from universal prescriptions to context-specific approaches that allow alternative, local perspectives to reveal themselves in the policy framework.

2.2.2. Elements of the sustainable livelihood framework

2.2.2.1. Human assets

Human capital refers to the skills, knowledge, capacity to labor and good health that together allow people to pursue diverse livelihood strategies and attain their livelihood goal. At a household level human capital is a factor of the amount and quality of labor available; this varies according to household size, skill levels, leadership potential, health status, etc. Most people see health problems and absence of education as key manifestation of poverty (DFID,1999). Besides, human capital mainly knowledge and labor or the ability to command labor is crucial for maximizing and make good use of any of the four capitals. As per Degefa(2010), though the urban poor have access to the free health treatment most of the prescribed medicine are unavailable in the government pharmacy . Hence, the treatment stops there given they cannot afford to buy from private pharmacy which have significant impact on their ability to engage in livelihood activities to sustain their living. Besides, the they have less educational background and little values to formal education. Therefore, it obvious with less educational background and health issues they will have difficulties to engage livelihood activities which help them earn better income.

2.2.2.2. Social capital

Social capital in the context of the sustainable livelihoods’ framework is the social resources upon which people count in pursuit of their livelihood goal. This includes membership of groups and

associations which able to maximize people's access to and impact over other institutions (DFID,199). Social capital is created by the household's connections in a social network, and the trust, reciprocity, and resource- sharing qualities of those connections. It is activated by households to gain social support or social leverage, or by communities to facilitate organization and collective action (USAID,2009). According to Kasahun et al., (2016), women engaged in the informal sector have good social capital which is manifested by having good and strong relationship with community in general and among women involved in the informal sector.

2.2.2.3. Natural capital

Natural capital is the term used for the natural resource stocks such as land, water, wildlife, biodiversity, and forests (Kollmair and Gramper, 2002). There is a wide variation in the resources that make up natural capital, from intangible public goods such as the atmosphere and biodiversity to divisible assets used directly for production. (DFID,1999). Natural assets include land, water, wildlife, biodiversity, and forests. (USAID,2009). However, Natural capital or asset is very restricted or inadequate asset among the women engaged in the informal sector in particular and urban in general (Scoones 2000). Yet, small pieces of land which could be on the backyard or unattended pieces of land used for planting leafy vegetable for family consumption and market (Takunda 2012).

2.2.2.4. Physical capital

Physical assets include the physical economic infrastructure along with the household's productive and other assets that enable the household to pursue its livelihood. The physical economic infrastructure includes, among other things, roads, rail networks, communication facilities, ports, etc. The household's productive assets include land, machinery, tools, and draft animals. Other household physical assets include moveable assets that can be converted into cash or exchanged for goods or services, such as jewelry, furniture, electronics, appliances, or animals (USAID,2009). Urban women engaged in the informal sector do not solely depend on street vending as a means of livelihood. Rather they tend to peruse diversified livelihood strategies such as remittances, renting own house, urban agriculture, seeking support from rural relatives or families etc. Moreover, potable water is issue of concern (Tolessa,2010).

2.2.2.5. Financial capital

Financial assets are financial resources that are available to the household and include savings, credit, insurance, remittances, pensions, cash transfers from social welfare programs, and assets

held as a store of value, such as livestock or jewelry. To act as a store of value, assets must be able to be saved and retrieved at a later time and have a predictable value when liquidated or exchanged (USAID,2009). However, according to (Tolessa,2010), the urban poor have no savings and cash at hand to cope with the shock.

2.2.2.6.Transforming structures and processes

The Structures and Processes regulate the access of household to their livelihood assets, that is, whether they will use them, and the way the use them. In this context structure includes legal institutions such as regulation and laws. Whereas process refers to the informal institutions that regulate how the individuals in the community should act. The central idea here is that, livelihood capitals/assets do not automatically turn to livelihood, since the crucial role is played by the determinant institutions namely social interactions and government process (Fisher ,2005).

2.2.2.7.Livelihood strategies

The approach promotes livelihood strategy choice, opportunity and diversity. It refers to a range and amalgamation of activities and choices that people make to peruse their livelihood objectives including productive activities, investment strategies, reproductive choices, etc. (Ronan,2007). Decisions on livelihood strategies may invoke natural-resource based activities, non-natural resource based and off-farm activities, migration and remittances, pensions and grants, intensification versus diversification, and short-term versus long-term outcomes, some of which may compete (Serrat,2010).

2.2.2.8. Livelihood diversity

Recent studies have emphasized the huge multiplicity of livelihood strategies within geographic areas, across sectors, within households and across time. This is a dynamic process in which they combine activities to meet their various needs at different times (DFID,1999).

2.2.2.9. Livelihood outcomes

Livelihood Outcomes the role that the adopted livelihood strategy in attaining the desires or needs of household (Ronan, 2007). Potential livelihood outcomes can include more income, increased well-being, reduced vulnerability, improved food security, more sustainable use of the natural resource base, and recovered human dignity, between which there may again also be conflict (Serrat,2010). According to Tolessa (2008), poor well-being and food insecurity as unwanted outcome of the interaction shocks and the resultant absence of adequate livelihood capital, and incapability to engage in livelihood activities that helps to get adequate pay on sustainable manner.

2.1.3. Informal sector

The concept informal sector has appeared in the beginning of 1970s. Since then, the concept has received widespread acceptance and currently the term is defined differently for diverse purpose (International Labor Organization (ILO)).

According to of ILO (1993, P2) the informal sector defined as

“The informal sector may be broadly characterized as consisting of units engaged in the production of goods or services with the primary objective of generating employment and incomes to the persons concerned. These units typically operate at a low level of organization, with little or no division between labor and capital as factors of production and on a small scale. Labor relations – where they exist – are based mostly on casual employment, kinship or personal and social relations rather than contractual arrangements with formal guarantees.”

The informal sector has no single definition given scholars endeavored to define concept based on the policy consideration that inspired their analysis (Gerxhani ,2004). According to Oruonye, Miftahu, and Ahmed (2020), an informal sector is considered as element of an economy that is not taxed or supervised by the government or government authorities. Besides, it represents those workers working own business(self-employed), or who are employed by self-employed.

According to report on urban informal sector sample survey conducted in 2003 (CSA ,2004, P7), the informal sector as concept is defined as:

“The Informal Sector is defined as household type establishments/activities; which are mainly engaged in marketed production; which are not registered companies or cooperatives; which have no full written book of accounts; which have less than 10 persons engaged in the activity; and which have no license.”

In this study, women engaged in the informal sectors such as street venders engaged in selling food and drinks, non-food items and vegetable & fruit in the streets and public places were identified from Chafe, Geda, and Oda kebeles of Adama city and participated.

2.3. Empirical literatures and the gap

2.3.1. Informal sector amid COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a worldwide economic downturn which has resulted in a dramatic loss of livelihoods and income on all over the world (World Bank (WB), 2020). The resulting drop in purchasing power among those who lost income has had a major impact on food

security and nutrition, especially for those populations that were already vulnerable. Those in the informal economy are the hardest hit (High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE), 2020).

Africa is not unique to the impact of COVID-19. In neighboring Sudan, physical distancing and lockdown measures to contain the pandemic have negatively impact the service sector, which absorbs over a million workers, mostly in low-income and casual jobs. The labor market is mostly informal, with 65 percent of the labor force engaged in informal work. Thus, most workers are either employed by Micro, Small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) or in the informal sector and are hit hard by COVID-19 preventive measures. The economic sectors most affected by COVID-19 precautionary measures are hospitality and transportation, employing large numbers, mostly on a daily wage basis. Followed by daily trade and casual labor, including domestic workers and the tourism sector. Above all, the informal hospitality sector, mainly women tea sellers, is impacted through the general reduction of economic activity, notably reduced flow of construction and transport workers as customers (Economic Commission for Africa (ECA),2020).

According Sebsib(2015), regardless of the fact that the government could not avail the accurate data of women engaged in the informal sector in Ethiopia various survey reports revealed that massive number of women are engaged in the informal sector. According to CSA survey report, the number of women engaged in the informal sector accounts for 52% in 1994, 59.99% in 2003, and 61% in 2011. Moreover, the finding showed that the number of women participating in the informal sector is increasing mainly due to rural -urban migration in search of formal employment though in most instances they find themselves in the informal sector to sustain their living. Job Creation Commission (2020) and International Labor Organization (ILO) (2020), in Ethiopia, with 40% of employed being self-employed and the significant share of informality, exposes the country to a social crisis. COVID-19 is already having a significant impact on jobs and incomes in different sectors. As per Job Creation Commission (JCC), (2020), the most hardly hit sector in Ethiopia are manufacturing and construction, and services in urban areas, tourism (hotels and restaurants), transport, as well as personal services activities such as hair-dressers, beauty salons etc. In these sectors about 1.9mill self-employed expected to have an important income shock (~50%) that could amount to \$265mill in the medium-estimate. What makes the problem more sever is the fact that sustaining business operations is expected to be mainly difficult for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Moreover, significant job loss is already happening in

different sectors such as hotels, restaurants, and construction. The fact that, the dominant majority of self-employed are living subsistence levels, and these income shocks can put them very quickly under the poverty line.

All 1.9mill self-employed in these 4 main impacted categories are expected to have an important income shock (~50%) that could amount to \$265mill in the medium-estimate. The effects on these self-employed would also impact their families & households. Most of these workers are in vulnerable employment: either being temporary workers, daily laborers, or being in informality (JCC,2020).

Looking at from gender lens, women are heavily concentrated in industries that have been disproportionately affected by the economic downturn arising from the COVID-19 pandemic or sectors that increase their exposure to the virus, such as healthcare, the garment industry, entertainment and tourism, this loss of income can have wider reaching impacts on women when decision-making power is linked to their financial contributions to the household (Athena et al., 2020).

2.3.2. The impact of COVID 19 on the livelihood of women the informal sector

The global economic slowdown triggered by the pandemic, as well as the spread of the disease itself, has exacerbated existing societal inequities in most countries (Ashford et al., 2020.). These inequities are affecting rights as well as access to basic needs such as food, water, and health care, and access to jobs and livelihoods, all of which have implications for food security and nutrition (HLPE,2020).

Many of the sectors in which women are predominantly employed often part-time, lower paid, informal or insecure employment have been the hardest hit by COVID-19 containment measures, such as shutdowns and travel restrictions (Athena et al., 2020). Globally, 60% of all workers are engaged in formal sector, the developing countries accounts for 90% of and emerging countries accounts for 67 %. In 56% of the countries in the world the percentage of women engaged in the informal and low paying sectors surpasses the percentage of men. In sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia more than 70% of women are involved in the informal sector (Athena et al.,2020). Measures taken to control the pandemic including lockdown and mobility restriction the consequent impact of consumption and decline in the demand both locally and international market are forecasted to have cut informal sector income by almost 60 % globally. This has

disproportionately impacted women and their families already living in poverty as this shock could significantly impact on their affordability to pay for the basic needs. Moreover, the fact that women will shoulder added burdens on their time owing to their multiple care duties due to school closure and lockdown measure to contain the virus, forcing most women engaged in the informal sector to make working time cuts and permanent exist from the labor market (World Bank,2020).

According to Turkan (2020), massive layoffs for domestic workers have left women without compensation, and migrant workers are often the hardest hit. There are more than 60 million domestic workers around the world, 80 percent of whom are women. Millions are experiencing job loss, delayed wages, and abuse by employers. For women working in the informal economy and in their households, the impact of COVID-19 can be a shock to their overall economic stability and survival. As a result, many informal workers remain economically and socially marginalized, which weakens their voice and representation in decision making processes that impact their livelihoods and well-being. This is particularly the case for women workers, who are located in isolating occupations such as domestic work, home-based work, and unpaid family work.

Asia is not unique either, for instance in Bangladesh, the urban face of the crisis is clear across a range of indicators. A staggering 72% of urban households lost their main source of income in the early days of the crisis (in comparison with 54% of rural households). With one popular coping strategy relying upon other household members to make up for lost income also ruled out by the economic crisis, this devastated aggregate household incomes. Urban slum households experienced a 75% reduction in their incomes, relative to pre-Covid-19 income levels, and these reductions were particularly high among the extreme and moderate poor (Nicola,2020).

In Africa, the informal sector contributes to about 35 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) and employs more than 75 percent of the labor force in Africa (African Union (AU), 2020). The size of informality represents nearly 55% of the cumulative GDP of sub-Saharan Africa. According to the African Development Bank (2018), further studies showed that the size of informality ranges from a high of 50 to 65 percent in Nigeria.

According to COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment for Sudan conducted by Economic Commission for Africa (2020), in Sudan urban centers have seen growing participation of women engaged in the informal sector, especially in food and beverage sales. A COVID-19 outbreak poses

a serious threat to women's work, income, and business activity, and increases threats to their health. Informal and low wage occupations, where most women work, are highly prone to disruption during public health emergencies, and will be particularly affected. Along with potential loss of household income, there may be longer-term and widespread economic impact on women, with increased risk of exploitation and abuse. As a result, more women are expected to fall into poverty during the COVID-19 pandemic, which will severely affect female-headed households. This is compounded by the underlying gender biases that consider men as the main breadwinner. Moreover, high levels of food price inflation create basic food access problems for the poor. Besides, Women and children are vulnerable on account of their low social status and patriarchy. The added care burden imposed on women will likely strain their capacity as guardians of family welfare and erode their limited voice on how family income is spent.

In Ethiopia also COVID-19 outbreaks affect different social groups differentially. These outcomes are interwoven with other dynamics of susceptibility and are especially severe for the poor, vulnerable women, and hard-to-reach people such as sex-workers, the homeless, and beggars (Messay,2020). According to the JCC, at the onset of the pandemic, in the manufacturing sector alone, 11% of total employment (mostly involving temporary, low-skilled, workers) was at risk over the next quarter, if no actions were taken. Tourism, which employs more than 1.5 million people, was also expected to be one of the hardest hit sectors. As mentioned above, MSMEs, also the largest employers by far, are already and will be severely impacted. Large-scale job losses are a real and increasingly likely prospect. Assuming that the brunt of the impact will be felt in industry (both manufacturing and construction) and services (tourism, hospitality, a wide range of small-scale informal sector activities), a 10-15% loss of employment/livelihoods (self, wage) could have major effects leading to a cumulative loss of perhaps 1.6 - 2.4 million jobs/livelihoods depending on the severity and duration of the crisis, mostly in urban areas (United Nation Ethiopi,2020).

2.3.3. Food security of women engaged in the informal sector

The worldwide recession, instigated by COVID-19 containment measures such as lockdowns and social distancing have leads to reductions in food consumption and declines in nutrition status (International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI),2020). The unprecedented challenges brought about by the pandemic to the food security situation profound, particularly in the developing world (Ahmed et al., 2021). Especially in lower income countries, women are largely

engaged in informal sector, which often leaves them out of formal social protection measures targeted to workers (World Bank,2020). Consequently, urban women engaged in informal sector who have lost their job are the most affected by food insecurity (IFPRI),2020).

As in the rest of the world, in Ethiopia the informal sector is the most affected by food security challenge due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is due to the fact that the sector is believed to play an important role in food security through providing jobs, reduces unemployment, boosting economic activity and reducing poverty. As per National Planning Commission (NPC), informal sector practitioners in Ethiopia are forecasted to be about 2 million of which the dominant majority are living in urban areas and believed to be living on daily subsistence income. Owing to this very fact that they work in crowd it is difficult for them to abide by COVID-19 containment measures nor stay home or work outside for their daily subsistence. Furthermore, they may not have food to feed themselves or their dependent families if they remain home and may come down with COVID-19 if they go out to work. Hence, the COVID-19 pandemic and its containment measures may force millions of people engaged in the informal sector Ethiopians into severe poverty and food insecurity (Messay,2020). According to Donna et al., (2020), lack of income and increased prices of food/food items were the major reasons for reduction in the quality and quantity/frequency of food.

2.3.4. Coping mechanism

According to a study made in South Pacific, (Athena et al., 2020), a variety of coping mechanisms are being implemented at an individual and family level, such as selling assets and using savings, particularly to mitigate the increasing food insecurity of households, of which the burden is heavily felt by women, whose perceived role is to ensure food security for the family.in Lao PDR the garment workers are considering to shift their work and income to construction and food delivery, engaging weaving and animal husbandry returning to home which was their source of income previously, and selling items online. Nevertheless, these alternative ways of working rely on the seller having access to online marketplaces and or smartphones, which is less likely to be the case for women in the Mekong region, given the gender digital divide. However, women whose child care responsibilities raised due to COVID -19 have opted for financial loan to survive or have resorted to spending their saving. Likewise, women workers in the informal sector in Vietnam are shifting to selling bread and cakes. However, the endeavor resulted in little success.

In Bangladesh, some 38% of urban households reported they had reserves sufficient to feed their families for between only 0 to 3 days on their reduced incomes. The economic crisis will remain much longer than this period. As a result, to a much greater extent than urban slum households, a greater proportion of whom, have been forced to rely upon borrowing money (Nicola,2020). Another study, the three dominant personal coping strategies were savings, borrowing or grocery shop credit, and curtailing food consumption. Another study by Nanavaty (2021), revealed that some informal workers were able to effectively turn around and assume new work amid the pick of the pandemic, in this regard the author mentioned such as waste collectors in India shifting to janitorial work in hospitals or home-based workers turning to produce food items.

Likewise, the case is similar in Africa, according to Nora (2017), the coping strategies of women are mostly ‘negative coping strategies’ that increase their vulnerability in terms of security, health, and income. For instance, the many low-income service sectors workers risk destitution from loss of their daily wage/income, which risks triggering negative coping mechanisms, including increased drug use, gender-based violence, child labor and petty crime. If left unaddressed, rising levels of urban poverty could lead to protests, compromise Sudan’s democratic transition and create political instability that will complicate Sudan’s development trajectory. A growing number of formal sector workers engage in informal work, to supplement eroding incomes due to spiraling inflation (ECA ,2020).

In Ethiopia, According to Degefa(2010), the livelihood coping strategies adopted by household amid shocks include migration, living in slum community, diversification of source of income, renting out once house, involving in negative coping mechanisms (e.g. commercial sex and theft etc). Assessment on COVID-19 Effects and Response Measures in Ethiopia conducted by Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA) (2020), revealed that the majority of the households (55.2 percent) responded that they do not have livelihood coping mechanisms to deal with the adverse impact of the pandemic. However, the first top three coping strategies adopted by households are reliance on savings (19.5 percent), reduction of food (19.5 percent) and non-food consumption (12.8 percent), suggesting increased vulnerability of households to food insecurity and other dimensions of poverty. Coping mechanisms adopted by households also differ by geographic location.

Another, survey conducted by International labor Organization(ILO) revealed that households have experienced impacts such as unable to buy the amount of food they usually buy because the price of food increased; unable to buy the amount of food usually buy because of shortages of food in markets; unable to buy the amount of food usually buy because of household income has dropped; reduced food consumption; and difficulties in going to food markets due to mobility restrictions imposed by government/closures in order of severity. As a result, they have employed coping strategies including take money out of savings; sell assets to purchase food, medicine or essentials; growing your own food; ask for money from family, relatives, or friends; borrowing from a bank, employer, or private lender to purchase food, medicine or are among the coping strategies employed (ILO,2020).

2.3.5. Social and institutional support

According to Turkan (2020), globally, new social assistance measures in response to the pandemic have included the expansion of coverage, an increase in benefits, and the simplification of administrative requirements. For example, 34 countries have increased benefits among preexisting programs, 12 have added additional payment cycles for existing social assistance schemes, 87 have extended the range of coverage for social assistance measures, and 89 are providing new social assistance programs. Interesting news is that numerous governments have comprised informal economy workers to cushion the effects of the crisis. Moreover, among social assistance measures, transfers (both cash and in-kind) remain the most widely used intervention by governments and make up 283 COVID-related measures. There are twice as many cash-based programs as in-kind programs, and they last for an average of three months. Furthermore, governments are initiating relief measures to decrease the financial burden on the poor through support for utilities, housing, and taxes. These measures, such as freezes on rent payments, can also apply to the workspaces informal workers use, and thus can help informal businesses restart their economic activities. However, such reports could cover the difference among countries.

A study conducted on livelihoods, coping and support during COVID-19 Crisis found out that while personal coping strategies were the dominant used to deal with the impact of COVID-19 on livelihood, some degree of social and institutional support also contributed to households coping with their food security crisis. The social support came from friends, relatives and neighbors. However, as of early April, institutional support did not figure prominently as a coping strategy

for the respondents. Two sources of institutional support were cited government and NGOs. Of urban slum respondents, 14% cited government support and 5% NGO support. In comparison, 4% of rural respondents cited support from government and none from NGOs (Hossain et al., 2020). Furthermore, several relief programs such as tax and remuneration subsidies omits the informal sector who are either individual or businesses amid COVID-19. Whereas direct cash transfers might reach the informal sector, however, they arise with huge implementation difficulties (Valentine ,2020).

Likewise, the government of Sudan has launched a rapid response program to support the poor in Khartoum's peripheries for the expected three-week duration of the lockdown. The aim is to provide in-kind food assistance to the poorest households to help meet their needs. The scheme is implemented in a whole-of-government and whole-of-society manner, involving diverse public entities, at both federal and state levels, as well as civil society actors, including revolutionary committees and the private sector (Economic Commission for Africa ,2020).

Another baseline study conducted by Messay (2021) to assess the existing efforts of the Addis Ababa City Government in addressing the secondary impacts of COVID-19 on the life of vulnerable group of the society found out that in the context of Addis Ababa city, the civil society organizations (CSOs) has played a major in alleviating the health and socioeconomic impact of the pandemic for vulnerable social group. Hence, CSOs are required to further enhance their activities in mitigating the secondary impacts of the pandemic including the impact on livelihood and food security of vulnerable social group.

2.4. Literature gaps

Even though studies have been conducted on women engaged in the informal sector with prime focus on the informality of the work they engaged, major pushing factors, and challenges women are facing in the sector. As a result, less emphasis has been given in the studies on livelihood coping strategies adopted by women engaged in the informal sector amid shocks. In addition, the informal sector was included under the socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19, thus do not provide comprehensive picture of livelihood coping strategies of women engaged in the informal sector, they are not focused and detailed.

2.5. Conceptual framework

In this study, the sustainable livelihood framework was used. The Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF) was preferred due to the fact that it is appropriate to guide the study on

livelihood coping mechanism of women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19. The first reason, SLF is one of the most extensively used livelihoods frameworks in development practice. Besides, the framework was selected for this study based on the fact framework begins to conceptualize how people function amid a vulnerability context that is influenced and shaped by various dynamics including economic shocks and longer-term trends , shifting seasonal constraints (and opportunities), how they draw on different types of livelihood assets or capitals in diverse combinations which are influenced by the vulnerability context, a range of institutions and processes and how they use their asset base to develop a range of livelihoods strategies to achieve desired livelihood outcomes (De Stag  et al.,2002).

Moreover, the framework describes stakeholders as functioning in a context of vulnerability, within which they have access to certain assets. Assets gain weight and value through the dominant social, institutional and organizational environment which is described as policies, institutions and processes in the framework. This environment significantly and determinant in shaping the livelihood coping mechanisms that are available to people to realize self-defined positive livelihood outcomes (Kollmair and Gamper, 2002).

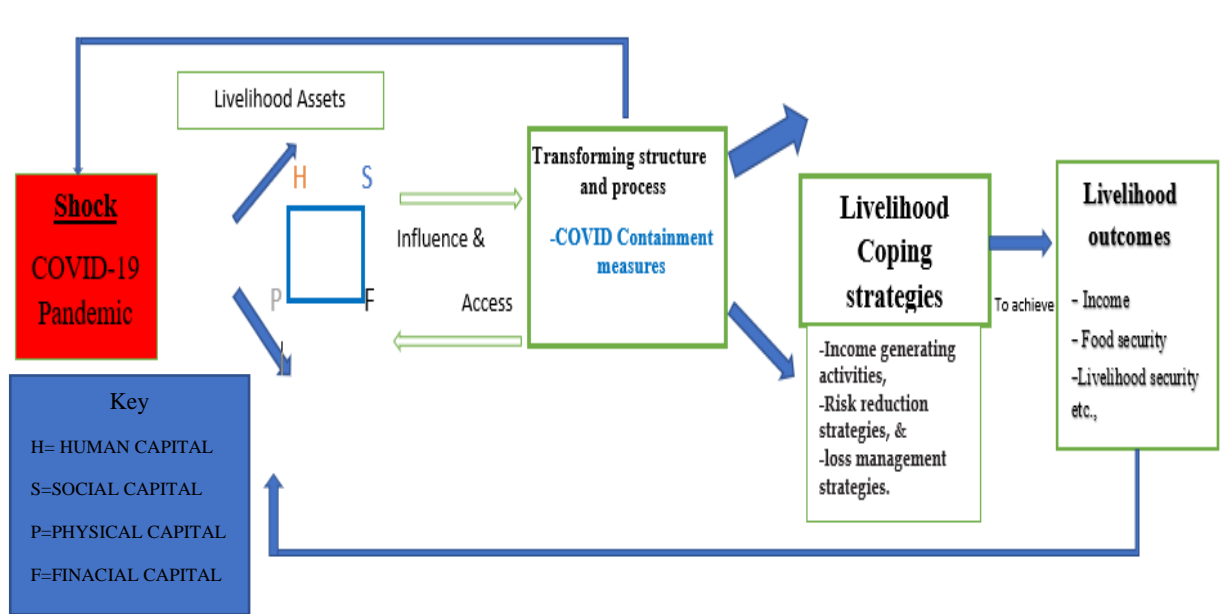


Figure 2.1: Source: conceptual framework on adverse impact of COVID-19 and

Livelihood Coping Mechanism (customized by the author from DFID Sustainable Livelihood Framework)

The global economic slowdown triggered by the pandemic, as well as the spread of the disease itself, has exacerbated existing societal inequities in most countries (Ashford et al., 2020). These inequities are affecting rights as well as access to basic needs such as food, water, and health care, and access to jobs and livelihoods, all of which have implications for food security and nutrition. Food insecurity already disproportionately affects those people experiencing poverty and who face societal discrimination sell (HLPE ,2020).

As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, many countries moved to shut down informal food markets, which governments saw as spaces for potential disease transmission, reflecting a ‘formality’ bias in public health and food policy (Battersby, 2020). Informal markets are extremely important as sources of food and livelihoods in developing countries (Young and Crush 2019). In South Africa, formal food retail outlets, which sell processed and packaged foods, were allowed to remain open while informal and open-air food markets, which typically sell more fresh fruits and vegetables, were shut down (even though open-air markets are actually safer in terms of person-to-person transmission (Moseley and Battersby, 2020). This move was especially detrimental to poor people who are more reliant on such markets for food because they can buy produce and foodstuffs in smaller quantities. After lobbying from academics and civil society, these markets were eventually allowed to reopen sell (HLPE ,2020).

Besides, people in the informal sector for instance, daily wage earners, people with jobs in low paying and the informal sector, vendors, and laborer are likely to be most impacted due to loss of jobs and livelihoods. Migrants and people living in unauthorized areas with no social safety nets are also particularly vulnerable to the disease and may not receive sufficient aid and support (Donna et al.,2020).

Women in Ethiopia often face different and more basic economic constraints than men, including lower access to credit and markets. Scarcity of food due to low production and high cost of living has an impact on poor households, most specifically female headed households, compelling them to participate in negative coping mechanisms, such as consuming less food where women and girls eat last and least (United Nation Ethiopia, 2020). Besides, in light of income reductions, households may cut education and expenditure on health to meet other basic needs. Furthermore, boys or male may be prioritized to return to school, while girls or women may stay home to look after children (Duryea et al.,1999).

The loss of livelihoods due to the pandemic can force people to adopt undesirable and sometimes irreversible coping strategies to get daily subsistence, which worsen their susceptibilities to food insecurity. For instance, gender inequities have been worsened by the pandemic outbreak. Women face added burdens during COVID-19 as frontline health and food system workers, unpaid care work, community work, which has further raised during the lockdowns (McLaren et al., 2020; Power, 2020). In addition, women's time spent in house chore appears to have increased, particularly for more vulnerable households headed by women (O'Donnell et al., 2021). Moreover, women are also threatened by a rise in domestic violence during the economic recession and restriction at home during the lockdown measure to contain the pandemic (Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), 2020).

Loss of job, disruptions to social protection programs and traditional support system, limited access to credit and market, altered food environments and access to informal market, supply chain disruptions due to the COVID-19 and measures to prevent the pandemic, these are, mobility restriction and lockdown are adversely impacting more significantly on the livelihood of vulnerable social groups most particularly women engaged in the informal sector. Literatures and experiences show that people adopt coping mechanisms to shocks. Regarding livelihood coping outcome existing literature shows that, the outcome of household coping mechanism could have either desirable livelihood outcome, that is, improve situation (Serrat,2010) or undesirable livelihood outcome, that is, further deterioration of the livelihood (Tolessa,2010), Hence, studying the livelihood coping mechanisms of women engaged in the informal sector in Adama amid COVID-19 initiated with this in mind.

CHAPTER THREE: DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA AND RESEARCH METHOD

3.1. Description of Adama city

3.1.1. Location

Adama city is located in East Shoa zone of Oromia region. Spatially, the city is positioned at crossroads in Southeast of Addis Ababa at a distance of 99 km and 84.7 kilometers via old & express road respectively from Addis Ababa, the capital of the country. It is situated in Rift valley within Awash River Watershed in Oromia Regional State of Ethiopia & North of Asela town at 75 kilometers distance (Adama city Administration,2020).

According to the information gathered from Adama city Land Management & Development Office, Adama city stretches astronomically from 8°35'00" to 8°36'00" North latitude and 39°11'57" to 39°21'15" East longitude at an average altitude of 1700 m above mean sea level (Adama city Administration,2020).

3.1.2. Climatic condition of Adama city

The climatic condition of Adama city is characterized by unreliable rainfall, scarcity of water & dry & hot condition throughout the year. The city get rainfall which mostly occurs in rainy season (June to September). The minimum and maximum average annual rainfall of Adama City for years 2007-2011 E.C was 738.5mm and 976.1mm respectively, whereas the lowest and the highest annual average temperature for years 2007-2011 E.C was 12.95 and 31.68 respectively. The amount of temperature significantly drops during the rainy season in the city (Adama city Administration,2020).

3.1.3. Population

Adama city is the major destinations of most of the migrants from nearby rural areas and different part of the country in search of a better livelihood, retaining finance & looking for better paying jobs and better opportunities. The city has continued to attract all classes of migrants who became its residents and verified the trend of dynamic demography and rapid population growth rate in many-folds in the last two decades. The city's population increased from 220, 212 in 2007 to 373,661 in 2017. Influx of the migrants from outside the state into the city is the prime factor of population explosion. The doubling period of population size is short. The population of the city on average doubles at 30 years which are calling for benefiting from a "demographic dividend" in

the coming years as well as giving attention to smaller towns' in order to slow down migrants coming from small towns and rural areas towards the city (Adama city Administration,2020).

3.1.4. Economic activity

While the socioeconomic development of the city is at its infancy stage, strenuous exertions were made to diversify its economic activity in cycle with ever-increasing population growth. Being the hub of large population concentration, telecommunication, industries, conference, hotels, recreation, financial & learning institutions, among others the city's economy and living conditions of its population have improved. In Adama diverse economic activities takes place which have created employment opportunities for the residents. These include manufacturing, construction, trade, service, agriculture. Moreover, as a result of the growing demands for diverse commodities and services due to the rise of population have made contributed the expansion of formal and informal sector (Adama city Administration,2020).

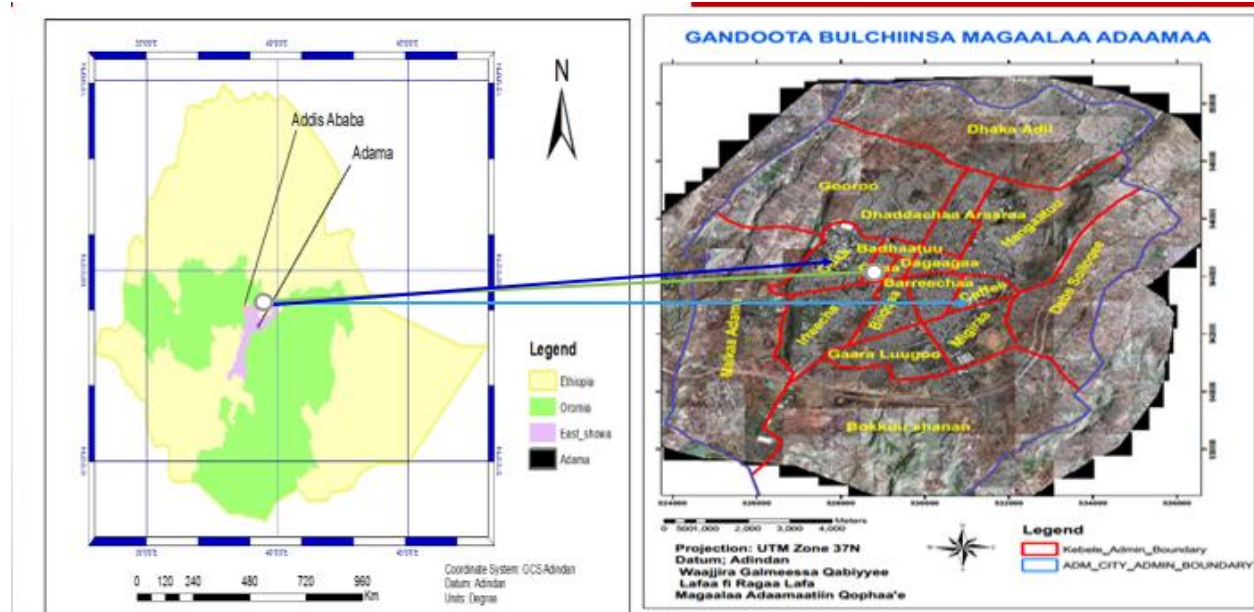


Figure 3.1: Study area map (Adama city Administration 2020)

3.2. Research method

3.2.1. Research design and approach

3.2.1.1. Research design

The type of research design used in this study was cross-sectional research design. This was used because the objective of study focused on examining of the livelihood coping mechanism of women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID 19 in Adama city. Cross-sectional survey

design was selected due to the fact that the study took place at the same time where sample was taken from the target group using probability sampling technique called multi-stage sampling technique and the overall findings were based on the views of those who have participated in the study mainly women engaged in informal sector. Above all, in this study cross-sectional survey was preferred over other designs for it is the best design to meet the objective of the study to examine the livelihood coping mechanism of women engaged in the informal sector in Adama city.

3.2.1.2. Research approach

The research approach used in this study was mixed research approach. Mixed or Triangulation, basically using two or more ways to examine the same concept, strengthen the research process and provide more information to address the research topic (Lee, 2008). Structured questionnaire survey was administered to collect quantitative data on livelihood coping mechanisms of women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19 in Adama city. Whereas focus group discussion, key informant interview and field observation were used to collect qualitative data on the livelihood coping experience, support made by government and non-governmental organizations from women engaged in the informal sector, government and NGO support representative.

3.2.2. Data type and data source

In this study both primary and secondary data sources were used. The data sources are discussed below.

3.2.2.1. Primary data source

The primary sources include women engaged in the informal sector, Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs and Non-governmental organizations. The quantitative data was collected using survey questionnaire. Whereas, qualitative data was collected using key informant interview (KII), focus group discussion (FGD) and field observation. Accordingly, data was collected on issues such as livelihood coping strategies employed, livelihood assets used, assistances received or made by government and non-governmental organization for women engaged in the informal sector, etc.

3.2.2.2. Secondary data source

In this study, published and unpublished secondary data sources were utilized. Accordingly, books, articles, journals, policy notes and briefing, published and unpublished dissertation and thesis,

Adama city administration documents, documents published by organizations, online sources etc. data sources were reviewed.

3.2.3. Sampling techniques and sample size determination

In this study, multi-stage sampling technique was used. According to Crano and Marilyn (2002), in multistage sampling, a cluster is sampled from a sampling frame (as in cluster sampling), and then (unlike cluster sampling) the cluster is sampled as well. This procedure can be extended to more stages. Besides, Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) sampling approach ensures that the likelihood of selection in a cluster or multistage sample is the same for all potential sampling units (or elements) no matter the size of the cluster from which they are drawn.

In the first stage, two Sub-cities were selected randomly from 6 Sub-cities namely Abba Geda and Dabe sub-city. In the second stage three kebeles (Genda) were purposively selected of eighteen kebeles, these are Geda, Oda and Chafe. The three kebelles were selected by virtue of their population density and relative concentration of informal sector. Whereas the number of the kebeles identified for the study areas restricted to three mainly because of the budgetary and time constraints.

In the third stage, using proportional allocation, the sample sizes for each cluster were calculated. In the fourth stage, the participants in each cluster were identified randomly using simple random sampling technique.

The identified three kebeles or cluster(area) the number of women populations 9,514 in Chafe (cluster1=N1), and 9399 in Oda (cluster2 =N2) and 10003 in Geda (cluster3 =N3). Hence, the population frame is 28,916 women. Thus, with 95% confidence level and with 5% margin of error and 10% of proportion with 28,916 population frame was calculated below.

The sample size (n) is calculated according to the formula: $n = [z^2 * p * (1 - p) / e^2] / [1 + (z^2 * p * (1 - p) / (e^2 * N))]$ (source: <https://goodcalculators.com/sample-size-calculator/>)

Where: z = 1.96 for a confidence level (α) of 95%, p = proportion (expressed as a decimal), N = population size, e = margin of error.

z = 1.96, p = 0.1, N = 28916, e = 0.05

$n = [1.96^2 * 0.1 * (1 - 0.1) / 0.05^2] / [1 + (1.96^2 * 0.1 * (1 - 0.1) / (0.05^2 * 28916))]$

$$n = 138.2976 / 1.0048 = 137.639$$

$$n \approx 138$$

Hence, the sample size was calculated to be equal to 138.

Using proportional allocation, the sample sizes for each cluster were calculated: Thus,

$$\text{For Cluster1 with } N_1=9514, P_1= 138 (9514/28,916) =45$$

$$\text{For Cluster2 with } N_2=9399, P_2= 138 (9399/28,916) =45$$

$$\text{For Cluster3 with } N_3=10,003, P_3= 138 (10,003/28,916) =48$$

Therefore, using proportional allocation, the sample sizes for the three clusters were 45, 45 and 48 respectively which were in proportion to size of the clusters (C1) 9514, (C2) 9399, and (C3) 10003 respectively.

3.2.4. Method of data collection

In this study, both quantitative and qualitative data collection tools were utilized. The main data collection tools that were employed in this study include: structured questionnaire to collect data from women engaged in the informal sector, focus group discussion to collect data from a group of women engaged in the informal sector and in-depth key informant interview to collect data from key informants such as an expert from the town's labor and social affair, women and children affairs and non-governmental organization representative and field observation.

3.2.4.1. Structured questionnaire

Structured questionnaire was administered to generate quantitative data. Structured questionnaire are questioners that contain specific and determined questions that are administered to women engaged in the informal sector with precisely similar design of wording and sequence. Beside such questionnaires are administered with assumption that all respondents responded to similar questions making easier to administer and cheaper to analyze (Dawson, 2002 & Kothari, 2004).

The questionnaire was administered to women engaged in the informal sector identified through multi-stage sampling technique by the researcher and two Master holder women who have been selected by virtue of their good understanding of the local culture and language and experience in data collection from women. It was researcher or data collector administered due to the assumption

that all women engaged in the informal sector might not be educated to fill the questionnaire and to save time, therefore, the questionnaire was researcher administered questionnaire.

The questions focus on the livelihood coping mechanisms of women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19. The survey questionnaire was pre-tested on 12 women engaged in the informal sector in Adama city on April 13/2021 and accordingly based on feedback from the pre-test the questionnaire was rechecked and few changes were made based on feedback from the pre-test. The actual data collection was carried out from May 18-28/2021 in Chafe, Geda and Oda kebeles of Adama city. The participants replied to forty-two questions which have taken 35-50 minutes on average. The questionnaire was administered by the researcher and two female data collectors. Before going to the field data collection, the researcher has provided orientation for the two data collectors on ethical requirements during and after the data collection. Regarding language, language preferred by the respondents were used as the data collectors are fluent in Afan Oromo and Amharic language. Furthermore, discussion has been made on each survey questions and common understanding were created. The participants were approached at their place, time covenant to them and their willingness have been asked.

3.2.4.2. In-depth interview with key informant

In-depth key informant interview was used to collect qualitative data from persons who have a unique professional and experience background related to the issue at hand. This was done through interviewing three key informants including, government experts from Adama Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs and Adama city Bureau of Women and children affairs, and NGO support representative. These helped to collect an in-depth information most specifically on the livelihood coping mechanisms of women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19 and the support made by the Government and NGOs to mitigate the impact COVID 19 on livelihood women engaged in the informal sector in Adama city. These interviews were conducted with an assumption that the interviewees are knowledgeable about the issue and/or have access to other information of interest.

The key informants from BoLSA Adama city, women and children affairs, NGO support representative were asked questions related to the impact COVID 19 on the livelihood women informal sector and response/intervention made by the government and NGOs in Adama city. Prior appointment has been fixed with each of the key informants. All the key informants were

conducted after data were collected from women engaged in the informal sector. The interviews were conducted by the researcher at the respondents' respective office. The interviews were conducted in Afan Oromo language based on the preference of the key informants. The interview took on the average an hour and the researcher has recorded on note book. Ministry of health COVID-19 precautionary measures were respected during the interview. Accordingly, social distancing maintained and sanitizer has been used before and after the interview with all key informants.

3.2.4.3. Focus group discussion (FGD)

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) interview was also used to collect qualitative data from women engaged in the informal sector in Adama city. This was done through interviewing 7-12 women engaged in the informal sector in two of the three kebeles namely Chefe and Geda kebeles. FGD interview guide were administered to get detailed qualitative data on livelihood coping mechanism of women engaged in the informal sector in Adama city. The discussions took place in open space with relatively free of noise suggested by the participants. Likewise, language preferences of the respondents were respected. Each of the FGD conducted at Chefe and Geda kebeles took an hour. Ministry of health COVID-19 precautionary measures were respected during the discussion. Accordingly, masks have been distributed to all FGD participants, social distancing maintained and sanitizer has been before and after the discussion session in both kebeles.

3.2.4.4. Field observation

The other data collection tool used in this study to generate qualitative data were field observation. In field observation the researcher observes behavior and events in an endeavor to explore the situation under investigation. There is no careful plan and no organized categories of observation units. Unstructured observation allows the researcher to 'soak up' the environment and to make observations which are free from any preconceptions about the situation.

In a study using unstructured observation, the researcher may record incidents, impressions, dialogue and other important points about the research situation.

Hence, using this tool the researcher observed current livelihood activities and relevant issues of women informal sector in Adama city. This was done from the first day of entering the field to the last day of the study. The researcher conducted the observation through having informal talk,

sitting under cafes/hotels favorable for observing the target in areas identified for the study. Notes were taken after leaving the field.

3.2.5. Data analysis

In this study both quantitative and qualitative analysis method were utilized. Accordingly, the data analyses that was used in this study is presented below for each specific objective. Hence, for specific one and two, that is,

- “To identify major livelihood coping mechanism of women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19” and “To identify livelihood assets used by women engaged in the informal sector for sustaining life amid COVID-19 in Adama.”

The responses of study participants on their major livelihood coping strategies and livelihood assets used for sustaining life collected using survey questionnaire were analyzed quantitatively. Thus, the data produced on major livelihood coping strategies and livelihood assets used for sustaining living were edited to detect error and omission and to make sure the data are accurate. Then the revised data was coded through proving numbers and the coded data was classified on the ground of their shared characteristics and then entered to Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS). Finalizing the above activities, the data was analyzed using (SPSS). After finalizing that, then for all variables frequencies were counted and percentages were calculated to describe livelihood coping mechanisms of women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19 in Adama city. Moreover, cross tabulations of variables were done. The data was presented using table, bar and pie charts.

In addition, the responses of study participants and key informants that were collected through focus group discussions and key informant interview were qualitatively analyzed. Hence, the data was categorized so as to classify, and summarize and thematically analyzed. Thus, the data was thematically analyzed with regard to or related thematic content. Moreover, the themes were structured to make sure that verbal and experiences of the respondents aligned with the objective.

- “To assess response of the government and NGOs for women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19 crisis.”

The response or intervention of the government and the NGOs for women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19 crisis in Adama that was collected using questionnaire were

quantitatively analyzed. Hence, the responses of women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19 in Adama city on assistances received from formal institutions namely government and NGOs collected using survey questionnaire were analyzed quantitatively. Thus, the data produced on the assistances made by the formal and informal institutions were edited to detect error and omission and to make sure the data are accurate. Then, the revised data was coded through proving numbers and the coded data was classified on the ground of their shared characteristics and then entered to Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS). Finalizing the above activities, the data was analyzed using (SPSS). After finalizing that, then for all variables frequencies were counted and percentages were calculated to describe livelihood coping mechanisms of women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19 in Adama city. Moreover, cross tabulations of variables were done. The data was presented using table, bar and pie charts.

In addition, information on the assistances collected using key informant interview and FGD on assistances made by the government and NGOs were qualitatively analyzed. The data was categorized so as to classify, and summarize and thematically analyzed. Thus, the data was thematically analyzed with regard to or related thematic content. Moreover, the themes will be structured to make sure that verbal and experiences of the respondents aligned with the objective.

3.2.6. Ethical consideration

The researcher received a support letter from Addis Ababa University College of Developmental Studies, Center for Food Security Studies concerned bodies. And before going to the field and the researcher contacted relevant authorities of Adama city administration and made clear the objective of the study and cooperation letters were written to Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs (BOLSA) of Adama city and Adama city women and children Affairs Bureau.

Accordingly, respondents were asked their consent after the consent form was read to each of them. Therefore, choice of women engaged in the informal sector who showed reluctance to participate in the study were respected and replaced by others. All respondents of these study were participated with their own free will and no false promises were made. Furthermore, participants were told that their names are not going to be used in the report and that they have the right not to give answers either to the whole or to part of questions they were unwilling and they were also

given the right to withdraw from the study at any time. They were also informed that the information they provide is confidential. Which means the information they provide to the study will not be disclosed to the third party without their permission. And the administration of the questionnaire was made by the researcher and qualified women professionals who are familiar with questionnaire and conducting collecting data from women in general and, vulnerable women in particular.

The researcher and data collectors communicated and approached every participant of the study with respect and away from being judgmental regardless of their social status.

3.2.7. Description of the study variable

In this study livelihood coping strategy of women in the informal sector which include income generating activities, risk reduction strategies and loss management strategies is one of the study variables. The other study variable of this research is livelihood asset which is characterized by access and ownership of assets, access to institution amid COVID-19. In addition, government and NGO support provided for the women in the informal sector are the third variable.

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Socioeconomic condition of the respondents

4.1.1. Distribution of respondents' age

In this survey a total of 138 women engaged in the informal sector have been identified using multi-stage sampling technique from three kebeles in Adama City, namely Chafe, Geda and Oda. As per Figure 4.1, considerable size 48(34.8%) study participants who have participated in the survey were between the age of 30-39 years, 44(31.9%) were between 20-29 years, while 21 (15.2%) were between 40-49 years, 20(14.5%) were less than 20 years and the remaining 5(3.6%) the respondents were above 45 years.

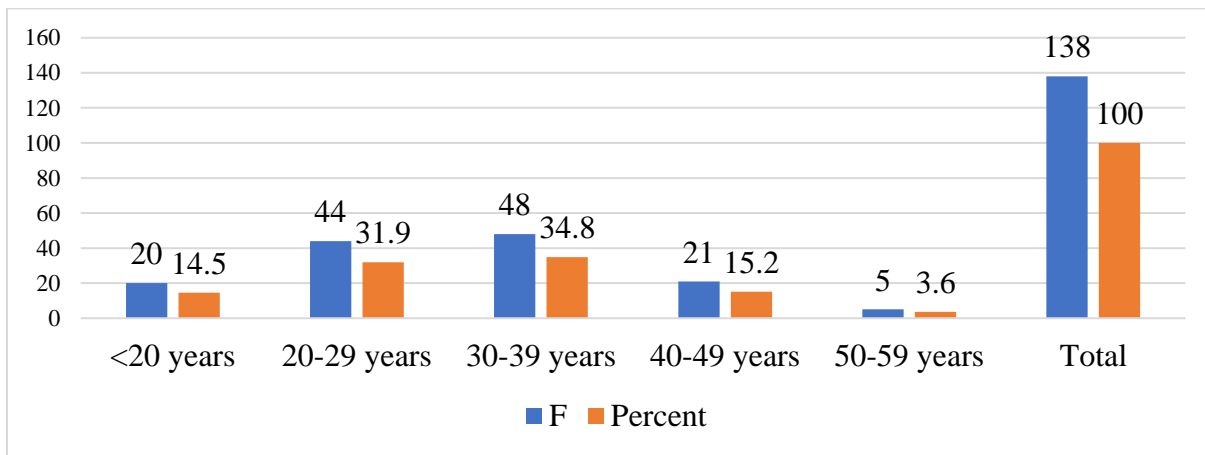


Figure 4.1: Distribution of respondents by age distribution

4.1.2. Respondent's place of birth

Survey respondents were asked whether they were born in Adama city or outside Adama city. Accordingly, the finding revealed that the majority 86(62.3%) of the respondents were born outside Adama city. Whereas the remaining 52(37.7%) of the survey participants were born in Adama city. This shows that the majority of the surveyed women engaged in the informal sector were born outside Adama city and migrated in to city. FGD participant revealed that the main reason for moving to Adama city reported by respondents who were born outside Adama city were search of better job and looking for better life. The finding is consistent with the study made by Seabsib (2015), which discussed the number of women participating in the informal sector is increasing mainly due to rural-urban migration in search of formal employment though in most instances they find themselves in the informal sector to sustain their living.

4.1.3. Respondents' distribution by kebele

The surveyed women engaged in the informal sector were identified from three Kebeles in Adama city. Table 4.1 below showed that out of the total 138 survey respondents 48(34.8%) are from Geda kebel while 45(32.6%) of the respondents were from Chafe kebele followed by 45(32.6%) of the survey participants who were working in Oda kebele.

Table 4.1: Distribution of respondents by Kebele

Genda	F	%
Chafe	45	32.6
Oda	45	32.6
Geda	48	34.8
Total	138	100.0

4.1.4. Distribution of respondents by marital status

Regarding marital status of women engaged in the informal sector, as shown in the Table 4.2 below, the majority of the about 66 (47.8%) are married; 51 (37%) are single; whereas 12(8.7%) are divorced and only 9(6.5%) are windowed.

Table 4.2: Distribution of respondents marital status by kebele

Genda or kebele		Marital status of the respondent				Total
		Single	Married	Divorced	Widowed	
Chafe	F	19	18	4	4	45
	%	13.8	13.0	2.9	2.9	32.6
Oda	F	17	23	4	1	45
	%	12.3	16.7	2.9	0.7	32.6
Geda	F	15	25	4	4	48
	%	10.9	18.1	2.9	2.9	34.8
Total	F	51	66	12	9	138
	%	37.0	47.8	8.7	6.5	100

4.1.5. Distribution of respondents by level of education

As shown in the figure 4.2 below, out of the total survey respondents about 50(36.2%) were in the Junior high (Grade 5-8) while 45(32.6%) were in high school (Grade 9-12). Whereas 24(17.4%) of respondents reported to have attended first cycle primary education level (Grade 1-4). Nine

(6.5%) and 5(3.6%) respondents reported they can only read and write and never attended school at all, respectively. The highest level of education reported by respondent were diploma/level, which was only reported by 5(3.6%) of the respondents. The finding indicated that 124(89.9%) of the survey respondents have attended formal education between grade one to diploma. To the contrary, of the total respondents about 14(10.1 %) have never attended formal education.

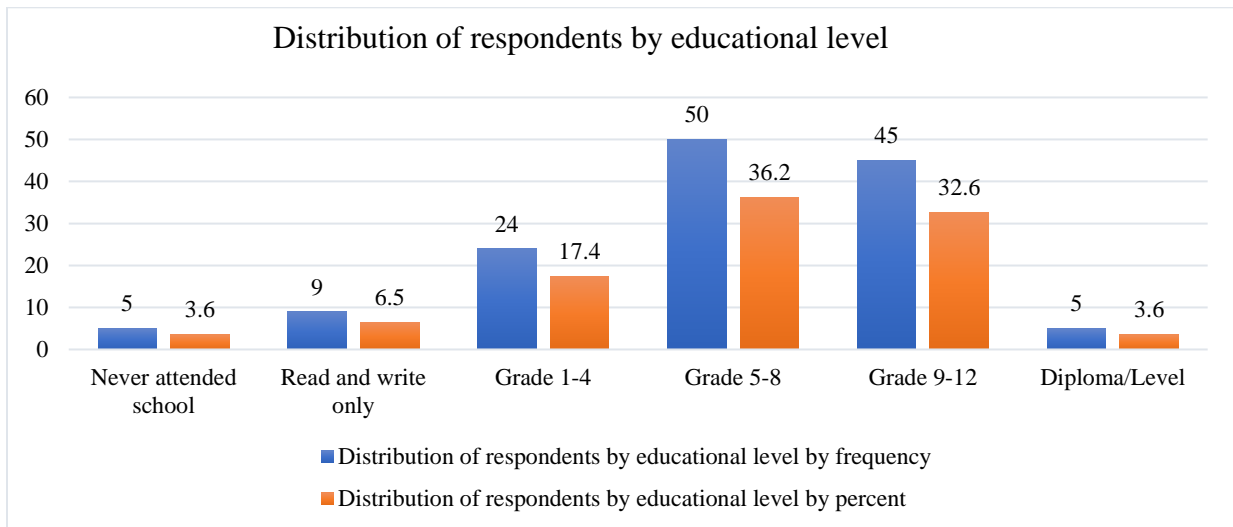


Figure 4.2: Distribution respondents by level of education

4.1.6. Respondents household size and dependent household members

As shown on Table 4.3 below, about 42 (30.4%) respondents have household size of 5-6 members while 39(28.3%) of the respondents have 1-2 HH members followed by 36(26.1%) of respondents who have 3-4 HH members. Whereas 21(15.2%) respondents have the largest household size ,that is, seven and above. The above finding indicated that the majority 71.1% of the respondents have three or more family size.

Table 4.3 : Distribution of respondents household size

HH size	F	%
One or two	39	28.3
Three to four	36	26.1
Five to six	42	30.4
Seven and above	21	15.2
Total	138	100.0

The majority of survey respondents, 112(about 81.2%) reported they have dependent household members while 26(18.8%) of the respondents do not have dependent household members. Regarding the number of dependents in households, Table 4.4 below depicted those 30(21.7%) respondents have four dependent household (HH) members while 28(20.3%) of the respondents confirmed that they have two dependent household members. About 21 (15.2%) of the respondents have above five dependent household members, which is the largest. About 17 (about 12.3 %) and 16 (about 11.6%) of respondents have reported to have one and three dependent HH members respectively. The study result indicated that the majority of surveyed women engaged in the informal sector about 69% have two or more dependent household members. This shows that the women engaged in the informal sector have had the responsibility of feeding and taking care and sustaining the life of their dependent household members in addition to their own amid COVID-19. This makes it their situation even more serious.

Table 4.4: Distribution of respondents by number of dependent HH members

# Of dependent HH	F	%
One	17	12.3
Two	28	20.3
Three	16	11.6
Four	30	21.7
Five and above	21	15.2
None	26	18.8
Total	138	100.0

4.2. Household livelihood assets used amid-19

4.2.1. Human capital

4.2.1.1. Number of working households amid COVID-19

The finding of the study revealed that dominant majority 92.1% respondents were within the working age between 19-45 years (see figure 4.1). Besides, most of the respondents 89.1% have attended formal education (see figure 4.2). Respondents were asked about the number of working members in the household. As shown in Table 4.5 below, out of the total respondents 50(about 36.2%) have two working household members while 48(34.8) have only one working household member. Whereas 31(22.5%) of the respondents reported to have three working household members. Only 9(6.5%) of the total respondents revealed that they have four working members. The above finding revealed that the majority have more than two working household members.

The participants of FGD indicated that regardless of the number of the household women engaged in the informal sector in Adama city get meager income that can only help them barely survive.

Table 4.5: Number of working household members by household size

N _Q of working hh members	F	%
One	48	34.8
Two	50	36.2
Three	31	22.5
Four	9	6.5
Total	138	100.0

4.2.1.2. Where respondents receive health Service amid COVID-19

Surveyed women engaged in the informal sector were asked whether they receive health service from government health post, health center and hospital; private clinic or hospital; and NGO clinic or hospital. Hence, all the respondents confirmed that they mainly use or seek health service from government health post, health center and hospital amid COVID-19.

4.2.2. Financial capital

4.2.2.1. Borrowing money amid COVID-19

As shown in Figure 4.3 below, of the total study participant 52(37.7%) said they wanted to borrow, but did not know who to ask or where to go while 42(30.4%) of the respondent reported to have tried to borrow, but was not successful; 39(about 28.3%) reported to have borrowed money amid COVID-19 and only 5(3.6%) indicated they did not want to borrow. In similar manner, efforts were made whether respondents have borrowed from Bank, credit associations, private borrowers or relatives. Consequently, the finding showed among respondents who reported to have borrow cash, 69.2% and 59% of the respondents showed that they borrowed from private borrowers and relatives amid COVID-19 respectively.

The finding revealed that survey respondents have relied on private and relatives' borrowers amid COVID-19. Besides, the respondents were not borrowed from formal loan providing institutions like Bank and credit associations amid COVI-19. This was the case when they tried to restart their self-employment in the post lockdown and mobility restriction period. The FGD discussants also indicated have no access to borrow from formal loan providing institutions.

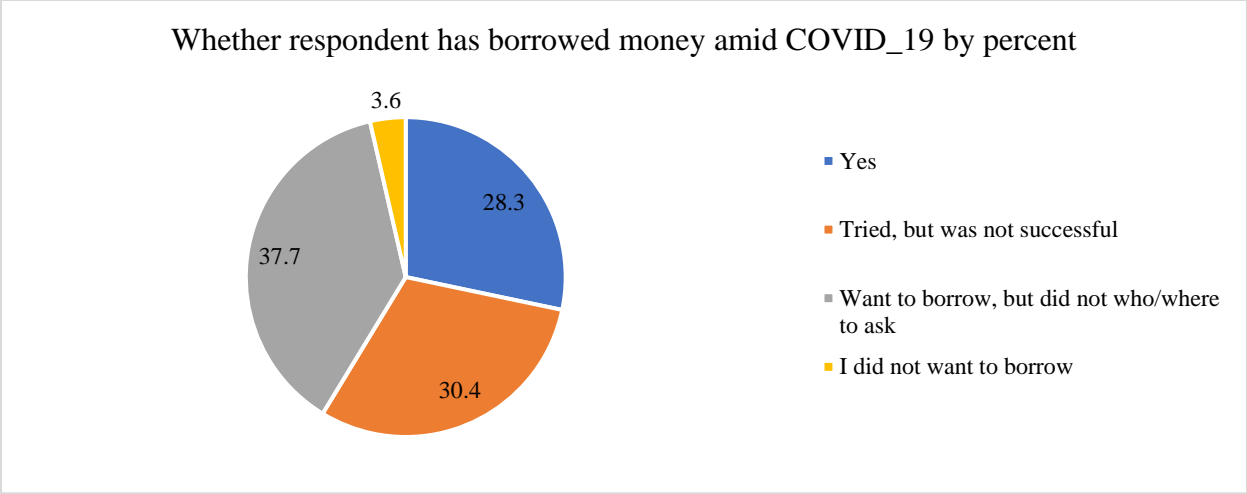


Figure 4.3: Whether respondents have borrowed money amid COVID-19

4.2.2.2. Saving and use of saving amid COVID-19

Regarding saving, surveyed women engaged in the informal sector were asked whether they had saving before COVID-19. Thus, of the total respondents the majority 90(65.2%) reported that they did not have savings while 48(34.8%) reported to have saving before in kind or cash. In the same way, efforts were made to look into whether respondents have used their savings (cash or kind). Out of the total surveyed women about 30.4% have used their savings amid COVID-19. Regarding the form of saving, about 23(about 16.7%) of the respondents saving were cash at home while 19(13.8%) of respondents saving were bank deposit. Only 5(3.6%) and 1(0.7%) reported to have saving in livestock and jewelry respectively. Almost all the FGD participants revealed that they barely save and they were living on income made on daily bases and spent for basic needs on daily basis. This shows that the majority of the women engaged in the informal sector have no savings to be used amid COVID-19.

Table 4.6: Respondents form of saving

Form of saving	Frequency	Percent
Cash	23	16.7
Bank deposit	19	13.8
Livestock	5	3.6
Jewelry	1	.7
N/A	90	65.2
Total	138	100.0

4.2.2.3. Remittance and pension

With respect remittance, out of the total surveyed women engaged in the informal sector only 5(3.6%) reported to have remittance. Likewise, the finding revealed that only 12(8.7%) respondents confirmed to have pension. Among respondents reported have relied on pension, more than three fourth or about 78% of them were widowed respondents by marital status. The finding indicates that remittances and pensions were the least reported financial capital by women engaged in the informal sector. Furthermore, participants of FGD indicated that that they did not receive remittance amid COVID-19 due to the impact of the pandemic overseas.

4.2.2.4. Main source of income

Respondents main source of income before COVID-19

As shown in the Table 4.7 below, out of the total 48(34.8%) of the respondents were engaged in selling food and drinks such as coffee, tea, boiled potato, boiled egg, and other fast food etc. About 39(28.3%) were engaged in selling non-food items such as (cigarettes, chewing gum, matches, second hand clothes and shoes etc). And 37(26.8%) of the respondents reported selling vegetable and fruits as main source of income before COVID-19 breakout. About 9 (6.5%) and 5 (3.6%) of the respondents were engaged in working as cook and waitresses in private cafe, restaurant, hotel and employed in factory or industry respectively before COVID-19 breakouts.

Table 4.7: Respondents main source of income before COVI-19 breakout

Main source of income	F	%
vegetable and fruits vending	37	26.8
Food & drink vending	48	34.8
Non-food item vending	39	28.3
Employed in factory/industry	5	3.6
work in private coffee, restaurant, hotel	9	6.5
Total	138	100.0

Respondents main source of income amid COVID-19(post lockdown)

Out of the total 51(37%) of the respondents were engaged in food and drinks vending amid COVID-19 followed by 50(36.2%) respondents who were engaged in non-food item vending as a main source of income amid COVID-19. The remaining 37(26.8%) of the respondents were engaged in vegetable and fruit vending mid COVID-19. The above finding revealed that the

respondents who were previously working relied on factory employment and service sector (employed in private cafe, hotel and restaurants) have shifted to street vending amid COVID-19 of post lockdown. The result also indicated out of 14 women engaged in the informal sector who were relied on informal employment in factory and service sectors the majority 71.4% of the shifted to selling non-food item such as masks, sanitizer container and other non-food items post lockdown period. Furthermore, the specific study revealed that respondents who reported to have engaged in non-food item street vending have indicated that they have added masks, sanitizer and empty sanitizer containers to the non-food items they were selling before. A study by Nanavaty (2021), also revealed that some informal workers were able to effectively turn around and assume new work amid the pick of the pandemic. However, in the current study the shift to assume another income source was made after the lockdown.

The FGD discussants indicated that women they know, who were previously employed and lost their job due to the pandemic have newly joined street vending just by selling masks, sanitizer and empty sanitizer containers particularly during the lockdown. The FGD participants further revealed that they have borrowed money, sold their assets, used their savings, received support from extended family the cash to resume their street vending or join street vending after the lockdown. They also indicated they did not receive any kind of cash assistance or credit to resume their self-employment from formal credit providing institutions.

Table 4.8: Main source of income/Livelihood amid COVID-19(Post lockdown period)

Main source of income amid COVID-19	F	%
vegetable and fruits vending	37	26.8
Food & drink vending	51	37.0
Non-food vending	50	36.2
Total	138	100.0

4.2.2.5. Respondents' income before and amid COVID-19

Respondents were asked their average monthly income before COVID-19. As shown in figure 4.4 below, 49(35.5%) of the survey respondents reported they make average monthly income between 501-900 Ethiopian birr (ETB), 42(30.46%) of the respondents reported they make average monthly income of 901-1200 ETB, 38 (27.5%) confirmed average monthly income of below 500 ETB. Nine (6.5%) of the respondents reported average monthly income of >1201 ETB before COVID-19.

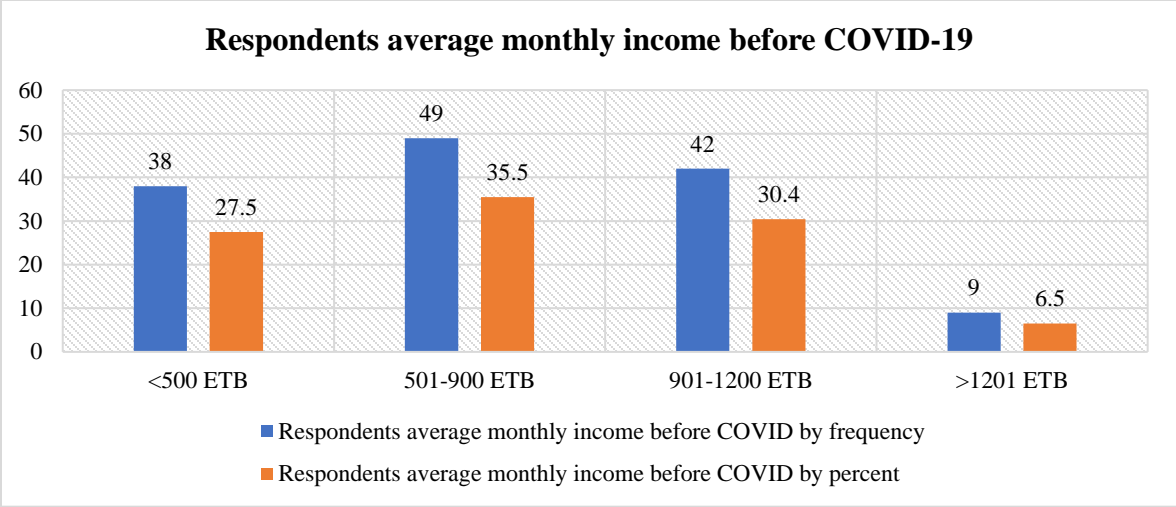


Figure 4.4: Monthly income of the household before COVID-19 breakout

Similarly, as indicated in Figure 4.5 below monthly income of the respondents amid COVID-19 has been shown. Hence, the majority 105(76.1%) reported they earn a monthly average income of > 500 ETB while 30(21. %) of the survey participants reported they are earning 501-900 ETB amid COVID-19. Only 2(1.4%) and 1(0.7%) of the respondents reported to have earned average monthly income of 901-1200 ETB and >1201ETB amid COVID-19 respectively. Based on the above finding there were differences in the income of the surveyed women engaged in the informal sector (street vending) before and amid COVID-19 in this study. Evidence to this is the fact that the about 72.4% surveyed women make 501- >1200 ETB before COVID-19 breakout. To the contrary, the majority 105(76.1%) of respondents reported to have received <500 ETB amid COVID-19. The finding clearly indicate that COVID-19 has resulted in reduction of the respondents amount of income.

The key informants indicated that there was income reduction due to COVID-19 and most particularly amid the lockdown and mobility restriction following the declaration of state of emergency by government. In addition, participants of FGD revealed that even before COVID-19 they get very little money only to cover for food and for house rent. Each month they face difficulty to fully pay the house rent and they have to ask their house renter to wait for days. However, COVID-19 worsen the situation by totally keeping them home without work resulting in the total lose or significant reduction of meager income they used to make to sustain their life.

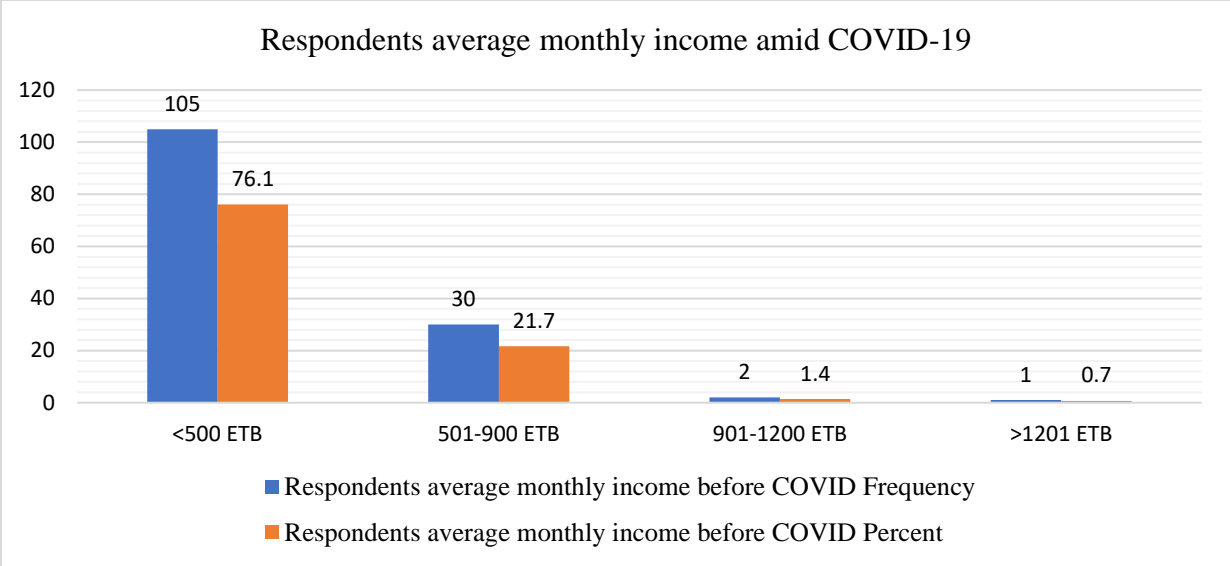


Figure 4.5: Monthly income of the household amid COVID-19 breakout

4.2.2.6. Respondents main expense before and amid COVID-19

As depicted in Table 4.9 below the main spending items of the respondents before COVID-19 include pay for own or family food, pay for house rent, use for sustaining self-employment, use to support parents, paid for own or children schooling and pay for health service. Of the total respondents all or 138(100%) spend/paid their income for own or family food, 126(91.3%) paid for house rent ,124(89.9%) reported they used their income to sustain their self-employment, 53(38.4%) used their income to support parents,16(11.6%) paid for own or children schooling and 5(3.6%) paid for health service before COVID-19 pandemic breakout. The finding revealed that the income of all most all surveyed women engaged in the informal sector in this study paid mainly for food, house rent and sustaining the self-employment.

Participants of FGD also agreed that the women engaged in the informal sector pay their scanty income for limited basic needs like food and house rent. They even hardly afford for the basic needs. The key informants also revealed that this group of the people make that only helps them to cover their daily subsistence.

Table 4.9: Expenses before COVID-19

Expenses before COVID-19	Responses	
	F	%
Pay for own or family food	138	100
Pay for house rent	126	91.3
Pay for health service	5	3.6
Use for sustaining self-employment	124	89.9
Use to support parents	53	38.4
Paid for own or children schooling	16	11.6
Total	138	100.0

Similarly, respondents were asked main spending of their income amid COVID-19 pandemic. As shown in Table 4.10 below, same way as before COVID-19 breakout 138(100%) respondents reported that the prime spending of their income amid the pandemic were own or family food while 126(91.3%) of the respondents paid their income for house rent amid COVID-19. Different from the reported cases or spending areas during the pandemic were paid to travel to birth place and paid to travel in search of new work reported by 34(24.6%) and 6(4.3%) respondents respectively. The finding indicated that there are similarities when it comes to spending income for household food and house rent. Nevertheless, considerable number of respondents also reported to have paid their income to travel to birth place and to travel in search of new work amid COVID-19 which were not indicated before COVID-19. In addition, main spending areas reported before COVID-19 such as use of income to sustain their self-employment, support parents, paid for own or children schooling and paid for health service were not reported as main areas of spending income amid-COVID-19.

Table 4.10: Expenses amid COVID-19

Expenses amid COVID-19	Responses	
	N	%
Paid for family food	138	100%
Spend on house rent	126	91.3%
Paid to travel to birth place	34	24.6%
Paid to travel in search of new work	6	4.3%
Total	138	100.0

4.2.3. Physical Asset

4.2.3.1. House and land ownership status

Out of the total respondents, the majority 108(78.3%) are living in house rented from private owners, 18(13%) of the respondents are living in house rented from kebele. Whereas, only 7(5.1%) are living in their own house. Only 4(2.9%) and 1(0.7%) of study participants are living in tent made on open space and in house temporary under construction and while also serving as guard.

Table 4.11: Respondents house ownership condition

House ownership status	F	%
Own house	7	5.1
Rented from kebele	18	13.0
Rented from private owner	108	78.3
Temporarily given to guard	1	.7
Made own tenet on open space	4	2.9
Total	138	100.0

Likewise, respondents were asked land ownership status and type of land ownership. Out of the total only 7(5.1%) of the surveyed women engaged in the informal sector reported they own residential land in which their house is built. None of the respondent has agricultural land. This shows the vast majority of the respondents in this study have no their own house and land.

4.2.3.2. Water, sanitation and electricity

Regarding source of water, of the total the dominant majority 133(96.4%) respondents reported that tap water in the compound is the mains source of water while 4(2.9%) of the respondents confirmed water venders as main source of water.

Table 4.12: Respondents source of water

Source of water	F	%
Privately owned tap	133	96.4
Public owned tap	1	.7
Water venders	4	2.9
Total	138	100.0

Regarding access to electricity, the finding indicated that almost all 97.8% respondents have access to electricity. In addition, Figure 4.6 below indicated that the vast majority 136(98.6%) reported to have toilet to use while only 2(1.4%) respondents reported that they do not have toilet.

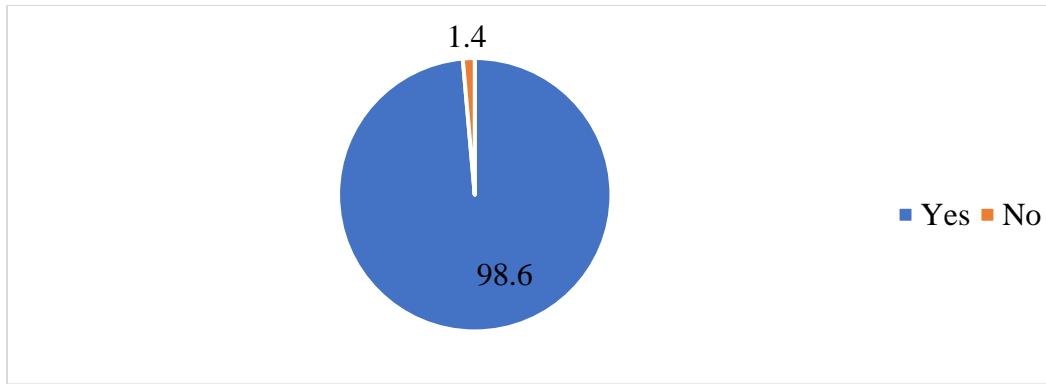


Figure 4.6: Percentage (%) of respondents who have toilet in their compound

4.2.4. Social Capital

4.2.4.1. Support from social capital/network amid COVID-19

The study finding revealed that, out of the total women engaged in the informal sector close to half surveyed respondents about 68(49.3%) confirmed that they have got food, housing and cash support from extended family or relatives amid COVID-19. Likewise, 12(8.7%) have reported to have received food and house rent fee exemption assistances from neighbors or community assistance amid COVID-19. The study result shows that support from extended family were the most utilized by women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19 in this study.

4.2.4.2. Ekub and Edir membership

Figure 4.7 below showed that women engaged in the informal sector were asked whether the they were member of Ekub. Of the total surveyed women 19(13.8%) have Ekub. However, the Ekub have stopped amid COVI-19. The main reason reported by respondents for stopping the Ekub was the impact of COVID-19 on their income.

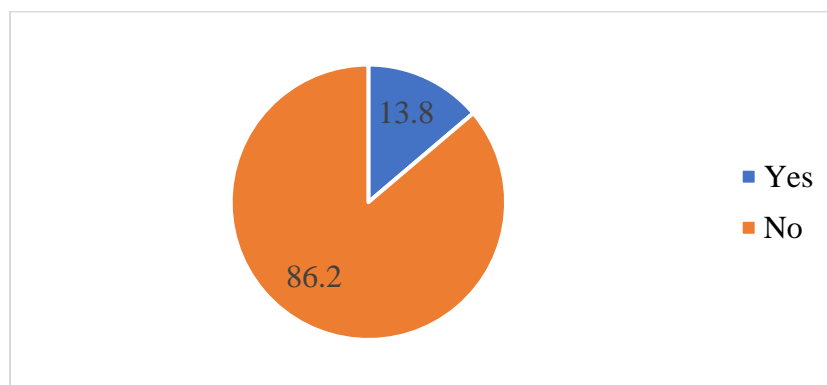


Figure 4.7: Percentage (%) of respondents who are member of Ekub

Similarly, efforts have been made to grasp monthly contribution of the women engaged in the informal sector for Ekub before COVID-19. Hence, out of the total survey respondents 7(5.1%) of the respondents reported to have contributed greater than 251, 6(4.3%) reported to have contributed 201-250 ETB, 5(3.6%) respondents confirmed that they have contributed 101-200 ETB. Whereas one respondent reported they have contributed 50-100 ETB.

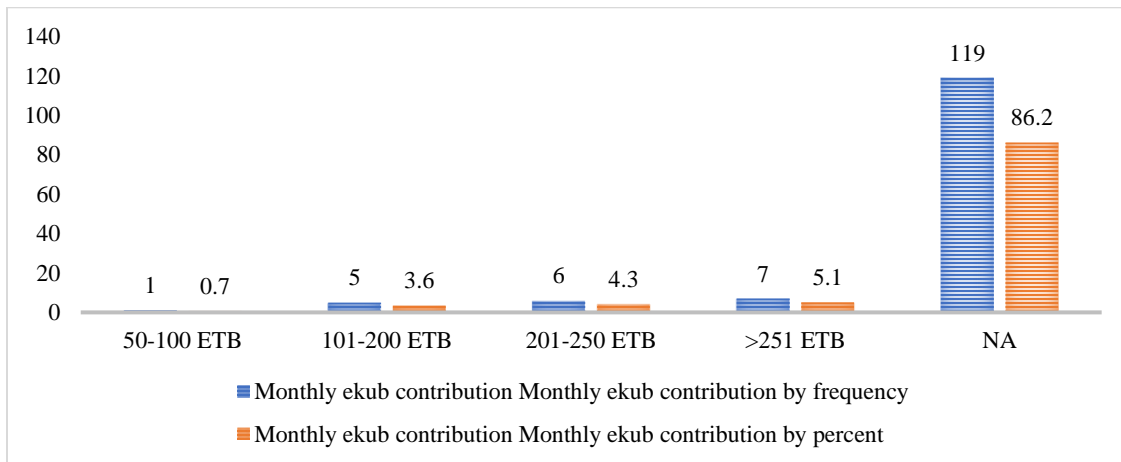


Figure 4.8: Respondents monthly contribution for Ekub

Regarding membership in Edir, out of the total surveyed women engaged in the informal sector in this study 25(18.1%) have reported to be a member of Edir. Likewise, women engaged in the informal sector were asked the support provided by Edir amid COVID-19. Accordingly, all the respondents reported Cash Support when sick and support when family member is dead.

4.3. Adverse impact of the pandemic and livelihood coping mechanism

4.3.1. Adverse impacts of COVID-19

The finding revealed that respondents have experienced adverse impacts due to COVID-19. Table 4.13 below showed that all respondents have reported reduced income and staying home due to COVID-19 while the overwhelming majority 137(99.3%) reported increased house chore. Whereas significant majority of survey respondents 124(89.9%) reported that they have quit self-employment. Likewise, 35(25.4%) of the respondents confirmed that they moved out of Adama as a result of COVID-19. About 16(11.6%) have reported to have quit schooling. And 14(10.1%) and 6(4.3%) have reported to have lost job/employment and evacuated from the house they rented due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 4.13: Adverse impact of **COVID-19**

Adverse impacts of COVID-19	F	%
Lost job or employment	14	10.1
stayed home	138	100.0
Displaced	35	25.4
Quit self-employment	124	89.9
Evacuated from house	6	4.3
Quit schooling	16	11.6
Increased house chore	137	99.3
Reduced income	138	100.0%
*Multiple response		

Both key informants and FGD discussants agreed that women engaged in the informal sector have significantly impacted by adverse impacts of COVID-19. The key informant emphasized that, the women engaged in the informal sector have been impacted by adverse impacts of the pandemic which include evacuation from their rented house by the owners, inability to pay own and children food and exposure to sever food insecurity, conflict with the security personnel and detention when trying to work, lack of transport due to the restriction of mobility to go to their loved ones outside Adama city.

Likewise, participants of FGD agreed that COVID-19 have significantly affected their lives, livelihood, self-employment, lost job, income, health, mobility, school etc. They also made clear that some women were displaced to their birth place and evacuated from the house they rented. In addition, key informants agreed that the pandemic has made the life of all group of the community very difficult and women engaged in the informal sector are among the most impacted. The key informant participants also agreed that, they have reached to the level of having nothing after having finished their meager savings being invested for food.

The finding of the study was consistent with a study conducted by HLPE (2020), that mentioned the pandemic has adversely affecting rights as well as access to basic needs such as food, water, and health care, and access to jobs and livelihoods.

The participants of FGD agreed that people in the informal sector in general, most particularly women engaged in the informal sector were disproportionately impacted by adverse impacts of COVID-19. The key informants also revealed that, though the impact of COVID-19 have affected all uniformly, but women engaged in the informal sector were the hardest hit. The main reason for

this is the fact that informal sector is less paying and a day without work means a night and next day without food. Moreover, women bear the maximum responsibility when it comes to carrying and feeding family, particularly children and husband. They went on saying, women raising children are the most impacted by the pandemic as they are bread winner for the household who pay for everything related to the household such as pay for food, pay for house fee, pay for or fetch fire wood and cook etc, are her responsibilities. They also made clear even when women are living with her husband, she suffers a lot than the male. As the women is the one in charge of managing the entire thing in the house.

The finding of study is consistent with the study made by World Bank (2020), the study discussed that the pandemic resulted in significant cut in the informal sector income by almost 60 % globally. This has disproportionately impacted women and their families already living in poverty as this shock could significantly impact on their affordability to pay for the basic needs. Moreover, the fact that women will shoulder added burdens on their time owing to their multiple care duties due to measures to contain the virus. Athena et al., (2020), also discussed that many of the sectors in which women are predominantly employed often part-time, lower paid, informal or insecure employment have been the hardest hit by COVID-19 containment measures, such as shutdowns and travel restrictions.

4.3.2. Livelihood coping mechanism

As depicted in table 4.14 below, of the total women engaged in the informal sector about 68(49.3%) used relied on assistances from family or relatives as coping strategy to the impact of COVID-19 on the household livelihood while 58(42%) involved children (own children or siblings) as main livelihood coping mechanisms. Of the total respondents 49(about 35.5%) reported they sold their assets as livelihood coping mechanism. Forty-two (30.4%) reported that they used their savings and Thirty-nine (28.3%) of the respondents confirmed that they borrowed cash as livelihood coping mechanism to the impacts of COVID-19 on the livelihood. Thirty (24.4%) of the survey participants reported to have traveled to in search of assistance or work. Thirteen (9.4%) and eight (5.8%) reported they rely on pension and urban safety net as main livelihood coping mechanism amid COVID-19. The finding showed that the women engaged in the informal sector in this study have used a combination of one two or above livelihood coping mechanisms to cope with the impacts of the pandemic on their livelihood. The finding was consistent with a study by Athena et al., (2020) in South Pacific, that found out that a variety of

livelihood coping mechanisms are being implemented at an individual and family level to cope with the adverse impacts of COVID-19. Whereas the finding of the current study was in sharp contradiction with the study conducted by EEA (2020), which found out that the majority of the households (55.2%) do not have livelihood coping mechanisms to deal with the adverse impact of the pandemic.

Regarding coping strategies, FGD participants revealed that they have employed livelihood coping strategies which include use meager saving and money used to sustain their business, sale assets, travel to relatives, borrow, ask support of children or extended family assistance living in another city or in the rural.

The above finding indicated that among the three categories of livelihood coping mechanism the livelihood coping mechanism of the study participants fall under the category of loss management strategies such as stage one or reversible mechanism and disposal of insurance assets as some of the respondents were reliant on using meager savings, selling own asset, drawing on their social capital, borrowing, etc. In addition, they have also resorted into disposal of productive assets specially respondents who were born out of Adama city sold the equipment's they used to generate money with for example FGD discussants mentioned to have sold her equipment with which she used to cook.

A study by Athena et al., (2020), mentioned selling assets; using savings; opted for financial; shift their work and income to construction and food delivery; engaging weaving and animal husbandry returning to home which was their source of income previously, and selling items online and selling bread and cake to cope with the adverse impact of the pandemic. The current study is consistent with Athena et al., as both studies have mentioned selling assets; using savings; opted for financial as livelihood coping mechanism used by respondents to cope with the adverse impacts of the pandemic. However, shift their work and income to construction and food delivery; engaging weaving and animal husbandry returning to home which was their source of income previously, and selling items online; and selling bread and cake were not reported by the current study amid lockdown.

According to Degefa(2010), in Ethiopia, the livelihood coping strategies adopted by household amid shocks include migration, living in slum community, diversification of source of income, renting out once house, involving in negative coping strategies(e.g. commercial sex and theft etc).

It contradicts with the current study, with the exception of migration as livelihood coping mechanism none of the listed coping mechanisms listed by the former study was aligned with the current study.

The FGD discussants further revealed that engaging in livelihood coping mechanisms for example sex for money or food, drug, theft was not the case. They discussed that let alone them to engage in sex for money even those who were mainly working as sex worker themselves were unable to work as hotels were closed, people fear to get close to people, fear of security personnel and the pandemic etc. This shows the likelihood of negative livelihood coping mechanism such as sex for money or food and theft was less likely. This could be due to closure of hotels, social distancing and fear of contracting the pandemic and security personnel etc. The finding of the study was in sharp contradiction with the study conducted by Nora(2017), which found out that the many low-income women engaged in the informal sector risk destitution from loss of their daily wage/income, which risks triggering negative coping mechanisms, including increased drug use, gender-based violence, and petty crime. In the other hand, both studies have mentioned engaging children in paying labor as coping strategy.

The study finding shows that there was variation in respondents livelihood coping mechanism choice by age. For instance, selling assets were popular among respondents within the age of <20 years. Whereas involving children were most common among respondents above the age of 40-49 years and 50-59 years followed by respondents within 30-39 years. Borrowing cash was mostly reported among respondents with in the age range of 20-29 years. In addition, traveling in search of work and assistance were dominated by respondents of <20 year. Furthermore, pension and urban safety net was dominantly reported by respondents within 50-59 years followed by 40-49 years. Similarly, reliance on Urban safety net was overwhelmingly reported by respondents above the age of 45 years.

Table 4.14: Respondents livelihood coping mechanism by age

Coping mechanisms amid COVID-19		Age of the respondent					Total
		<20 years	20-29 years	30-39 years	40-49 years	50-59 years	
Use saving	F	8	8	14	11	1	42
	%	40.0	18.2	28.6	55.0	20.0	
Borrow cash	F	7	17	12	3	0	39
	%	35.0	38.6	24.5	15.0	0.0	
Sale assets	F	11	21	14	3	0	49
	%	55.0	47.7	28.6	15.0	0.0	
extended family support	F	14	20	18	12	4	68
	%	70.0	45.5	36.7	60.0	80.0	
Involve children	F	5	6	22	20	5	58
	%	25.0	13.6	44.9	100.0	100.0	
Relay on pension	F	1	0	3	7	2	13
	%	5.0	0.0	6.1	35.0	40.0	
Relay on UPSNP	F	0	0	0	4	4	8
	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	80.0	
traveled out	F	12	14	9	0	0	35
	%	60.0	31.8	18.4	0.0	0.0	
Total	F	20	44	49	20	5	138

Finding from analysis of livelihood coping mechanism by marital status revealed that, out of 68 respondents reported to have used extended family support as livelihood coping mechanism amid the pandemic the majority 54.4% were single respondents. Likewise, out of 58 respondents confirmed to have involved children in paid labor as livelihood coping strategy the majority 55.2% were married respondents while 19% were divorced respondents followed by 15.5% of widowed respondents. Similarly, Likewise, out of 49 respondents reported to have sold their asset as livelihood coping mechanism amid COVID-19 the dominant majority 81.6% were single respondents. In the same way, among 42 respondents confirmed to have relied on saving about 50% were married respondents, 23.8% were single respondents followed by 19% of divorced respondents. Out of 39 respondents who were relied on borrowing cash a livelihood coping mechanism 59% were single respondents followed by 38.5% married respondents. Out of 35 survey participants confirmed to have traveled out of Adama city in search of work or assistance all were single respondents. Lastly, among 13 respondents reported to have relied on pension and

urban safety net as livelihood coping mechanism amid the pandemic the majority about 53.8% and 62.5% respectively were widowed respondents.

Involving children, saving as main coping mechanism were reported mainly by married women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19 in this study. Whereas selling assets, borrowing money and traveling in search of work and assistance were mainly reported by single women engaged in the informal sector in this study. Relying on pension and urban safety net were the main livelihood coping mechanism were dominated by widowed and divorced women engaged in the informal sector in this study.

Table 4.15: Respondents livelihood coping mechanism by marital status

Livelihood coping by marital status						
Livelihood coping strategy		Marital status of the respondent				Total
		Single	Married	Divorced	Widowed	
Use saving	F	10	21	8	3	42
	%	23.8	50.0	19.0	7.1	13.5
Borrow cash	F	23	15	1	0	39
	%	59.0	38.5	2.6	0.0	12.5
Sale assets	F	40	6	3	0	49
	%	81.6	12.2	6.1	0.0	15.7
extended family assistance	F	37	16	7	8	68
	%	54.4	23.5	10.3	11.8	21.8
Involve children	F	6	32	11	9	58
	%	10.3	55.2	19.0	15.5	18.6
Relay on pension	F	3	0	3	7	13
	%	23.1	0.0	23.1	53.8	4.2
Relay on UPSNP	F	0	2	1	5	8
	%	0.0	25.0	12.5	62.5	2.6
traveled out	F	35	0	0	0	35
	%	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.2

Food related coping strategies and viability of livelihood coping mechanism

Survey finding also revealed that all respondents have reduce number of meals, substituting less preferred and less expensive food and limited their portion at meal times as coping mechanism in addition to the above livelihood coping mechanisms. Regarding the viability of the livelihood coping mechanism all the respondents reported that their livelihood coping strategy were not viable, rather they are barely surviving.

4.4. Responses provided amid COVID-19

4.4.1. External support

In this study attempts have been made to look in to the supports made for women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19. For the purpose of this study, external support has been divided between formal and informal external support. In this specific study, the formal external support refers to the support provided by the government and NGOs/CSOs for the women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19. Whereas informal external support is the support provided by extended family or families and neighbors/communities for the women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19.

4.4.1.1. Formal external support amid COVID-19

Surveyed women engaged in the informal sector were asked to respond to the question whether they have received external formal support from government amid COVID-19 pandemic. According to Figure 4.9 below, out of the total respondents, the majority 114(82.6%) reported that they did not receive any kind of support from government amid COVID-19 while only 24(17.4%) of the respondents have confirmed to have received government support amid COVID-19.

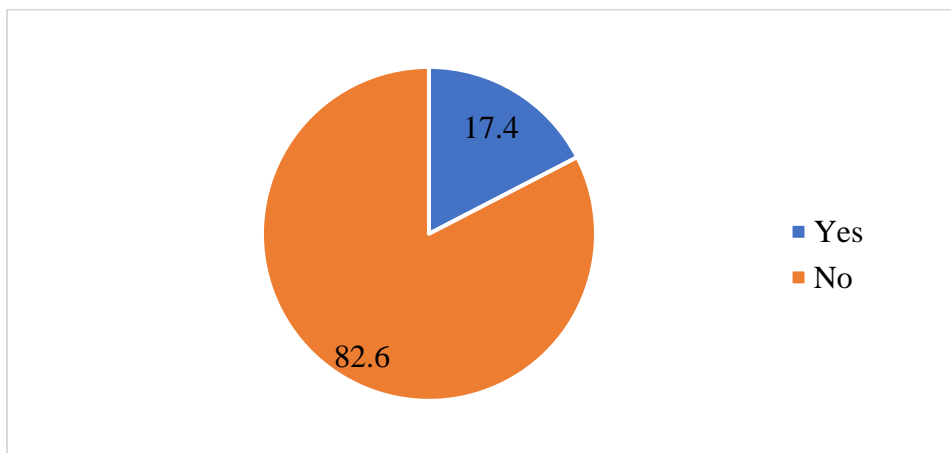


Figure 4.9: Percentage of respondents received Government support amid COVID-19

Respondents who reported to have received assistances from the government were asked the type of supports made. As shown below in Table 16, 21(15.2%) of respondents reported to have received food and medical support, 2(1.4%) of respondents reported food support only and 1(0.7%) reported medical assistance only.

Table 16: Type of assistance provided by Government amid COVID-19

Type of assistance	F	%
Food	2	1.4
Medical	1	.7
Food and medical	21	15.2
N/A	116	84.1
Total	138	100.0

The finding contradicts with the study conducted by Turkan (2020), the study indicated globally, new social assistance measures in response to the pandemic have included the expansion of coverage, an increase in benefits, and the simplification of administrative requirements. Countries have increased benefits among preexisting programs, have added additional payment cycles for existing social assistance schemes, have extended the range of coverage for social assistance measures, and are providing new social assistance programs. To the contrary, the current finding revealed that though efforts have been made by local government to reach out to through mobilization of resources from private sector and provide food item support for vulnerable social group, the assistances were not formalized and depends on the good will of generous individuals and institution.

Likewise, efforts have been made to know whether women engaged in the informal sector have received assistances from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or Civil Society Organization (CSOs). As per Figure 4.10 below , out of the total surveyed women engaged in the informal sector in this study the dominant majority 129(93.5%) reported that they did not have received any kind of support from NGOs/CSOs amid COVID-19 while only 9(6.5%) of the respondents have confirmed to have received NGOs/CSOs support amid COVI-19.

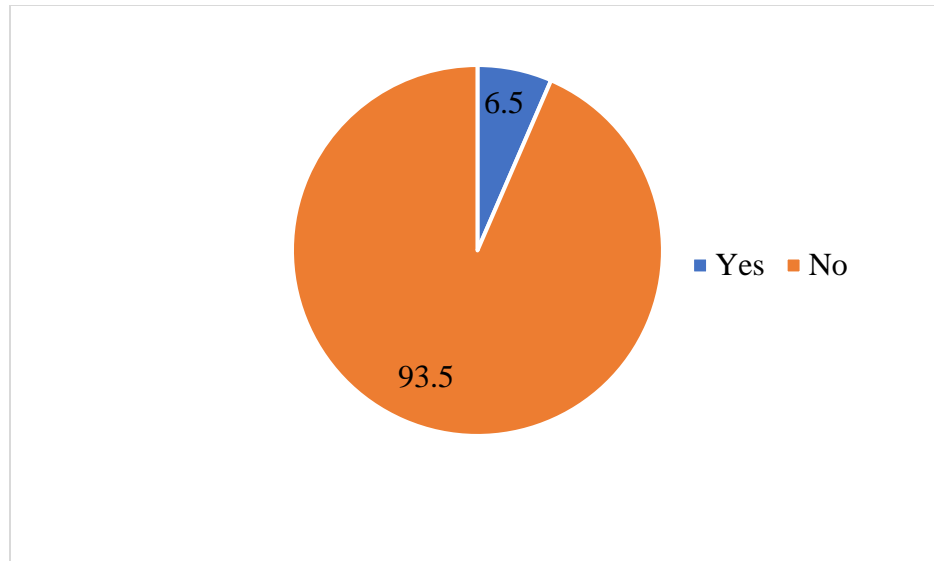


Figure 4.10: Percentage of respondents received NGO support amid COVID-19

Table 17 below, showed that among respondents who reported to have received assistances from the NGOs/CSOs 8(5.8%) of respondents reported to have gotten food and medical support and 1(0.7%) reported food assistance only.

Table 17: Type of assistance provided by NGO amid COVID-19

Type NGO	F	%
Food	1	.7
Food and medical	8	5.8
N/A	129	93.5
Total	138	100.0

The current finding revealed that about 17.4% of the respondents have confirmed to have received government support amid COVID-19 while 6.5% of the respondents reported to have received NGO support amid COVID-19. The finding was consistent with the study conducted Hossain et al., (2020), the study indicated that institutional support did not figure prominently as a coping strategy for the respondents. Two sources of institutional support were cited government and NGOs. Of respondents, 14% cited government support and 5% NGO support.

However, the key informants from BOLSA and key informants on the support made by NGO/CSO revealed that the support has been made for the vulnerable social groups in the Adama city.

The key informant from BOLSA of Adama city indicated that

The city administration has made assistances to vulnerable social group in coordination with NGOs and private sectors. Regarding the selection criteria for support, the key informant made clear that the support is made for the poorest of poor people living in Adama city administration. The supported vulnerable social group are those in abject or below poverty (hiyyeessa hiyyessaa) and should be residents of the city and the kebeles in particular. Besides, as per the key informant women headed household are prioritized to get the support. She also said that respondents should only fulfill the criteria.

Regarding the support provided by the city administration the key informants revealed that the city administration has been assisting the vulnerable social group including women engaged in the informal sector amid lockdown. The city administration has mobilized resources from the private sectors such as factories, hotels, investors, diasporas etc. distributed wheat flour, food oil, spaghetti, macaroni, rice, peas, etc. In addition, supports that help to protect the vulnerable social group including the women engaged in the informal sector from the COVID-19 have been made. Accordingly, sanitize, soup and masks have been distributed. In the key informant view, the assistance made are worth given their situation amid COVID-19.

Concerning the assistance made by NGOs/CSO, key informant on the NGO support indicated that, organization named Seeds Africa and Mekane Eyesus religious based NGOs have provided support to the vulnerable social group amid COVID-19. As per the key informant, for instance Mekane Eyesus the religious based NGO have provided supported food oil, flour, and sanitation materials like sanitizer and soup. In addition, they have provided a grace period for women organized as self-help group who have received loan and paying back their loan on monthly bases to other time. They have also provided cash support for the self-help group amid COVID-19. However, as NGOs are closed amid lockdown, they did not provide assistances for women engaged in the informal sector. Moreover, their scope limited to their regular users.

The key informant further revealed that NGO named Seeds Africa working on resource poor women have provided assistances including food oil, peas, flour, mask, sanitizers for 200 resource poor women in Adama city. In addition, diasporas have supported 1.7 million birr for 700 resource poor women.

Key informant from BoLSA & women affairs indicated that the support provided by private sector initiated and mobilized by government. Accordingly, factories such as Brother's floor and Biscuit Factory, Africa Floor Factory, Ahwan PLC, Fikir floor Factory, Shewa floor and Bread Factory, Biruk Abebe, Bekas Chemical, T.M Food Complex, Kayyo Floor Factory, Asebot Floor Factory and etc. provide assistances for the vulnerable social group in coordination with Adama city administration.

As per the key informant two the main area of intervention includes provision of food such as items such as wheat flour, spaghetti, macaroni, food oil and other. In addition, the key informant mentioned the private sectors have provided personal protective equipment (PPE) for example mask. Moreover, they have provided sanitation material like soup and sanitizer to help the vulnerable social group protect themselves from COVID-19.

According to the key informant the private sectors in the city have provided their respective products of their factory. For instance, Brother's floor and Biscuit Factory assisted wheat flour, Africa Floor Factory assisted spaghetti and macaroni, Ahwan PLC assisted food flour, Fikir flour Factory provided flour, Shewa flour and Bread Factory food flour, Biruk Abebe assisted food oil, Bekas Chemical supported soup and sanitizer, T.M Food Complex assisted food flour, Kayyo Floor Factory assisted food flour, Asebot Floor Factory assisted food flour.

Regarding the criteria of selection, the key informants indicated that was set by the government and the vulnerable social groups are identified by respective kebeles and that the NGOs are providing the support through the government structure.

However, most of the FGD participants complained that the support provided by government or other organization was not adequate and covered only limited number of people. The also added they do not have any idea about the criteria receive the support. Some complained it was only given for those selected groups who were registered by kebele. Furthermore, they revealed that they do not have identification card to get the support. They also complained that the assistances were only targeted for certain group as both the assistances made by the government and NGO were given for the same person they know in their vicinity.

With respect to the challenges, the key informants emphasized that the government having budgetary problems and hugely depending on mobilizing resources from private sectors working

in different areas. The fact that the government has relied on support from other group and lack of budget to address problems in such condition is a challenge. Moreover, what makes this issue more challenging is the fact that they are requesting or mobilizing the support over and over again amid COVID-19 from the NGOs, in difficult time when their income and production capacity significantly affected by the pandemic. The interviewee also believed some investors are already feeling the pressure and that they are worried to go and contact them for resource mobilization. The key informants also indicated that some have already declined the call for support or reduced the size of support.

The finding from FGD and survey also revealed only insignificant number of study participants were enrolled or benefited through formal social security such as urban safety net.

4.4.1.2. Informal external amid COVID-19

Extended family assistances amid COVI-19

As per Figure 4.11 below out of the total women engaged in the informal sector close to half surveyed respondents about 68(49.3%) confirmed that they have got support from extended family or relatives. Survey participants who confirmed to have received extended family assistances amid COVI-19 were asked the support made to them amid COVID-19.

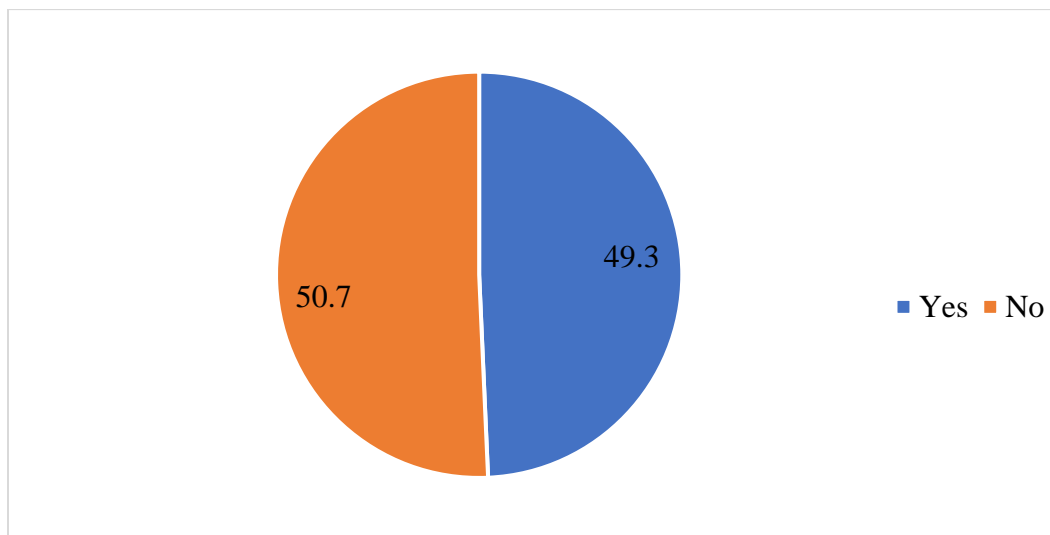


Figure 4.11: Percentage of respondents received extended family support amid COVID-19

Table 4.18 below demonstrated that, out of 68 respondents who have reported to have received relative support amid COVID-19, 25(36.8%) respondents reported to have received food assistances only ,20(29.4%) respondents have testified to have received a combination of food, housing and cash support from extended family or relatives amid COVID-19. Whereas, 11(16.2%)

survey participants have confirmed to have got cash assistance from extended family or relatives amid COVID-19. Likewise, 7(10.3%) and 5(7.3%) respondents reported to have got a combination of food and housing and food and cash from extended family or relatives amid COVID-19.

Table 4.18: Type of assistances received from relatives amid COVID-19

Type of assistance	F	%
Food	25	36.8
Cash	11	16.2
Food and cash	5	7.3
Food and housing	7	10.3
Food, housing and cash	20	29.4
Total	68	100.0

Neighbor or community assistance amid COVID-19

Regarding neighbor or community assistance amid COVID-19, the study results revealed that the vast majority 126(91.3%) confirmed that they did not get any assistance while only 12(8.7%) have reported to have received assistances from neighbor or community assistance amid COVID-19.

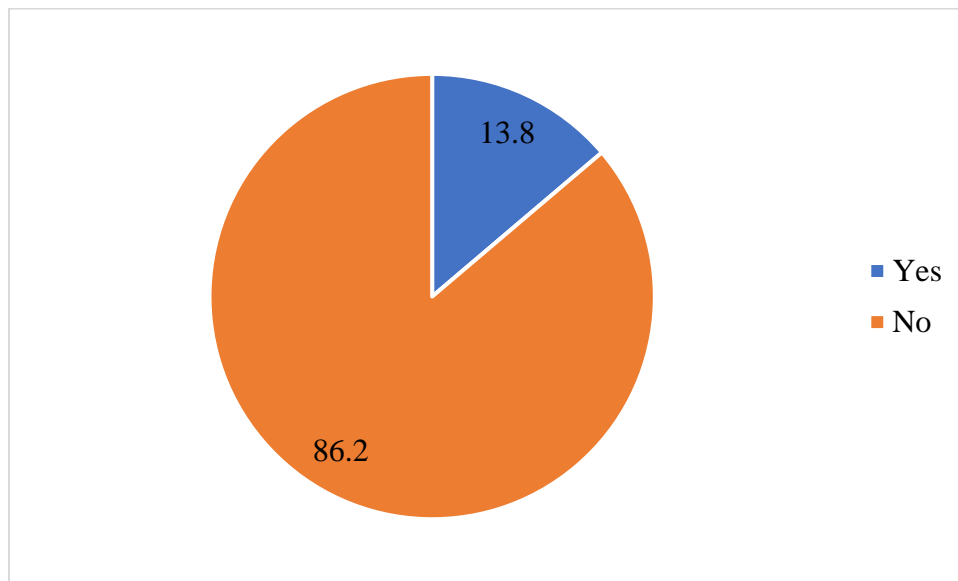


Figure 4.12: Percentage of respondents received community support amid COVID-19

Regarding the type of assistances received, out of 12 respondents who have reported to have received neighbors or community assistance amid COVID-19, about 41.7% respondents reported to have privileged from house rent fee exemption only while about 33.3% respondents have

reported to have received food support only, and the remaining 25% respondents reported to have received a combination of food and house rent fee exemption amid COVID-19.

Table 4.19: Type of assistances received from communities amid COVID-19

Type community assistance	F	%
Food	4	33.3
House rent exemption	5	41.7
Food and house rent exemption	3	25
Total	12	100.0

Regardless of the fact social ties and networks were adversely affected by the pandemic, participants of the FGD agreed they have received support from social network. They have either traveled to their loved ones to cope with the situation or received cash support, borrowed cash from relatives, grain was sent from relatives living in rural, exemption of house rent was also reported.

The above finding was consistent with a study conducted by Hossain et al. (2020), the study found out that while personal coping strategies were the dominant used to deal with the impact of COVID-19 on livelihood, some degree of social support also contributed to households coping. The social support came from friends, relatives and neighbors.

Regarding the duration of the support of the total cases 49(62.8%) reported to have received three weeks to a month during the lockdown, 12(15.4%) reported 2-3 months support ,8(10.3%) reported to have received assistances two weeks amid covid from government support, NGOs, relatives, and neighbor. Whereas only 5(6.4%) and 4(5.1) of the total reported case confirmed to have received assistance from government support, NGOs, relatives, and neighbor for less than a week.

Table 4.20: Support duration of external support

Support duration	F	%
For less than a week	4	5.1
The first two weeks of the lockdown period	8	10.3
Three weeks to a month during the lockdown	49	62.8
2-3 months	12	15.4
For more than three months	5	6.4
Total	78	100.0

CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Conclusion

The study was conducted with objective of examining livelihood coping mechanism of women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19 in Adama city. Hence, this section provides conclusion of the study. The conclusion is drawn based on the analysis of the survey, in depth key informant interview and Focus group discussions results in relation to the existing relevant literature in the area of the study.

In this study a total of 138 women engaged in the informal sector identified from three kebeles such as Chafe, Oda and Geda kebeles of Adama city using multi-stage sampling technique. The age of the study participants ranges from 19-59 years of age. The majority of surveyed women engaged in the informal sector were born outside of Adama city. According to the finding from the FGD the main reason for migrating were search of better job and looking for better life. In addition, the majority are married and single by marital status. Divorce and widowed are the least reported by respondents. About 89.9% attended formal education and about 10.1 % have never attended formal education. The highest level of education reported by respondent were diploma/level, which was only reported by little number of women engaged in the informal sector. The finding revealed that the vast majority of the respondents in this study have three or more family size. In addition, finding indicated that the majority of surveyed women engaged in the informal sector have two or more dependent household members.

The finding revealed that all respondents were engaged in street vending amid COVID-19. Considerable number of respondents were engaged in selling food and drinks followed by selling non-food item and vegetable and fruits as main source of income amid COVID-19.

The specific study found out that the women engaged in the informal sector have limited livelihood assets to be used amid COVID-19 to cope with the adverse impacts of the pandemic. The study revealed that they have limited livelihood assets/capitals such as of human capital, physical capital, financial capital. However, social capital the most used livelihood asset among women engaged in the informal sector. However, natural capital was missing from the livelihood capital used by the women engaged in the informal sector amid-COVID-19.

As per this particular study, COVID-19 has resulted in reduction in women engaged in the informal sector income. There were differences in the income of the surveyed respondents in the informal

sector (street vending) before and amid COVID-19 in this study. Evidence to this was the fact that the significant majority women engaged in the informal sector in this study make 501- >1200 ETB before COVID-19 breakout. Contrary to this, vast majority women engaged in the informal sector reported to have made <500 ETB amid COVID-19. Above all, the current research revealed that the income of all most all study participants were mainly invested on for food, house rent and sustaining the self-employment before COVID-19.

The women engaged in the informal sector in Adama city have hit by adverse impacts of COVID-19 such as reduced income, staying home, increased house chore, quit self-employment, displaced or went/ traveled out of Adama city to seek support of their loved ones or search job, quite schooling and lost job/employment and evacuated from the house they rented. According to the study migrated women engaged in the informal sector were more impacted by the adverse impacts of the pandemic compared to who were born in Adama city.

The women engaged in the informal sector in Adama city have used a combination of two or more livelihood coping mechanisms to cope with the impacts of the pandemic on their livelihood. The finding revealed that the study participants have relied on assistances from family or relatives, involved children, sold their assets, used their savings and borrowed cash or food, pension and urban safety net in their order of importance as livelihood coping mechanism to the impacts of COVID-19 on the livelihood. In addition, they have also used food related coping mechanisms such as reduced number of meals, substituted less preferred and less expensive food and limited their portion at meal times as coping strategy in addition to the above livelihood coping mechanisms. However, engaging in negative livelihood coping mechanisms for example sex for money or food and theft were not reported in this study.

The study finding shows that there was variation in respondents livelihood coping mechanism choice by age. For instance, selling assets were popular among respondents within the age of <20 years. Whereas involving children were most common among respondents above the age of 40-49 years and 50-59 years followed by respondents within 30-39 years. Borrowing cash was mostly reported among respondents with in the age range of 20-29 years. In addition, traveling in search of work and assistance were dominated by respondents of <20 year. Furthermore, pension and urban safety net was dominantly reported by respondents within 50-59 years followed by 40-49 years. Similarly, reliance on Urban safety net was overwhelmingly reported by respondents above

the age of 45 years. Regarding the variation by marital status, involving children, saving as main coping strategies were reported mainly by widowed, divorced and married women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19 in this study. Whereas selling assets and borrowing money were mainly reported by single women engaged in the informal sector in this study. Relying on pension and urban safety net were the main livelihood coping mechanism mainly by widowed and divorced women engaged in the informal sector in this study.

The current study found out that very limited assistances have been made by government and NGOs amid COVID-19. Far less than quarter have reported to have received assistances such as food items and medical support from government and NGOs. However, most of the FGD participants complained that the support provided by government or NGO was not adequate and have covered only limited number of people. Furthermore, women engaged in the informal sector have complained about the fairness and unclarity of the criteria of selection for provision of external support.

Informal external support has been provided by relatives and neighbors. In this regard, the majority have received assistances such as food, cash, paid work and psychosocial support from extended family or relatives amid COVID-19. Neighbors as provider of external support amid COVID-19 were reported by limited number of women engaged in the informal sector amid COVID-19. The main assistances provided by neighbors were food and house rent fee exemption. Among women engaged in the informal sector half a received days to three months. However, community or neighbor assistance was the least reported.

5.2. Recommendations

Based on the finding of the specific study, the following recommendations are provided to boost the resilience of women`s livelihood in the informal sector in Adama city amid shocks like COVID-19.

- The majority of women engaged in the informal sector have quit-self-employment, loss and reduction in their income, spending and income contribution to the household have been significantly reduced. Hence, the government should device interventions mechanism customized to context of the informal sector and women such as social security or social

assistance packages to be triggered amid shocks like COVID-19 such as in kind (food item) or cash assistances or transfers.

- Most of the women engaged in the informal sector lives in house rented from private owners and some of them were evacuated due to failure to pay house rent. Hence, government should device or adopt policies help to provide relief measures such as utility bill suspension in which the government pays utility bills such as water and electricity for private house renters who gives relief house rent fee for women engaged in the informal sector amid shocks like COVID-19.
- Women engaged in the informal sector did not find from where to borrow or have tried, or did get positive response amid COVID-19, did not have savings. They did not have access to formal credit. Hence, the government should device financial assistances and micro financing tailored to women engaged in the informal sector so as to enable them engage in Small and Micro business enterprises (SMEs).
- Most of the women engaged in the informal sector did not receive or excluded from supports made by local government and NGOs/CSOs operating in the city amid COVID-19. Thus, the NGOs/CSOs should design feasible projects or programs that would help the women engaged in the informal sector amid shock like COVID-19. They also device mechanism to strongly monitor and evaluate whether the selection of target beneficiaries is as per the criteria and support provided has brought about the required change on the livelihood/living standard of project target group.
- The finding revealed that the private sector has contributed to the assistances made by the government. Hence, the local government should craft sustainable way of engaging private sector in contributing in the form of corporate social responsibility through supporting women engaged in the informal sector to be transformed to SMEs.
- The local government should have updated and complete record of or data base of women engaged in the informal sector in all kebeles in Adama city. The city administration should conduct need assessment of women engaged in the informal sector in Adama and provide vocational and life skill trainings like saving. The local government should assist women engaged in the informal sector through provision of space for work

- The majority of women engaged in the informal sector in this study were migrated from outside of Adama. Hence, the local government should study the main pull factors for the migration and the most common areas they migrate from and device mechanism to reduce.
- The research conducted in women engaged in the informal sector in Adama city is very limited and the current study also focuses women in informal sectors. Hence, researchers should study male and women in the all-informal sector in Adama city, their challenges, and their needs.

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ANNEXES

Annexes

Annex 1: Informed Consent

Good morning/afternoon /evening first of all I would like to thank you for your time. My name is Azmeraw Zerihun I am a student at Addis Ababa University Graduate College of Development Studies Center for Food Security Studies and I am conducting study. I am here to kindly request you to participate on a study entitled with “Livelihood Coping Mechanism of poor women engaged in the informal sector in Adama city” as a respondent. The study will play a great role in providing the real picture on the livelihood coping mechanisms of poor women engaged in the informal sector in Adama city.

If you take part in this study, you will be asked questions that will be an input to the study. The question that you will be asked will take an hour. You have a right not to answer the whole or part of the question when you feel like. In the questionnaire your name will not be written beside the questionnaire that you respond to will be documented carefully and confidential. Hence, I will appreciate if you could participate in this study.

Are you willing to participate in this study?

Yes

No

Respondent

Witness

Date

Annex 2: Questionnaire Survey

Questionnaire prepared for Women engaged in the informal sector in Adama city

Dear respondent,

Introduction

Good morning/afternoon/ evening. My name Azmeraw Zerihun I am a student at Addis Ababa University Graduate College of Development Studies Center for Food Security Studies. Currently I am conducting a study entitled with “Livelihood Coping Mechanism of poor women engaged in the informal sector in Adama city.” This time I am here to collect data for the study and this questionnaire is designed to collect vital data on the study title mentioned above. Hence, I will appreciate if you could provide me with honest information and I assure you that the information you give will remain confidential. And you have the right not to give answer to the part or the whole question.

You are also kindly requested to fill consent form.

	No	Questions	Category	Code	
Socioeconomic background of the respondents	1	Age of the respondent (<i>Write in numerical value</i>)		[]	
	2	Respondents` place of birth	In Adama city	1	
			Out of Adama city	2	
	3	Respondents` kebele	Chafe Kebele	1	
			Oda Kebele	2	
			Geda kebele	3	
	4	Any disability (Please mention)			
	5	Marital status of the respondent	Single	1	
			Married	2	
			Divorced	4	
			Widowed	3	
			Other (specify): _____	4	
	6	The education level of the respondent	Never attended school	1	
			Not read and write	2	
			Grade 1 – 4	3	
Grade 5 – 8			4		
Grade 9 – 12			5		
Diploma/Levels			6		
BSc/MSc			7		
7	Household size			[]	
8	Do you have dependent household member	Yes	1		
		No	2		
	If your answer for the above question is “Yes”, would you tell me their size in number?			[]	
		Yes		1	

COVID-19 related	9	Are you aware of COVID-19?	No	2
	10	What are adverse impacts you faced due to COVID-19? <i>(Multiple responses are allowed)</i>	Staying at home/institution/on the street	1
			Lost employment/job	2
			Quit self-employment	3
			Displaced	4
			Reduced income	5
			Increased house chore	6
			Decreased house chore	7
			Quit schooling	8
			No change	9
Other (specify): _			10	
Source of Livelihood before and amid COVID-19	11	What is your main source of income/livelihood?	Before the Coronavirus case in Ethiopia	
	12	What is the total monthly household income (ETB) from all sources? <i>(write-in numerical value in birr)</i>	Before the Coronavirus case in Ethiopia	[]
			After the Coronavirus case in Ethiopia	[]
	13	Do you think that your livelihood is secure? 1. Yes 2. No	Before the Coronavirus case in Ethiopia	[]
			After the Coronavirus case in Ethiopia	[]
	If your answer for the question 16 is “no”, how do you perceive the level of your livelihood security? 1. High 2. Moderate 3. Low 4. Very low	Before the Coronavirus case in Ethiopia	[]	
		After the Coronavirus case in Ethiopia	[]	
14	Main spending areas of your income (in order) rank	Before the Coronavirus case in Ethiopia		
15	How much the respondent contributes to the HH income in ETB per month? In	Before the Coronavirus case in Ethiopia	[]	

		<i>(write-in numerical value in birr)</i>	After the Coronavirus case in Ethiopia	[]	
	16	Whether COVID-19 has impacted on choice of livelihood coping mechanism?	Yes	1	
			No	2	
		If the answer for question number 15 is Yes, what main factors contributed to the impact on livelihood and choice of livelihood? <i>(Multiple responses are allowed)</i>	Lockdown and restriction of mobility	1	
			Social distancing	2	
			Fear of COVID-19	3	
			Market and value chain disruption	4	
			Other, specify.....	5	
	17	What coping mechanisms are you adopted or pursue to cope the with the impact of COVID-19 on your livelihood? <i>(Multiple responses are allowed)</i>	Use saving	1	
			Borrowing cash or food	2	
			Sale assets	3	
Assistance from extended family			4		
Changing or shifting food types and meals			5		
Management of house hold consumption			6		
Decrease consumption rates			7		
Involving children			8		
Engaging in other work			9		
Other, specify.....			10		
28 Livelihood Coping Mechanism and support by Gvt & NGOs	18	Are your coping mechanisms viable in terms of coping with impact COVID-19?	yes	1	
			No	2	
	19	Are your children involved in any activities to help the family?	Yes	1	
			No	2	
			If your answer to question number 19 is “yes”, please specify the activities children involves <i>(Multiple responses are allowed)</i>		
	20	Have you received support from government amid COVID-19?	Yes	1	
			No	2	
		If your answer for question number 20 is Yes, what assistances have you received from government? <i>(Multiple responses are allowed)</i>	Food assistance	1	
			Cash assistance	2	
			Medical assistance	3	
			Other, specify	4	
	21	Have you received support from NGOs/Private sector amid COVID-19?	Yes	1	
			No	2	
	If your answer for question number 21 is Yes, what assistances have you received? <i>(Multiple responses are allowed)</i>	Food assistance	1		
		Cash assistance	2		
		Medical assistance	3		
		Other, specify	4		
22	Have you received support from extended family amid COVID-19?	Yes	1		
		No	2		
	If the answer for the question NO 22 is yes, what assistances have you received? <i>(Multiple responses are allowed)</i>	Food	1		
		Cash	2		
		Medical assistance	3		
		Finding paid work	4		
		Other specify	5		
23	Have you received support from community amid COVID-19?	Yes	1		
		No	2		

	If the answer for the question NO 23 is yes, what assistances have you received? (Multiple responses are allowed)	Food	1	
		Cash	2	
		Medical assistance	3	
		Other specify	4	
	24	For how long has the support sustained?	One to two weeks	1
			One month	2
			2 -3months	3
			3 -4months	4
	25	Was the assistance helpful?	highly helpful	1
			Moderately helpful	2
			low	3
			Other, specify	4
Livelihood Capitals/Assets	Human capital			
	26	Number of working household member? (write-in numerical value)	[]	
	27	Where do you visit to get health service when you and your family member get sick?	Governmental health service	1
			Governmental hospitals	2
			Private health centers	3
			Others	4
	Financial Asset			
	28	Did you borrow money during COVID?	Yes	1
			No	2
		If the answer for question number 28 is yes, who borrowed you?	Bank	1
			Credit association	2
			Private	3
			Relatives	4
			Other, specify	5
	29	Do you have saving?	Yes	1
			No	2
	30	If yes, have used it amid COVID-19	Yes	1
			No	2
	31	In what form do you keep savings?	cash	1
			, bank deposits	2
livestock,			3	
jewelry,			4	
Other, specify....			5	
32	Do you get remittance from abroad?	Yes	1	
		No	2	
33	Do you receive pensions	Yes	1	
		No	2	
Physical Asset				
34	To whom does the house you and your family members living in belongs?	Own	1	
		Rented from Kebele	2	
		Rented from private owners	3	
		Temporary given from relatives	4	

		Other specify	5
35	Source of water	Private owned tap	1
		Public owned tap	2
		Water venders	3
		Streams and rivers	4
		Other, specify	5
36	Do you have toilet?	Yes	1
		No	2
Natural Asset			
37	Do you have your own land?	Yes	1
		No	2
38	What type	Agricultural	1
		For house	2
		Other specify	3
39	Do you have access to electricity and transport?	Yes	1
		No	2
Social capital			
40	Are you member of Ekub?	Yes	1
		No	2
	If your answer for question number 40 is yes, how much do you contribute per/month? Please tell numerically		[]
41	Do you have Edir?	Yes	1
		No	2
42	What are the supports given by Edir for members? Please list	weddings ceremony	1
		Death of family members	2
		Support when sick	3
		Support during loss of job	4
		Other, specify	5

Would you please give us your brief bio-data?					
No	Name	Region	Woreda	Kebele	Telephone
1					

Annex-3: FGD Guide

Focus Group Discussion Guide Prepared for Women engaged in the informal Sector in Adama city

Dear Respondents,

Introduction

Good morning/afternoon/ evening. My name Azmeraw Zerihun I am a student at Addis Ababa University Graduate College of Development Studies Center for Food Security Studies. Currently I am conducting a study entitled with “Livelihood Coping Mechanisms of Poor Women engaged in the informal Sector in Adama.” This time I am here to collect data for the study and this FGD is designed to collect vital data on the study title mentioned above. Hence, I will appreciate if you could provide me with honest information and I assure you that the information you give will remain confidential. And you have the right not to give answer to the part or the whole question.

You are also kindly requested to fill consent form

FGD for vulnerable social group

1. What are the main activities you engaged in to sustain your and your family’s life?
2. Would you please discuss the main impacts of COVID 19? Which one is the most serious? Why?
3. Compare you’re your livelihood security before and after COVID 19 breakout? What has changed? Why?
4. Which gender – male or female -livelihood is more affected by the impact COVID 19 in Adama? Why?
5. What are the main coping strategies you used to cope with the impact of COVID 19 on your food security status?
6. How does COVID 19 impacted on your choice of livelihood coping mechanism?
7. What assistances have you received from Government, NGOs and social network? How do you evaluate their assistance?
8. How do you explain your access to health services before and after COVID 19 breakout in Ethiopia?
9. How do you describe your access to employment before and after COVID 19 breakout in Ethiopia?
10. Would you say something regarding availability saving? Compare your saving before and after the breakout of COVID 19 breakout and current status.

Would you please give us your brief bio-data?					
No	Name	Region	Woreda	Kebele	Telephone
1					

Annex 4: Key informant interview Guide (BOLSA & Women Affairs of the city administration)

Dear Respondent,

Introduction

Good morning/afternoon/ evening. My name Azmeraw Zerihun I am a student at Addis Ababa University Graduate College of Development Studies Center for Food Security Studies. Currently I am conducting a study entitled with “Livelihood Coping Mechanisms of Poor Women engaged in the informal Sector in Adama city.” This time I am here to collect data for the study and this KII is designed to collect vital data on the study title mentioned above. Hence, I will appreciate if you could provide me with honest information and I assure you that the information you give will remain confidential. And you have the right not to give answer to the part or the whole question.

You are also kindly requested to fill consent form

Name of the organization.....

Sex composition of the informant: Males:_____Females: _____

1. What is your general assessment on the impact of COVID 19 on livelihood of women engaged in the informal sector in Adama city?
2. Do you think vulnerable women engaged in the informal sector disproportionately impacted by the pandemic? How?
3. What kind of assistance does the city administration provided or planning to provide for women engaged in the informal sector in Adama city?
4. Is there any specific intervention designed for women engaged in the informal sector in Adama city? Please explain.
5. In your view, how does this contribute to the women engaged in the informal sector and their families?
6. What are the major challenges of the city administration encountered or encountering in responding to the impact of COVID 19 on livelihood women engaged in the informal sector?

Would you please give us your brief bio-data?					
No	Name	Region	Woreda	Kebele	Telephone
1					

Annex 5: Key informant Guide (NGO support)

Dear Respondent,

Introduction

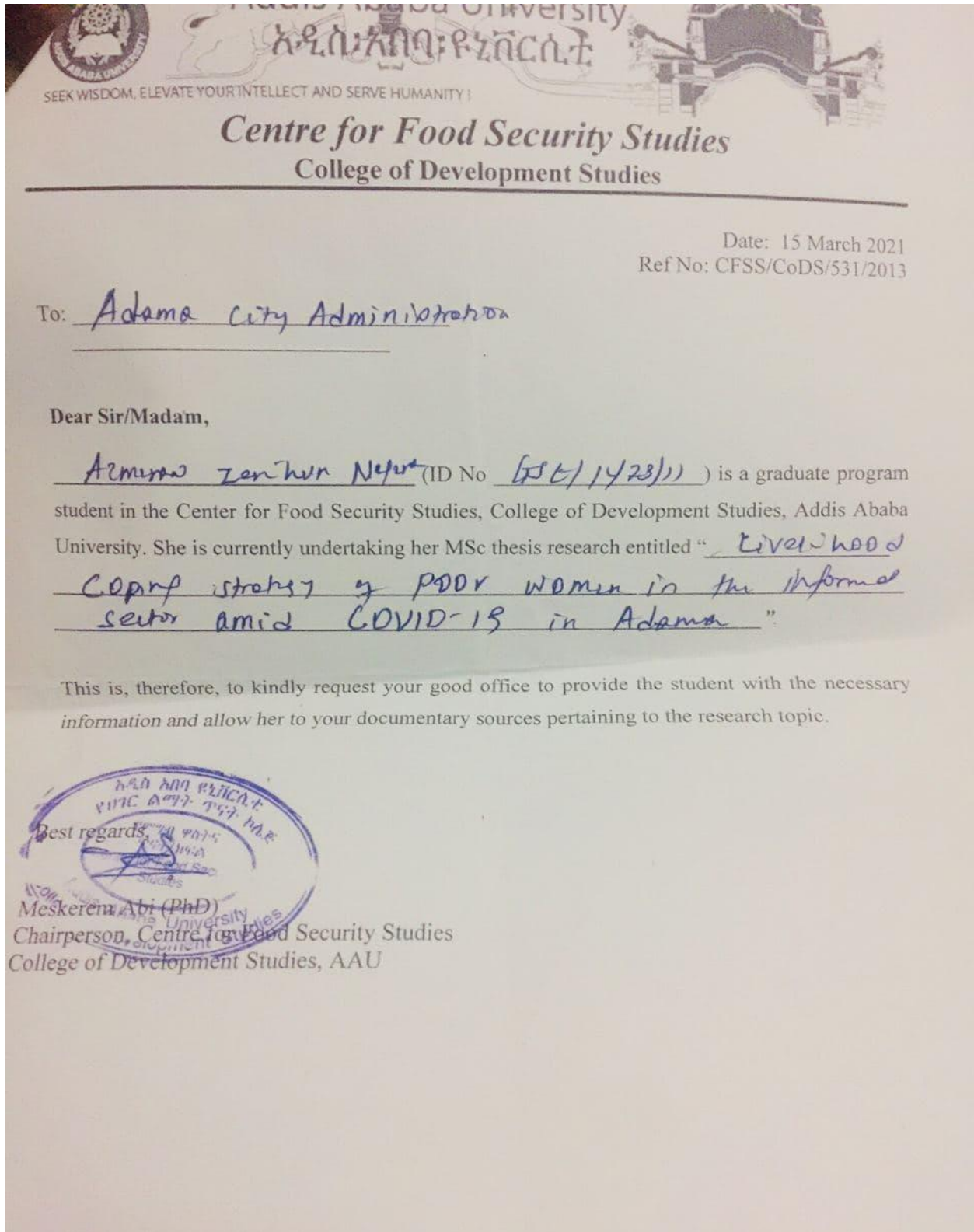
Good morning/afternoon/ evening. My name Azmeraw Zerihun I am a student at Addis Ababa University Graduate College of Development Studies Center for Food Security Studies. Currently I am conducting a study entitled with “Livelihood Coping Mechanisms of Poor Women engaged in the informal Sector in Adama city.” This time I am here to collect data for the study and this KKI is designed to collect vital data on the study title mentioned above. Hence, I will appreciate if you could provide me with honest information and I assure you that the information you give will remain confidential. And you have the right not to give answer to the part or the whole question.

Sex composition of the key informant interviewee Males: _____ Females: _____

1. What are support provided by your organization?
2. What are the areas of your intervention?
3. How many women informal sector have been benefited from the intervention?
4. What was the criteria of selection or inclusion?
5. What do you think should be done for the future?
6. What was the challenges you faced during the intervention?

Would you please give us your brief bio-data?					
No	Name	Region	Woreda	Kebele	Telephone
1					

Annex 6: Letter of cooperation



Centre for Food Security Studies
College of Development Studies

Date: 15 March 2021
Ref No: CFSS/CoDS/531/2013

To: Adama City Administration

Dear Sir/Madam,

Arminas Zenthr Netem (ID No. 656/1423/11) is a graduate program student in the Center for Food Security Studies, College of Development Studies, Addis Ababa University. She is currently undertaking her MSc thesis research entitled "Livelihood Coping strategy of PDDV women in the informal sector amid COVID-19 in Adama".

This is, therefore, to kindly request your good office to provide the student with the necessary information and allow her to your documentary sources pertaining to the research topic.

Best regards,

Meskerem Abi (PhD)
Chairperson, Centre for Food Security Studies
College of Development Studies, AAU



Wajjira Kantiibaa Bulchinsa
Magaalaa Adaamaa
የአዳማ ከተማ ከንቲባ ጽ/ቤት
Adama City Mayor Office

Lakk 1/28/ES/3024

Guyyaa 10/9/2013

Wajjiraa Hawaasumaa Bulchinsa Magaalaa Adaamaa tiif

Adaamaa

Dhiimi :- Deeggarsaa akka godhamuuf gaffachu ilaala.

Akkuma armaan olitti ibsuuf yaalmetti Yuunivarstii Addis Ababa Lakk.Xalayya CFSS/Co/DS/531/2013 Guyyaa 15/9/2012 nuuf bareseni Barata isani kan ta'efi Obboo Azmeraw Zerihun tiif reserchi Mata dure "Live Hood Coping Stregy of Poorwoman in the informal sector amid COVID 19 in Adaamaa" kan jedhu irraa resarchi isani gaggesuuf akka barbadani ibsuudhan xalayyaa deegarsa akka baresinuuf nuu gafatani jiru.

Haaluma kanan gama wajjiraa kesanin degersa barbachisa akka gootaniif gafana.

Nagaa Wajjin




Girmaa Kabbada Abbaba
ገርማ ክባደ አበበ
Wajjira Kantiibaa
የአዳማ ከተማ ከንቲባ ጽ/ቤት

Lakk WJK/FE/3024

Guyyaa 10/09/2013

Wajjiraa Dhi.Dub Magaalaa Adaamaa tiif

Adaamaa

Dhiimi :- Degersaa akka godhamuuf gafachu ta'a.

Akkuma armaan olitti ibsuuf yaalmetti Yuunivarstii Addis Ababa Lakk.Xalaya CFSS/Co/DS/531/2013 Guyyaa 15/9/2012 nuuf bareseni Barata isani kan ta'efi Obboo Azmeraw Zerihun tiif reserchi Mata dure "Live Hood Coping Stregy of Poorwoman in the informal sector amid COVID 19 in Adaamaa" kan jedhu irraa resarchi isani gaggesuuf akka barbadani ibsuudhan xalayaa degersa akka baresinuuf nuu gafatani jiru.

Haaluma kanan gama wajjiraa kesanin degersa barbachisa akka gootaniif gafana.

Nagaa Wajjin



[Handwritten signature]
Girmaa Kabbarda Abayeha
7107 2012 1011
Wajjira Kantiibaa
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Annex 7: Urkund anti-plagiarism analysis result of the thesis

Document : Azmeraw thesis_Sept 2021.docx[D112055582]

IMPORTANT! The analysis contains 1 warning(s).

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