



**COLLEGE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
CENTER FOR FOOD SECURITY STUDIES**

**THE NEXUS OF FOOD POLITICS AND FOOD POLICY: IMPLICATIONS
TO HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY IN ADDIS ABABA**

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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

DECLARATION

The research of this thesis declared that the undersigned thesis entitled "*The Nexus of Food Policies and food Politics: Implication for Household food security in Addis Ababa*" is based on my original work and has not been submitted for a Master's degree or certification in any other universities or institutions, and that all sources of material used for the thesis have been acknowledged.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS	iv
LIST OF TABLES.....	v
LIST OF FIGURES	vi
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	vii
ABSTRACT.....	viii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. Background of the Study.....	1
1.2. Statement of the Research Problem.....	4
1.3. Research Objectives	6
1.3.1. General objective.....	6
1.3.2. Specific Objectives.....	6
1.4. Research Questions	6
1.5. Significance of Study	6
1.6. The Scope of the Study	7
1.7. Limitation of Study.....	8
1.8. Organization of the Thesis	9
CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURES	10
2.1. Theoretical foundation and Conceptual Framework of Food Politics, and Policy of Food Security.....	10
2.1.1. Food Politics	10
2.1.2. Food Policy.....	11
2.1.3. Relation of Food Policies and Food Security	12
2.1.4. The Nexus of Food Politics and Food Policies	13
2.1.5. Legal Frameworks of Food Security in Ethiopia	16
2.1.6. Stakeholder Engagement in decision-Making of food safety in Ethiopia	17
2.1.7. Political Economy and Agricultural Policy	19

2.2. Empirical Literature Review	21
2.3. Conceptual Framework of the Study.....	23
CHAPTER THREE: DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA AND RESEARCH	
METHDOLOGY	26
3.1. Description of Study Area.....	26
3.2. Research Design and Approach.....	27
3.3. Type of Data and Sources	28
3.3.1. Primary Data Sources.....	28
3.3.2. Secondary Data Sources	29
3.4. Sample Size and Techniques	30
3.5. Data Collection Methods and Instruments.....	30
3.5.1. Key Informant Interviews (KII)	30
3.5.2. Surveys /Questionnaire	31
3.5.3. Policies and Legal Documents Review.....	32
3.6. Data Processing and Analysis.....	32
3.6.1. Qualitative Data Analysis	32
3.6.2. Quantitative Data Analysis	33
3.6.2.1. Descriptive Analysis	33
3.6.2.2. Documents Analysis	34
3.7. Ethical Considerations.....	34
CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS	
35	
4.1. Demographic Characteristics of the Study Households.....	35
4.1.1. Age Disparity of Respondents	35
4.1.2. Sex Disparity of the Respondents.....	36
4.1.3. Educational Status of Respondents	36
4.1.4. Work Experiences of Respondents at Current Organization	36
4.2. Government Organizations Involved in Food Policy Development in Ethiopia.....	38

4.2.1. Policy Coherence and Collaboration.....	44
4.3. Effectiveness of Ethiopian Food Security and Nutrition Policy and Legal Instruments in Achieving Household Food Security	44
4.3.1. 1995 Federal Democratic Republic Ethiopia Constitution.....	47
4.3.2. Ethiopian Food and Nutrition Policy Analysis.....	49
4.3.3. Ethiopian Agriculture and Rural Development Policy (Draft) Analysis	55
4.3.4. Brief Review Ethiopia's Ten-Year Development Plan (2021-2030).....	57
4.3.5. The Effectiveness of Government in Incorporating Household Inputs in Policy formulation Processes	59
4.4. Political Factors Impacting Food Policy Formulation in Ethiopia.....	64
4.4.1. Adaptation to Changing Environmental Conditions	65
4.5. Potential Challenges and Opportunities for Policy Change in Enhancing Food Security in Ethiopia	68
4.6. Nexus of Food Politics, Food Policy, and Household Food Security.....	72
4.6.1. Public Participation	87
4.6.2. Political Stability and Policy Environment.....	88
4.6.3. Coordination and Resource Utilization.....	88
4.6.4. Issues of Stakeholder Integration	88
4.6.5. Public Participation in Policy Forums	88
4.6.6. Needs Assessment for Policy Development	88
4.6.7. Local Community Consultations.....	89
CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	91
5.1. Conclusions.....	91
5.2. Recommendations	94
REFERENCES	97
ANNEX/APPENDICES.....	110

ACRONYMS

AAU	Addis Ababa University
CDS	College of Development Studies
CFSS	Center for Food Security
ADLI	Agricultural Development-Led Industrialization
ATA	Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
EFDA	Ethiopia Food and Drug Authority
EHPI	Ethiopian Public Health Institute
FNC	Food and Nutrition Council (Ethiopia)
FNP	Food and Nutrition Policy (Ethiopia, 2018)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
NGO	Non-Governmental organization
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Program
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
US	United States
USAID	United States of America International Development
WFP	World Food Program
WB	World Bank

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Addis Ababa Sub Cities Demographic Distribution	26
Table 2: Age of survey respondents.....	36
Table 3: Sex of Respondents	36
Table 4: Educational Statues Respondents.....	36
Table 5: Work Experience of Respondents	37
Table 6: Acknowledgment of citizen Source	59
Table 7: Adaptation of Legislation	60
Table 8: Adaptation to Changing Environmental Conditions	66
Table 9: Transparency and Accountability in Policy Implementation	66
Table 10: Attendance at Public Forums for Policy Formulation.....	80
Table 11: Participation in households	81
Table 12: Involvement in Local Community Consultations on Food Security Policies.....	82

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework (Source: Own Construction).....	25
Figure 2: Sketch of Addis Ababa City with Sub Cities	27
Figure 3: Triangular Polices Analysis Method.....	45

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ABSTRACT

Food insecurity is a global issue impacting millions, with sub-Saharan Africa being particularly affected. In Ethiopia, the rapid urbanization exacerbates food insecurity, especially Addis Ababa. This study explores the implication of food politics and policies on household food security in Addis Ababa, focusing on the alignment between these elements to develop effective mechanisms against food insecurity and malnutrition. While general effects have been studied, specific consequences of food policies, politics, and stakeholder dynamics on household food security remain underexplored. This research addresses this gap by examining political influences on policy formulation, assessing the roles of governmental organizations, evaluating policy effectiveness, and identifying policy process gaps and opportunities for change. It provides critical insights in Addis Ababa, promoting inclusive policy-making and addressing food insecurity to enhance social equality and quality of life. The study employs a cross-sectional design with qualitative and quantitative methods, including key informant interviews with government officials, household surveys among Addis Ababa, and analysis of national policy documents and existing literature. Qualitative data were analyzed descriptively and thematically, while quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive analysis, providing insights into food security issues and policy implications in an urban setting. The intricate nexus between food politics, policies, and household food security highlights the importance of governance structures, decision-making processes, and policy application. Effective stakeholder integration and public involvement are crucial for democratic governance and policy efficiency. Addressing food insecurity challenges requires community consultations, enhanced public participation, and robust policy implementation mechanisms at the community level. Decision-makers must close policy gaps and align policies with household needs to develop more inclusive, effective, and transparent food security policies, ultimately improving household and community well-being.

Key words: Food, Policies, Politics, Household, food security, Nexus, formulation

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Food security is a situation whereby all people at all times have both physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2006). There are four dimensions: availability, access, utilization, and stability. Availability refers to sufficient supplies of food, whereas access refers to having the money to obtain them. Utilization, on the other hand, emphasizes proper biological use sufficient intake of nutrients and proper digestion and assimilation by the body. Lastly, stability states of reliable availability and access to food over time. These dimensions collectively underscore the multi-dimensional features of food security, emphasizing how integral deeds must be carried out to adequately address all food-related challenges (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2006).

Whereas, food insecurity is a global problem and millions of people are grappling with it (FAO, 2019). Latest figures from the Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO in 2020 reveal that close to 811 million people in the world suffered from hunger and the majority are from African and Asian regions (FAO et al., 2021). The number of people in sub-Saharan Africa that faced moderate or severe food insecurity touched 57.8% in 2020, which indicates that over half of its people experienced uncertainties with regard to obtaining sufficient food (FAO et al., 2021).

Global food political dynamics are captured as contested terrains of power and interests; ordinarily, it is referred to as food politics. It is a conflict of interest that involves governments, multinational companies, groups with vested interests, and civil societies. It is played out with each group trying to build its influence on different food issues and food decisions and policies (Clapp & Fuchs, 2009). The nature of food politics and the way they play to result in policies have direct effects on the availability, access, and affordability of food to households.

At the global level, international trade agreements and development aid programs, as well as the work of intergovernmental institutions such as the World Trade Organization and FAO, shape food policy. At a regional level, policies to address food security challenges at regional levels include the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) of the African

Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). But implementation processes have been uneven and, in practice, have given relatively little attention to the unique needs and vulnerabilities of urban populations (Tschirley et al., 2015).

Among countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Ethiopia is among those that are seriously plagued with food insecurity. In fact, a study by Hadley et al. (2011) revealed that in the year 2008, during the height of the global food crisis, food insecurity rose considerably in both urban and rural Ethiopia. The country is further strained by its rapid rate of urbanization. In 2020, it was estimated at 21.2 %, yet it is anticipated that the urban population will increase to 33.6% by 2050 (UN DESA, 2018). Urban formal settlers are among the vulnerable category in informal settlements and face challenges in accessing and affording nutritious foods, this explains the high rates of food insecurity and malnutrition in urban areas. (World Food Program (WFP), 2020).

In this case, in Ethiopia, on the national level, several food security policies and strategies have been implemented, including the National Food and Nutrition policy, Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and the National Nutrition Program (NNP). Nevertheless, these schemes have generally been focused more on rural areas, while particular attention to the needs of urban formal settlers has so far been lacking (Berhane et al., 2017). A lack of connection between the food politics and food policy levers at the local level may relate to the continued food insecurity and nutritional status of this vulnerable urban population.

Recent studies indicate that there are challenges regarding household food security in Addis Ababa (FAO, 2017). The process of rapid urbanization, population growth, and economic disparities are among the contributing factors to food insecurity in urban households in Addis Ababa (FAO, 2017). A good number of Addis Ababa residents, especially those from low-income areas, have low access to nutritious and low-accessibility food, while infrastructure improvements and rising food prices remain poor. Even with such challenges, the participation of Addis Ababa residents in food-related policy-making has had some scanty mentions. (FEWS NET, 2020). Attempts have been made at involving ordinary citizens in policy dialogue, consultation, and decision-making at the level of civil society organizations as well as community and local government initiatives. (Tsegaye et al., 2020). Generally, though, some degree of public participation is at the convenience of the government, and the more marginalized groups find few opportunities to change policy decisions.

The relationship, between food politics and food policy has an influence on ensuring that people in cities have food affecting how easily they can get, use and rely on food supplies, in urban areas. Food politics describes the power dynamics and political responses involved in affecting food systems, including the impacting of governmental departments and political leaders, as well as private-sector and public-interest groups. Food policy is the planning and implementation through specific strategies and regulations for ensuring food security, protection, and sustainability. The alignment and interaction between these two domains are crucial to realizing food security outcomes (Frayne, 2011).

Food politics, such as the one identified by Rocha (2009), can affect the formulation and possibly the realization of the impacts of the food policies to be implemented. For instance, it is political choices: decisions taken by governments and their partners, with attention to the broader context of governance structures, shapes the ranking of food security in national agendas, and this in turn impacts expenditure allocations and policy agendas (Lang, 2010). And of course, different exiting stakeholders, with their influence like alike that of agribusinesses and advocacy groups, strongly avoid changes that would lead to imbalances in favor of food distribution and access (Clapp & Fuchs, 2009). A policy-stable environment guarantees a constantly well-functioning policy, whereas in a politically instable environment, a possible negative regeneration is guaranteed.

For example, for evidence of the impact due to the Nexus of food politics and policy in place, research infers that when food politics and food policy are not aligned, the results can be food insecurity, malnutrition, and impoverishment. For instance, studies on the situation in Ethiopia show that political turbulence and erratic policies have negatively contributed to food security in a country (FAO, 2017). For example, Tsegaye et al. (2020) revealed that in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia, public intervention in food policy-making was meager, and most of the products fail to fit the expected need of the society. Through this culprit, home ranges of urban residents experience high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. In a study conducted in Kenya, Barrett (2010) found that political choices were having an impact, on the availability and accessibility of food especially exacerbating food insecurity in regions due to governance challenges. Similarly, Hoddinott (2012) highlighted in a related study that inadequate policy reactions to influences, in South Africa led to compromised food consumption and stability

impacting the well-being and health of households.

On the other hand, effective food security strategy requires a harmonious Nexus between food politics and food policy. This involves heightening stakeholders' political considerations by design and ensuring that the implementation of policy is both strong and responsive following political changes Patel(2012). Public engagement in the policy-making process is among other things critical in developing food security policies that are relevant and will work (Tsegaye et al., 2020). Policies that integrate the voices and needs of the urban settlers are more likely to result in the reduction of the root causes of food insecurity.

Therefore, understanding the Nexus of food politics and food policies and their implications for household food security will provide new insights. These insights can help reshape food policies to be more inclusive and responsive, thereby increasing food security for this vulnerable population. This research investigates the implication of food politics and policy on household food security in Addis Ababa. In addition, the study assesses the level of household participation and influence in the formulation of various food-related policies and laws. This study is based on systematic survey data and tried to point out the link between food polices, household participation, and the implications for food security among urban residents in Addis Ababa.

1.2. Statement of the Research Problem

According to Workneh(2021), household food security remains a critical challenge in urban cities, including Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Although governmental and many non-governmental organizations are improving food insecurity conditions through policies and program interventions, urban formal settlers still experience a gap in nutritional and sufficient food access. The Nexus of food policies and food politics is a critical space for grappling with such matters, but there is some epistemological gap in understanding how these factors interplay to affect household food security mainly in the context of Addis Ababa.

So far, the prevailing studies on food policy and politics have given good insights into how they affect food security individually. For example, Hawkes (2009) underlines that policy formulation leads to global consequences with impacts on the production, distribution, and access to food. Similarly, Clapp and Fuchs (2009) have underlined that the power dynamics among stakeholders like agribusinesses and advocacy groups significantly affect food systems. For instance, in

Ethiopia, studies such as by Tsegaye et al. (2020) have grasped how important public participation is in the formulation of municipal food policy, cautioning that it has to be inclusive.

However, there is a gap in the literature that more specifically investigates how food policy interfaces with food politics and what direct implications for household food security in urban formal settlements. Lang (2010) considered the role of political choice in determining food system outcomes, and Anderson (2009) discussed the need for a policy environment that would provide reasonable certainty for investment in innovative food security solutions, but these studies are often less focused on the context of urban formal settlers. Moreover, research addressing the achievement of policy implementation, such as that by Swinburn et al. (2013), helps to provide a framework rather than fully encompassing the unique challenges faced by urban households in Addis Ababa. These complexities are further aggravated by extremely instances of rapid urbanization, socio-economic disparities, and political instability, among other factors. These localized examples may be put into perspective with other studies conducted in other countries, such as Barrett (2010) in Kenya and Hoddinott (2012) in South Africa. The studies underscore the necessity of prepared strategies which do consider both the macro- and micro-level factors that influence food security.

Therefore, this study fills this gap in knowledge by investigating the Nexus between food policy and food politics in the context of household food security in Addis Ababa. Such aspects call for in-depth research to study the interaction between differences in political decisions, dynamics between stakeholders, and the policy environments in shaping food security so as to build understanding of the barriers and opportunities to bring about change in food security improvement in Ethiopia. In this regard, the evidence derived from such analysis helps in further academic comprehension and also has implications for the policy formulations and relevant stakeholders to design and develop appropriate and effective, inclusive strategies for the food security.

1.3. Research Objectives

1.3.1. General objective

To analyze the Nexus between food politics and food policy in Addis Ababa and its implication on household food security.

1.3.2. Specific Objectives

Specifically, the study aimed to:

1. Analyze the implication of political factors on food policy formulation in Addis Ababa
2. Evaluate government organizations involved in food policy development in Addis Ababa
3. Examine the effectiveness of the Ethiopian food security and nutrition policy and legal instruments to achieve household food security.
4. Identify potential challenges and opportunities for policy change in food security enhancement in Addis Ababa.

1.4. Research Questions

- 1) How do food politics and policy-making processes influence household food security in Addis Ababa?
- 2) What is the level of household participation in policy formulation and law making process?

1.5. Significance of Study

Thus, using food politics and food policy as an indicator, this study pursues to achieve a full grasp of the issues that affect household food security among urban formal settlers in case of Addis Ababa. Again, this study exploration to address the critical issue of food insecurity amongst the urban formal settlers in Addis Ababa by shedding light on the social dynamics and the challenges that such communities face in accessing nutritious foods for effective and targeted interventions.

The insights obtained from this research will enhance the importance of inclusive policy-making in line with the voices of the marginalized groups and ultimately contribute to social equality and better quality of life among the members. On a policy front, this study proves insightful in basing recommendations on how to improve the making and implementation of food policies. In identifying the gaps and contradictions in current policies and the way political dynamics drive them, the research would provide policymakers with evidence-based guidance. As a result, it may engender the development of more coherent and integrated food security strategies that are responsive to the needs of the urban formal settler. Further, enhancement of public participation in policy-making processes could steer the attainment of more democratic and good governance structures into existence (Anderson 2009; Swinburnet.al.2013).

Scientifically, this research fits within the larger study on food security by associating with and connecting concepts of food politics and food policy. It adds more literature by detailing how the two domains sandwich and affect household food security in an urban Ethiopian context. This research also sets a yellow brick for other scholars who would like to investigate such interfaces in other settings, hence possibly contributing to the improvement of the understanding of the thin web of factors that are responsible for food security on a global level (Rocha, 2009).

1.6. The Scope of the Study

The thematic scope of this study is at the Nexus of food politics and food policy, and what this junction implies for household food security among the urban formal settlers. This involves looking into power dynamics among different stakeholders, the politics involved, and policy formulation processes that influence food systems and security. In this regard, the study focuses on the implications that government decisions, stakeholder power relations, and the policy environment have on the articulation of the development and implementation of food policies. Additionally, it seeks to access levels of public participation in policy formulation and the effectiveness of policy implementation in addressing food security challenges (Lang, 2010; Clapp & Fuchs, 2009). The study is geographically limited to Addis Ababa the capital city of Ethiopia. This decision is based upon a critical urban population of formal settler urbanites being in Addis Ababa, facing unique challenges in relation to food security. Firstly, the urban setup under the city administration forms a unique urban environment in which the complexities of food politics and food policy can be observed in relation to a more densely populated and administratively

centralized region.

Moreover, an exploration in the context of Addis Ababa shall offer particular insights into the issues of urban food challenge in keeping with the larger discourse on the Ethiopian dilemma and, more particularly, in urban areas exhibiting characteristics of similar developing countries (FAO, 2017; Tsegaye et al., 2020). The temporal scope of this research is 2014 to 2023. This period captures the recent developments in the food politics and policy dimensions impacting household food security. Political and economic change is remarkably rapid over the last decade in Ethiopia; the change has trickled down to having an impact on the food security dimension. The study period, therefore, enlightens on trends, challenges, and progressions within food policy and politics and how such has had an effect on food security for urban formal settlers in Addis Ababa (Anderson, 2009; Barrett, 2010).

The thematic reach is justifiable because it is necessary to encourage a multipronged approach to food security, which is determined by both political and policy-based levels. Indeed, such an approach promotes understanding the Nexus of food politics with food policy in the creation of proper mechanisms for enhancing food security outcomes (Lang, 2010; Clapp & Fuchs, 2009). The geographical reach of Addis Ababa is justifiable since it serves the capital functions of Ethiopia. In addition, urban formal settlers pose specific food security problems. Findings from this study shall be generalized from the specific and applied elsewhere in Ethiopia and other similar scenarios (FAO, 2017; Tsegaye et al., 2020). The chosen time frame is justifiable because large-scale critical political and economic developments within Ethiopia took place since 2014, and these have massive impacts on food security. The study can, therefore; trace the dynamics of the development of food policies and the consequences of these political changes on food security at the household level.

1.7. Limitation of Study

There are a few methodological limitations to the research on this Nexus of food politics and food policy and its implications for household food security in Addis Ababa. For instance, the already very dynamic and sometimes conflict-ridden issues of food politics and policy complicate the research due to the rapidity of change in political issues and the unintended ramification of policies to navigate. The fact that insights must be combined from economics,

sociology and political sciences and public health and environmental studies makes it interdisciplinary in nature and hence methodologically; complicated. Finally, the focus on certain areas or time frames of Addis Ababa may miss the broader trend and expanding it to more areas or resources and logistics more intensely requires an increase.

1.8. Organization of the Thesis

This thesis comprises five chapters. Next to the introduction chapter, the second chapter presents theoretical, conceptual, and empirical literature review along with a conceptual framework for the study. The third chapter address the Research Methodology, design, data types and sources, sample design and sampling technique, sample size estimation, data collection techniques, and data analysis techniques. The results of the data analysis are displayed, and discussed provides and interpreted in the fourth chapter. The last chapter is dealt with the conclusion and recommendations derived from empirical findings of the study.

CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURES

2.1. Theoretical foundation and Conceptual Framework of Food Politics, and Policy of Food Security

This section contains synthesis and summary of various relevant literatures related to the field of this study. The review of literature is organized in a topical order, and includes conceptual, theoretical, and empirical literatures pertinent to this study.

2.1.1. Food Politics

Food politics is the forces, relations, decisions and institutions that shape the food system. It is the actions of particular actors, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations and private sector actors that influence food issues and policy (Clapp & Fuchs, 2009; Lang & Heasman, 2004). From the perspective of this research, food politics is a combination of intricate power relations, political dynamics, and influences that configure the formulation, implementation, and results of food policy. It is all about how government departments or agencies, political elites, international bodies, private businesses, civil society interest groups, and other activists interact and influence each other within the food systems (Lang, 2010).

In a society or a selected area, politics refers to the techniques, procedures, and sports involved in acquiring and the usage of energy. It includes determining how authority is distributed and used, formulating guidelines, making decisions, and resolving conflicts among pursuits. Within the meals context, politics pertains to the electricity systems, ideologies, and institutional configurations that impact food systems, encompassing food production, distribution, and consumption (Clapp, 2017). Food coverage system and implementation are considerably inspired with the aid of politics. Prioritizing foods-associated interventions and allocating resources are decided by using political choices, birth of party ideologies, and power dynamics.

Burstein (2019) pointed out that lobbying groups and political parties have a big say in how food regulations are advanced, which has an effect on things like meals get admission to tasks, agricultural subsidies, and nutrients requirements. Additionally, the trade guidelines have an effect on imports and exports of food due to the have an impact on of country wide and

international political relationships (Smith, 2017).

2.1.2. Food Policy

In addressing problems associated with the production, distribution, and consumption of food, governments together with other concerned parties have come up with principles, objectives, and strategies which collectively known as food policy. Among the many areas covered are agricultural policies, trade laws, food safety regulations, nutrition programs as well as sustainability initiatives. Food policy aims at protecting the environment, promoting public health through proper nutrition, ensuring food security for all people and supporting the livelihoods of farmers and food producers (Lang et al., 2009).

Food policy domination frameworks have a political nature since they involve negotiations and compromises among various stakeholders (Wittman, 2018). Political choices made on matters relating to food policy significantly affect the overall welfare of citizens in terms of their health status, social justice concerns, and economic development levels among others. These determinations resonate throughout communities. For instance, priority areas in policies like land use planning or agricultural subsidies allocation directly affect community wellness indicators and sources of income generation for the residents (Chatzopoulou, 2018.) Chatzopoulou stresses those political decisions that affect food policy must be socially aware so that different community needs can be met inclusively.

According to Suleman (2016), the impact of politics on food policy is important because it determines people's economic equality, their access to food and nutritional standards they live by. Understanding how systems for governing foods work together with policymaking processes requires a deep insight due to the complex interdependence between these two areas of intervention. From this research, we can see clearly that politics has a key part to play in creating, executing and overseeing policies about what should be done with our resources for feeding each other; this has far reached effects on general wellbeing within communities as well.

2.1.3. Relation of Food Policies and Food Security

Food policies therefore form a very significant component in the enhancement of food security in the developing society and urban centers like Addis Ababa. Paramount, food policies entail the development and implementation of mechanisms and regulations aimed at achieving secure, good nutrition, and sustainable (Hawkes, 2009.) Good food policy enhances the four dimensions of food security: availability, access, utilization, and stability.

The policies related to food could be conceptualized and developed noting their requirements and issues about food production, distribution, and consumption. For instance, policies related to enhancing agriculture productivity, supporting smallholder farmers, and maintaining efficient food distribution systems have the potential to promote food availability in any area. (FAO, 2017) On the other hand, policies guiding complete subsidies for basic foods, social safety nets, and income generating activities can drive food access among urban households. Another underlined feature of food policies is implementation effectiveness. (Barrett, 2010). Policies have to be effectively implemented in order to yield the desired result. Implementation of the Urban Productive Safety Net Program (UPSNP) by the Ethiopian government is an example of food policy that has reformed in improving urban food security, especially among the poor households, via transfer of cash and ensuring access to food (World Bank, 2020). However, even in this stage, bureaucratic inefficiencies and lack of resources can challenge the implementation of policies and hence affect the outcomes of food security (Swinburn et al., 2013).

Participatory policy-making processes are also important in any effective food security policies. Involving urban settlers and other relevant stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of food policies is vital to make the policies relevant and responsive to the needs of the community in question as depicted by (Tsegaye et al.) In their study, the participatory policymaking will attract better targeting and more sustainable interventions or solutions to the problem of food insecurity. Generally speaking, food policies have the general content of achieving food security in Addis Ababa. How effective food policy formulation, implementation, and the extent of public participation in such processes is held, depicts the effectiveness of the policies. Well-designed policies that address needs and challenges associated with food production, distribution, and access can enhance food security for urban formal settlers.

2.1.4. The Nexus of Food Politics and Food Policies

The Nexus of food politics and food security is one of the important fields, especially in urban formal settlers, where power play dynamics of the governance and policy-making directly affect household food security, just like in Addis Ababa. As it is mentioned above, food politics is about the power relations, governance structures, and political dynamics framing and operating in the food system, including both government agencies and political leaders, the private sector, and different kinds of organizations and groups engaged in advocacy (Lang, 2010). All these political elements do create an avenue for shaping food policy formulation and implementation, which ultimately impacts food security outcomes.

Food security is said to exist when all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO, 2017). The dimensions of food security: availability, access, utilization, and stability are influenced by the political environment and policy decisions. For example, a stable political environment that maintains consistency in policies and supports them will further food availability and access by promoting effective food production and distribution systems. On the other hand, political instability and inconsistency in the policies being made usually disrupt the supply of food and access to it, in turn giving rise to increased food insecurity.

The relationship between food politics and food security lies in the manner political decisions and dynamics of the stakeholders influence food policy appropriateness. Various stakeholders in political decision-making in Addis Ababa have dictated these food policies and appropriateness. Governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations are among the major stakeholders in food policy outcomes through acts of advocacy and lobbying efforts. Effective stakeholder engagement in the policy-making process could result in more elaborate and all-inclusive food security strategies that articulate the specific needs of urban formal settlers (Tsegaye et al., 2020). Lastly, political will and governance structures of the Ethiopian government can put in place and sustain food security initiatives aimed at reliable food availability, access, utilization, and stability in the households of Addis Ababa (Jones et al., 2013).

Food politics is the practice and relationship in existence between different actors in the food system to the power dimensions of actors like government agencies, politicians, private sector individuals, NGOs, and civil societies in regard to the food system. The Nexus of food politics and food policy is relevant in understanding and working to mitigate the consequences for household food security in Addis Ababa's formal settlements (Lang, 2010). On the other hand, the policies of foods include in them the designs and implementations of strategies and regulations to ensure food security, nutrition and sustainability (Hawkes, 2009). Alignment and an interaction between food politics and food policies are able to create effective food security outcomes.

The political atmosphere in Addis Ababa has a big influence in the formulation and implementation of food policies. Political stability and quality in governance would be a great determinant to food security intervention. For instance, a stable political situation can act as a facilitator to many food security policies and their implementations. On the other hand, wavering political stability or failure of good governance may stand in the way of proper policy formulation and implementation; thus, at instances, poor outcomes regarding food security may be attained (Anderson, 2009). Secondly, the dynamics of stakeholders in the sector are key to shaping food policies. The influence or power of different multinational corporations, agribusiness, and advocacy groups can affect policy priorities and, by and large, the decisions reached. This may, in the process, work to the disadvantage of the smallholder farmers and therefore their household food security, for example, if powerful agribusinesses argue for policies that are very well disposed toward large-scale production (Clapp & Fuchs, 2009). Also, it is in this regard that understanding such dynamics informs the development of food policies that are inclusive and fair, bearing the concerns of the poor urban populations at all levels.

Food politics and policies are implicated in the very policy-making processes. An inclusive stakeholder's consultation and public participation are very important in policy formulation processes in efforts to make the policies more relevant and sensible for the needs of the community (Tsegaye et al., 2020). However, political interests and power struggles may direct and turn them into exclusionary practices in which the voices of their inhabitants are not properly given expression, hence low-impact policies in solving the food security challenges facing such populations. In addition, the realization of policies is affected by political will and administrative

capacity. However, with high political leadership commitment and concern, along with good implementation by government agencies on the implementation on policy measures, these food and nutrition security programs can be successful. The implementation and effectiveness of the Urban Productive Safety Net Program of the Ethiopian government may be good in financial support and food for improvement in food security status among poor households, but its delivery will be based on applicable implementation and coordination in the engaged government bodies (World Bank, 2020). Generally, food politics and food policies meet and complement one another to configure an essential viewpoint of molding food security in households in Addis. Factors that pertain to forming and implementing food security policies include political stability, nature of the dynamics of the stakeholders, and an inclusive policy-making process. With that regard, policymakers can now be supported in devising better strategies for improving food security in urban formal settlements.

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2.1.5. Legal Frameworks of Food Security in Ethiopia

Legal frameworks are the backbone of food security in Ethiopia. The constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) also provides that all citizens have natural right(s) to food which presumes governmental duty to make sure it reaches all its citizens. Article 40 of the constitution provides that the government is responsible for formulating and implementing policies and laws geared towards enhancing food security, agricultural development, and sustainable land use (FDRE Constitution, 1995).

Ethiopia does not have constitutional protections for food-security-related rights, but in addition, Ethiopia has not adopted comprehensive legislation and regulations targeting at this issue. However, there are some lists of legislation, which respect of food as subject matter. The Food, Medicine and Health Care Administration and Control Proclamation No. 661/2009 gives the legal basis for the management of food safety & quality (Federal Negarit Gazeta, 661/2009). It declares the standard of food production, processing and distribution for assuring its safety and nutritional quality.

In addition to that, the Government of Ethiopia introduced Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) to mitigate chronic food insecurity and vulnerability in various parts of the country. A social protection scheme set up under Council of Ministers Regulation No. 262/2012, the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) offers safety net and livelihood security to vulnerable

households. These guidelines contain the rules for eligibility, benefit levels and the actual implementation of the program. Ethiopia has also adopted an overarching development framework called the Agricultural Development-Led Industrialization (ADLI) strategy, which serves as an overall guide for its agricultural and rural development. The main goal of the ADLI strategy is to improve agricultural productivity, promote improved market access and sustainable land management for the ultimate purpose of ensuring food security and transformation of the national economy (FDRE, 2010).

In addition to that, Ethiopia has put in place several institutional structures that would help govern and ensure the alignment of the activity. As a specific example, the ATA coordinates the rest of agriculture, which includes food security. The Ethiopian Food Security Coordination Bureau is, by and large, a unit based at the Ministry of Agriculture, where coordination takes place with all other ministries concerning food security activities (ATA,2022).

In this case, governance structures as well as the legal frameworks play a vital role in solving food security issues in Ethiopia. The country has implemented governance structures which involve many institutions and stakeholders at different levels (World Bank, 2022). Legal frameworks such as Food, Medicine, and Health Care Administration and Control Proclamation create a base for monitoring safety and quality of foods. Initiatives like PSNP or ADLI strategy show the government's willingness to solve problems related to food security and agricultural development(ATA, 2022). Effective governance systems and coordination mechanisms exemplified by ATA as well as Food Security Coordination Bureau are crucial for execution and monitoring of interventions that ensure food security (Anderson, 2015).

2.1.6. Stakeholder Engagement in decision-Making of food safety in Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, stakeholder engagement is a pivotal element in the decision-making process as it pertains to food safety. It involves attracting a large variety of stakeholders including government agencies, civil society organizations, farmers' associations, research institutions and international partners for the promotion of inclusive, participatory and sustainable directives and interventions. Effective stakeholder participation is important to make sure that a wide range of perspectives, knowledge and experiences are taken into account resulting in more informed and context-specific decision-making processes. A great number of stakeholders are involved in the

decision-making process related to food safety in Ethiopia. The government, particularly the Ministry of Agriculture as well as other concerned ministries play a central role in policy development and implementation. Government departments liaise with stakeholders through consultation mechanisms, working groups as well as participatory frameworks to solicit inputs, disseminate information and promote cooperation (Belay et al., 2018). Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) also are instrumental in decision-making processes related to food security in Ethiopia. CSOs often serve as voices for marginalized groups, convey grassroots opinions, provide support for community-driven initiatives. They take part in policy dialogues, contribute to researches and analysis through various ways such as social mobilization programs, workshops or conferences; last but not least they work with governmental organizations and other stakeholders to influence decisions on critical issues (Gebrehiwot et al., 2019).

Farmers' associations and cooperatives are imperative partners in choice-making forms related to food security in Ethiopia. These organizations constitute the interface, and wishes of smallholder agriculturists and play a critical part in voicing their concerns, displaying comments on arrangements and programs, and encouraging knowledge-sharing and capacity-constructing ventures (Alemu et al., 2019). Inquire about foundations and the scholarly world too make a commitment to nourishment security decision-making in Ethiopia.

They produce prove, behavior investigate, and give specialized understanding to tell arrangement advancement and usage. Inquire about foundations associated with stakeholders thru thinks about associations, arrangement exchanges, and mastery spread structures to create sure that choice-making strategies are evidence-based and relevantly important (Beyene et al., 2017).

Universal accomplices, alongside giver organizations and non-governmental organization, are important stakeholders in Ethiopian nourishment assurance decision-making. They offer monetary and specialized help, contribute to scope discoursed, and collaborate with government offices, CSOs, and other partners to manage with supper security challenges. Around the world companions as often as possible, bring worldwide great practices, expertise, and sources to assist countrywide endeavors (Beyene et al., 2017). To encourage partner engagement in selection-making forms, Ethiopia has introduced various frameworks and instruments.

Subsequently, partner engagement is imperative for effective decision-making strategies related to supports security in Ethiopia. Alluring an assorted extend of partners, which incorporate government body, gracious society bunches, farmers educate, considers foundations, and around the world companions, ensures that determinations are learned, comprehensive, and maintainable. Structures and mechanisms for stakeholder engagement, in conjunction with running bunches, scope exchanges, and topical stages, encourage collaboration, understanding sharing, and the joining of different sees. By way of with respect to partners in decision-making approaches, Ethiopia can increment and implement context-specific approaches and mediations that address dinners assurance challenges and advance maintainable change.

2.1.7. Political Economy and Agricultural Policy

Ethiopia's political economy is complicated by an interaction of political, social, and budgetary components that impinge on agrarian improvement and supports security. Historically, the Ethiopian government has played an important role in rural making plans, help assignment, and arrangement components. The political economic system of farming in Ethiopia plays a major role in ensuring food security for its people. Farming could be a leading sector in the Ethiopian economy, engaging a significant portion of the population and supplying the majority of the country's food requirements. Understanding the political and fiscal flow that shapes rural controls, foundations, and hones is basic for considering the challenges and openings for accomplishing nourishment security in Ethiopia. (Poulton, (2014).)

The government commitment to agrarian advancement as a pathway to destitution reduction and dinner security is reflected in its key approach records, alongside the Rural Advancement Lead Industrialization (ADLI) approach (FDRE, 2010). Arrive residency may be a basic issue of the political economy of farming in Ethiopia. The common open of agrarian arrive is possessed and overseen by utilizing the kingdom, with one-of-a-kind sorts of arrive residency, such as communal arrive and person landholding. Arrive scope and arrive redistribution bundles have been connected to address verifiable imbalances and advance smallholder horticulture. But challenges related with arrive get right of passage to, residency assurance and arrive organization endure and may have an impact on nourishment security impacts (Hirvonen et al., 2019). The

position of the country in agrarian input endowments and back applications is another critical component of the political money related framework of farming in Ethiopia.

For improved productivity and food security, the government introduced different programs in the rural areas. The schemes were designed to correct market failures, empower smallholder farmers as well as promote sustainable agriculture. Nevertheless, the sustainability and efficiency of these bundles are being questioned which calls for a comprehensive evaluation and reforming process. Ethiopian political economy of agriculture is also influenced by global changes and international financial flows. The country's reliance on world markets, trade agreements and prices for commodities could have implications on its rural economy. Export oriented farm production such as coffee, horticulture and floriculture contribute towards earning foreign exchange but at the same time might affect domestic food security and livelihoods of peasants involved in this kind of farming (Poulton, (2014).).

Furthermore, different actors and interest groups within the sector shape political economy of farming in Ethiopia. These include large scale mechanized estates, agribusiness companies, smallholder farmers, cooperatives and civil society organizations among others each with their own agendas, power relations and effects on rural practices and controls. Therefore, balancing pursuits of various stakeholders even as making sure equitable get entry to resources and benefits turns into critical in accomplishing meals security. Therefore, in Ethiopia, the political financial system of agriculture can be a complicated and dynamic contraption main to nourishment safety results. Rural enhances and results are patterned by the government's approach and mediations, arrive residency courses of action, input endowment programs, worldwide substitute elements, and the function of distinctive on-screen characters. Knowledge of these political and financial elements is fundamental for planning compelling policies and intercessions that promote maintainable agrarian improvement and ensure nourishment security for the Ethiopian people. In Ethiopia, the consequences of food protection, control aspects, and socio-monetary well-being are formed by means of the political financial framework of agribusiness inside this context. The have a look at targets to explore various dimensions of the political economy of agriculture while emphasizing its effect on public coverage and nutrients protection (Adenew, 2018)

In this context, the political economic framework of agribusiness in Ethiopia performs a critical function in forming the effects for nourishment guarantee, management additives, and socio-financial true-being. This paper wants to look through the multifaceted measurements of the political financial system of horticulture, emphasizing its impact on nourishment safety and open scope. This is tried through an extensive assessment of educational writing to explain the political and financial power interaction that forms the agrarian frameworks and their pointers for nourishment security (Adenew, 2018)

With the assist of Devereux and Maxwell,2000it has been underlined how the 'framework of political economy' has fashioned and used rural approaches. Their analysis illuminates the fundamental transaction of political and financial factors shaping agrarian systems and food protection impacts and underlines the part of management factors and the scope surroundings.

2.2. Empirical Literature Review

The portion of writing critically evaluates the global mechanisms and organizations that influence food security policies across the world. It discusses the functions of international bodies like FAO and World Trade Organization (WTO) in shaping food politics, policy as well as governance. The report brings out the power play among different players at a worldwide scale and its effects on securing enough to eat for everybody (Clapp, 2009).

This section of the book delves into how efforts for regional integration intersect with ensuring enough food supplies within Africa. It considers groupings such as AU, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) among others which have been formed regionally towards this course. It also reflects on various schemes that these institutions may put in place so as to address different challenges experienced in relation to food security. The chapter examines how the political economy determines regional food policies and governance arrangements, intending to understand what can be done at this level to achieve food security (Toulmin, 2018). This research is situated within national food politics, policy and governance but takes India as its example. It looks into what government programs like the Public Distribution System (PDS) or the National Food Security Act (NFSA) do to ensure that everyone has enough to eat. The study explores also why different people may have access or lack thereof these benefits depending on where they live within the country. In addition, it considers broader questions around power

relations within society more generally as well as particular states' abilities to make decisions affecting their citizens' well-being (De Schutter, 2010).

The article that supplies food in some nations such as Bangladesh is a complex network, which involves various stakeholders like farmers, food processors, distributors, markets and government agencies. All these people have a part to play in ensuring safety of foods and addressing problems related to their production, distribution and consumption (FAO, 2020; Rahman et al., 2019). Matters of agricultural subsidies, trade regulations among others are some of the issues that may be influenced by food politics so as to enable people access healthy diets (Hinrichs, 2014; McMichael, 2009). Governance within this system refers to the structures, processes as well as mechanisms through which different players interact and decide upon things.

Well-functioning oversight makes food industry individuals answerable for their behavior and means that regulations and policies are implemented and enforced to bring about desired outcomes including food security, sustainability, and fairness (Marsden et al., 2000; Ostrom, 2010). Transparency is another fundamental component of governance, which requires all stakeholders within the food system to act in best interests of the public while being answerable for what they do (World Health Organization, 2018; FAO, 2014). This means that there should be openness, monitoring as well as enforcement of rules so as to ensure conformity with standards regarding production processes among others (FAO, 2014).

In the case of Bangladesh, perhaps whilst exploring food politics, governance and duty dynamics in the national meals machine it could at the same time with authorities' groups, personal companies and civil society verify the practices and interactions of various stakeholders. The element can spotlight the complicated conditions and opportunities for strong governance and responsibility in the meals area in Bangladesh (Islam et al., 2018; Uddin et al., 2021).

The article, using Muhammad et al. (2021), examines food protection village software in Indonesia, focusing on its impact on circle of relative's food self-sufficiency. The administrator makes use of a pre-publish survey and an incorporated meals protection survey at the family degree to become aware of indicators before and after the masks implementation Quantitative statistics were used to examine key signs and qualitative facts on of minor symptoms. The

program was shown to be beneficial in rural communities since there were significant reductions in poverty levels to about 8–40% after introducing Integrated Household-level Food Security Assessment tools which further highlighted significant achievements like increased availability by 4–7%, reduced poverty by 5% and retainers of 10–20% a cists who fail to accept them if they do not fall in for examination. Consequently, the study reveals the accomplishments of the Food Security Village Program regarding boosting household food security in Indonesia.

A study from Leach (2021) looks at how democracy shapes global food policy. It focuses on the shift from a focus on more production to including care for the environment. Yet, it points out that talk about the environment can easily be used to promote more efficient farming without really changing the big picture. The paper points out that while vitamin studies now look at power and big issues, the main story about kids not growing well under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) doesn't really focus on social and political matters. This slow move in fighting hunger has, though, opened up talks on fairness. The paper checks how joining key and social nutrition studies with other school fields and linking work on not enough nutrition with work on too much weight studies and rules can help (Leach, 2021).

2.3. Conceptual Framework of the Study

This conceptual framework explicates the relationship between food politics, food policy, and its implication on household food security among urban formal settlers in Addis Ababa. It identifies the key independent and dependent variables and portrays one of the possible cause-and-result relationships. The framework tries to get insights on the dynamics of interactions among different elements of food politics and policy that influence household food security, thereby creating a holistic view of mechanisms in action within an urban Ethiopian context.

Food Politics consists of government affairs and politics of key power-players, and policies. This also considers the analysis of the impact arising from political decisions and the public administration systems over food structures as per this research. The index associated with government influence can be defined as an evaluation of the political choices and public administration systems that determine food systems (Lang, 2010). Stakeholder power dynamics include the power that different stakeholders have brought to bear in influencing events such as multinationals and civil society organizations among others (Clapp & Fuchs, 2009). The policy

environment covers factors such as stability and political risk of environments that concern food security policies (Anderson, 2009). The importance of Food Policy is in policy formulation, policy implementation, and even policy impact by the public. Policy formulation is the strategy of formulating those policies, which influence the availability of food in production, supply and consumption levels (Hawkes, 2009). The concept of implementation effectiveness is the extent to which the said food policies and programs have been put into practice with due efficiency (Swinburn et al., 2013). People's participation shows the extent to which people engaging in informal settlement in urban areas are involved in decisions making (Tsegaye et al., 2020).

According to this research, the existence of **Political will** and a **stable policy environment** facilitate the achievement of comprehensive food security policies. In accordance with this research, **Power relations among food policy stakeholders** determine the prioritization. These, therefore, have a direct impact on food security, and the policies are translated and determined by the implementation and involvement of the people in food availability, access, utilization, and stability, all of which directly determine household food security.

Food availability relates to the adequacy of food supply in urban households (FAO, 2017). Food access is the ability of households to acquire adequate, safe, and nutritious food (Barrett, 2010). Food utilization is the appropriate use of food in accordance with the knowledge of nutrition and care (Hoddinott, 2012). Food stability refers to the reliability of food supply and access over time (Jones et al., 2013). Based on the cause-and-effect relationships in the framework, it is evident that food politics and food policy have a significant impact on the identified dimensions of household food security. For instance, political action and a stable policy environment create an enablement for comprehensive food security policy (Anderson, 2009). Similarly, the existing power relationships and dynamics among stakeholders are indicative of shaping the priorities with regard to the formulation of food policy, which would have an impact on food security (Clapp & Fuchs, 2009). Public policy implementation and public engagement directly improve food availability, access, utilization, and stability, therefore guaranteeing food security for households (Hawkes, 2009; Tsegaye et al., 2020; Jones et al., 2013).

Stakeholder power Dynamics focuses on the impact created by the various stakeholders, for instance, the and the government organization i.e. ministries offices and related. Hence, the level

of these policies deals with concerns of stability and political hazard that affects food security policies. **Food policy**, in cases of policy formulation, implementation, as well as policies impact food production, supply, and consumption strategies; **Policy implementation** needs of effectiveness and public roles in decision-making processes particularly in settings such as urban informal households.

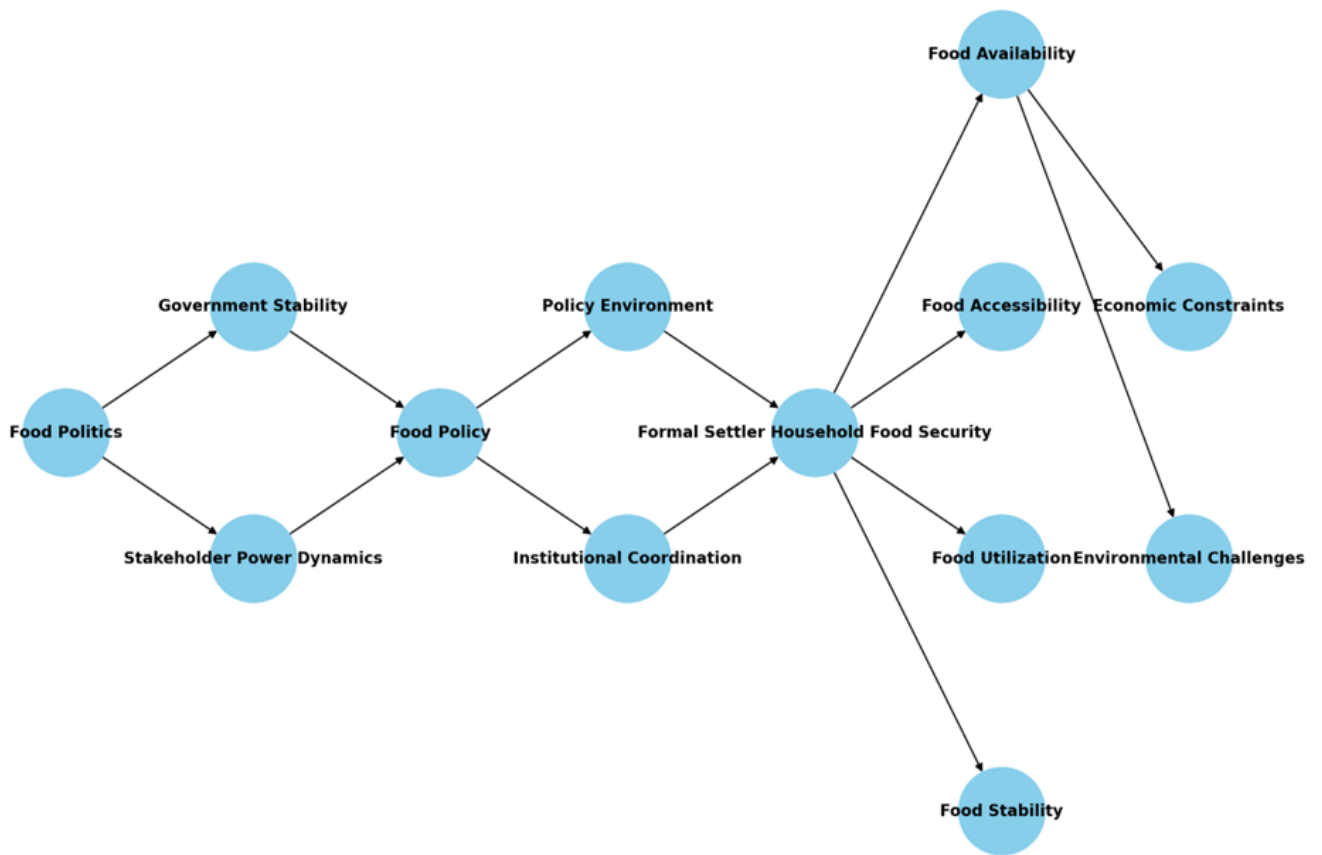


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework (Source: Own Construction)

CHAPTER THREE: DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA AND RESEARCH METHDOLOGY

This section describes the methodological features of the research. It starts by providing an overview of the study area and then describing the research design and methodology in detail, followed by data sources, sampling methods, data collection instruments, and data analysis techniques.

3.1. Description of Study Area

The research has taken place in Addis Ababa. As of 2024, the most populous city with an estimated population of 5,227,794 inhabitants and an average household size of 4.95 individuals (World Population, 2024). The City's GDP is estimated around 111.27 USD Billion with GDP per capita around 834.96 USD. (Trading Economics, 2024). Addis Ababa is the world's third highest capital, standing 7,726 feet (2,355 meters) above sea level in the foothills of the Entoto Mountains. It is located in the geographic center of the country. The city is the site of two major continental and Intergovernmental organizations, African Union (AU) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and different international institutions and Diplomatic corners. (Britannica, n.d.) Today, the city is surrounded by a greenbelt of forests and semi-subsistence agricultural land. The city is divided into eleven boroughs known as sub cities and 99 Woreds (kebeles).

Table 1: Addis Ababa Sub Cities Demographic Distribution

Nr	Subcity	Area (km2)	Population	Density
1	<u>Addis Ketema</u>	7.41	271,644	36,659.1
2	<u>Akaky Kaliti</u>	118.08	195,273	1,653.7
3	<u>Arada</u>	9.91	225,999	23,000
4	<u>Bole</u>	122.08	328,900	2,694.1
5	<u>Gullele</u>	30.18	284,865	9,438.9
6	<u>Kirkos</u>	14.62	235,441	16,104
7	<u>Kolfe Keranio</u>	61.25	546,219	7,448.5
8	<u>Lideta</u>	9.18	214,769	23,000
9	<u>Nifas Silk-Lafto</u>	68.30	335,740	4,915.7
10	<u>Yeka</u>	85.46	337,575	3950.1
11	Lemi Kura	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Sources: AACATID, 2022)

According to World Bank 2020, the major urbanization in Addis Ababa, over the decades, has significant in changes of housing and settlement patterns. The expansion of the city has led to a diversity of settlements that could be categorized in two: the formal and informal. The former is planned and regulated by the Municipal authorities. According to the World Bank, the formal settlers are likely to live in housing units that are owned by government or private and have access to basic amenities such as water, sanitation, and electricity (World Bank, 2020). Mostly, this settlement is contrasted against informal settlements that usually do not have these kinds of amenities and more in terms of being vulnerable to socio-economic difficulties.

The food system in Addis Ababa is multi-pronged and encompasses various players from production to consumption. The supply of food within the city is heavily dependent on peri-urban and rural areas, which supply fresh produce; imports and local markets then provide the processed foods (FAO, 2019).

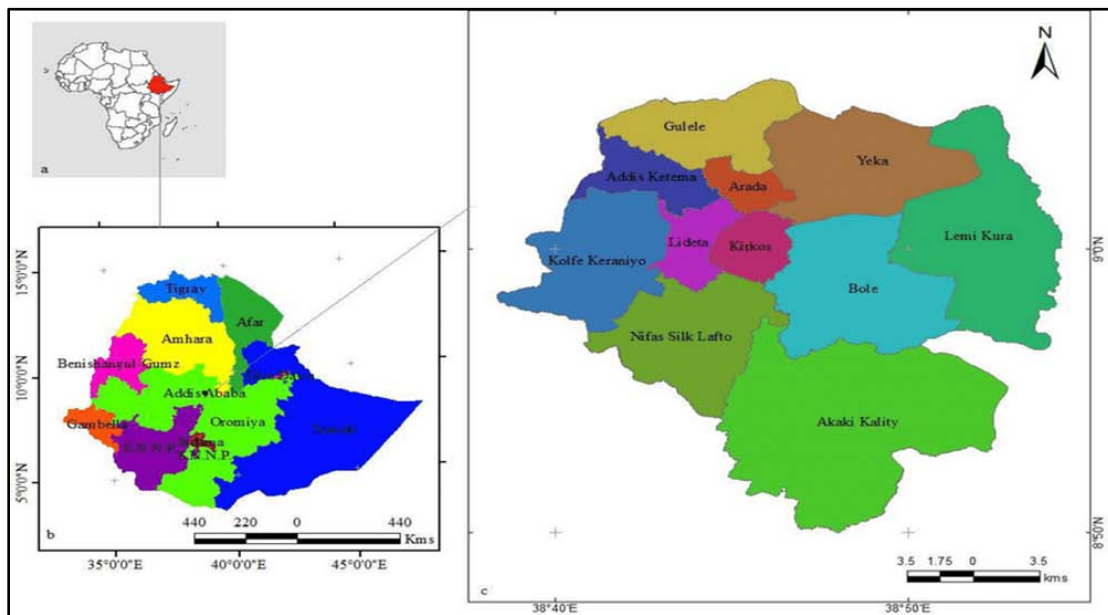


Figure 2: Sketch of Addis Ababa City with Sub Cities

Source: Ethio GIS (2022)

3.2. Research Design and Approach

The research employed a cross-sectional design, owing to its significant advantages of being quick, easy, and cost-effective, and in line with the research objectives. Typically, cross-

sectional studies are conducted through household surveys (questionnaires) and minimize follow-up losses because respondents are questioned only once (Sedgwick, 2014). In addition to this, the research employed a combination of both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Mixed-method research is appreciated for its triangulation of data, the explanation of complex phenomena, and a description of processes and outcomes (Johnson, 2012). According Doe, (2024), it is also appreciated for its comprehensive analysis through triangulation and it will provide a more in-depth understanding of the critical issues for the research.

In order to enhance reliability and to deepen the understanding of the Nexus of food politics and food policy and implication for food security in formal settler households in Addis Ababa, the researcher combined descriptive and exploratory methods. According to (Kelle, 2019)the mixed-method approach is appreciated for its comprehensive analysis through triangulation and it will provide a more in-depth understanding of the critical issues for the research.

3.3. Type of Data and Sources

The data for the study was collected from the primary and secondary sources to get a wide and robust understanding.

3.3.1. Primary Data Sources

Primary sources of data were collected through interviews with key informant from several Government Ministries, authority, and Administration (e.g. officials from different ministries of the government, and administrative office). These are representative from Ethiopian Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Planning and Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Irrigation and Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration. FDRE House of People's Representatives Standing Committees are additionally included.

Ministry of Agriculture, who oversee the development and execution of agricultural policies as well as food security. Two representatives of Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration who oversee and regulate the food distribution and supply chains. Among the important regulatory activities under the purview of the Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PPMED) are the oversight of health sector policy development and review tasks by two

policymakers from the Ministry of Health: one from the Strategic Affairs Executive Office and the other from the Nutrition Coordination Lead Executive Office. The directorate is in charge of creating nutrition policies and guidelines and coordinates and leads all policy-related discussions, reviews, and revisions as needed in accordance with the nation's overall socioeconomic development and the shifting dynamics of health correspondingly.

Two representatives of the Ministry of Planning and Development who work in Planning and reviewing Proposed Policies. One from is a policy, program, and communication relations executive from the Ethiopian Food and Drug Administration. These important informants from different ministry offices were included, and their participation gave us important new insights into the organizational and policy framework that influences Ethiopian food politics and food security results. Additionally, the primary sources of data were collected through surveys that were administered to purposively selected formal settlers in Addis Ababa based on their education background, gender disparities, experiences, perceptions, and challenges regarding food security and the extent to which they have been involved in policy-making processes.

3.3.2. Secondary Data Sources

Data was also collected from a wide variety of secondary sources to provide contextual and supporting information for the study. This includes national policy documents that are related to food security, such as the National Food and Nutrition Policy and the FDRE's food related Proclamations, as well as; regulations and directives given from the FDRE Council of Ministries, and various subsidiary offices. Additionally, the study makes use of various academic articles, books, and journals, to provide an in-depth understanding of the food politics, policies, and food security at the household level. International policies, these are Charter of the United Nations (1945) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and UN Declaration cited to recognize global standards related to food security.

3.4. Sample Size and Techniques

This research targeted government Ministries and Administration in Ethiopia where key informants were working. A purposive sampling procedure was used to select twelve key informants from those above governmental Organizations. The selection criteria, which is purposive, of those key informants who are representing different Ministries and Administration offices were based on their relationship and mandate by law (Definition of Powers and Duties of the Executive Organs Proclamation No. 1263/2021) for the concept of food and food security in one or more ways for policy formulation and execution, as well as for whom food politics is enshrined for.

The collected data were shaped through a key informant checklist, which was used as a guide. The aim was to get a better understanding of both the practical aspects of the household food security. To further emphasize the practical orientation of the paper, 92 urban households were interviewed using household survey questionnaires. The study uses Purposive sampling method through convenience sampling procedures were employed in selecting the questionnaires' respondents. The researcher considered factors such as educational background, employment status in governmental and non-governmental organizations, job position, age, and sex disparity, given that these are cross-cutting issues relevant across the world. These households reside in different parts of Addis Ababa, namely six sub-cities out of the eleven sub-cities: Addis Ketema, Bole, Kirkos, Kolfe-Keraniyo, Lideta, and Nifas Silk Lafto. Furthermore, the survey participants come from a diverse variety of backgrounds, including sex, education, age, and occupation, for the purpose of this research, which is an appropriate policy study.

3.5. Data Collection Methods and Instruments

In this research employed for the primary data collection the Key Informant Interviews (KII), Policies and Legal Documents Review and household survey using structured questionnaires from selected government Ministries offices at Addis Ababa.

3.5.1. Key Informant Interviews (KII)

By using KII, this research has collected patinate data from FDRE government offices and intergovernmental organizations. This methodology facilitates the researcher's direct interaction

with different office directories, exporters and representative of the places on which the research targeted who participate in the development and execution of policy endorsements. The Key informant's semi-structured interview allows this research in eliciting perspectives, perceptions, and experiences regarding food Politics and policy and their Nexus for implications of Food Security at Households level. Therefore, the study contacted key informants from government organizations, including the Ethiopian Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Planning and Development, Ministry of Irrigation and Lowland, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration, to gain insight into the laws, bureaucracies, procedures, and policies affecting Ethiopia's food security. More importantly, the above Miniseries and Administration offices are selected for key informants' interview based on their mandated by law for formulations food and Food related policies and established for those policies implementations. The key informant interview's questions are directed to measures and explores the policy formulation process of food related polices, on the content and contemporaries of food related policies and information also collected about intersections of those food politics and polices and their implication of household food security.

3.5.2. Surveys /Questionnaire

The selected formal settler's household survey is collected and the results are incorporated in this research is with the very purpose to explore the position of public in general in their involvement, participations and engagement on fomentation and implementation food related polices, law making process, political direction on whom they directly or indirectly affected for ensuring for food security.

In this case also, the researcher purposively selected those households based on their educational background, age, gender and work experience from various sub city in Addis Ababa. The selection of those households is basing on age, gender educational preparation and work experiences which relevant and contextual for proposed research. During the data collection process, both open-ended and structured field interviews were utilized. Participants were asked to identify an appropriate response. It was also administered over the phone call conversations, a Google Doc (online) and using paper questionnaires.

3.5.3. Policies and Legal Documents Review

This study has employed also the food related policies and legal instruments review. Based the set criteria and criteria which is whether those polices, and legal instruments incorporated the fundamental principles of food security and the pubic feedback and opinions during their formulation and implementations. In this study the following polies and legal documents are reviewed. These are Definition of Powers and Duties of the Executive Organs Proclamation No. 1263/2021, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Agriculture and Rural Development Policy, 2021(Draft), Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Constitution, 1995, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Tade Policy, 2021 (Draft), Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Tade Safety Policy, 2021 (Draft) ,Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's Ten-Year Development Plan (2021-30), Food and Medicine Administration Proclamation No.1112/2019 and National Food and Nutation Policy, 2018.

3.6. Data Processing and Analysis

In this research, the techniques of data analysis for both qualitative and quantitative data have been organized and analyzed based on their context and requirements herewith.

3.6.1. Qualitative Data Analysis

The qualitative data, from Key informant interview collected for this study have undergone a very rigorous analytical process. In this process, a number of techniques have been employed: theme development, data familiarization, and the integration of research questions, objectives, and pertinent literature. Naturally, the data familiarization process is the first step involved in this process. According to Corden and Sainsbury (2006), quotes also act as evidence: original data serves the reader's judgment of the correctness of the analysis, thus supporting the results. Patton (2002) believes that the informants' ideas are captured using quotes representing them in their own words.

The main intention in writing quotes and extracts into research will be to convince that the results and interpretations have actually arisen from the data. Further, Sandelowski (1994) describes that, "quotations lend a researcher's voice authority, convey experience, convey feel,

and evoke a response." Descriptions and verbatim quotes form the basis of qualitative reporting and enable the reader to draw insight into the situation narrated (Patton, 2002).

Qualitative data was collected through Key Informant Interviews and desk reviews of policies and legal instruments. In this study, the best technique to appraise the information collected from KII, Policies, and legal instruments is thematic and quotation analysis. On the other hand, narrative analysis is employed to examine the information found in a variety of sources, including interviews carried out with respondents. In order to address the research objectives, this study focuses on the real experiences and tales that are shared. After that, the information was compiled, assessed, and verified against quantitative data. Transcription of key informant interviews, is done by converting them to written forms from audio recordings. The data has been collected and transcribed for analysis. After that, thematic development ensued. Themes refer to recurring topics or patterns that emerge from qualitative data. Identifying the themes and classifying the data according to them have been the main tasks of the analysis. To do this, the transcribed data will be rigorously examined, and the information will be aggressively coded based on its relevance in relation to the objectives and research questions.

3.6.2. Quantitative Data Analysis

3.6.2.1. Descriptive Analysis

Descriptive analysis is means of summarizing the major features of a data set. They give simple summaries about the sample and the measurements (Meron ,2014). They involve percentages, frequency, and average (Mean), median measurements of key trends. Results are usually displayed in tabular form, with the use of measures of dispersion, especially the standard deviation. Partition values, such as quartiles, deciles, and percentiles, will be employed if needed. The findings are exhibited through both tables and in graphical format, providing the ability to visualize the data.

Absolute figures, although very informative in themselves, do not say anything about the basic logic of the statistics. It is, therefore, important to know which descriptive statistics are most applicable to the problem of study and what it is that the researcher is trying to reveal before they are to be applied. They are most relevant in cases where the study rightly demands to be limited to the sample in question and where there is no need to generalize the same from the results.

The exact data collected had to be properly organized, cleaned, and tabulated, which enabled them to be analyzed. Descriptive Statistics is parametric analytical techniques analyzed using SPSS version 25. Descriptive analysis was to establish the level of food security in the selected households through the analysis of their socioeconomic composition, which explains the components of food insecurity. Among the descriptive statistics to be used are frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation. Finally, the Presentation of Results was done in tables and charts to ensure clarity and comprehensibility.

3.6.2.2. Documents Analysis

This involves an in-depth review of the legislative and policy documents, through which evidence can be drawn on the policy goals, evidence, and implementation strategies with which they are developed, implemented, and their impact on household food security. Categories of documents analyzed in the current research include, but are not limited to, national policy documents; proclamations by the Federal Government; regulations passed by the Council of Ministries; directives from different ministries; and international treaties and conventions on issues pertaining to food policy and policy-making. This research is used to analyze the policy context, process, and content simultaneously through the use of the “Triangle Policy Analysis” method which is adopted by Walt and Gilson 1994(Walt, 1994). It provides for a multifaceted analysis in a way that views the impact of the political decisions on the making of the policy and, in a practical way, the policy implications.

3.7. Ethical Considerations

The Research is cleared by the Center for Food Security Studies, College of Development Studies, Addis Ababa University, for ethical considerations. The research strictly observed strong ethical principles that ensured the privacy, Similarity Index and Plagiarism Test and autonomy of the informants. Informed permission, privacy protection, and voluntary involvement, coupled with robust procedures for data protection, would especially be used. This will ensure that the participants are appropriately educated, well-protected, and free to participate without coercion. These principles will also ensure adherence to the principles of good ethical practice, respect for the informant's autonomy, and information confidentiality.

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The chapter is organized into six sub-sections. The first sub-section describes the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the sampled households. The second sub-section presents the political factors impacting Ethiopian food policy formulation. The third sub-section describes the government organizations involved in Ethiopian food policy development. The fourth section evaluates the effectiveness of Ethiopian food security and nutrition policy and legal instruments in achieving household food security, while the fifth sub-section discusses potential challenges and opportunities for policy change in Ethiopia. Finally, the sixth section addresses the Nexus of food politics, food policy, and household food security. This descriptive study covers both the urban formal settler families and the key informants from pertinent government ministries, offering a thorough summary of the respondent characteristics. This data prepares the reader for a deeper examination at the chapter's thematic and quotations analysis, findings and discussion in the sections that follow.

4.1. Demographic Characteristics of the Study Households

This study solicited the participation of 110 respondents through various communication channels targeting selected urban formal settlements of Addis Ababa City Administration. Valid responses were obtained from 92 respondents representing 83.6%. The information derived, based on the data, during the analysis stage is on demographic characteristics that affect food security of the households.

4.1.1. Age Disparity of Respondents

Ages of participants ranged between 20 and 50 years. The distribution is shown below. 33 respondents, 35.9%, are between 20 and 30 years, 49 respondents, 53.3%, are between 31 and 40 years while 10 respondents, 10.9% are between 41 and 50 years. Most of the respondents, 53.3%, are between 31 and 40 years, which indicates relatively young age participating in the study.

Table 2: Age of survey respondents

Age of Respondents	Percent
20-30	35.9
31-40	53.3
41-50	10.9
Total	100.0

Source: Survey data computed SPSS 25 Version ,2024

4.1.2. Sex Disparity of the Respondents

The questionnaire's entails included 25 females (27.2% of the total respondents) and 67 males (72.8%). Male respondents outnumbered female respondents, showing that the survey population was made up of more men than women.

Table 3: Sex of Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percent
Female	25	27.2
Male	67	72.8
Total	92	100.0

Source: Survey data computed SPSS 25,2024

4.1.3. Educational Status of Respondents

Regarding their level of educational background of respondents, 68 (73.9%) of those randomly selected respondents possess a first degree, while 24 (26.1%) have a master's degree in a variety of fields of study.

Table 4: Educational Statuses Respondents

	Frequency	Percent
BA/Bsc	68	73.9
MA/MSC	24	26.1
Total	92	100.0

Source: Survey data computed SPSS 25,2024

4.1.4. Work Experiences of Respondents at Current Organization

All the respondents were employees in either government or non-government institutions. In the context of working experience, 25 of them, constituting 27.2%, worked for less than three years;

26, for 28.3% of the total, worked between three to five years; another 27.2% of the total, comprising 25 respondents, had working experience in the current workplace for between six to ten years; and 17.4% of the total, consisting of 16 respondents, worked for more than ten years in the current workplace.

Table 5: Work Experience of Respondents

	Frequency	Percent
<3	25	27.2
3-5	26	28.3
6-10	25	27.2
>10	16	17.4
Total	92	100.0

Source: Survey data computed SPSS 25,2024

The data is relatively dispersed among different lengths of residency in the current residence. The two largest groups were those with a residence length of 3 to 5 years and less than 3 years, with each being approximately 27–28 percent of the total number of respondents. This shows that probably there might be a fair level of mobility or churning in the population.

This depicts demographic diversity in terms of duration of residency, with a greater proportion being the relatively recent settlers. Duration of residency can be taken to mean a lot of factors, including community integration and adaptation to local conditions, and probably even an influence on food security strategies. Policymakers should take this into consideration while designing interventions or policies in trying to effectively meet such diverse residential groups.

Analyzing the demographic data in the context of your research on the nexus of food policy and food politics and their implications for household food security in Addis Ababa reveals several pertinent insights. Firstly, the age distribution of respondents’ skews towards younger adults, with a significant majority (53.3%) falling within the 31-40 years age bracket. This demographic profile suggests that the perspectives and experiences of relatively younger individuals are predominant in the study, potentially influencing how policies and political decisions around food security are perceived and implemented. Understanding this age disparity is crucial as it highlights the need for policies that cater to the specific challenges and priorities of younger demographics, such as employment stability, economic opportunities, and family dynamics, all of which can significantly impact household food security strategies.

Secondly, the gender disparity within the respondent population is notable, with males comprising a substantial majority (72.8%) compared to females (27.2%). This gender imbalance underscores the importance of gender-sensitive approaches in addressing household food security issues. Gender roles often dictate access to resources, decision-making power within households, and participation in the labor market, all of which are critical factors in shaping food security outcomes. Policymakers and researchers must consider these gender dynamics to ensure that policies effectively address the diverse needs and vulnerabilities of both men and women in Addis Ababa.

Overall, the demographic diversity reflected in the educational backgrounds, work experiences, and duration of residency among respondents further enriches the understanding of household food security dynamics in urban contexts like Addis Ababa. These insights underscore the need for nuanced policy interventions that account for demographic variations and socio-economic factors, thereby fostering more inclusive and effective strategies to enhance food security outcomes for all residents.

4.2. Government Organizations Involved in Food Policy Development in Ethiopia

The sub-section covered the list of government organizations which are mandated to food related polices and related subject matters. For example, the Proclamation No. 1263/2021, which enshrined for Definition of the Powers and Duties of the Executive Organs of the FDRE government, sets out a number of ministries, authorities, and administrations and commissions. Apparently, food policy development in Ethiopia is a multidimensional process involving several government entities that join their efforts to develop and implement strategies for ensuring food security. The organizations have vital functions in designing policies that influence food production, distribution, and consumption as a way of guiding the food security situation among the urban formal settlers of Addis Ababa.

According to Article 19 of Proclamation No.1263/2021, which establish the Common Powers and Duties of Ministries. It says as follows,

"In accordance with this Proclamation and other laws each Ministry shall have the following power and duties within its jurisdiction: -

1/ Undertake research and studies; gather, synthesize, and disseminate information;

2/ Formulate study-based policies;

3/ Initiate Federal laws, and implement the same;

4/ Adopt Directives to meet the needs and responsibilities imposed by law "

From the above vested legal provisions, apparently, all ministries are mandated to be involved in policies formulation and to make sure that in their jurisdiction, some facets of the policy are adhered to. Therefore, this study went through the list of the following ministries and revived the establishment provisions that are mandated in food and food security policy development. These ministries are the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integrations, and the Ministry of Irrigation and Lowland.

Pursuant to article 20(a) the FDRE Ministry of Agriculture is one of the primary government bodies with food policy development in Ethiopia. This means, therefore, that policies relating to agriculture and food programs come under its jurisdiction inclusive of food security. The proclamation has established in following manner,

"The Ministry of Agriculture shall have the following powers and duties:

a) develop policies, strategies, programs and laws that are aimed at the viability of agriculture and forest development and at the same time ensuring competitiveness thereof; implement the same upon approval by the concerned organs

u) ensure that the system of productions of agricultural products are safe and rich in nutrition diversified and healthy;"

Besides that, the MoA facilitates and coordinates initiatives that will boost agricultural productivity while improving food supply chains and enabling them to handle the shocks brought about by climate change. It also works with other ministries and stakeholders so as to make sure that food policies adhere to the national development goals (FAO, 2017). In this regard, the provided proclamation vested the right of MoA to particularly work with Ministry of Irrigation and Lowland in the accord with Article 20(r),

r) design, in collaboration with Ministry of Irrigation and Lowland, a system for utilization of water and land for the growth of production and productivity of crops and livestock to be used for agricultural activities in lowland areas based on research findings and follow up its implementation;

Food Security Coordination Office is another unit under the Ministry of Agriculture tasked with the coordination of food security, among other things, the EFSCB is instrumental in the design and implementation of food security-based programs, one of which is the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), an initiative aimed at supporting the most vulnerable households. The agency seeks to harmonize various food security initiatives and ensure that they are finding effective ways to cater to the needs of urban formal settlers.

The other actor critical in the food policy framework development is the Ministry of Health for food policies de in accordance with Article 35(1)(a),

1/ The Ministry of Health shall have the following powers and duties:

a) initiate health related policies, strategies and laws; prepare a detail program compatible with the country's overall development plan; implement the same upon approval

Moreover, the Ministry influences food policy through the angle of nutrition and public health focus. This ministry creates policies enhancing food safety and providing nutrition education. They handle matters of malnutrition and uplift the general status of the health of citizens. Together with the MoA and others, this Ministry ensures that food policy addresses nutritional needs in the urban populations also (UNICEF, 2020.)

Another very important ministry within the food policy landscape is the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration pursuant to Article 22(1) (a) the above proclamation. The establishment provisions which entitled of the Ministry says as following promulgation,

“1/ The Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration shall have the following powers and duties:

a) initiate policies, strategies and laws with respect to foreign and domestic trade in particular, regional trade and economic integration with neighboring countries and

national quality assurance infrastructure; prepare detailed program compatible with national development plan for their implementation and implement the same upon approval;”

Moreover, it deals with food market regulation, trade policies, and food prices. It provides enough insurance that food policies facilitate access to affordable food in urban centers, monitors food imports and exports, battles food price volatility, while offering fair trade practices.

“i) undertake and submit to the Council of Ministers studies relating to prices of basic commodities and services that require price control; oversee implementation of the same upon approval”

l) control the compliance of goods with the requirements of mandatory Ethiopian standards, and take measure against those found to be below the standards set for them; cause the coordinated enforcement of standards applied by other enforcement bodies;

q) implement powers and duties, other than adjudication, entrusted to Trade Competition and Consumer Protection Authority under Trade Competition and Consumer Protection Authority Proclamation No. 813/ 2013;

Besides these ministries, Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD) and the Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands are also involved in the development of food policy. The MoPD ensures integration of food policy into the broader economic and development plans of the country. It focuses on policy coherence and alignment of objectives of food security with national strategies of developments. It is of practice that the Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands is involved in improving the water management practices, fact which real binds to productivity agriculture and food security, especially in areas prone drought- and water-scarce conditions. According to Article 33(1) (a),

“1/ Ministry of Irrigation and Lowland shall have the following powers and duties:

a) initiate policies, strategies and laws with respect to irrigation development, lowland and drought prone areas; prepare detail program compatible with the national development plan for their implementation and implement the same upon approval “

According to the above proclamation, under Article 28(1)(a), The Ministry of Planning and Development shall have the following power and duties which are related to food policy development,

“a) initiate policies, strategies and laws with respect to development, national statistics, population, climate change and environment; prepare detail program compatible with national development plan and implement the same upon approval;”

One the key entitlement, by above proclamation, of the ministry is the following power and duties which is directly targeted the food and food security policy development subject matter, very other Ministries offices are required to submit their draft policy for appraisal before its endorsement

“f) conduct economic and development polices analysis and researches; identify strategic socio-economic issues; based on findings from socio- economic researches propose policy to relevant government organs; ensure the compatibility of policies initiated by different organs;

g) coordinate policies’ research and development initiatives;”

One of the key informants from FDRE Ministry of Planning and Development has mentioned about the above aspects,

“One of the vested entailments of our Ministry of Planning and Development enshrined by proclamation No 1263/2021 is the “Entitlement of Draft Polices Appraisal” respective other ministries offices their draft polices. Before getting approval, respective ministries offices are allowed to submit the Council of Ministries for endorsement”

Hence, policy making on food in Ethiopia is the role of different government organizations in that country. In other words, ministries and agencies join hands to respond to the multi-dimensional challenges of food insecurity. The result is full-rounded accommodation responsive to needs and plight of the urban formal settlers in Addis Ababa. Above all, based on the above proclamation, all ministries have established *“Policy, Program and Research Lead Executive offices”* as new initiatives for policy development and follow up.

In this respect, this study identified key government offices that are entrusted with the task of formulating and implementing almost all food-related policies in Ethiopia. The FDRE Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Trade and Regional Integrations; Ministry of Irrigation and Lowland; Ministry of Planning and Development; and others. Each is ministry entrusted with specific responsibilities and duties as provided by respective legislative proclamations. This implies that each of them must embrace integrated approaches for resolving food insecurity problems.

The overall body that oversees agriculture and food programs is the FDRE Ministry of Agriculture. This ministry was assigned to play a central role in food policy development. Its duty entails formulating policies, strategies, as well as laws, that are geared at ensuring agricultural viability, food safety, and enhancement of productivity. Besides, this ministry, in collaboration with other entities, like the Ministry of Irrigation and Lowland designs systems of water and land utilization to support agriculture.

Added to that FDRE Ministry of Health, being a public health and nutrition concern, the Ministry of Health also plays its part in the development of food policy through initiating policies related to health issues, improving the safety of food, as well as preventing malnutrition. Working in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders, it aims at making sure food policies are nutrition-friendly and allow the citizens to enjoy good health and general well-being.

According to the above proclamation FDRE Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration is responsible for trade policies and market regulation. Therefore, the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration has a significant role in access to affordable food: by monitoring the situation of food importation and exportation and buffering the shock of food price variability. It seeks to ensure fair trade practices with consumer interest protection while pursuing economic integration with neighboring states.

Other relevant ministries, such as Ministry of Planning and Development and the Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands, support the formulation of food policies by providing focus on food security issues amid broader economic and development agendas. The divisions are identified on policy coherence framework that operates alongside environmental sustainability as well as

water management aspects for the production of agricultural productivity to enhance food security.

4.2.1. Policy Coherence and Collaboration

Policy coherence and collaboration among government organizations play a great role in ending food insecurity challenges. In this regard, ministries will harmonize their objectives, amalgamate initiatives, and distribute resources to enable the formulation of comprehensive, effective policies on food that will answer urban formal settlers' needs in Addis Ababa. One such new initiative is the establishment of "Policy, Program, and Research Lead Executive offices" within ministries, which focuses on improved policy development and follow-up, emphasizing the commitment of the government toward addressing issues of food security. Food politics and food policies cut across each other in a most interesting way in Ethiopia, thereby making the dynamics of policy development as well as implementation even more challenging. In contrast, the overall development and responsiveness of holistic food policies that enhance household food security in urban settings can be acquired by mobilizing expertise and resources across multiple government agencies within the country. In future, most certainly, the government should consider achieving greater policy coherence, collaboration, and stakeholder engagement necessary for addressing the structural causes of food insecurity and making the food system sustainable for all.

4.3. Effectiveness of Ethiopian Food Security and Nutrition Policy and Legal Instruments in Achieving Household Food Security

In this research, Triangular Policy Analysis Method, which was developed by Walt (1994), has served as an analysis tool to assess how Ethiopian food security policies and other legal instruments are effective in achieving household food security. This meticulous method has three essential elements: Process, Content and Context. This element analyzes the process used in formulating and implementing the policy. It means that analysis of the policy-making process, the stakeholders, decision mechanisms that are in place, and its inclusiveness have been carried out. Whereas the Content component, on the other-hand, zeroes in on the substantive elements of the policies and legal instruments. While the Context component evaluates the relevance and alignment of the policies to the specific socio-economic, cultural and political environment of Ethiopia.

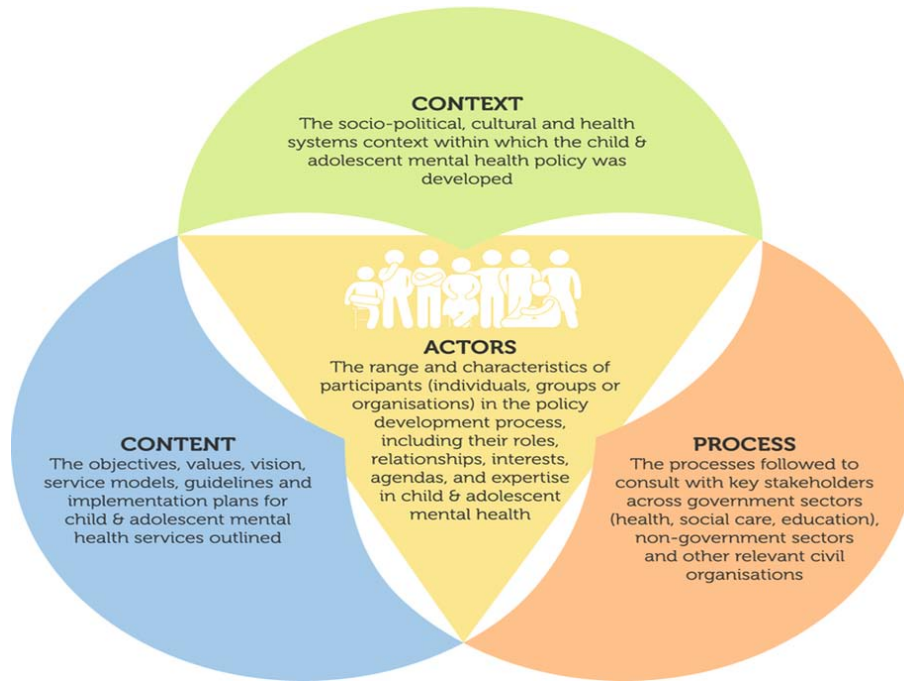


Figure 3: Triangular Polices Analysis Method

Sources: Policy analysis triangle (adapted from Walt and Gilson 1994).

By applying the Triangular Policy Analysis approach, the researcher has built an analysis of the food-based policies and legal instruments. The analysis has been conducted in light of two key parameters. Firstly, the researcher has analyzed whether the content of the policies and legal instruments encompasses basic dimensions and principles of food security. This includes analyzing the level to which the policies cater to the four components of food security, that is, availability, accessibility, utilization, and stability. The analysis also took into account if such policies are holistic in addressing all aspects required for food security in the country.

The researcher analyzed the public participation level while formulating these policies, as well as the process of law making on the same. This meant testing if the policy-making process was inclusive, embracing the inputs from communities, experts, and other stakeholders or relevant entities. The context of such policies and legal instruments was also a consideration the researcher looked out to see if they are relevant, that is, if they conform to the realities of the contemporary times and political directions of the country. This also includes the question of whether these have been appropriately adapted to the given socio-economic situation of the

country, to the cultural and environmental background and are in conformity with the development plans and political strategies. These are the parameters that the researcher utilized in a bid to ensure that what is generated from this study plainly details how well these food-related policies and legal instruments are designed toward addressing issues of food security in the country in a critical, comprehensive, and contextually appropriate manner.

Therefore, in this section the researcher examined a variety of selected policies, and pieces of legislation with speciation their effectiveness of Ethiopian food security and nutrition policy and legal instruments in achieving household food security. By doing so, the reviewed food-related policies, political and legal documents are, to begin with, first and most are the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Constitution, National Food and Nutrition Policy, which is coming into force in 2018, and Agricultural and Rural Development Policy (Draft)

The researcher also evaluated Ethiopia's Ten-Year Development Plan (2021-30), which included a plan that addressed economic growth, poverty reduction, sectoral development, energy, innovation, and human resources. Its objectives are to raise living standards, increase access to services, promote gender equality, and foster regional integration. In addition, the researcher examines the selected Political Party Programs. These are the Prosperity Party's Program, which was endorsed by the party's General Assembly in December 2019, the Ethiopian Citizens for Social Justice Party's Program, which was endorsed by May 2019, the Freedom and Equality Party's Program, which was also endorsed by the party's General Assembly in March 2019.

“Perhaps the greatest challenge that the country faces are that of ensuring food security. This is so because of the low technological base of agriculture, limited rural infrastructure and off-farm employment compounded by neglect and inappropriate policies over many years. The food security strategy, whose implementation has begun, is meant to break the complex problems to close the food gap and ensure food security.” ~ Mekonnen Manyazewai (2000:14), Former Vice-Minister, Ministry of Development and Cooperation (MEDAC), Government of Ethiopia

During the assessment of the aforementioned policies, political party programs, and legal documents, the researcher established a framework for Triangle Policy Analysis methodologies to evaluate the listed documents. In this situation, based on the research objectives and questions,

the evaluation checklist below was created. These are the initial documents that determine whether or not they comply to food security principles. The other in terms of substance and contextual relevance to Ethiopia's food security concerns, as well as the identification of policy gaps or inconsistencies that may impede effective implementation and have an influence on food security results.

This study assessed the effectiveness of Ethiopian policy on food security and nutrition in achieving household food security through related policies, legislations, and programs. Using the Triangle Policy Analysis approach, the documents were analyzed based on their congruence with food security principles, contextual relevance to Ethiopia's food insecurity issues, and identification of policy gaps. The results are presented as follows:

4.3.1. 1995 Federal Democratic Republic Ethiopia Constitution

The 1995 Constitution is the supreme law of the land,¹ and all governing principles, policies, laws, court decisions, and all types of private and public relations may be lawful if they are in accordance with the provisions set forth in it.² Similarly, one of the Constitution's mandates is to establish general principles and guiding laws, which includes defending fundamental rights and freedoms and building the State's Fundamental Structure. In this scenario, when it comes to defending fundamental rights and freedoms, the constitution already acknowledges and recognizes them in very general terms.

In our situation, food rights are one of the oldest rights recognized and protected by international human rights the farmwork, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a number of conventions. To make it specific, despite the fact that it is not a legally binding international instrument, Article 25(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights expressly recognizes food rights.

“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services...”

¹ FDRE Constitution Article 9(1)

² Ibid, Article 9(2) & (3)

Furthermore, in June 1993, Ethiopia signed and ratified one of the largest and most widely accepted international conventions, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Article 11 Sub-Article 1 and 2 of the Covenant clearly anticipates the following binding set of principles:

“The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international co-operation based on free consent.

5. *The States Parties to the present Covenant, recognizing the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, shall take, individually and through international cooperation, the measures, including specific program, which are needed:*

(a) To improve methods of production, conservation and distribution of food by making full use of technical and scientific knowledge, by disseminating knowledge of the principles of nutrition and by developing or reforming agrarian systems in such a way as to achieve the most efficient development and utilization of natural resources;

(b) Taking into account the problems of both food-importing and food-exporting countries, to ensure an equitable distribution of world food supplies in relation to need.”

A casual inspection of the 1995 FDRE Constitution reveals that, while the right to food is established in international and regional human rights treaties ratified by Ethiopia, it is not specifically acknowledged as a fundamental right of the people in the constitution. Instead, it is classified as a state policy and objective. This is quite a significant difference because, as already mentioned, rights are legal rights, and as such are enforceable and justifiable. People have no legal right to enforce state policies and objectives and the government has the following discretions on determining on which policy to implement and how to allocate resources.

Despite the positive development of recognizing the right to food under both the Constitution and the African Charter, there is an important point regarding the lack of a clear constitutional provision for the right to food, especially its stature as a fundamental right: what does this mean for its enforceability and the ability of a person, given the current state of the constitution, to

seek recourse over the government's lack of protective measures in the face of food insecurity? It also opens other questions related to the importance and status of the right to food and other human rights within the context of Ethiopia.

The responsibilities of the state to "*strive to fulfill the economic, social, and cultural rights of its citizens*" is acknowledged by the FDRE Constitution (Article 43(1)). It is unclear, therefore, to what degree this provision includes the right to food. The right to food has been protected and accorded legal recognition in Ethiopia despite the fact that it does not have an expressly granted constitutional right to it. Other laws and policies may grant the right to food while there are procedures put in place by these laws to ensure this right is to be realized. The right to food is a fundamental right that should be included in the Ethiopian constitution, and civil society organizations and human rights defenders have been instrumental in bringing attention to this issue. Thus, the fundamental concept of food security pertains to safeguarding the right to food, a right that the FDRE Constitution does not fully recognize and give ample room for interpretation to those in charge to handle this kind of matter. However, since food is so important to human health overall, especially for people living in Ethiopia, it still need explicit attention.

4.3.2. Ethiopian Food and Nutrition Policy Analysis

Before jumping into to policy analysis, the researcher wants to assess the current reality of Ethiopia in term of food security statues. According to United Nations News Global Perspective of Human reported on 6 February, 2024 under its Humanitarian Page the following heartbreaking news. These are as follows,

“As sever hunger ripples across the Northern Ethiopia, The World Food Program (WFP) is ramping up the efforts to deliver lifesaving assistance to three Million people in the coming weeks to avert a major humanitarian catastrophe” the agency announced”³

In addition, that, the Report also status that, *“The Government of Ethiopia’s most recent assessment of Food Security need projected that 15.8 million (12.1 % of total population 12⁴) will face hunger and need food assistance in 2024.”⁵*

³<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/02/1146252>

⁴<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/02/1146252>

⁵ <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/ethiopia-population/> The current population of Ethiopia is

The above reports and broadcasted news have clearly shown the current Ethiopian Reality look like in terms food security and the prevalence need of clear policy and political direction and commitment is indispensable. By the given fact, thematically and conceptually, food security is an intricate as well as varied issue that necessitates coordinated efforts to address its numerous facets. One critical part is the creation and implementation of current, context-specific, content-rich policies. Contemporary food security policy should be adaptable to the changing challenges and opportunities in the food system. Context-specific policies, on the other hand, should be adjusted to each country's or region's unique circumstances, taking into account geography, demography, and economic conditions (IFPRI, 2018). Content-rich food security strategies should include a variety of interventions addressing the four pillars of food security: availability, accessibility, usage, and stability (FAO, 2006). Conversely, context-specific strategies ought to be customized to the particularities of any nation or area, taking into account elements like topography, population, and economic situations (IFPRI, 2018). The four pillars of food security availability, accessibility, usage, and stability should be addressed by a broad range of interventions included in content-rich food security policies (FAO, 2006).

Furthermore, according to Blacks Law’s Dictionary⁶, the term “Policy is defined as “the general principles by which a government is guided in its management of public affairs or, the legislatures in its measures. This term, as applied to law, ordinance, or rule of law, denotes its general purpose or tendency considered as directed to policy.”⁷ Bearing in mind, the above scientific parameters to justify, the researcher reviewed the newly enforced Ethiopian Food and Nutrition Policy.

In 2018, the FDRE Council of Ministers convened and endorsed the first 40-page National Food and Nutrition Policy in the country's history. The policy has been organized into twelve sections, which consists of Introduction in the first place, which discusses the overall a component describing what the policy means and the procedure has gone through to actualize the aforementioned intended policy.

129,369,216 as of Saturday, May 25, 2024, based on Worldometer elaboration of the latest United Nations data : Updated on July 16, 2023 with the latest July 2023-July 2024 estimates from the United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. World Population Prospects: The 2022 Revision. (Medium-fertility variant).

⁶<https://thelawdictionary.org/policy/>

⁷ Abid.

i. Analysis of the National Food and Nutrition Policy formulation process, context, and content Based on Triangular Policy Analysis

The policy review of the above policies is carried out by considering whether policy formulation takes into account situation analysis and stakeholders' consultation, how it looks like draft policy development, whether it includes public consultation and stakeholder feedback, and checking the policy's finalization and approval process.

To this end, Ethiopia has outlined its 2018 National Food and Nutrition Policy, which maps out a decidedly complex landscape where poverty and food insecurity persist at high levels; child malnutrition and micro-nutrient deficiencies continue to affect the population; and the threat of droughts and other adverse climate change impacts remain significant despite the increased availability of food. By emphasizing the four pillars of food and nutrition security, availability, accessibility, use, and stability, the policy aspired to address these complex concerns comprehensively. It outlines measures for increasing food production and productivity through programs such as agricultural extension services, new seed types, and irrigation projects that improve availability. In general, the policy includes the following sections: introduction, rationale, vision, mission, goals, objectives, scope, policy framework, policy values and guiding principles, food and nutrition policy directions, policy implementation, gender responsiveness, role of various actors, and monitoring and evaluation.

In addition, the policy focuses on enhancing food access for vulnerable groups through safety net programs, food banks, and market interventions to address accessibility issues. In applied layer the strategy suggests consumption promotion, nutrition education, and dietary diversification to address malnutrition appropriately. Last but not least, to enhance Resilience against food insecurity, the policy's another important and robust approach encourages the use of sustainable farming Systems alongside promoting early warning systems and contingency plans to ensure food security in case of shocks.

ii. Situation analysis and Incorporation of Principles of Food Security in Food and Nutrition Policy

Henceforth, the researcher noted that an assembly of policy formulators conducted a situation analysis; this is understood when one reads through the introduction to the policy at hand. This is

best described through the first three paragraphs where the general progress tracing of food-related projects is discussed. Consequently, based on several piloting tries, the National Food and Nutrition Policy started in 2018. The following significant subject matter were highlighted in the introduction section of the document that was provided. The statement of introduction part highlights the crucial need of guaranteeing food and nutrition security as a prerequisite for a productive workforce, better livelihoods, and long-term development. This means that it embraces the multiple approach needed to realize this vision, which involves working with many fronts including in terms of availability and accessibility of food, safety, and quality; improved knowledge and practice; and capacity building. The statement applauds the performances of Ethiopia in the event of enacting economic reforms and progress made in under-nutrition elimination; however, it captures the issues or challenges being faced within the country like for instance the food need gap is increasing and other systematic factors that cause food and nutrition insecurity.

In addition, there is another aspect of policy document, this policy pointed out on food security & nutrition as constitutional right of Ethiopia & as Human Right relevance. Though appreciating the efforts of the government to implement different bouts of initiatives and programs, it opined that lack of accountability mechanism and legal infrastructure has slow-down the progress. The monstrous impact drawn in the highlight section indicates the severity and implications of food and nutrition insecurity, further emphasizing the vulnerability of susceptible groups such as women and children, as well as the likelihood of its ripple effects on the growth and economic development of the country.

The following are the foundations that have been deemed key to ensuring FNP, the blueprints they represent align to prevailing international norms and standards. They include adoption, implementation and enforcement of policies and legal regulations, collaboration among sectors and stakeholders, and concerns for sustainable funding and development of agricultural production and human capital. The general tone of the policy document is one of acknowledging the difficulties, appreciating the efforts made by the administration, and urging further action and advancement to address Ethiopia's ongoing problems with food and nutrition security.

In the context of integrating internationally recognized principles of food security, the policy explicitly incorporates these principles in Section Six and Seven titled "Policy Value and Guiding Principles and Food and Nutrition Policy Directions" respectively. These sections not only define the four principles of food security under section Six, sub-section Two of the policy but also elaborates all of them in a distinct manner. To this end, the incorporation of these principles portrays the policy as embracing principles to ensure the policy follows the needed standards for food security in the contemporary world.

The principles highlighted in the food and nutrition policy: A perfect guideline for machinery food security and nutrition in Ethiopia. A concentrated focus on the lifetime-anticipate captures the commitment towards managing early childhood malnutrition and the long-term impacts with focus on the first one thousand days. In addition, the recognition of human right for proper, healthy and safe food corresponds with the values recognized globally and the importance of key decision making based on the right information. This has come with the realization that many factors affect food security and nutrition, making a call for cross-sectorial approach to addressing food and nutrition subjects.

Summing up, it is possible to notice that the given Food Policy is in most case focused on addressing nutrition and food security subjects with high levels of passion, as it offers a clear set of statements of principles and tactics that can adequately reflect numerous aspects of the problem. As showcased in Ethiopia's food and nutrition policy, it reflects efforts to adhere to best practices internationally; all the while, regarding modern opportunities and challenges that affect the nation as it applies best practice, concepts and frameworks.

iii. Development of Food and Nutrition policy, public consultation and stakeholder feedback

To draft this policy in any sector at all is a complex process that requires elaborate evaluation of various factors that could enhance and support the policy. During this method, more emphasis is placed on public participation and comments from stakeholders, which offer much of the details and opinion from different receptors. (Jones, 2018). It is helpful to measure how students fell and what kind of impact it had on stakeholders who participated in the policy making process. Stakeholder participation and public consultation are vital processes of policy implementation because they improve the policy making process by making it more accountable, inclusive and

transparent as supported by the (OECD .2018). Stakeholders can respond positively to the policy, appreciate the importance of the policy or may even demand a policy of such nature, hence the more the target population that can be engaged in this process. This is because decisions affect implementation of policies responsibly and increases the likelihood of policies that fit well in the context.

In addition, people's participation and their contribution in embracing policy propositions can help recognize potential challenges, potential unknown consequences or policy amendment areas in the draft to ensure that policymakers correct them before finalizing the policy (Bovens et al., 2019). This mutual feedback and engagement transform the relation between policymakers and stakeholders into a strong cooperation during the iterative process of co-creation, which eventually yields more sustainable and successful policies.

While analyzing the provided policy documents, the researcher outlined the work litmus test; this is the signs of stakeholder consultations were detected in the final line of the introduction part. This is evident from the statement that reads, "

“Thus, the Food and Nutrition Policy was developed with the involvement of relevant stakeholders in order to address the food and nutrition security challenges of the country through multi-sectoral integration and collaboration of government and nongovernmental organizations at all levels.” pp.4

Even though four pillars of food security are included in the first Ethiopian Food and Nutrition Policy, but it is unclear how involved stakeholders were or what their roles were in the creation of the policy. This raises questions about the extent to which the policy-making process is truly open and that individuals are able to participate. It is important to involve various stakeholders so that more viewpoints and areas of knowledge will be incorporated to come up with better and more specific policies.

The policy's accountability and openness have been weakened since information on stakeholder involvement in policy making has not been clearly highlighted. In order to increase the credibility and efficiency of the next round of policy development, the policy makers should ensure that there is a proper understanding of the level of participation that the stakeholders will have in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of food and nutrition policies. This will foster inclusivity,

transparency, and ownership among stakeholders, resulting in more effective and sustainable food and nutrition security results for all Ethiopians.

One key informant from the FDRE Ministry of Health, from Policy, Strategy and Research Lead Executive Officer, stated that one does not know whether or not public and stakeholder consultation meetings were held at the federal and selected regional levels during the initial development and formulation of the National Food and Nutrition Policy. The Key informant responded.

"I did not participate in the policy formulation process, but rather during the policy cascade. I heard that most policy formulators were selected from various sources, notably universities, experts in food and nutrition, and other stakeholders..."I'm not sure if public opinions are collected or not. I believe there may be some form of public consultation... but during the preparation of National Food and Nutrition Strategy the public opinion were incorporated... even I was the one who has been involved in the formulation of strategy ..."

4.3.3. Ethiopian Agriculture and Rural Development Policy (Draft) Analysis

Article 20(a) of Proclamation No.1263/2021, the law defining the powers and duties of the FDRE Executive Organs, mandates the Ministry of Agriculture to design policies and associated elements. The preceding text clearly states the following promulgations:

"Formulate policies, strategies, programs and legal framework which ensures the sustainability of agriculture and forest development and its competitiveness; implement the same upon approval by the concerned organs;"

FDRE Ministry of Agriculture initiated and adopted the Agricultural and Rural Development Policy in 2003, and it has been operational for nearly twenty years, despite its limitations. As a result, according to one of the FDRE Ministry of Agriculture's key informants, it has drafted a new Agricultural and Rural Development Policy, which will be approved soon. Because of the research, the researcher obliged not to evaluate the 2003's Policy rather prefer the newly Drafted Agriculture and Rural Development Policy. In terms of content, it consists of a number of agricultural components that must be addressed in order to improve the country's food security

and increase agricultural production. Generally, the policy documents consisted 105 page twelve chapters with range of agricultures and rural development stuffings.

The researcher has reviewed the draft Policy documents to figure out whether the incorporation or presence of Principles of Food Security as a guiding principle, as well as the extent of public engagement through conforming to constructive feedback for the formulation of the aforementioned Policy. Reading the draft Policy Document, the researcher noticed that in the opening section,⁸ it provided a list of the reasons for initiating the process of revising the FDRE Agriculture and Rural Development Policy. The one explanation is that the old policy did not work as planned, resulting in a variety of shortcomings. The current unrevised policy has five critical directions.

These include a labor-intensive strategy, proper agricultural land utilization, on-the-ground experience, consideration of various ago-ecological zones, and an integrated development path. In these five dimensions, a number of achievements have been documented, but there are also substantial constraints that have been connected with every component.⁹ Ultimately, the fundamental reason for the absence of legal framework and governmental monopoly of Agriculture by not participating private investors is due to very specific contextual limits.

Despite analyzing the aforementioned causes for adjustments, the researcher was unable to identify any factors that would prompt public engagement and generate constructive comments, hence initiating existing policy revisions. The modification appears to be a desk revision with some form of consultants rather than participating or being asked what their ideas are on public households, farmers, and other concerned citizens.

The concept of food security and its components are a sub-unit of Ethiopia's formulated Agriculture and Rural Development Policy. Because policies must address comprehensive agriculture and rural development initiatives and varied outlines. The part of the policy dealing with food security and related concerns is from pages 94 to 100, which are Miscellaneous Section sub-units of the sections that address the main policy components. It is good to be evaluated by its own corners, which is far better than not being considered as significant.

⁸ ረቂቅየተሻሻለየግብርናናገጠርልማትፖሊሲ ፡ 2013 ዓ፡ም ገጽ ፡1-3

⁹ Abid 11

components of the policy. The 2003 existing Policy lacks such kind of consideration them it need more emphasis and separate treatments should be there

4.3.4. Brief Review Ethiopia's Ten-Year Development Plan (2021-2030)

In 2020, the Ethiopia Adopt the current long-term plan, Ten Years Development Plan: A Pathway to Prosperity 2021-2030, is the second of its kind in Ethiopia's modern history following the Dergue regime's "Ten-year perspective Economic Plan," of 1985 to 1994 according to Ministry of Planning and Development.

The 10-Year Development Plan aims to transform Ethiopia into an "African Beacon of Prosperity" by achieving the following objectives:

1. Creating a market-based economic structure and empowering the private sector to contribute to national prosperity.
2. Ensuring macroeconomic stability, promoting sustainable growth, and creating good jobs.
3. Fostering economic change through increased productivity and competitiveness.
4. Enabling citizens to own and benefit from growth through excellent and accessible social services and infrastructure.
5. Developing a competent, independent, and quality public service system through government capacity building and good governance.
6. Establishing robust and inclusive institutions to promote peace, justice, rule of law, and human rights.¹⁰

The strategy aims for prosperity by assuming that high per capita income can only be achieved through rapid economic expansion. The plan defines prosperity primarily in terms of happiness, increased standard of living and quality of life, and a high level of complete fulfillment.¹¹The main goals of development are to raise income levels and wealth accumulation so that all citizens can meet their fundamental needs and aspirations; to provide basic social and economic services;

¹⁰ Ten-Year Development Plan (2021-2030), pp: 19

¹¹

to create an environment that is just and enabling so that people can use their resources and potential to live fulfilling lives; and to enhance social dignity, equality, and freedom.

The government's development strategy for the years 2020–2030 is outlined in this plan. It rests on eleven main foundations. Building a green economy that is climate resilient is pillar six. In order to combat land degradation and pollution, improve productivity and lower greenhouse gas emissions, protect and develop forests, produce more electricity from renewable sources for both domestic and export markets, and concentrate on cutting-edge, energy-saving technologies, it aims to step up basin development efforts.

The ten-year development plan has been established with a view of focusing on the following strategic and important things in the development of the region. The first one is *Quality Economic Growth and Shared Prosperity* are high priorities where economic development is not only for the rich but for everyone. *Economic Productivity and Competitiveness* are critical in ensuring sustainable economic growth; *Technological Capability and Digital Economy* define the future of countries' economies. The concept of Sustainable Development Financing is key to achieving sustainable development while Private Sector-led Economic Growth expands opportunities for business and employment. To this end, a resilient green economy is set to be prioritized to ensure that the environment is protected and sustainability is enhanced. The first area is Institutional Transformation, which aims at improving governance and effectiveness of institutions while the second area is Gender and Social Inclusion that ensures that everyone has an equal chance. Justice Systems and efficient Civil Service delivery are crucial for the delivery of justice in a society while Regional Peace Building and Economic Integration seeks to foster good relations and cooperation between neighboring countries.

Out of the provided notion of food security, the researcher has reviewed food security and the Ten-Year Development Plan (2021–2030). When comparing the 10 list of strategies and important priority areas to the country's plan, it is clear from reading the document that the notion of food security is not that much given Prime priority.

4.3.5. The Effectiveness of Government in Incorporating Household Inputs in Policy formulation Processes

The data of the recognition of citizen contributions in policy debates set the four categories shown in Table showing below following how the respondents perceive the extent of effectiveness. First of all, "Least effective" describes the perceptions of 20 respondents - placing recognition of citizen contributions in policy debates as the least effective. These are those perhaps who have the impression that contributions of citizens are least recognized or appreciated in policy debates.

Table 6: Acknowledgment of citizen Source

Acknowledgment of Citizen Contributions in Policy Debates		
	Frequency	Percent
Least Effective	20	21.7
A few effective	41	44.6
Very effective	10	10.9
Most Very Effective	21	22.8
Total	92	100.0

Survey: Data computed SPSS 25,2024

Yet, the "A few effective" category is the largest of them all as it has 41 respondents who perceive any effectiveness in acknowledging citizen contributions to these policy debates. This isn't an overwhelmingly positive response; this group tends to see some aspects of acknowledgement of citizen input occurring, but perhaps spotty or insufficient in nature.

On the one hand, the "Very effective" category receives ten responses, where the acknowledgment of citizen contributions is graded very effective as an apparent strong belief in the importance of citizens' engagement in policy matters. In this regard, this set of people must have perceived that their issues are being listened to by policymakers and integrated into policy.

Finally, the "Most Very Effective" category consists of 21 respondents who find acknowledgment of citizen contributions to be the most effective. Probably this group of citizens

believes that those in charge always recognize and appreciate to the fullest a citizen's input, thus making meaningful contributions that form part of the policy debate.

Overall, the responses suggest scarcely every view on whether the contributions of citizens help in just policy debates, with a plurality response that they can but to an extent. From this, one can gather that a robust mechanism for citizen engagement in policy-making processes remains essential for inclusiveness and representative decisiveness in democracy.

Table 7: Adaptation of Legislation

Adaptation of Legislation Based on Household Feedback		
	Frequency	Percent
Least Effective	31	33.7
A few effective	30	32.6
Very effective	10	10.9
Most Very Effective	21	22.8
Total	92	100.0

Source: Survey: Data computed SPSS 25,2024

The above Table which explains the thematic analysis of data relating to the adaptation of legislation based on household feedback yields the following four clear categories from the perspectives of the views of the respondents on effectiveness. "Least effective" is the category representing the perception of 31 respondents who see the adaptation of legislation based on household feedback as the least effective. Such people must believe that household feedback plays a minimal role in effecting legislative changes, or that such feedback is considered and/or acted upon in a minimal way.

The next one, "A few effective", incorporates thirty respondents who see there is something effective in legislation adaptation by household feedback." This group is not so optimistic but recognizes that, indeed, because of household feedback, there are changes in legislation - but not on a massive scale, neither as a steady pattern.

The "Very effective" category follows with ten respondents who believe that adapting legislation on the basis of household feedback is as much effective, meaning that the level of belief in the

importance of household input to exert influence in legislative decisions is very high. This group of people probably believes that politicians take serious consideration and incorporation of household feedback into all phases of the legislative process, so meaningful adaptations of laws and regulations result from this feedback. Finally, the "Most Very Effective" category includes 21 respondents who find the adaptation of legislation according to household feedback most effective. This group probably thinks that household feedback constantly and to a large extent causes changes in legislation that result in more compatible laws with the needs and preferences of people.

Therefore, the overall data portray diverse views of effectiveness in legislation based on household feedback such that a significant portion view various aspect of effectiveness. This discourse therefore exhibits the need to build mechanisms aimed at soliciting and gaining the public input into the processes of legislation so that governance in democracy can be enhanced and the laws are focused towards the interest of the people.

The Constitution of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, 1995, as the supreme law, determines general principles and guiding laws, including the fundamental rights and freedoms. While failing to make an explicit recognition of the right to food as a fundamental right, it acknowledges the responsibility of the state toward the progressive realization of economic, social, and cultural entitlements among its people. The Ethiopian Food and Nutrition Policy is another milestone approved in 2018 toward addressing the food security challenges. The current reality of food insecurity, reported by humanitarian agencies, however, underlines the fact that still there is a way for policy development and implementation.

Reducing food insecurity in Addis Ababa comes with an integrated approach that must be made by the ministries and agencies put in place for household food security. A blend of existing policies and legal instruments offers a framework on what should and ought to be carried out. To address the different emerging challenges, there is a constant need for review, evolution, and adaptation to attain significant and far-reaching results in the Initiative towards food insecurity reduction.

In relation to Policy Formulation Process and Context, the source of Ethiopia's 2018 National Food and Nutrition Policy was a comprehensive situation analysis, obviously depicted in the introductory section. This background assessment represents the need for food and nutrition

security for a productive workforce and sustainable development. Although the country has made great milestones achieved in economic reforms and Reduction in under-nutrition the policy continuously highlights on grossly Increase in food deficit systematic food insecurity challenges.

Principle of food security incorporation: The policy actually incorporates food security principles internationally recognized into its framework, including availability, accessibility, utilization, and stability. Of particular emphasis is that of early childhood nutrition, which is definitely a universal mandate concerning the human right to adequate food. All these different emphases, put together, essentially ensure that the policy is concerned with the root causes of food insecurity.

Measuring the Public Consultation and Stakeholder Participation Whereas the policy suggests stakeholder consultation, the level and effects are not very precise. This lack of delimitation clarity arouses suspicion in the process on inclusivity and transparency in the making of the policy. There is a need for increased stakeholder involvement to ensure varied views are brought on board in ownership and responsibility.

The Analysis of Drafted Agricultural and Rural Development Policy extends to the drafted Agricultural and Rural Development Policy. The policy has been rendered of extreme imperative to betterment in food security and agricultural productivity. While important directions of agricultural development have been highlighted under the draft, robust mechanisms of public engagement have been otherwise found as a weak area of responsiveness to the needs and aspirations of stakeholders.

Processes of policy formulation must be participatory, transparent and based on stakeholders' engagement and consideration of internationally recognized principles. In this regard, future iterations of policy could be strengthened with greater transparency, accountability and responsiveness to the various inputs of the stakeholders. Last but not least, the connectedness between policy formulation and its implementation, and the latter linked to the evaluation phase, shall be the defining hallmarks for attaining food security sustainably for all Ethiopians.

Thus, Ethiopia's food and nutrition policies accommodate the efforts of navigating complex challenges, whose anchor is the commitment to inclusive but comprehensive approaches. Nonetheless, there is a pressing need for improvements in stakeholder engagement and

transparency that would guarantee effective and sustainable policy interventions. By calibrating policy formulation against the principles of inclusivity, accountability, and responsiveness, the country should ultimately navigate towards Food Security for The Populace of Ethiopia in a much more resilient way.

Lack of consideration in existing policy In the same light, another finding the review brings to the fore is the critical gap in the 2003 existing policy in terms of low level of consideration and treatment of food security concerns. This calls for a renewed emphasis, hence separate treatment within the policy framework in addressing the intricacies behind the urban formal settlers' household food security.

Alignment with Ten-Year Development Plan, 2021-2030 yet Again, through its decade-long Ten-Year Development Plan between 2021 and 2030, Ethiopia has indeed set rings of very comprehensive goals that aim ultimately at transforming the country into an "African Beacon of Prosperity." However, even though developmental pillars within the plan are numerous, explicit consideration toward food security is seemingly not many, hence there is a need for re-examining alignment in the policy landscape toward broader development goals.

Concerning Household survey, in SPSS output has the findings on how the citizens feel their contributions are to the policy debates, which are represented at four effectiveness levels: Least Effective, A Few Effective, Very Effective, and Most Very Effective. A good number of respondents-feel their contributions have been least effective, 21.7%; this is a clear expression of skepticism, or perhaps discontent. The largest group of the respondents, 55.6%, feels that their contributions are quite effective, thus recognizing a positive effect but feeling there is room for betterment. The second smallest group, 10.9%, regarded the effectiveness of their contribution as very high, echoing or expressing a more optimistic view that their inputs are being meaningfully considered. Finally, 22.8% of the respondents view their contributions as most very effective; thus, this shows a highly satisfied rate and strong belief in having a huge effect on the policy decisions.

If one aggregates this data, there is a mixed perception about the effectiveness of citizens' contributions to policy debates. Whereas nearly half of the respondents that contributed viewed such contribution to be somewhat effective, a good number expressed satisfaction in having a high impact. This gives the view of general positivity but cautious sentiment toward the

recognition of citizen contributions. Mechanisms for soliciting and using citizen input, together with increasing transparency and providing better feedback, are things that policy makers should wish to focus on if these perceptions are to be improved. Addressing the concerns of the 21.7% who feel that efforts are least effective can do much to further improve satisfaction and effectiveness, hence increasing the potential for inclusiveness and responsiveness in the process of policy making.

These results provide a nuanced view of citizens' perceptions of the contribution they feel they can make towards policy debates. There is an evident majority who believe to some extent that they are effective, but there is also a probably surprising number who are quite satisfied with the impact. This means that, for improving general satisfaction and effectiveness, one could focus on the part of the respondents who felt their contribution was least effective by way of bridge building through better engagement practices and more open decision-making processes.

4.4. Political Factors Impacting Food Policy Formulation in Ethiopia

The other section on which political factors impacting food policy Formulation in Ethiopia carefully analyzed. Food policy-making in Ethiopia is influenced by various political factors that, in turn, usually impact the efficiency and appropriateness of strategies meant to make food available in Addis Ababa. Among such political factors are government stability, the role of political institutions, stakeholder power relations, and the policy environment at large (Bekele, 2018).

On one hand, the importance of government stability in the formulation and meaningful realization of food policy cannot be overemphasized. A stable political environment provides good ground for planning and implementing long-term strategies for ensuring food security. Political instability would hence pose potential risks of disruption to the continuity in policy and issues that would act against effective efforts aimed at ensuring food security (Anderson, 2009).

Second, another pivotal role in shaping policy on food in Ethiopia shoulders the country's political institutions. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ethiopian Food Security Coordination Bureau develops and coordinates policy on food security. The administrative capacity, leadership, and policy direction of these institutions play a role: they influence policy decisions

(FAO, 2017). Often, in this regard, the ability of these institutions to surmount political obstacles and bridge different levels of government lies at the very basis of their effectiveness.

Another strong determinant of food policy formulation is stakeholder power dynamism. For example, in Ethiopia, a range of stakeholders these are government bodies, international organizations, the private sector, and civil society commands a power of differing influence over the reformulation of food policy and regulations within the country (Clapp & Fuchs, 2009). That relationship in power among the stakeholders might outline priorities in food policy or be linked to final outcomes. For instance, strong agribusinesses will be lobbying for policies favoring economies of scale in the production of food agriculture, whereas NGOs may fight for policies drifting in the needs of the more vulnerable population.

Lastly, the broad policy environment, under which political risk and policy stability fall, influences food policy formulation in Ethiopia. A favorable policy environment with limited political risk and policy stability is a precondition for firstly successful food security strategies. The feasibility and sustainability of policies formulated in a stable environment are very high.

4.4.1. Adaptation to Changing Environmental Conditions

The data gives insights into what the respondents perceive as their adaptation to the change in environmental conditions, realized into four classes: Least Impacted, Impacted, Most Impacted, and Very Most Impacted. The responses to this are such that 44.6 percent reported being least impacted, referring to a certain level of resilience or a minimal effect on livelihoods. On the other hand, a smaller proportion of 10.9% accepted being affected, although at a lower level compared to the more strongly affected categories. About 21.7% said they were most affected, while those strongly at the most affected category were 22.8%, thus showing those highly affected by the variances of environmental change and hence highly vulnerable to environmental risks.

Table 8: Adaptation to Changing Environmental Conditions

	Frequency	Percent
Least Impacted	41	44.6
Impacted	10	10.9
Most Impacted	20	21.7
Very most Impacted	21	22.8
Total	92	100.0

Source: Survey: Data computed SPSS 25,2024

In summary, around 44.5% of the respondents feel they are most impacted or very most impacted; thus, this is a major proportion of a population actually being very substantially challenged because of environmental changes. In this regard, understanding such perceptions becomes very important in designing effective strategies aimed at addressing environmental challenges and enhancing resilience among communities within Ethiopia. This underpins the need for focused interventions and resources to support those perceiving themselves to be most impacted or very most impacted, in particular making sure they are better placed to cope with changing environmental conditions and building sustainable adaptation measures into the future.

Table 9: Transparency and Accountability in Policy Implementation

	Frequency	Percent
Laest Important	10	10.9
Most Important	20	21.7
Very High Important	62	67.4
Total	92	100.0

Source: Survey: Data computed SPSS 25,2024

The responses are categorically represented as least important, most important, and very high importance reflecting their perception of the need for transparency and accountability in policy implementation. Only 10.9% of patients indicated that transparency and accountability were the least important in policy implementation. This means that the minority, a small proportion of those who responded, commented that these aspects had the least significance in the course of implementation. About 21.7% of the respondents felt that transparency and accountability were highly important; as such, this indicates that nearly a quarter of the respondents realize their importance but do not feel they are 'critically essentials' as compared to others. In contrast,

however, the majority of the respondents were 67.4%, hence strongly feeling that transparency and accountability were indeed very highly important in policy implementation. This, hence, clearly indicates that a wider consensus exists amongst the respondents relating the essential role played by these factors in the efficient execution of policies.

In summarizing, the above distribution proves that a majority, 67.4 %, of the respondent's regard transparency and accountability as very highly important in policy execution. Only slightly above one-third of the respondents consider it to be either of high or low importance, indicating some variation in perceptions within the sample. The overwhelming agreement on their importance underlines the critical role that transparency and accountability play in effective policy implementation. These very considerations should be taken seriously by policymakers on how to have trust, legitimacy, and effectiveness in the implementation of policies for improved governance and service delivery.

In general, this study has investigated some of the major factors that affect the formulation of food policy in Ethiopia. The research unraveled ways through which there is complex interplay between political dynamics and how this affects policy outcomes. First, it comes from the analysis that political stability is one influential factor to the formulation of food policy. A stable political environment provides a conducive ground for long-term planning and implementation of strategies aimed at ensuring food security. On the other hand, political instability is a risk to policy continuity and hence effective efforts toward food security. In this regard, findings of this research indicate that institutions, particularly the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ethiopian Food Security Coordination Bureau, set up food policy in terms of their administrative capacity, leadership, and policy directions.

Another critical determinant that emerged in the formulation of food policy was the stakeholder power dynamic. The different stakeholders, from the government levels to the international organizations, to the private sector, and finally to civil society, have different influences. It is this relationship of power among stakeholders which sets the priorities called for by policy and its outcomes since various interests drive the directions of policy. Finally, the wider policy environment characterized by political risk and policy stability also emerged to be an area with huge influence on how the food policy is couched. The success of food security strategies is

pegged on a favorable policy environment characterized by very minimal political risk and stability.

Opinions on changing environmental conditions and their adaptation, and importance of transparency and accountability in policy execution, were also assessed. This directly implies that most of the interviewed feel closely affected by environmental change, hence the need for effective strategies to mitigate environmental challenges and improve community resilience. As such, a great majority of the respondents sees transparency and accountability in the implementation of policies as the real factors toward effective governance and delivering results to the people.

These findings underline how policy approaches to food security interventions are entangled with complex political factors, environmental dynamics, and governance mechanisms in this regard. It is left to the policymakers to take these into consideration and develop inclusive and resilient policy options that will suit various needs of the communities, ensuring sustainable development in Ethiopia.

4.5. Potential Challenges and Opportunities for Policy Change in Enhancing Food Security in Ethiopia

According Maxwell, 2001, number one challenge to policy changes is the political instability of countries. It may disrupt the implementation of food policies that may result in inconsistent food supply and insecurity. The very association of political turmoil with food policies is since it affects governance structures the country and their ability to enforce policies effectively. Multiple, fragmented and uncoordinated policies and presence government organizational arrangement like ministries is another significant food-policy impediment as this can create inefficiencies. And again, the big constrain is the overlapping responsibilities and lack of collaboration among governmental bodies in inhibiting comprehensive food security strategies (Crush & Frayne, 2011.)

Herforth et al., argue that the prevalent challenge among urban dwellers is the level of poverty and socioeconomic inequality, which also easily places food insecurity levels at a much higher rate in urban areas. It paves the way for a lack of enhancement of food policies as well. Access to food is significant across all the divides; however, it is often lopsided and driven by policies that

do not cater to the specific humanitarian needs of vulnerable populations. Strong political commitment to food security is seen to ease the implementation of its relative policies. Stable political environments promote consistent applications of policies and resource allocations to food security initiatives (Rocha, 2009.).

On the other hand, opportunity exists too in the urban setting. An integrated and coherent policy framework with multi-sectoral collaboration can enhance food security. There could be cross-sectoral collaboration between agriculture, health, and social protection to generate synergies and holistic approaches. The involvement of a wide array of stakeholders, through which an overwhelming majority of urban residents who are otherwise marginalized are represented in the policy-making process, has been shown to result in more food responsive and effective policies. It is one sure way of making policies responsive to the field situation and experiences through the involvement of civil society and community-based organizations.

Does existing National Food and Nutrition Policy developed in the context and to address of Ethiopia's food and nutrition security challenges and what are the list of short coming?

Ethiopia's National Food and Nutrition Policy appears to have been formulated with the objective of resolving the country's major food and nutrition security concerns. Ethiopia has long struggled with food shortages, malnutrition, and micronutrient deficiencies, especially among vulnerable populations like children and women. The policy's broad approach, which addresses issues such as food production, accessibility, utilization, and nutrition, demonstrates an understanding of the complexities of these challenges. In addition, the development of the policy involved consultations at both the federal and regional levels, which showed that the policy was informed by the concerns of the various stakeholders both in the federal and the regional level within Ethiopia. This way, the strategy can be more likely to address the many food and nutrition security challenges faced by the country and thus be relevant.

Nevertheless, there are still some problems with the policy. First and foremost, there is a concern as to how much stakeholder involvement there is in the formulation of the policy and this creates questions on the openness and involvement of the process. There have also been difficulties in efficiently implementing the strategy in the absence of a legal framework because of a lack of funding, capacity concerns, and coordination problems among parties. From National Food and Nutrition Policy, under section eight and sub-section (2) (b) pp 22;

“Existing laws shall be revised. New laws, regulations, and guidelines shall be promulgated in line with internationally recognized standards, treaties, agreements, laws and regulations to ensure the right to adequate, safe and quality foods by all Ethiopians.”

Furthermore, although while nutrition is included in the strategy, it might be improved by giving more attention to addressing malnutrition and shortages in certain micronutrients, especially in populations that are already at risk. Despite the fact that the policy is directed towards food and nutrition security, it may be useful to expand it with other related areas, including health, education and agriculture. Similarly, Food and Nutrition Policy also entails the principles of Food Security that include availability, access, utilization, and stability.

Food security is defined as the availability and accessibility of food to all people; nutrition security requires the consumption of a diverse range of foods that offer the vital nutrients.¹² However, the Policy clearly favors increased nutrition security rather the whole food security aspects from the reading of the documents. However, the Policy seems to accord limited consideration to other important dimensions of food security such as the physical and economic accessibility of adequate and quality foods, stability of food prices, prevention of foods losses and waste, and enhancing food systems’ preparedness to risks and disturbances. A fully comprehensive food security framework must take into account these non-nutritional components. By failing to address the complete range of food security concerns, the Policy may overlook critical complementary initiatives and policy levers that could improve food and livelihood security for vulnerable communities. Overall, this study identified some of the significant challenges in the implementation of the policy and more excellent opportunities for policy improvement towards household food security.

i. Challenges in the Implementation of Policy

According to Maxwell, 2001, political instability is the number one impediment to proper policy implementation. One of the significant challenges that Policy Change faces in improving food security in Ethiopia is Political Instability. Political turmoil disorganizes governance structures and enforcer of food policies, which consequently results in inconsistent food supply and

¹² Venugopal KR. Food security vs. nutrition security. Health Millions. 1999 Mar-Apr;25(2):18-9. PMID: 12295422.

increased food insecurity. The relationship between political instability and food policies becomes crucial as proper governance is a sine qua non to the execution of policies.

The other big challenge is the existence of Fragmented and Uncoordinated Policies in the country. Plenty of fragmented and uncoordinated policies, besides complex structures of government organizations result in inefficiencies in implementing policies. Crush & Frayne, 2011, identify duplication and triplication of mandates with minimal collaboration amongst government entities as significant impediments to comprehensive strategies on food security.

According to the result of this research finding, implementation Challenges is the other big challenge in this context. Poor implementation of Food policies is low in funding, weak in capacity and lack stakeholder's coordination. National Food and Nutrition Policy of Ethiopia is very comprehensive policy from scope perspective, however; it lacks all these implementations opportunities that negatively affect its effectiveness.

ii. Policy Implementation Opportunities

The presence of Integrated and Coordinated Policy Framework: Food security can be substantially improved by integrated and coherent policy framework backed by multi-sectoral collaboration. Cross -sectoral collaboration between agriculture, health, and social protection may generate synergies and make holistic approaches for addressing food insecurity.

Stakeholder Involvement: This implies bringing in a wide array of stakeholders-"including marginalized urban residents, along with civil society and community-based organizations into a policy process for more responsive and effective food policies." There will be a wide rendition of policies embodying real-life experiences and needs since a diverse set of stakeholders have been used.

Government Political Commitment: Strong political will on food security can ensure the consistency in the application of policies assignment and allocation of resources to food security initiatives. Rocha, 2009 treating that stable political environment facilitates implementation, effective enforcement of food security policy. The National Food and Nutrition Policy has elaborate sections dealing with nutrition. Still elites are made more relevant by focusing on malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies among vulnerable populations. Apart from agriculture, the extension of the policy to related sectors like health, education, and

environmental sustainability provide impetus to the food security. Inadequate legal and regulatory framework has impeded proper implementation of the policy. Updating current statutes and issuing new legislation benchmark to international norms and standards fortify the avenues for effective implementation.

The policy is fast giving the impression of favoring nutrition security over the larger components of food security, represents by the physical and economic accessibility of food, stability of food prices, and prevention of food losses and waste. A fully comprehensive food security framework must take into consideration all these usually non-nutritional components in a bid to enhance the food and livelihood security of vulnerable communities.

The food policy and food politics nexus in Ethiopia is very intricate. Major challenges involve political instability, policy fragmentation, and socio-economic inequality; all these drives the limits in how food policies can effectively be implemented. Notwithstanding their enabling environment, better ways of enhancing food security can be accessible via integrated policy frameworks alongside stakeholder involvement and a robust political commitment to food security. Basically, more responsive and comprehensive food policies in Ethiopia could be developed to enhance food security at the household level in Addis Ababa by reaching out to the targeted group of formal settlers, by addressing the obstacles and seizing the opportunities discussed above.

4.6. Nexus of Food Politics, Food Policy, and Household Food Security

The Nexus of food politics, food policy, and household food security are critically located within the governance structures, decision-making processes, and implementation of measures that shape access to food. Government decisions and actions become very critical in shaping food politics and, therefore, policies directly related to household food security. The political process thus has a deep influence on such policies, hence power dynamics, emphasizing political will and advocacy likely to determine effective food security measures. Political will on the utilization of resources be it in the form of income, land, water, or other agricultural inputs; becomes vital because it sets the foundation for the availability and access to these resources, which are basic in the producers' chain of production and distribution in food. Food politics and policies, therefore, consider social justice and equity in ensuring all households fairly access food

resources. This means that political and policy considerations drive home the strategies that should be adopted to minimize inequality in access to food at household levels (Barrett, 2010; FAO, 2017; Jones et al., 2013). Government policies and political will influence the design of food assistance programs important in improving the food security of the household. These programs most often align with the current political discourse and priorities, staying in line with intrinsic linking of food politics to household welfare.

Therefore, from the critical review of literature, relevant legislation like Proclamation 1263/2021, and data from the household survey should encapsulate major components on the convergence of food politics and food policies of food security at the household level. A critical review of literature, relevant legislation like Proclamation 1263/2021, and the data collected from the household surveys; the legal recognitions in various legal instruments commencing with the Supreme law of the land, the FDRE Constitution, and the subsequent proclamations, regulations, and directives. It should stipulate and require participation of relevant stakeholders, including public authorities such as ministries, commissions, authorities, and other administrative units in policy processes, entailing that they must always be at the core of policy decisions. Moreover, it is also necessary to ensure the involvement of the public in policy formulation and implementation, just like in lawmaking. Consultation with the public and other grass roots stakeholders has the advantage of ensuring effectively informed, sense-making, inclusive, and strict policies to the needs and views of the concerned community. This contributes to the development of more successful and fair strategies of food security by adding diverse points of view and local knowledge into the policymaking process in order to be more integrative and participatory in governance.

Through an extensive review of various literatures, political instruments, policies as well as legal frameworks and operational definitions of food politics and food policies, the researcher was able to come at an assertion regarding the Nexus of food policies and politics and how these affect the household food security. In our case, various food proclamations are issued by the FDRE House of Representatives, and FDRE Council of Ministries enacts different regulations related to food, and various ministries provide directives are the precedents of political direction the government.

For the specific case, food politics leads to food policy by influence brought about by the mandated stakeholders these can be different ministries, administration and in this study case various government organization. For the governments play a central role here in so far as setting agenda in the national policy framework, prioritizing issues of food security. Political decisions hypothesize a great deal about governance structures which in turn determine the allocation of resources, implementation of food programs, and enforcement of regulations. Political stability and policy environment have been shown to be a significant factor for effectiveness in formulation and execution of food policies. Others, such as Government Ministries and related Organizations, NGOs, and advocacy groups often influence food policies through lobbying, funding, and public campaigns, and may nurture policy outcomes favorable to their interests (Jones et al., 2013).

Mostly, food policies that aim at increasing food production, improving the distribution networks, and access to nutritious food must be satisfactorily implemented if they have to attain their objective. There is a need for coordination among different government ministries, effective utilization of resources, and also mechanisms of monitoring and evaluation. In addition, public participation is also necessary because the involvement of urban settlers in policy making can ensure that policies meet their specific needs and challenges. For instance, such policies which promote food subsidy, strengthen supply chains, and support local food productions can greatly enhance the availability and access to food of the urban household (Swinburn et al., 2013).

As per the above, household food security is assayed based on four major dimensions, which implies that whether food availability, food access, food utilization and food stability are reality or not (FAO, 2017; Barrett, 2010). The crossway between food politics and food policy affects these dimensions directly by influencing the policy environment, the stakeholder's integration, and the way functioning of policy implementation works in real life. For example, political instability or weak governance results in food supply chains being discontinued and reduced food availability. Inclusive and well-implemented policies, on the other hand, improve food security through improved access and utilization.

Overall, the Nexus of food politics, polices and household food security can be ensured through following key arrangement. These are stakeholders' integrations, political stability and public participations. Therefore, one of the researcher's fundamental subject matters for this study is

whether to assess the presence of sound integration among stakeholders for policy formation and implementation as well. In this case, the number of key informants from various governmental Ministries, Commissions, and administration offices with varied level positions were questioned in order to first determine the presence of genuine integrations among themselves during the policy development and implementation period. Second, if the integration is present, how does it appear in terms of functionality and usability. Because the issue was sensitive in terms of topic, a considerable percentage of respondents replied yes, indicating that we have integration at the formulation and implementation stages.

This study evaluates where food politics meets food policy, meeting household food security, using in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as a case study. Overview of Stakeholders Engagement, household participation and perceptions related to processes and practices leading to elaboration of food politics and policies are assessed with regard to how they impact food security at the level of the households in this research. It therefore explores information at the level of households about the food security policies and opinions on the efficiency of these policies in addressing their food security needs, amongst others, and perceptions of participation in policy formulation.

i. Stakeholder engagement For Policy Formulation and Implementation

The existing stakeholder engagement in policy formulation and implementation is mainly governed by Proclamation 1263/2021, which stipulates the powers and duties of the executive bodies in Article 19. This paper looks closely at these aspects under the subsection entitled "*Government Organizations Involved in Food Policy Development in Ethiopia*," outlining mandates for policy formulation.

By considering the above mandate, the researcher has interviewed a number of Key informants from various government organizations. Therefore, one of the key informants from Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration, Head of the Directorate of Policy, Research, and Strategy Executive, the researcher questioned the respondent on the aforementioned questions and received the following response:

“Actually, we have integrated with those Ministries, Commissions, Administrations, and relevant bodies for specific policy initiatives. For example, the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration is now in the process of adopting two policies: Trade Policy and Trade Safety Policy. During the creation of these two policies, a number of stakeholders were invited and involved from several Ministries, such as Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Water and Energy, and Federal Food and Medicine Control Administration, the number of representatives made a number of deliberations on proposed policies, and the draft final has been forwarded to the Ministry of Planning and Development for review and comments. After all of this, we are now in the process of finishing the policy and sending it to Council of Ministry for Endorsement., “

However, the respondent, confirmed to researcher that in the other way ...

"This integration may work for all policy and law-making initiatives; however, I have heard and witnessed a significant number of directives from the same ministry endorsed without consultation with the public, by lacking to conduct baseline assessments and checking redundancy and overlapping of directives from other Ministries on specific subject matters. I witnessed a rush to publish numerous food-related regulations from the same ministry without holding an integration meeting to relieve the challenges that the provided households are facing.

The other key informant from the FDRE Ministry of Health who answered the researcher's query, an expert from the Nutrition Coordination Lead Executive Office, underlined the importance of integration during the National Food and Policy implementation. The answer stated that,

“There are Streeting committees consisting of Ministry Health, Ministry Finance, Ministry Planning and Development, Ministry of Justices, Ministry Agriculture, and Federal Food and Medicine Control Administration. We even convened every other quarter to monitor and evaluate the execution of national food and nutrition policies in accordance with the National Food and Nutrition Strategy.”

Quite the opposite, comments came from a key informant within the Ministry of Agriculture's Office of Food Security Directorate. The respondent contends that,

“The concept of food security at the Ministry of Agriculture is misunderstood. The agency responsible for security focuses on providing food aid rather than achieving national food security. Regardless, the word and its foundations are abused here. In summary, we are working on the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), which provides a safety net for households that are chronically food insecure, poor, and vulnerable to shocks.”

“PSNP operates across varied geographies and rural communities to determine eligibility for payments based on specific criteria. These payments are made to households that can contribute to public works (labor); if labor is scarce or unavailable, unconditional help is provided. PSNP makes advantage of this infrastructure to assist establish a local environment that fosters community development. Furthermore, I disagree with the statement that there is actual integration among food-related parties, i.e. with all ministries, other governmental and non-governmental organizations.”

The aforesaid answer noted that the Ministry of Agriculture has two key programs, one of which is PSNP. These programs have hundreds of millions of dollars in budgets for food assistance and cash programs under the PSNP Plus Program.

“Whereas the Ministry is short on funds for other sustainable food security projects, the major mandate set in legislation is to ensure food production through whatever mechanism. So, in the absence of integration and a clear vision, many budgets are being wasted with no intended consequence other than developing a dependency syndrome on individuals getting aid.

The result provides evidence that effective food security policies are dependent on active participation by interested parties, including government institutions; in the form of ministries, commissions, and authorities and administrative organs. The stakeholders need to be integrated at the core of policy decision-making so that the policies are comprehensive and sharp in nature.

ii. Public participation in policy development

Autonomous involvement of households in the formulation of policies and legislation is an integral aspect of democracy in the formulation of policies and laws in order to reflect the people's will, increase transparency and accountability in the policies formulated (Fischer, 2012; Nabatchi & Amsler, 2014). It has also become increasingly significant in the course of the last few years to take into consideration the households that are the basic particles of the society and involve them in the process of making the policies and laws resulting from them (Arnstein, 1969). This change toward participatory governance can be seen in a larger social imperative that seeks to foster democracy, empowering citizens, and social justice (Gaventa, 2004).

Household participation entails embracing the people's role and engaging them in the formulation, execution, and assessment of the laws and policies at the national, regional, and global standards (Rowe & Frewer, 2000). This inclusive process acknowledges that households are not just mere objects of policymaking decisions of government but rather active and relevant actors whose inputs, both in terms of ideas and experiences, are equally important in policy formulation (Bingham, Nabatchi, & O'Leary, 2005). Through partaking of households in these processes of decision making, the governments can be able to benefit a lot through harnessing local information, responding to the needs and concerns of the various communities with policies and laws. Most importantly since these laws govern human beings, they must be in a position to capture what is real out there on the ground (Bryson, Quick, Slotterback, & Crosby, 2013).

Numerous advantages come with performing general household participation in the policy formulation and law-making processes. Firstly, it assists in developing more quality and efficient policies to support the concerned ideology since the policymakers, including academics, learners, and professionals, get the strong evidence from people that need policy interventions (Beierle & Cayford, 2002). Widespread participation by households ensures that governments study possible drawbacks or missed possibilities and make relevant additions or modifications to the policies as required, which shall produce stronger and more suitable policies (Innes & Booher, 2004).

Secondly, the family's participation constantly brings the issues of politics and policies affecting their lives into the households, which makes them feel indebted to uphold certain policies and laws. To these it is clear that when people and especially families work to make decisions that

are taken in their lives, they are normally going to feel responsible for the results being achieved as well as the implementation processes (Sabatier & Weible, 2014). This could assist in developing public trust between the various governmental bodies and citizens as well as enhance social inclusiveness, and improve on the standards of citizens' involvement in the political processes (Putnam, 2000).

Considering the aforementioned, the researcher questionnaires a number of households in selected urban settlers in order to assess their respective levels of participation in policy formulation with specific case of Food security. In this case, these questions and related materials were delivered to 92 respondents, and the respondents' responses are presented in line with the questionnaire list.

iii. Public's Perception of Policy Formulation Participation Level

Under this topic, the researcher surveyed 92 households, and the respondents responded to the question of whether they had attended any Public Policy Forums for Policy discussions. Therefore, out of 92 respondents, 61 (66.3%) said they had minimal or no involvement in any type of policy forum. And 10 (10.9%) respondents have attended Policy Forums for policy formulation only a few times, whereas 21(22.8%) have attended them extensively.

iv. Attendance at Public forums for Policy Formulation

According to the results shown in the table above, a substantial percentage of respondents perceive they have little engagement in attending public policy forums. It indicates that the level of public feedback and engagement during the formative and draft stages of policy formulations is very limited, and as a result, our policy formulators and law makers on the list of policies and legal documents use a top-down policy formulation and lawmaking process.

The respondents can interpret the data on attendance of the public forums for policy formulation to identify the various levels of involvement. For example, 10.9% reported being most minimally involved, meaning that a section of the population participates very little in these forums because of some causes like lack of interest, awareness, or accessibility. Some 55.4% of the respondents replied that they were a little involved, indicating that while there was participation from the majority of the population, it was very minimal. This low response in participation could be due to feelings of ineffectiveness in participation, lack of time, or even lack of receiving

encouragement for participation. A few, 10.9%, responded that they were a few engaged. This shows that a high percentage of the population is not involved to any great degree in policy formulation forums.

Table 10: Attendance at Public Forums for Policy Formulation

	Frequency	Percent
Most minimally Involved	10	10.9
Minimally Involved	51	55.4
A few Involved	10	10.9
Highly Involved	21	22.8
Total	92	100.0

Source: Survey data computed SPSS 25,2024

The optimistic side, however, was that 22.8% of the respondents reported a high level of involvement in public forums for policy formulation. That is almost a quarter of the population highly active and appreciating participation, feeling that contributions are taken seriously in the course of policy-making. This active engagement gives out a positive signal about the participative governance in evidence of a proactive population segment committed to influence policy decisions. It shows that 'Minimal' is the overall prevailing mode of engagement, at 66.3%, thus pointing to a huge opportunity for enhancement of such engagement. If more citizens were highly engaged, there could be a resultant creation of more security and inclusiveness that surrounds the formulation process. The barriers to participation must be addressed by policymakers through all levels of frustrating awareness about the forums to make obvious, clear incorporation into policy results from citizen input. It is obvious that more work ought to be done to increase the engagement of those groups less involved, so there would be a greater diversity of voices to be heard and taken into account in public policy debates.

v. *Participation in Households Needs Assessment for Policy Development*

According to the above table, these take up 56.5% of participants with a lesser degree of involvement in the assessment process of the household needs for policy development. A small percentage, 10.9%, falls in the category of "Most Minimally Involved." This means these participants have the lowest degree of involvement. This represents the lowest order of participation in the needs assessment process. Some 21.7% of the participants are involved to some extent, though not highly. This group, classified as "A Few Involved," exhibits a moderate level of participation.

Equally, another 10.9% of the participants are highly involved in the needs assessment process. This group is very active and presumably a very good component of the policy development process. The total number of participants for this study was 92, with a skewed distribution indicating that while the greater proportion of the population is involved to some extent, a smaller proportion is either highly involved or minimally involved.

Table 11: Participation in households

	Frequency	Percent
Most minimally Involved	10	10.9
Minimally Involved	52	56.5
A few Involved	20	21.7
Highly Involved	10	10.9
Total	92	100.0

Source: Survey data computed SPSS 25,2024

All these ranges indicate that the extent of reporting on participation in the assessment activities for such requirements varies significantly. A small number of the respondents reported being most minimally involved, showing that some of the population participate very little in these assessments, maybe due to lack of interest, knowledge, or even access to such opportunities. On the other side, most respondents described themselves as minimally involved (56.5); that is to say, while the population is more than half somewhat involved, it does not extend to participation beyond a limited degree. This could be due to the perception of relative ineffectiveness through participation, constraints by time, or lack of enough encouragement. Moreover, quite a few were represented by only a number showing larger involvement than the former category of the minimally involved. This may mean that nearly one quarter of the population has moderate participation in these assessments. Lastly, 10.9% said they were highly involved, definitely indicating that an important but very small part belongs to the population as it is actively engaged and probably values what it can offer in these assessments.

The overall distribution indicates that the majority of this population, at 67.4%, has minimal involvement in household needs assessments for policy development. This entails a great room for improvement in ensuring effective involvement of citizens. However, the combined percentage between those being a few involved and highly involved is 32.6%, which is quite encouraging, since this reflects that nearly one-third of the population has a more active role in household needs assessment. In other words, all efforts to increase this level of engagement over

a greater section of the population need to be initiated by providing better mechanisms of participation, increasing communication about the need for such appraisals, enhancing access to opportunities, and finally, ensuring that inputs from citizens actually go into policy making. In other words, greater involvement of less engaged and engaged segments would ensure that a wider portion of household needs was taken into account and responded to by policy. The result: more holistic and responsive policy development.

vi. Public’s Opinion in the Involvement on Community Consultations on Food Security Policies

The study questioned the selected urban settlers about their perceptions of household involvement with local community consultations on food security policies. Table 11 shows that local food security policy consultations have a relatively homogeneous distribution across participation levels. At the same time, the majority of participants possess a moderate to rather high degree of engagement. The category dubbed “Most Minimally Involved” accounts for 10.9% of the people questioned. This group of people represents the lowest level of engagement in community consultations in regard to food security policies.

About 22.8% of participants are "Minimally Involved." This tells us that nearly a quarter of the respondents have some level of involvement, albeit limited. The largest group, making up 33.7% of participants, falls into the "A Few Involved" category. These participants have a relatively moderate level of engagement in the consultations. Close on the heels of the moderately involved group, 32.6% of the participants are "Highly Involved" in the local community consultations. This makes almost a third of all the respondents strongly involved.

Table 12: Involvement in Local Community Consultations on Food Security Policies

	Frequency	Percent
Most minimally Involved	10	10.9
Minimally Involved	21	22.8
A few Involved	31	33.7
Highly Involved	30	32.6
Total	92	100.0

Source: Survey data computed SPSS 25,2024

In total the survey was composed of 92 participants and their distribution shows that majority or 66.3% is involved in community consultations on food security policy at least to some extent. The data depict a fairly balanced participation rate of local community consultations about food security policies where the greatest proportion of people falls in the medium involvement level, 33.7%, while those who are very much engaged form 32.6%, The options of such tools are really limited if we cannot increase their possibilities through correlation with other critical features. It can be said that a great proportion of the community is actively participating in discussions related to food security policies. However, there remains a rather considerable percentage of participants 33.7% either minimally or most minimally involved, indicating room for improvement in engaging the whole community more comprehensively. It would further improve the inclusivity and effectiveness of food security policy development if there were more efforts towards better inclusion of those with minimal involvement.

However, a key informant from the FDRE Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration more precisely, from the office of the Policy and Strategy Research Lead Executive Directorate emphasized the need of including public feedback, which the researcher also highlighted. The staff who was assigned to work for the drafting of this present “New Trade Policy” had posted the draft to the Facebook page and website of the Ministry for public contributions according to this respondent. But this procedure was not put in place at the time when the policy was being developed. Consequently, they gathered 180 email responses from the general public regarding the New FDRE Trade Policy draft. The respondent of key informant aforementioned Ministry also:

"A consultant with expertise in the sector first laid the framework for our initiative. Following their conceptual framework, we developed the initial declarations and sent them to the Ministry. We then took responsibility of the next steps, finishing the remaining tasks and finished the first draft. We then shared it with the public through the Ministry's website and the official Facebook page asking for feedback. For this research, we collected essential data for several months; we got 180 anonymous emails from the participants. These replies proved to be quite useful in the development of our document since we were able to incorporate them as feedback to enhance our work even further. "

Overall, the results of the study show the point at which food politics, food policies, and household food security intersect is at many stages of the policy cycle. As much as policy formulation and agenda setting are matters of concern, political priority setting defines the issues to be addressed and those that are not in ways affecting household food security. For example, political leaders who want to give priority to food security may develop policies that will provide subsidies for staple crops, thereby making basic foodstuffs more affordable. Equally important in food security are resource allocations and budgeting decisions that are influenced by political considerations. An increase in budget allocation for rural development programs based on political motivations can improve food production by enhancing household food security in rural areas.

Moreover, laws and regulatory frameworks created by political processes are highly relevant to food safety, agriculture, and nutrition, and thus have huge direct impacts on food security at the household level. For example, laws that guarantee farmers' rights to land can enhance their productivity and stability. The political context and governance systems also very strongly affect policy implementation outcomes. Good governance ensures that this food aid reaches intended households, hence boosting the food security of the recipient. Conversely, poor governance may be linked to the misuse of the food aid by giving it to the undeserving due to misallocation of resources. Political decisions made in times of crises on food policy adaptations, such as releasing food reserves during a drought, can stabilize household food security. International relationships and trade policies incidentally grow through political diplomacy and trade agreements on food availability and prices. Stakeholder involvement in the policymaking process ensures that food policy is pertinent and effective because inclusive processes encompassing local communities and farmers' associations can address food security. Advocacy and public campaigns, on the other hand, modify policy priorities and public opinion, giving rise to far-reaching measures to ensure food security, such as school feeding programs, which not only directly affect the Food Security Question at the household level by providing regular meals for children but also increase the enrollment rate of the affected child.

In other words, the areas of food politics, food policies, and household food security are brought together at several points in the policy cycle, from formulations and resource allocation to implementation and management in crisis situations. Intersections are indeed determinants in the

overall effectiveness of food security strategies. Good political involvement in regard to the right food policies can greatly contribute to improving the food security status of households, so that all members at all times have access to adequate, safe, and nutritious food. On the other hand, political mismanagement or biased policies can further weaken food security and worsen the hunger and malnutrition phases. Various intersections hence have to be understood and streamlined in order to achieve sustainable food security. In this regard, the FDRE House of Representatives has issued various food proclamations, while the related regulations have been enacted by the FDRE Council of Ministers. Directives which mirror the political will and direction are also provided by various ministries.

a) Influence of Food Politics on Food Policies

Food politics influences food policies in a more profound way through the acts and decisions of mandated stakeholders across various kinds of ministries, administrative bodies, as well as other various government organizations. Prominence is given to the central role of government in setting the national policy framework and prioritization of food security issues. Political decisions delineate governance structures; define allocation of resources; determine implementation of programs in food; and enforce regulations. Political stability and supportive policy environment are key to coherent formulation and effective execution of food policies. Lobbying, funding, and public campaigns, among others, are used by entities like government ministries, NGOs, or organizations championing particular interest groupings to influence food policies.

b) Empirical Evidence and Integration of Stakeholders

Empirical evidence over the years shows that effective stakeholder integration, political stability, and public participation are the surest way of attaining household food security at the juncture of food politics and policies. The purpose of this study was to understand not only the presence, but the effectiveness of stakeholder integration in the process of policy making and implementation. To this end, interviews were held with key informants from various governmental ministries, commissions, and offices of administration in order to establish the extent and functionality of stakeholder integration.

An informant at the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration explained that integration aspects came in at the time of preparing the trade policies. Various stakeholders from other

ministries were consulted on policy issues; draft policies were vetted by the Ministry of Planning and Development before going to Council of Ministry for approval. However, the same informant argued that there are instances also when directives come just without any popular consultations and baseline assessments, causing duplications and redundancy in regulatory frameworks. The successes and challenges of stakeholder integration and public participation are well epitomized by examples from the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration and the Ministry of Agriculture. On one hand, proactive initiatives for public engagement are noted, while on the other, in some instances, consultation and integration gaps are observed that hurt the effectiveness of the policy.

An expert working in the Nutrition Coordination Lead Executive Office from Ministry of Health has emphasized the function of integration during the period of implementation of the national food and nutrition policy. Inter-ministerial steering committees meet quarterly, where the activity of policy implementation is monitored and evaluated towards the objective established for the National Food and Nutrition Strategy.

However, an informant at the Office of Food Security Directorate within the Ministry of Agriculture criticized the approach taken by the ministry arguing that focus was laid more on food aid rather than on sustainable national food security. An informant explained misuse of funds meant for projects dealing with sustainable food security and lack of genuine integration among parties involved in food. It also comes out clear that stakeholder integration, political stability, and public participation are key to the development and implementation of effective food policies. While there are minor aspects of integration and policy implementation that seem to be working well, major gaps remain and challenges persist. Robust and inclusive food policies that effectively cater to the socio-economic and political context of the country are indispensable in reversing the case of household food insecurity towards sustainability in Addis Ababa.

c) The degree of public participation

How much public engagement in policy-making determines the Nexus between food politics and policies. Independent household engagement in policy design puts democratic ideals into practice and is more transparent and accountable (Fischer, 2012; Nabatchi & Amsler, 2014). The engagement of households in policy design became more relevant with the ideal of not merely empowering citizens but correlating to social justice (Gaventa, 2004).

A total of 92 households in Addis Ababa areas were surveyed to ascertain public participation in policy development, especially on food security. Most of the respondents' participation in public policy forums is very minimal. This incomplete information denotes that during formulation, the citizens were not much involved. Anytime the household's needs were calculated for development, a skewed relationship was obtained where most of them had minimal involvement. However, a large number of respondents were actively involved in community consultation on food security policies conducted by the locals, which actually suggests that the public is growing increasingly aware, or interested in policy issues.

d) Strengthening Public Feedback Mechanisms

The government has tried hard to increase public participation. For instance, the FDRE Ministry of Commerce and Regional Integration received public comments on the draft of the "New Trade Policy" through the website and Facebook page of the ministry, where 180 responses were received. Such a participatory manner reflects openness and commitment to taking into account the public input in the policy development, which enhanced both the quality and relevance of the policies. As a result, the findings also bring out the essence of active public participation in issues of food policy changes and household food security. While some challenges lead to exhaustive participation, after all, efforts to increase public engagement and advice lead to more democratic and effective policy-making procedures. In this way, policy makers can mobilize the knowledge and experience of households to design policies that accurately reflect community needs and priorities in ways that enhance food security and social well-being within urban environments like Addis Ababa.

4.6.1. Public Participation

Public participation at the policy-making and implementation levels cannot be emphasized enough. According to this study, such engagement for the wider public at large and grassroots stakeholders' aids in the formulation of more effective, embracing, and context-sensitive policies. Participative approach—indeed approach in itself leads to additional perspectives and varied aspects of local knowledge, which can boost the general functioning of governance.

4.6.2. Political Stability and Policy Environment

What this means is that political will and a well-set policy environment are important for the formulation and implementation of food security policies. Political decisions have significant impacts on governance structures, resource allocation, and enforcement structures that play very essential roles in achieving the 4objectives of food security.

4.6.3. Coordination and Resource Utilization

Moreover, the implementation of food policy effectively requires efficient coordination between various government ministries and the judicious utilization of available resources. Preexistence or establishment of functional mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation to ensure that policies realize desired outcomes.

4.6.4. Issues of Stakeholder Integration

Although stakeholder integration is recognized as important, there is still a challenge to get real collaboration. Some key informants felt that the stakeholder involvement remained uneven, thus some of the directives were given with less consultation or integration, hence causing inefficiencies and overlaps.

4.6.5. Public Participation in Policy Forums

Most of those who responded to the surveys indicated limited participation by the public in policy forums, where a high percentage indicated minimal involvement. This approach to policy formulation, therefore, remains top-down, underscoring the need to further enhance efforts that involve the members of the public more actively in the process of making policies.

4.6.6. Needs Assessment for Policy Development

The research into households' involvement in processes of needs assessment for policy development was hideously skewed. At one extreme end, some are highly involved, but a big proportion had minimal participation, pointing to a need for better ways to engage households comprehensively.

4.6.7. Local Community Consultations

Level of participation in local community consultations on food security policies is relatively well-balanced. Although the majority are showing at least some kinds of participation, the percentage remaining at a minimum level of involvement is high, requiring a need for better inclusion efforts.

Overall, the Nexus of food politics, food policy, and household food security is, hence, multi-dimensional in nature and needs a holistic approach where the desired outputs are legal recognition, integration of stakeholders, public participation, and effectiveness of governance. These findings demonstrate that any participatory and inclusive policy process would have to build on diverse inputs, service users, opinion leaders, experts, and local knowledge to create multifaceted and effective solutions to food security. In this respect, the political stability and a favorable policy environment remain equally important for their successful implementation. A better way of integrating the challenges of stakeholders' integration and public participation can lead to more inclusive and effective policies of food security and hence more resilient and food-secure households in Addis Ababa.

The significance of public participation in both policy-making and implementation cannot be overstated. This study underscores that engaging the broader public and grassroots stakeholders enriches policy formulation with diverse perspectives and local insights, thereby enhancing its relevance and effectiveness. Such participatory approaches are pivotal in fostering governance that is responsive to local contexts and needs, ultimately bolstering the overall functionality of food security initiatives.

Political stability and a conducive policy environment are foundational pillars crucial for the success of food security policies. The decisions made by political leaders profoundly influence governance structures, resource allocation, and enforcement mechanisms essential for achieving food security objectives. A robust policy framework, backed by political will, is indispensable for navigating the complexities of food security challenges and ensuring sustainable outcomes.

Efficient coordination across governmental ministries and optimal resource utilization are imperative for effective policy implementation. This study emphasizes the need for established mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation to track policy outcomes accurately. Moreover, while

stakeholder integration remains a challenge, fostering genuine collaboration and inclusive decision-making processes can mitigate inefficiencies and overlaps, thereby enhancing policy coherence and effectiveness.

CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Conclusions

The study objective was to investigate the Nexus between food politics and food policies and its implications on households' food security in Addis Ababa. The descriptive analysis is composed of demographic characteristics', which consists of sex, age and education background and notable work experiences, is considered for this research.

The nexus of food politics, food policies, and food security in households is discussed with respect to Addis Ababa. It reviews how governance structures, along with the processes involved in policy decision-making and policy implementation, either sustain or worsen food access at the household level and continue to perpetuate or reduce food insecurity. Government decisions thus play an important role in structuring food politics and policies that will unequivocally result in household food security. This extends down to the raw aspect of influencing the measures taken for food security, from political willingness to advocacy, through all forms of economic and policy decisions. Government's proclamation, such as Proclamation 1263/2021, only set a general framework on how to handle food insecurity and might thus be incomplete with regards to comprehensive integration of those government organizations.

Any effective policy formulation and implementation must include stakeholder integration. However, the level of integration differs from one ministry and any other governmental body. These policies similarly include very many stakeholders, unlike others which in some cases do not incorporate public consultation. This may lead to gaps and inefficiency while implementing such policies. Some government ministries, such as Trade and Regional Integration, involve stakeholders while making policy. The challenge remains in making sure all are fully integrated and not repetitions of the same work. Public involvement in policy formulation goes a long way to ensuring democratic governance and effectiveness in policy. Household participation ensures that policies remain aligned to the real needs, besides unleashing accountability and transparency. However, the extent of public participation varies; a significant proportion feels only minimally involved due to a myriad of factors such as lack of awareness or ineffectiveness. Consultations on food security policies at community level are rated as moderate to high. Although a big proportion of society is actively involved in policymaking, much leaves room for

improvement in effectively engaging every section of society. Policies would be more inclusive in responses from the public, for example, through the Internet, to add diverse perspectives to policy formulation. This would involve stakeholder engagement in a comprehensive way across relevant ministries and agencies and representatives of communities. This would prevent duplication of policies through regular coordination meetings and consultations to ensure effective use of resources. Government organizations should, in addition, provide for public participation in policy formulation through online forums and community meetings. Sensitization of people through public awareness campaigns may be conducted on the importance of their involvement in the shaping of policies relevant to their food security.

There is a need to encourage consultation at the community level and broaden it to include diverse voices. Online platforms and social media can be effectively used to reach a higher number of participants and elicit feedback. This should be followed up with sound implementation mechanisms such as monitoring and evaluation frameworks for each policy. Proper budgeting and using resources is critical to make help tackle the food security challenge adequately. Addressing gaps between formulation and execution can increase the influence of food security policies. Attempts should be made to align policies with the real needs of households, trying to overcome issues about food availability, access, utilization, and stability. In other words, the convergence of food politics, food policies, and household food security is complicated. There are a variety of key features characterizing effective governance structures, stakeholder engagements, and public participations that become definitive in the formulation and policy implementation if they have to really address the needs in Addis Ababa. The key areas addressed in this study will enable policymakers to formulate more inclusive, transparent, and effective food security policies that ensure well-being is enhanced at the household and community levels.

Therefore, the study identifies key Ethiopian government ministries responsible for formulating and implementing food-related policies, emphasizing the pivotal role of integrated approaches in addressing food insecurity. The Ministry of Agriculture spearheads policy development aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity and food safety, supported by collaborative efforts with ministries such as Health, Trade, and Planning. Despite legislative frameworks like the Constitution and the National Food and Nutrition Policy, gaps persist in policy implementation,

underscoring the need for ongoing adaptation and review to effectively tackle emerging food security challenges.

Policy formulation in Ethiopia integrates internationally recognized food security principles but requires enhanced stakeholder consultation and transparency. While efforts are made to align policies with developmental goals like the Ten-Year Development Plan, more explicit consideration of food security within broader agendas is necessary. Citizen engagement in policy debates shows a varied perception of effectiveness, highlighting opportunities for improving inclusivity and responsiveness in decision-making processes.

This study has illuminated several critical factors influencing food policy formulation in Ethiopia, emphasizing the complex interplay of political dynamics and governance structures. Political stability emerges as a cornerstone for effective food policy implementation, enabling long-term planning and strategic execution. Conversely, political instability disrupts governance frameworks, undermining policy continuity and exacerbating food insecurity challenges. Stakeholder dynamics also play a pivotal role in shaping food policy outcomes, with varying interests influencing policy directions. The study underscores the importance of a favorable policy environment characterized by stability and minimal political risk to foster effective governance and sustainable food security strategies. Furthermore, transparency and accountability in policy implementation are essential for ensuring public trust and delivering tangible benefits to communities.

The study underscores the profound influence of food politics on policy formulation in Ethiopia, illustrating how political dynamics dictate the course of food security initiatives from inception to execution. Political stability and a conducive policy environment emerge as pivotal factors shaping the effectiveness of these strategies. Decisions regarding budget allocations and regulatory frameworks wield direct implications for household food security, impacting the availability, affordability, and safety of food supplies. Well-crafted policies aligned with national priorities can bolster these aspects, whereas inadequate governance or biased policymaking may exacerbate food insecurity, underscoring the critical need for coherent and inclusive policy frameworks.

Despite the acknowledged importance of stakeholder engagement, disparities persist in its application across various governmental ministries and organizations. While some demonstrate proactive involvement, substantial gaps in consultation and coordination endure, hindering the optimal execution of food security policies. Similarly, public participation in forums addressing food security policy remains limited, indicating a significant opportunity to enhance democratic decision-making processes. Bridging these gaps through expanded public engagement initiatives could foster policies that better reflect community needs and preferences. Moreover, strengthening the legal and regulatory framework underpinning food policies is essential. While existing laws provide a foundation, integrating stakeholder insights more effectively and implementing robust enforcement mechanisms are essential steps toward achieving sustainable food security outcomes in Ethiopia.

5.2. Recommendations

With a constitutional mandate on the right to food, the Ethiopian case would present a more effective and inclusive food policy framework that battles the nexus of involved political factors to deliver food security for all the citizens.

- **Legal and Regulatory Enhancements**

Strengthening the legal and regulatory framework underpinning food policies is essential. Regularly reviewing and updating existing laws and regulations to align with international standards and address emerging food security challenges is necessary. Enhancing enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with food safety, agricultural, and nutrition regulations will bolster policy effectiveness and protect consumer interests. Promoting political stability and a supportive policy environment is crucial for sustained commitment to food security initiatives across political cycles. By institutionalizing food security priorities and ensuring continuity in policy implementation, governments can mitigate risks associated with political instability and ensure long-term effectiveness.

- **Constitutional Amendment on the Right to Food & Enhanced Policy Integration and Coordination:**

It could give a clear legal framework and a tool of swiftly fulfilling food security by the government towards its subjects on lobbying on penetrating the right to food in Ethiopian constitution. Closer collaboration is required from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration in rationalized efforts toward eliminating duplicative functions and ensuring holistic and integrated policies to have a better food policy framework.

- **Enhanced Stakeholder Engagement and Policy Formulation**

Government ministries should prioritize inclusive and transparent processes in policy formulation to enhance stakeholder engagement. Strengthening mechanisms for stakeholder consultation will ensure that diverse perspectives, including those of marginalized groups and civil society organizations, are considered. This approach fosters ownership and improves the effectiveness of food security policies. Aligning food security policies explicitly with broader developmental frameworks, such as the Ten-Year Development Plan, is crucial. This alignment should prioritize sustainable development goals while addressing specific food security challenges across both urban and rural contexts.

- **Improved Policy Implementation and Adaptation**

Addressing gaps in policy implementation through regular review and adaptation is essential for achieving sustainable food security outcomes. Enhancing monitoring and evaluation frameworks will enable better tracking of policy outcomes and facilitate adjustments based on evolving socio-economic conditions. Adequate resource allocation and coordination between ministries are critical for effective policy implementation. Investing in the capacity of government agencies involved in food security, particularly in data collection, analysis, and program implementation, will strengthen their ability to respond effectively to complex challenges.

- **Expand the Food, and Nutrition Policy Scope & Strengthen Institutional Capacity through developing an independent food ministry**

The Ethiopian Food and Nutrition Policy also needs to be expanded beyond addressing the two factors of food security, which are availability and access, to include economic accessibility, price levels and food stability, and even risks preparedness. It should be multisectoral in nature so that the needs of the population are better addressed, and currently existing policy gaps are filled. Investment should be made in strengthening the capacity of institutions engaged in the development and implementation of food policy through training programs, better infrastructure, and improving the allocation of resources for better effectiveness.

- **Stimulate Citizens Participation and Effective Feedback Mechanism**

To enhance citizen participation in policy debates and improve satisfaction with policy outcomes, policymakers should implement robust mechanisms for soliciting, incorporating, and responding to citizen feedback. Increasing transparency in policy-making processes and providing clearer feedback channels will foster greater public trust. This includes expanding platforms for public participation beyond traditional methods to include online feedback mechanisms and community consultations. Design and establish feedback mechanisms that would ensure the citizens and directly affected house-holds are integral to the policy process these may be in the form of a process of surveys, public hearing and advisory committees over many years and also enforce a mechanism in such a way that it allows an unending flow of public input and accountability.

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ANNEX/APPENDICES



**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
CENTER FOR FOOD SECURITY STUDIES**

Dear respondents,

I am delighted to extend an invitation to you to participate in my thesis research entitled "*The Nexus of Food Politics and Food Policy and Its Implications for Household Food Security in Addis Ababa.*" This study aims to thoroughly investigate the convergence of food politics and food policy and its impact on household food security, focusing specifically on Addis Ababa.

I am confident that your expertise and knowledge will greatly contribute to the success of my research. Your valuable insights and suggestions have the potential to influence the formulation of policies in Ethiopia, as this study aims to comprehend and adopt effective approaches in the areas it examines.

Please be assured that all your responses will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. I highly appreciate your generous commitment of time and contribution in advance, and I eagerly anticipate the completion of this study so that I may share its findings with you. Thank you once again for your participation, and I look forward to collaborating with you.

Yours sincerely,

Yared Ayele

Key Informant Interviews

Part I. Profile of the Respondent:

1. Position title: _____
2. Organization: _____
3. Education: Doctoral Degree/PhD Master's Degree Bachelor's Degree
 Diploma Higher Secondary Education
4. Experience: _____
 - a) In current position/ organization: _____
 - b) In other Organization: _____

Part II. Questions on the Policy Formulation Process of Food-Related Policies

1. Involvement in Policy Formulation:

- 1) How would you describe the level of participation of households in the formulation of food-related policies in Ethiopia?
- 2) Have there been opportunities for households to actively contribute to the development and design of food policies at the local or national levels?
- 3) To what extent do households feel that their voices and perspectives have been considered in the formulation stage of food-related policies?

2. Engagement in Policy Implementation:

- 1) From your experience, how engaged have households been in the implementation of food-related policies within their communities?
- 2) What mechanisms or platforms are in place to encourage household participation in the implementation and monitoring of food policies at the grassroots level?
- 3) Have households encountered any challenges or barriers when attempting to participate in the implementation processes of food-related policies?

3. Impact and Feedback:

- 1) Can you provide examples of how household participation has influenced the outcomes or effectiveness of food policy implementation in improving food security?
- 2) How do households perceive the responsiveness of policymakers to their inputs and feedback during the implementation of food-related policies?
- 3) In your view, what role does household participation play in ensuring the success and sustainability of food policy initiatives in enhancing household food security?

4. Policy Communication and Awareness:

- 1) How are households informed about upcoming or existing food-related policies and their potential impact on food security?
- 2) Are there channels for two-way communication between policymakers and households to discuss policy implications, seek feedback, and address concerns regarding food-related policies?

5. Reflections on Participation:

- 1) From your observations, what are the key benefits of promoting household participation in food policy formulation and implementation processes?
- 2) What improvements or initiatives would you suggest to further enhance household engagement and empowerment in shaping food-related policies for better food security outcomes?

6. Future Directions:

- 1) How do you foresee the role of households evolving in the future concerning food policy development and implementation in Ethiopia?
- 2) Are there specific strategies or approaches that you believe would foster greater inclusivity and collaboration between households and policymakers in addressing food security challenges?

7. Additional Insights:

- 1) Is there any additional information or perspectives you would like to share regarding household participation in food policy processes and its impact on food security in Ethiopia?

Part III: Questions on the Content and Contemporariness of Food-Related Policies:

8. Content of Food Policies

- 1) Can you provide insights into the key objectives and goals outlined in current food security policies in Ethiopia?
- 2) How comprehensive do you find the coverage of food security issues in the existing policy documents and regulations?
- 3) In your opinion, how effectively do the current food policies address the diverse challenges faced in ensuring household food security?

9. Relevance and Adaptability of Policies

- 1) How do you perceive the alignment of food policies with the current food security challenges and trends in Ethiopia?
- 2) Have these policies been adapting well to changing food security dynamics and emerging issues over time?
- 3) What are the key strengths and potential areas for improvement in terms of the relevance and adaptability of food policies to address household food security needs?

10. Impact and Implementation

- 1) From your perspective, what impact have these food policies had on improving household food security outcomes in Ethiopia?
- 2) How effectively have these policies been implemented on the ground, and what challenges have been faced in their implementation?
- 3) Can you highlight any notable successes or shortcomings in the implementation of food-related policies and their implications for household food security?

11. Alignment with Political Direction

- 1) How do you view the alignment of food policies with the current political direction and priorities in Ethiopia?
- 2) To what extent has the political direction influenced the formulation and implementation of food-related policies affecting household food security?

12. General Reflections

- 1) In your opinion, what are the critical aspects that need to be addressed to enhance the effectiveness and impact of food policies on household food security?
- 2) How do you perceive the overall contemporary nature and relevance of food-related policies in the context of evolving food security challenges in Ethiopia?
- 3) Are there specific recommendations or changes you would propose to ensure that food policies remain responsive to household food security needs in the future?

13. Additional Feedback

- 1) Is there any specific information, insights, or experiences you would like to share regarding the content and contemporariness of food-related policies and their implications for household food security in Ethiopia?



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I am confident that your expertise and knowledge will greatly contribute to the success of my research. Your valuable insights and suggestions have the potential to influence the formulation of policies in Ethiopia, as this study aims to comprehend and adopt effective approaches in the areas it examines.

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Yours sincerely,

Yared Ayele

Part I: General Information about Household Survey

A. Respondents Personal Information

1. Position title: _____
2. Organization: _____
3. Education: Doctoral Degree/PhD Master's Degree Bachelor's Degree
 Diploma Higher Secondary Education
4. Experience: _____
 - a) In current position/ organization: _____
 - b) In other Organization: _____

Part II. Household Survey Ranking Questionnaire on Political and Food-Related Policies

1. Rank the Following Aspects of Food Security Policies by Importance (1 being the most important and 5 being the least important)

1. Availability of Nutritious Food Options
2. Affordability of Food Products
3. Accessibility to Food Resources
4. Government Support Programs for Food Security
5. Transparency and Accountability in Policy Implementation

2. Please Rank Your Perception of the Impact of Government Food Policies on Food Security in Your Household (1 for the most positive impact and 5 for the most negative impact):

1. Availability of Food Resources
2. Affordability of Essential Food Items
3. Nutritional Value of Consumed Foods
4. Access to Food Assistance Programs
5. Adaptation to Changing Environmental Conditions

3. Rank Your Satisfaction Level with the Information Provided by Government on Food Policies (1 being highly satisfied and 5 being highly dissatisfied):

1. Clarity and Transparency of Policy Information
2. Accessibility of Information on Food Security Programs
3. Timeliness of Updates on Food Policy Changes

4. Engagement Opportunities for Community Feedback
5. Understanding of Food Policy Objectives

4. Please Rank Your Perception of Household Participation in Decision-Making Processes Related to Food Security Policies (1 for high participation and 5 for low participation):

1. Involvement in Policy Formulation Discussions
2. Representation in Food Security Program Development
3. Consultation Opportunities for Household Inputs
4. Inclusion in Monitoring and Evaluation Committees
5. Engagement in Advocacy Efforts for Food Security

5. Rank the Effectiveness of Government Implementation of Food Policies in Addressing Household Food Security Needs (1 for extremely effective and 5 for not effective):

1. Distribution of Food Aid to Vulnerable Populations
2. Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Practices
3. Support for Local Food Production and Markets
4. Regulation of Food Prices to Ensure Accessibility
5. Implementation of Nutrition Education Programs

Part III : Extensive Household Survey Ranking Questionnaire on Political and Food-Related Policies:

7. Rank the Following Aspects of Food Security Policies by Importance (from 1 to 10, with 1 being the most important and 10 being the least important):

1. Availability of Nutritious Food Options
2. Affordability of Food Products
3. Accessibility to Food Resources
4. Government Support Programs for Food Security
5. Transparency and Accountability in Policy Implementation
6. Climate Resilience of Food Production
7. Community Participation in Policy Development
8. Health and Safety Standards in Food Supply Chains
9. Education Programs on Nutrition and Food Choices
10. Inclusivity of Marginalized Groups in Food Policies

8. Please Rank Your Perception of the Impact of Government Food Policies on Food Security in Your Household (from 1 to 10, with 1 for the most positive impact and 10 for the most negative impact):

1. Availability of Food Resources
2. Affordability of Essential Food Items
3. Nutritional Value of Consumed Foods
4. Access to Food Assistance Programs
5. Adaptation to Changing Environmental Conditions
6. Inclusivity of Diverse Dietary Preferences
7. Resilience to Economic Shocks
8. Promotion of Sustainable Food Practices
9. Addressing Food Waste Issues
10. Government Response to Food Crises

9. Rank Your Satisfaction Level with the Information Provided by Government on Food Policies (from 1 to 10, with 1 being highly satisfied and 10 being highly dissatisfied):

1. Clarity and Transparency of Policy Information
2. Accessibility of Information on Food Security Programs
3. Timeliness of Updates on Food Policy Changes
4. Engagement Opportunities for Community Feedback
5. Understanding of Food Policy Objectives
6. Trust in Government Communication on Food Policies
7. Inclusivity of Diverse Language Speakers in Information Dissemination
8. Response Mechanisms for Queries and Concerns
9. Coherence of Messaging Across Multiple Communication Platforms
10. User-Friendly Format of Policy Information

10. Please Rank Your Perception of Household Participation in Decision-Making Processes Related to Food Security Policies (from 1 to 10, with 1 for high participation and 10 for low participation):

1. Involvement in Policy Formulation Discussions
2. Representation in Food Security Program Development
3. Consultation Opportunities for Household Inputs

4. Inclusion in Monitoring and Evaluation Committees
5. Engagement in Advocacy Efforts for Food Security
6. Accessibility of Grievance Reporting Channels
7. Opportunities for Direct Communication with Decision-Makers
8. Recognition of Household Feedback in Policy Adjustments
9. Inclusivity of Vulnerable Populations in Decision-Making Forums
10. Awareness of Rights and Responsibilities in Policy Participation

11. Rank the Effectiveness of Government Implementation of Food Policies in Addressing Household Food Security Needs (from 1 to 10, with 1 for extremely effective and 10 for not effective):

1. Distribution of Food Aid to Vulnerable Populations
2. Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Practices
3. Support for Local Food Production and Markets
4. Regulation of Food Prices to Ensure Accessibility
5. Implementation of Nutrition Education Programs
6. Monitoring of Food Quality and Safety Standards
7. Adaptation to Climate Change Challenges in Agriculture
8. Response to Market Fluctuations in Food Prices
9. Investment in Food Security Infrastructure
10. Evaluation of Policy Impact on Household Well-Being

3. Household Survey Ranking Questionnaire on Participation in Policy Formulation and Lawmaking Processes:

12. Rank the Following Aspects of Household Participation in Policy Formulation (from 1 to 5, with 1 being highly involved and 5 being minimally involved):

1. Involvement in Local Community Consultations on Food Security Policies
2. Participation in Household Needs Assessment for Policy Development
3. Engagement in Focus Group Discussions on Food Security Challenges
4. Contributions to Surveys and Feedback Mechanisms for Policy Input
5. Attendance at Public Forums for Policy Discussions

13. Please Rank Your Perception of the Importance of Household Participation in Lawmaking Processes (from 1 to 5, with 1 being highly important and 5 being less important):

1. Providing Testimonials and Case Studies for Policy Impact Assessments
2. Collaborating with Local Authorities in Drafting Food Security Regulations
3. Offering Recommendations for Law Amendments to Improve Food Resource Access
4. Advocating for Policy Changes in Lawmaking Bodies
5. Participating in Public Hearings on Proposed Food Security Legislation

14. Please Rank Your Experience of Engagement with Government in Policy Formulation (from 1 to 5, with 1 for highly engaging and 5 for minimally engaging):

1. Receiving Invitations to Community Meetings on Food Policy Development
2. Opportunities to Provide Feedback on Draft Food Security Policies
3. Collaboration with Government Representatives in Policy Design
4. Accessibility to Information on Policy Formulation Processes
5. Participation in Decision-Making Committees for Food Security Initiatives

15. Rank Your Perception of the Impact of Household Participation in Policy Formulation on Food Security Outcomes (from 1 to 5, with 1 for highly impactful and 5 for minimally impactful):

1. Influence on Government Decisions Regarding Food Security Policies
2. Contribution to the Development of Tailored Food Assistance Programs
3. Enhancement of Food Quality Standards through Community Engagement
4. Alignment of Policies with Local Food Needs and Preferences
5. Empowerment of Households in Shaping Food Security Strategies

16. Rank the Effectiveness of Government in Incorporating Household Inputs in Lawmaking Processes (from 1 to 5, with 1 for very effective and 5 for not effective):

1. Response to Citizen Recommendations for Food Security Laws
2. Inclusion of Diverse Community Voices in Law Drafting
3. Adaptation of Legislation Based on Household Feedback
4. Communication of Participatory Opportunities in Lawmaking
5. Acknowledgment of Citizen Contributions in Policy Debates