



**SCHOOL OF CONTINUING EDUCATION INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL
OPEN UNIVERSITY MAIDAN GARTI, NEW DELHI – 110068**

**THE ROLE OF EXTERNAL INTERVENTION TO ALLEVIATE FOOD
INSECURITY THE CASE OF KOMBOLCHA WEREDA, EAST HARARGHE
ZONE**

BY: FIKRE NIBRET

DECEMBER, 2014



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**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
OF INDIRA GANDI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY**

**IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR MASTER OF
ART (M A) DEGREE IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

DECEMBER, 2014

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the dissertation entitled THE ROLE OF EXTERNAL INTERVENTION TO ALLIVIAE FOOD INSECURITY THE CASE OF KOMBOLCHA WOREDA submitted by me for the partial fulfillment of the M.A. in Rural development to Indira Gandhi National Open University,(IGNOU) New Delhi is my own original work and has not been submitted earlier either to IGNOU or to any other institution for the fulfillment of the requirement of any course of study. I also declare that no chapter of this manuscript in whole or in part is lifted and incorporated in this report from any earlier work done by me or others.

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Miss **FIKre Nibret Anteneh** student of M.A.(RD) from Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi was working under my supervision and guidance for her project work for the course MRDP-001her project work entitled THE ROLE OF EXTERNAL ENTERVENTION TO ALLIVIAE FOOD INSECURITY THE CASE OF KOMBOLCHA WOREDA Which she is submitting, is her genuine and original work.

Place: Addis ababa

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List of Abbreviation

AAE	ActionAid Ethiopia
CBO	Community Based Organization
CSA	Central Statistics Agency
DA	Development Agent
DDS	Dietary Diversity Score
EC	Ethiopian Calendar
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FHH	Female Household Head
HAPCO	HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office
HH	Household
HHH	Household Head
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IGA	Income Generating Activity
Kms	Kilometers
Lt	Liter

NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OVC	Orphan and Vulnerable Children
PA	Peasant Association
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Program
Qt	Quintal
USD	United States Dollar

Abstract

This study was conducted in Kombolcha wereda, Eastern Hararghe Zone Oromiya Regional state with the main objective of assessing the role of external intervention to alleviate food insecurity, specifically, this research tried to investigate the relationship of local inhabitants and external intervening organizations; investigate the effects of external intervention in the study area; and analyze the changes in the livelihoods of the inhabitants as a result of the external intervention. To address the stated objectives, both quantitative and qualitative methodology was employed. Closed ended questioner, structured-open ended interviews; focus group discussion, key informant interview and non –participant observation were used to collect the data.

The result of the study show that the perception of food aid recipients have very good attitude towards aid organizations and very good relationship between the aid receivers and aid organizations. Opposed to this there are also some respondents who have less attitude and relationship with aid organizations. This implies that there is still more efforts that aid organizations need to work. Aid organizations have a positive attitude toward the beneficiaries and are doing their jobs paying care and attention to the peoples' culture, tradition and custom. They indicated that NGOs respected their religious affiliation and ethnic identity without discrimination. There was a problem on the selection of beneficiaries. The problem has taken place during the selection process not on the criteria. The selection process is done by the representatives of the local communities, those who lead Farmers Associations and

Committees. A person who seeks a political affiliation requirement will be selected to the aid, a tendency especially to safety net program.

The aid organizations are not in the position to alleviate food insecurity in a sustainable and fully fledged manner. Respondents marked that the ineffectiveness of the food aid aroused from inadequacy of the delivery. The untimely of the aid is put as another reason to the failure. Beneficiary selection criteria and selection process should work with all stakeholders i.e. all beneficiaries, committees, government officials and aid organization officers. A person who seeks a political affiliation requirement should not be selected to food aid and safety net program.

The study mainly suggests, even though, the aid organizations aim for emergency and program food aid for short term .all stakeholders should give awareness creation training for food aid receivers about self sufficiency , working culture and making income generation for their future livelihood. The external interventionist and the governmental organizations should work together with the inhabitants to alleviate their food insecurity in different ways. Conducting other researches in the area is a recommendable.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background of the Study

In terms of food security, Ethiopia is one of the seven African countries that constitute half of the food insecure population in Sub-Sahara Africa (Sisay, 1995). According to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) report of 1999, average caloric intake in rural areas is 1,680 kilo calories per person per day, which is far below the national medically recommended minimum daily intake of 2,100 kilo calories per person per day. As per the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Food Security Strategy (FDRE FSS) issued in 1996, the recommended minimum daily intake of 2,100 kilo calorie per person per day is equivalent to 225 kilogram of grain per person per year. In 2005, infant and child mortality rates were 110 and 169 per 1,000, respectively, which is higher than the sub-Saharan Africa and other low-income developing countries; with the lowest life expectancy at birth of 42 years (World Bank, 2005).

Kombolcha Wereda is one of the chronically and seasonally food insecure areas of the Oromiya Region. It has been repeatedly exposed to recurrent drought and famine. The total production is persistently inadequate to cover food requirement of the population. This is mainly due to high population growth, unimpeded environmental degradation, poorly developed infrastructure and the recurrent drought. Due to such reasons, it has long been a food deficit Wereda with widespread and deepening seasonal food insecurity situation.

The inhabitants of the study area are dependent on agricultural economic activity, which are threatened by several impediments. Their livelihood is based on agricultural products such as coffee, chat, sorghum, and etc. Their agricultural production is vulnerable to verities of recurrent natural disasters which threaten their livelihood. Some of the major disasters/factors/ include; drought, seasonality of rainfall, pest and so on. The impact of drought in the area has high magnitude followed by seasonal variation and fluctuation i.e. dalliance and early rainfall from traditionally known and pest.

Moreover, there is high population density and land fragmentation which has inevitably caused environmental degradation in general and land degradation in

particular. This again result soil erosion and soil infertility whereby there is also low agricultural production and productivity.

Due to such factors that are tempting the livelihood of the inhabitants of Kombolcha Wereda it has been many years since external intervention witnessed. The external interventions such as local and international organizations have been involved to overcome the food insecurity that recurrently faces and challenges the Wereda's inhabitants. Despite the fact that the involvement of external interventions could ease some problems, it may also have draw backs. Therefore, the main purpose of this study was to address the kinds of effects, positive and negative effects, which were caused by these external interventions in the livelihood of the inhabitants of the Kombolcha Wereda.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

In Ethiopia, the problem of the food shortage varies from one area to another depending on the state of the natural resources and the extent of development of these resources. About 42 times of food shortage including the 1999 and 2000 food shortages have been recorded in Ethiopia (Webbet A., 1992), most of which were concentrated along two broad belts, generally described as drought and famine prone areas. One of these is the mixed farming production system area of northern Shewa through Wello into Tigray. Most of the land resources (mainly the soils and vegetation) of this part of the country have been highly degraded because of the interplay between some environmental and human factors such as relief, climate, population pressure and the resultant over-cultivation of the land, deforestation of vegetation and overgrazing. The second belt is the range-based on pastoral economy of lowland Ethiopia, ranging from Wello in the north through Hararge and Bale to Sidamo and Gamo Gofa in the south. Apparently, this belt is generally considered as resource poor with limited or no potential and hence highly vulnerable to drought.

The present study area, Kombolcha wereda, is one of the droughts prone woredas of eastern Hararghe zone that is located along the escarpments of eastern highlands, which exhibits the underlying constraints characterizing the area under the first belt. Food insecurity and involvement of local and international organizations have been a common phenomenon from around the world. Draught and related natural disasters have been strong causes of food insecurity in different parts of the world. Studies,

therefore, reveal this and related events across varying localities that draw attention of external interventions in the form of both governmental and non-governmental organizations which are formed in line with alleviating such disasters and help the people who suffer from such problems at least sustaining in a timely basis.

1.3. Significance of The Study

This study has significance at least for the following reasons and bodies:

1. It paves the way for future researchers as the study covers issue in relatively broader sense compared with attempts made before. Future researchers can develop and build on the main findings of this study.
2. It helps both governmental and non-governmental organizations understand the issue in a broader sense formulates their own food insecurity alleviating strategies in the study area and correct the previous intervention problems.
3. It adds an account to the studies regarding to food insecurity and alleviating effects that are undertaken by governmental and non-governmental, local and interactional organizations.

1.4. Hypothesis and Research Question

1.4.1. Hypothesis

- An external intervention has not alleviated food insecurity and discourages inhabitants work motivations.
- External interventions beneficiary selection criteria, distribution, and other activities are not participatory in the study area.

1.4.2. Research Questions

- Are the effects of external interventions in the study area assessed?
- Are consequences of external interventions discouraging?
- What are the long term outcomes of external intervention's supportive mechanisms on the livelihood of the inhabitants?
- Is there any attitude change (behavior and culture changes and dependency mentality) of the inhabitants due to external interventions? The impact of external interventions to environmental protections is not well studied;
- Are the approaches of external interventions to address problems studied before implementation?

- To what extent could the external interventions address emerging problems in the study area?

1.5. Scope and Limitation of the Study

1.5.1. Scope

The scope of this study was the inhabitants of the Kombolcha wereda of eastern Oromiya national regional state. All the Woreda's inhabitants were represented by using random sampling techniques.

1.5.2. Limitation of the study

This study focused on the role of external intervention to alleviate food insecurity and limits itself in nine villages of safety net and NGOs targeted villages of the Kombolcha Wereda.

- ✚ Absence of literatures explicitly to this research that is undertaken in the study area.
- ✚ Some respondents were reluctant to give reliable information or data.
- ✚ Shortage of finance
- ✚ Unable to get enough information from the government administration and NGOs officials.

1.6. Objectives of the study

1.6.1. General objective

The general objective of this study was to investigate the effects of external intervention in alleviating food insecurity.

1.6.2. Specific objective of the study

Specifically objectives of this study were to:

- Describe the livelihood of the inhabitants in the study area;
- Explore the relationship of local inhabitants and external intervening organizations;
- Investigate the effects of external intervention in the study area; and
- Analyze the changes in the livelihoods of the inhabitants as a result of the external intervention.

1.7. Organization of the Paper

The paper starts with the introduction parts and then reviews all the relevant literatures on food security. This is followed by the analysis of the socio economic characteristics of the sampled households. Consequently the role of external interventions to alleviate food insecurity including the relationship of local inhabitants and external intervening organizations, effect of external intervention in the study area and external interventions and changes in the livelihoods of the inhabitants are analyzed in detail. More over the socio economic factors that affect and are related to the roles of external intervention to alleviate food insecurity in the Wereda are analyzed. At last, the conclusion and recommendation wind up the thesis.

2. Review of Related Literature and Theoretical Framework

2.1. Overview of Studies on Food Security

2.1.1. Conceptual Framework and Definitional Considerations of Food Security

The term food security emerged in international development literature in the 1960s and 1970s. At that time the conventional wisdom was that food insecurity was conceived primarily as a supply issue at an aggregate level due to the significant shortage of food supply and high food prices in the world market in the early 1970s. However, despite the favorable supply conditions and low food prices after mid 1970s, the incidence of food insecurity remained high in many developing countries (S.I.M, 1997). This anomaly of widespread food insecurity amid a world of supplies stimulated the analysis of the nature and causes of food insecurity.

In the early 1980s, however, a paradigm shift occurred in the field of food security following Sen's (1981) claims that food insecurity is more of a demand concern, affecting the poor access to food, than a supply concern, affecting availability of food at the national level. Since then, accepted wisdom has defined food insecurity as being primarily a problem of access to food. At the same time, the unit of analysis shifted from the global and national level to the household and individual level. Overtime a large number of different definitions have been proposed. A report by Maxwell and Frankenberger's (1992) lists 194 different studies on the concepts and definition of food security and 172 studies on indicators. There are approximately 200 definitions and 450 indicators of food security (Hoddinott, 1999).

Several studies have explored the similarities among definitions of food security to identify its fundamental components. According to the World Bank report, the conventional food security is defined as 'access by all people at all times to enough food for an active and healthy life' (World Bank, 1986). This indicates that the cause of food insecurity could be other factors such as a loss of endowments, unemployment, and fall in wages or unfavorable shift in the terms of trade of food in exchange for assets. This consideration enabled to move a step forward in entailing not only food availability (adequate supply of food) but also food access through home production, purchase in the market or food transfer.

In 1996, the world food summit held in Rome declared and broadly set the definition of food security as all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutrition's foods to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and health life.

Although there were agreements on some aspects of food security, controversies also existed. These include: relative importance of supply (food availability) versus demand (food access) variables in causing and solving food insecurity, the right indicators to measure food security, the impact of policy interventions on food security in the recent past, and the lessons or policy implications for the near future to reduce the extent of food insecurity.

At present, a combination of these definitions with focus on three components of food security: availability, access and utilization are serving as a working definition. In the context of subsistence farm households, food security refers to the ability to establish access to productive resources such as land, livestock, agricultural inputs and family labor combined to produce food or cash (Tolosa, 1995). Consistent with this, Bonnard (1999) argued that with respect to the three components of food security, agriculture constitutes the most important factor in availability, a primary factor in access where livelihoods are agriculture based and a complementary factor regarding food quality and processing for utilization.

Based on temporal dimension, two types of household food insecurity can be distinguished as chronic and transitory. Chronic (permanent) food insecurity is a continuously inadequate diet resulting from lack of resources to produce or acquire food, while transitory food insecurity is a temporary decline in the household to access enough food (World Bank, 1986; Reutlinger, 1987). A household is said to be food insecure when its consumption (available food) falls below the daily standard minimum recommended allowance (MRA) of caloric intake for an individual to be active and healthy. The worst form of transitory food insecurity is famine.

2.1.2. Causes of Households' Food Insecurity

The major challenge of food security in Africa is the underdeveloped and underperforming agricultural sector that is characterized by over-reliance on low fertility soils, ecological degradation, significant food crop loss both pre and post harvest, low levels of education, social and gender inequality, poor health status, cultural insensitivity, natural disasters, minimal value addition and product differentiation and inadequate food shortage of preservation that result in significant commodity price fluctuation (Mwaniki, 2005). All factors, however, can be related in some fashion to two basic causes: insufficient national food availability and access to food by households and individuals.

The evolution of the problem varied in different parts of Sub-Sahara Region. In seven Sub-Sahara African countries (Angola, Chad, Ghana, and Malawi) have gone through deterioration process (Kidane et al., 2006). In these countries about 80% shows an increase

in the proportion of the undernourished has been observed in conflict countries where famine has been widespread. The type of food insecurity observed in Sub-Saharan Africa is a combination of widespread chronic food insecurity, resulting from continuing or structural poverty, transitory emergency related food insecurity, which occurs in periods of intensified pressure caused by natural disasters, economic collapse, or conflict (FAO, 2004).

Many factors have also contributed to this tendency including the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS. An overall decline in farm input investment including fertilizers, seeds, and technology adoption. Access to fertilizer use is constrained by market liberalization and trade policies that increase fertilizer price relative to commodity price. There are different constraints that limit farmers' ability to purchase fertilizer and other inputs such as limited access to market and infrastructure; limited development of output, input and credit markets; poverty; and cash (Kherallah et al., 2002). Other causes include; limited access to agriculture related technical assistance, and lack of knowledge about profitable soil fertility management practices leading to expansion into less favorable lands. A significant amount of the food is lost through pre and post harvest losses. The tropical climate makes foods produced in these regions prone to pests and diseases, while food availability is still a problem for some countries. The root cause of food insecurity in developing countries today is believed to be the inability of people to gain access to food due to poverty (Von Braun et al., 1994). The study by Mivaniki (2005) supported the view and reported that the root cause of food insecurity in developing countries is the inability of people to gain access to food due to poverty. According to Bonnarq (1999) much of the sub Saharan African population particularly in rural areas experiences some degree of hunger over the rain or hungry season, then food stocks dwindle and roads become muddy and impassible. Grain was short during the planting season and the problem was largely attributed to poor allocation of resources and poor rationing (Bonnard, 1999). Migration of male labor was also recognized as a cause of seasonal hunger.

A study conducted in a Lesotho village found that women and children suffered from lack of food and poor hygiene because women were too exhausted to cook and clean at times of peak agricultural work. (Driba, 1996). Haswell (1953) observed that growing cash crops at the expense of subsistence crops was largely contributed to seasonal food deficit among the farmer in Gambila. Illness of adults at critical times in the production process adversely affected labor efficiency and productivity. A study conducted by Obamiro et al (2003) in south –western Nigeria showed that illness will decrease productivity; therefore increases in

day's loss to illness will decrease food availability and accessibility. As result illness will likely shift family members from the food secure to the food insecure status.

In several African countries, deterioration in the ecological conditions of production has also been seen as a cause of seasonal hunger. Ogbu (1973) noted insufficient farmland, low yields on farms and high storage losses of staples were the principal causes of seasonal food shortage in Nigeria. A study conducted in Mali by Toulmn (1986) reported that seasonal food shortages that are mainly induced by two principal factors: (1) low and highly variable rainfall making the people very vulnerable to crop failure, and (ii) high levels of mortality, varying levels of fertility and vulnerability of all producers to sickness and disability.

The food security situation in Ethiopia has been extremely unstable due to the combination of environmental socio political and developmental instabilities. Lack of food in the household imposes inordinate strains on the daily burdens of its members. Coping mechanisms have been eroded in many households due to significant depletion of assets and displacement. Current conventional wisdom on food insecurity in Ethiopia asserts that the problem can be conceptualized as follows: (i) landholdings are too small to allow most farming households to achieve food production self sufficiency; (ii) population increase reduces landholdings further and places intolerable and limited application of yield enhancing inputs; (iii) recurrent drought and food production shocks to abnormally low yields; (iv) limited off farm income employment opportunities restrict diversification and irrigation options, leaving people trapped in increasingly unviable agriculture; (v) redistribution of land by the state has achieved socially equitable outcomes, but at the cost of household food security. Fears of further land redistribution generated tenure insecurity which resulted in some cases unwillingness to invest effort in measures to improve soil conservation and enhance fertility.

Although food insecurity as problem at national level was first felt in Ethiopia in 1960s, it only started influencing policy in the 1980s when food self sufficiency became one of the objectives of the ten year perspective plan that took place after the 1983/84 drought and famine which claimed millions of lives (Haile et al., 2005). Since then proper "transitory food insecurity" has received little considerations despite its prevalence even in "normal years" in "high potential" and "surplus areas". The national policy on disaster prevention and management of 1992/93 emphasized the need to give priority to disaster prevention programs in all development endeavors.

The Federal Food Security Strategy (FDRE FSS, 1996 updated in 2002) rested on three pillars increasing supply and availability of food, improving access and entitlement to food and strengthening emergency response capabilities. The new coalition for food and livelihood security in Ethiopia adopted in 2004 aimed at improving access to long term food and livelihood security for chronically and seasonally food insecure citizens through its various food security programs. In 2005, the Ethiopian government launched the productive safety net program (PSNP) with the objective of facilitating transfers of food or cash to chronically food insecure woredas without depleting assets at household level and creating assets at community level.

Woldemariam's (1991) investigation in north central Ethiopia indicated that most farmers could not produce enough to meet the annual requirements. Tolosa (1996) in his study conducted in Aressi, a zone considered to be a surplus grain producer at an aggregate level, examined the seasonal food shortage among farm households and variations between households practicing double cropping (during Meher and belg seasons) and those relying on a single harvest (Meher). The proportion of farmers practicing double cropping and single harvester who have faced seasonal food deficit was 29% and 52%, respectively. An assessment of the causes of transitory food insecurity identified various physical and socio economic constraints to subsistence production. These were insufficient farmlands for 99% of the households, lack of cash income to purchase farm inputs for 79% of the households, poor quality of their farmland for 67% of the households, reliance on single harvest for 55% of the households and shortage of farm power for 33.7% of the households. The study pointed out that 69.7% of the households encountered food deficit before Meher harvest and about 23.6% of the households before Belg harvest (Tolosa 1996).

Another research finding by Ezra (1997) showed that household's average cereal production during normal harvest years was persistently lower than annual food requirements and hence many households feed themselves from their farm outputs only for less than three fourth of the year. According to Negash (2000); cited in Meket, Habru and Gubalafto woredas of north *Wello* zone 30%, 21% and 40% of the sample households, respectively, were unable to satisfy the food demand of their family for more than five months in a year. Based on an empirical study in northern Shewa, Amare (1999) argued that the seasonality of agriculture introduced fluctuations in the income, expenditure, and nutritional patterns of peasant households. He further stated, "The coincidence of diminishing grain supplies and increasing

grain prices was a liability for the economic status and food security of households". Woldemariam (1984) came out with model that demonstrated the major factors for farm households vulnerable to famine and stated that vulnerability to famine is a product of a system, which consists of three components: the peasant world, the natural forces(physical environment) and the socio economic forces. Regarding the relationship of these factors, he argued that an agricultural population must first be made vulnerable to famine by socioeconomic and political forces before any adverse natural factor initiates the process of food shortage that leads to famine.

According to Webb et al., (1992), in their study on Ethiopian famine, found strong positive correlation between famine and poverty. Accordingly, a number of interrelated factors that contribute to famine are proneness to climatic driven production fluctuations, lack of employment opportunities, limited asset bases, isolation from major market, and low level of technology, constraints to improvements in human capital and poor health and environmental sanitation. Furthermore, based on their study, famine does not happen suddenly and it builds on high levels of food insecurity that the present households cannot withstand and that the government is not prepared for (Ibid).

Similarly, Tolosa (1995) concluded that households risk of food insecurity and famines were greatly increased by long term secular decline in resource endowment, combined with unfavorable food policy intervention. Emphasizing on subsistence farmers food insecurity situation, he underlined that the prevailing inability of Ethiopia's small scale agriculture to feed its population is mainly generated by the neglect of the policy and the decline in access to productive resources upon which most of the livelihoods are built. A community assessment study on 21 kebeles of south Wello and Oromiya zones of Amhara region, which was conducted by Amare et al., (1999) reported that factors such as drought, crop pests, frost, rust, hailstorms, untimely or excessive rainfall, land shortages and degradation, lack of oxen, population growth and diseases resulted in severe food shortages and household food insecurity.

2.1.3. Food Gap and Food Aid

The imbalance between domestic food production and food demand showed the amount of food shortfall at national level, which was shown an increasing trend in recent years. It has been documented that this gap has been largely met via external food aid. The size of food aid has increased, with significant fluctuation, from 239 thousand metric tons in 1980 to 409 metric thousand tons in 2001, repressing an average growth rate of about 2.5% per year. The flow of food aid increased substantially in the 1980s. The highest amount of food aid, accounting for some 27% of the total domestic food production, was received during the severe drought of 1984. The average food aid delivered was about 620.7 thousand tons during the 1980s while the figure for the 1990s was 583.1 thousand tons, indicating a slight reduction in food aid dependency. Although the absolute magnitude of food aid has declined in recent years compared to the early 1980s.

Ethiopia was food self sufficient and used to export food crops until the late 1950s. However, this trend changed and the country for the first time received food aid in 1959 when drought and crop infestation affected harvest in some parts of the country (Alemayehu, 1988; cited in Getinet, 1995). Since then the country has remained one of the major recipient of food aid in the world. Food aid delivery in Ethiopia has taken the form of emergency, project and program food aid for most parts of the country.

Emergency food aid delivered in response to natural calamities (like floods) and man-made problems (for example; war) which are dominant in the country of the total food aid, more than 70% was in the form of emergency food aid until the 1990s. Components of this category include storable foodstuffs, tinned, compressed, clothing, provision of fresh water, treatment of survivors and inured persons.

Project food aid is mainly used in development related activities in the form of food for work (such activities may include soil and water conservation, afforestation, and other public works) in which food aid is used as a wage and complementary feeding projects targeted for groups with inadequate level of nutrition. In carrying out public works via food for work programs, wages are paid in terms of food (i.e. in kind not in cash) and it is one form of generating employment and income.

Program food aid: refers to food supplied for bulk sale or distribution as part of budgetary or balance of payment support, price stabilization or for preserve purposes in terms of size, this type of food aid is the least compared to the above two types in Ethiopia

3. Research Methodology and Description of the Study Area

3.1. Research Methodology

Research methodology refers to a coherent set of rules and procedures that are used to investigate a problem within the framework of philosophical approaches (Kitchen and Tate, 2000). In the same vein, a research methodology includes the tools and techniques of data gathering and analysis (Mikkelsen, 2005).

The methodology for this research is both qualitative and quantitative approach based on intensive field work data collected through different techniques namely for qualitative approach tools such as Structured Open-Ended Interviews , Focus Group Discussion (FGD), Key-Informant Interview (KII) and Non-Participant Observation; and for quantitative approach tools like closed ended questionnaire interview was employed. The combination of these data collection tools in separate method can end up blurring into one another in research practice (Crang and Cook, 2007).

3.1.1. Sampling Selection and Procedures

Three stages of sampling technique were adopted to select study area and research participants. In the first stage the weredas was grouped into two different common access groups using stratified sampling methods; i.e. group one the nine (9) target kebeles of safety net and NGOs' programs which are relatively food insecure and group two the remaining ten (10) kebeles which are not beneficiary of safety net and NGOs' programs. For this study safety net and NGOs' target kebeles were selected as a study areas. Stage two, among the nien safety nate kebeles of Kombolcha Woreda, five representative kebeles were selected using simple random method. Finally, proportionate random samples of two hundred twenty five households were chosen (see annex-I)

Household heads were stratified into two men and female headed households. The purpose of this stratification was to thoroughly investigate the livelihoods and food security situation of the different groups, know the most affected segments of the community and find out the reason(s) for this variation and assess the external effects on alleviating food insecurity.

3.1.2. Data and Data Sources

In order to achieve the stated objectives primary and secondary data were utilized in the study. The primary data was generated mainly by the tools such as, in-depth interview, key informant interview, focus group discussion and non-participant observation. The secondary data was generated from different materials such as, books, journals, magazines, published and unpublished materials and online sources. Data gathered from primary sources are further substantiated and triangulated by secondary data sources.

3.1.3. Tools and Data Collection Techniques

Structured Open-Ended Interviews were employed. Prior to conducting the survey the questionnaire was pretested at Serkema and necessary adjustments were made.

According to Patt, 2000, focus group discussion (FGD) has been proven instrument to illustrate and explore the inter-subjective dynamics of thoughts, speech and understanding of the members of a group. FGD may be consisted of three to ten individuals discussing on a particular topic under a guidance of a moderator who promotes interaction and directs the conversation (Kitchen and Tate, 2000).

FGD supplemented a one to one interview in this study. This is because, firstly, this instrument enabled to gain data that could not be generated using a one-to-one interview. Secondly, it used to verify the data dug out from other sources. Two FGDs consisting of seven members each were held and, the researcher facilitated the discussion.

Focus groups were formed around particular activities or issues: the relationship of local inhabitants and external interventions, effects of external interventions in the study area and external interventions and changes in the livelihoods' of inhabitants.

Key informant interviews are aimed at obtaining special knowledge on a given issue (Mikkelson, 2005). In this study, officials and functionaries of the Woreda, Development Agents (DAs), and members of a wide range of other relevant institutions operating in the Woreda were contacted as key informants. Issues assessed via the key informant interviews were causes of deforestation, measures taken to

conserve natural forests and their outcomes, supports provided to the rural farmers, institutional cooperation and relationships, and the overall efforts made by officials.

3.1.4. Data Analysis

Regarding the analysis, the data were analyzed into descriptive statistics and categorizing all the research variables in relevant and understandable manner with the help of Statistical Soft Ware for Social Sciences (SPSS).

3.2. Description of the study area

Kombolcha is one of sixteen woredas found in East Hararghe Zone of Oromiya Regional State, Ethiopia. It has 19 rural kebeles and one urban Kebele which is the center of Kombolcha wereda. Kombolcha wereda is located about 514 km southeast of Addis Ababa and 14 km northwest of Harar town, the capital of East Hararghe Zone. It is strategically located between the two main cities of Harar and Dire Dewa. In addition, due to its proximity to Djibouti, the wereda has access to potential markets. The wereda is bordered by Dire Dewa City Administration to the North, Hareri Regional State to the South, Jarso Woreda to the East, and Haremaya Woreda to the West.

According to Central Statistics Agency (CSA), 1994 census, the total population of the wereda was 112,063, out of which 53,232 are female. The settlement pattern of the wereda population is dense, with a population density reaching as high as 234.9 persons per square kilometer.

The wereda receives mean annual rainfall of 600-900mm, which is bimodal and erratic in distribution. The main rainy season is from February to mid-May and from July to end of August.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Socio –Economic Characteristics of the Household

Food availability and accessibility in a household depends on different factors such as socio-economic and diversification asset types with in household's livelihood. These factors directly or indirectly determine the household food security status in general. Hence, the following part shows details of the finding of the socio-economic characteristics of the households.

4.1.1. Household Size

Household size is related to a household food security as it determines the labor availability for productive activities. Similarly, the size of a household member also indicates individuals' access to the available food in the household and thus their nutritional status.

The household sizes of the households showed variation. The minimum household size was 2 and the maximum was 13. The average family size of the household was 6. Accordingly 66% of the household sizes ranged from 2-6 persons whereas the remaining 37% have 7-13 household sizes.

4.1.2. Marital Status

Marital status defines a household structure that in turn verifies the household food economy status. Table 2 indicated that households were heterogeneous in terms of household structure. From the total households of 200; 5%, 75%, 5% and 10% single. Married, divorced and widowed, respectively.

Table 2: Distribution of Households by Marital Status

Villa ge	Marital Status					
	Singl e	Widowe d	Divorc ed	Marri ed	Tot al	Perce nt (%)
Serkema	4	7	2	29	42	21
Legehame	-	5	6	28	39	19.5
Iftuha	3	1	8	26	38	19

4.1.3. Gender

Gender composition in a household determines the labor availability for the agricultural and various activities in and out of the households and it is also related to the household food production and processing. Among the total persons living in the household's men and women account 61% and 39%, respectively (see table 3 below).

Table 3: Distribution of the Households by Age and Gender

Age	Male	Female	Total	Percent
18-30	21	14	35	17.5
31-45	43	38	81	40.5
46-60	32	12	44	22
>61	26	14	40	20
Total	122	78	200	100
Percent	61	39	100	100

4.1.4. Age

A household age structure is an indicator of the presence of active (productive) and dependent (unproductive) age group in the household. Household with adult age group is expected to have better productivity provided that it has sufficient productive enhancing resources where other things being equal.

In terms of age the households showed differences in age groups. In all villages the data verified the concentration of individuals within the young age groups. In view of this, the predominance of Adult age (58%) were less than or equal to 18-45 age groups. Furthermore, the maximum age of the sampled population was 80 years.

4.1.5. Education

Education is positively and negatively correlated to household food economy. For one thing, with available educational opportunities such as skill training could improve the household income and hence food security. For another, in food insecure areas households would not be tempted to send their children to schools even if the services are there. This is due to the fact that children's would be engaged into the different household food production activities.

The data showed a high rate of illiteracy. The number of illiterates was significant in the five villages. 56 % of the households are illiterate. And only 20 % can read and write. Moreover, 16, 4 and 3 % have attended primary and junior secondary schools and high school, respectively. Only, 1% has completed high school. In terms of education the results even disclosed the underdevelopment of education in the study area (table 4).

Table 4: Distribution of the Sampled Households by Age and Education

Age	Educational Status						Total
	Illiterate	Read & write	1-6	7-8	9-11	12 complete	
18-30	15	28	12	3	2	1	61
31-45	28	7	13	2	4	1	55
46-60	32	5	3	3	-	-	43
>61	37	-	4	-	-	-	41
Total	112	40	32	8	6	2	200
Percent	56	20	16	4	3	1	100

4.1.6. Occupation

The nature of a household economic activity entails the sustainability and reliability of household food economic option. Besides, it implies the possible vulnerability of the household to food insecurities.

In light of this, the households were disaggregated into major economic activities. The agricultural activities took the lead (85 %). On the other hand, 14% of the households pursued both agricultural and non agricultural activities such as small business across villages. Only 1% of the households were government employee (table 5).

Table 5: Households' Occupation

Village	Occupation			Total
	Agricultural	Agricultural and non agricultural	Government employee	
Serkema	36	5	1	42
Iftuha	35	3	----	38
Legehama	25	14	----	39
Hundebilisuma	36	3	1	40
Samte	38	3		41
Total	170	28	2	200
Percent	85.0	14	1	100

4.1.7. Landholding Size

The size of land ownership is strongly linked to a household food security status. A household with enough cultivable land produce more yield. Moreover, this can indicate the degree of the household dependability on its land as a means of livelihood.

4.1.7.1. Cultivable Land

The size of cultivable lands varied across the households. Only one household was landless. The average land holding was 2.51 *Timad* and about 32 % of the households have this land size. The maximum cultivable land holding size was 9 *Timad*.

4.1.7.2. Non- cultivable Land

With regard to non-cultivated land holdings only 31 households have non-cultivable lands ranging from minimum of 1 *Timad* to maximum of 7 *Timad*. 84.5 % of the households do not have non-cultivable lands. The average landholding size of the non cultivable land was 2.3 *Timad* and use mainly for grazing and homestead. 65 % and 35% of the households use the cultivable lands for grazing and homestead, respectively.

4.1.8. Types and Size of Livestock Holding

The size of livestock owned is not only important for a household food requirement but is also a potential source of income for the household. It improves the household purchasing power.

4.1.8.1. Cattle

Regarding, the cattle ownership 85 and 14 % of the households have 1-2 and 3-4 cattle, respectively, whereas, only 1 % of the households have 5 and more than 5 cattle (table 6).

Table 6: Distribution of the households by numbers of cattle owned

Cattle number	Villages						Total	Percent
	Serkema	Iftuha	Legeha ma	Hundebilisuma	Samte			
1-2	39	35	32	28	36	170	85	
3-4	2	3	7	11	5	28	14	
5+	1			1		2	1	

4.1.8.2. Small Ruminants

With respect to goat and sheep ownership 59% of the households have 0-4 goats and sheep while 27% have 5-9. The remaining 9% of the households have 10-14 goats and sheep. Only 5% of the households have 15 and more than 15 goats and sheep.

Table 7: Distribution of the households by number of goat and sheep owned

Animals number	Villages						Total	Percent
	Serkema	Iftuha	Legehama	Hundebilisuma	Samte			
0-4	19	26	18	22	33	118	59	
5-9	8	9	19	11	7	54	27	
10-14	10	3		4	1	18	9	
15+	5		2	3		10	5	
Total	42	38	39	40	41	200	100	

4.1.9. Major Crops Grown

The types of crop grown by a household determine the nature and orientation of its economy. A household can target on subsistent or commercial crops. This in turn can indicate the socio economic position of the household and its food security status in particular.

The major crops grown were sorghum, maize, chat and fruits (mainly papaya and banana). Though all households grow these crops; there was variation in terms of their importance among the households. 85% and 7% of the households grow sorghum and maize as major crop, respectively. The remaining 7 % and 1% of the households grow fruits and chat as major crops, respectively, (table 9).

Table 9: Distribution of the Sampled Households by First Major Crops Grown

Major crops grown	Frequency	Percent
Sorgham	170	85
Maize	14	7
Chat	14	7
Fruit	2	1
Total	200	100

4.1.9.1. Cereal Production

The yield potential of the two major cereal crops (Sorghum and maize) showed wide variations. They are harvested once a year. The minimum production was 1 quintal and the maximum was 16 quintals for both crops. Table 10 showed the amount of sorghum and maize produced by households.

Table 10: Amount of Yield Per 100 kg

Amount (100 kg)	Frequency of households	Percent
1	25	12.5
2	19	9.5
3	52	26
4	64	32
5	11	5.5
6	7	3.5
7	6	3
8	4	2
9	2	1
10	1	0.5
11	2	1
12	1	0.5
13	4	2
14	2	1
15	3	1.5
16	1	0.5
Total	200	100

The households' production was not sufficient for consumption and, thus, significant amount of cereals (sorghum) were purchased. The amount and frequency of cereals purchased vary across the households. It depended on the household size and the amount produced by the family. Among the households 108 households purchased cereal (sorghum). The minimum quantity of sorghum purchase was 17 kg. 19% of the households purchase 52 kg and whereas the other 19% of the households also purchased 43 kg per month. 99 % of the households purchased 17-97 kg sorghum per month and the frequency was 4 up to 6 months on average.

4.1.10. Crop Production Constraints

The nature of the problem a household encounters in the course of its economic undertaking is an important indicator of the household vulnerability to risks and shock. As households differ in the problems encountered, their food security situation would also become different.

The major crops grown in general were constrained by different problems. Lack of enough water took the lead in all villages. 63% of the households claimed this problem and was followed by the prevalence of crop diseases, insects and pests that troubled 31% of the households. Moreover, the infrastructures and problem related -market were the problem affecting crop productivity and profitability (table 11). The absence of sufficient cultivable land and lack of labor were found to be other problems in the area.

Table 11: Distribution of the households by major crops constraints⁹⁵³⁶⁹

Major crop constraints	Frequency	Percent
Water shortage	124.	62
Insects, pests and diseases	62	31
Lack of fertilizers and agricultural tools	3	1.5
Infrastructures problems-market and transport	7	3.5
Lack of labor	2	1
Limited cultivable land	2	1
Total		100

4.1.11. Food Sources

The identification of household sources of food and the relative amount of each resources cover the household needs are good indicators of the household food security. The reliability and sustainability of each source is an important tool for forecasting household's vulnerability to food insecurities.

The major sources of food for the households were own production (cereal-sorghum and maize), milk and milk products, meat, food purchases and relief and aid food. In

consequence, households got different amounts of their food requirements from these sources. This can be easily seen from the average amounts households cover their annual food requirements from each sources.

Households meet maximum average amounts of their food needs from food purchases and own production that covered 43% and 30% of the households' annual food requirements, respectively. Additionally, relief and aid foods were also significant source in which 19% of the households' food requirements were met. Over and above, 7% of households food needs were covered from milk and milk products. And only 1% of the households' food requirements were covered from animal meat.

5. The Role of External Intervention to Alleviate Food Insecurity

5.1. The Perception of the Inhabitants towards Aid Organizations

As indicated in the literature part, external interventions/aid organizations/ like emergency food aid, is crucial for saving lives and limits nutritional stress (Ermias and Katja, 2005). Emergency food Aid is the provision of short-term relief to persons who are not able to meet their food requirements due to some kind of acute shock or emergency (Barrett and Maxwell, 2005, 255). If it reaches the people in need, emergency food aid reduces short term hunger and starvation (Ermias and Katja, 2005). They also added that different food aid projects, for example; ‘food for education’ projects aim at a steady school enrolment of youth, by providing them with a decent meal during lunch break which produces incentives for parents to send their children to school. As a result, the aid recipients would be benefited from emergency food aid. This would create a positive perception on them.

The findings of the study shows the same result as aid organizations have saved their lives and solve nutritional stress. They also benefited in different ways includes; they reached them in time of drought; helped their children to be able to attend school and saved them from starvation and other fatal problems. Therefore, the inhabitants of the study area have good perception. One of the informants stated the situation in the following way:

I have been receiving aids from different Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and projects which have helped me to lead my household. To mention them, for example, the first NGO has been providing me edible oil and grain every fifteen days; whereas another NGO has been providing goats and irrigation services; and from Safety-Net Program, for each my household number, I receive 15 KG per person of grain monthly. This again benefited me communal participations. So they became my backbone of my household livelihood. Therefore, I have very good and positive perception for them”. (Female Headed household).

The aids were important anyways though they cannot reach them on desired time; and provision of information of precautions from predicted disasters such as untimely rain fall and drought-to conserve water and soil, among others.

5.1.1. Level of Participation

As literatures indicate that, community participation endeavors is one of the important contribution needed to receive food aid from external organizations. Participatory decision-making during the assessment phase of safety-net program projects may offer insights into which public works projects are suitable and whether a community desires the project without the incentive of food aid. Communities' knowledge of a well defined time-frame for funding may also mitigate the problems (Harvey and Lind, 2005). Similarly, the Ethiopia's official food aid policy states that no able-bodied person should receive food aid without working on a community development project in return. This is complemented by targeted free food aid for those who cannot work. The official goal, as described above, is to expand work-based food aid to the point where it accounts for 80% of all distributions (World Food Program (WFP), 1995).

The study found that, the food aid receivers took different endeavors in different areas as well as levels. Optimal responses showed that various activities were held by them; such as awareness creation trainings about the importance of environmental protection and natural resource management to mitigate climate change induced risks as well as for sustainable development; on how to create alternative income generating activities; participate and involve in the construction of different public institutions like school, DA's and teacher's house buildings.

In the FGD, discussants also affirmed their participation. They added the areas of their participation. Among others includes, community hand-dug-well; spring development projects; health center and road and terracing constructions; and delivery of education concerning gender equality.

The study also found that, aid organizations would inform the communities the forecasts about the future natural risks and hazardous and pests conditions as well as the solution for this. The KIIs of *Kebele* indicated this idea and showed that; the aid organizations would call for meeting the stakeholders i.e. *kebele* officials, committees as well as beneficiaries to participate in different work areas such as terracing, weed removal, preparing canals for floods, and etc.

5.1.2. The Perception of Aid Organizations towards the Inhabitants

The informants confirmed that aid organizations have a positive attitude toward the beneficiaries and are doing their jobs paying care and attention to the peoples' culture, tradition and custom. They indicated that NGO respected their religious affiliation and ethnic identity without discrimination. As far as rules are there and must be respected, they insist, that they execute them in a fair way. They try to avoid environmental problems, and refrain from speeches and actions that may irritate the beneficiaries.

More elaborately, one of them stated the positive side of the aid organizations toward the inhabitants of Kombolcha in the following manner:

“If aid organizations had not been here, all the inhabitants, we can say genuinely all, would have fled to other localities in search of jobs-a physical labor. Their life has a fate of turmoil, displacement, instability, insecurity and unsafe in the absence of the aid organizations. The situations get worse especially during time of draught”.

The above statements are also supported by an all agreement reached by focus group discussants. The FGDs from aid organizations agreed that the inhabitants of the *Wereda* would be in the mid of several problems unless and otherwise the aid organizations are exerting their higher efforts.

5.1.3. Beneficiary Selection Criteria

Different studies show that most of the selection criteria for participation of beneficiaries of safety net Program and food aid have different drawbacks. For example; a study conducted by Zenebe. B, (2012), with the objective to assess the household food security to understand the roles and limitations of income transfer projects as determinants of households food security in Ethiopia; as indicated that among others, the participation in the program was marred by inclusion error and exclusion error i.e. food-secure households were included and food insecure households were excluded.

In the study area, it was found that there existed such problems of inclusion problems during the selection criteria and process. Majority of the respondents about 65%

affirm the participation of the beneficiaries have unfair selection criteria and inclusion problem. Whereas, the remaining 35% of the respondents have opposite idea, they pronounced the existence of fair and appropriateness.

KIIs have also affirmed that, there was a problem of selection of beneficiaries and inclusion and exclusion problem. One of the KIIs stated as follows;

“The problem was taken place during the selection process not on the criteria. The selection process is done by the representatives of the local communities those who lead Farmers Association and Committees. They used to abuse the criteria in different ways such as; they added that some time before there had been such incidents in the area there were cheatings like canceling the eligible one and adding of other non-eligible persons in the lists, and some other times, miss filling the information a single person to be registered for the aid in multiple names, which is particularly done due to intimacy to committee members and other workers of the governmental partners.”

To solve the problem of inclusion and exclusion of beneficiaries from the participation different measures have been taken. One of the KIIs said as follows;

“To solve the problem, now we have software devised for this purpose which will solve abusing the data.”

The study also identified that, even though some measures have been taken; some interviewees responded that, there are also still some problems. One of the interviewee showed idea as follows:

“A person who seeks a political affiliation requirement will be selected to the aid, a tendency especially to safety net program.”

5.2. The Effects of External Intervention in the Study Area

As literatures show that, there are different reasons for food insecurity in Ethiopia. Food insecurity resulting from poverty, recurrent drought, and soil and land degradation is a persistent problem in the country (Aschalew et al., 2012). As a result of these, the country has been experiencing famine and food insecurity for over a century. Currently, it is estimated that over eight million people receive food aid under the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) to cover their food shortages. Food aid has been an important mechanism by which chronically food-insecure households survive in the country in general and the study area in particular. Therefore, the aid organizations have, and inevitably must do, positive and negative effects in the area where they do.

The findings of the study showed that, there is great attention on the area of environmental protection and conservation. The same event is expected from the activities of aid organizations in the study area to create climate change resilient environment. Interviewees indicated that aid organizations have remarkable approaches and participations on the environmental protection. There are numerous tasks the aid organizations work out. Some of the environmental protection and natural resource management measures include, among others; creating awareness on the importance of trees and the negative consequences of deforestation (cutting trees); reforestation on the barren land by planting seedlings; making terraces along the hill and mountainous side and practicing contour ploughing.

By implementing the above measures and actions, there is an observed achievement in the study area. As KIIs and non participant observation reveals that, the formerly barren land have been rehabilitated and regained its forest covers and reduced soil erosion.

The KIIs from Environmental Protection Office, from aid organizations those who involved here, there are also other organizations who involved on other development sectors, organizations that are involved on the environmental protection issues are the one who are working on the safety-net program and food aid.

On the other hand, literatures also show the negative effect of food aid on the beneficiaries. Beneficiaries of food aid suffer from a dependency syndrome due to

availability of food aid for many years; farmers have developed a dependency syndrome and have become reluctant to improve their lives. As a consequence they are not willing to use their potential to improve their livelihood by themselves (Aschale et al., 2012).

The study also found the negative effect of the aid organizations. One of the FGD discussant said the following;

“Aid organizations are not to solve our problems in a sustainable manner. They are making us to sit down forever. Our dependency is a salary for the workers of aid organizations. Here we must wait for their aid until non-ending time. They should have done to us to help for the first time with adequate initial capacity. Then we will have profits from that activity. And eventually our dependency will terminate. That means we become to be able to help ourselves being separated from their aids”.

These statements are indicating the burdens the inhabitants of Kombolcha are facing: the pessimist situation with basic question of the ending time of their suffering and self insufficiency to the unpredictable time.

The view of the informants has, of course, an intrinsic assumption. To imagine the efforts of the aid organizations from a long term perspective is something open to challenge. This is caused by the failure of such organizations to draft a long term mechanisms that can free beneficiaries once for all. They are working on the basis of avoidance of, most of the time, immediate catastrophes. Rather than providing consumer goods and some small scale projects designed to solve immediate problems whenever disasters encounter, it is advisable to enable the beneficiaries from a long term perspective so that they can become self sustained.

5.3. External Interventions and Changes in the Household's Livelihood

Literatures show that food aid can only solve short term food problem not long term problems of the aid recipient country in general and households' livelihood. Research by economist Peter Boone of the London School of Economics confirms the dismal record of foreign aid to the developing world. After reviewing aid flows to more than 95 countries, Boone found that “virtually all aid goes to consumption” and that “aid does not increase investment and growth, nor benefit the poor as measured by improvements in human development indicators, but it does increase the size of government.”

It was also found that, the involvement in the safety net program helped them to solve their food problems in time of difficulties. The Interviewees and FGDs confirmed that, the aid from the interventionist organizations have helped them over food insecurity. This is true of the fact that the acutely food shortage hit people would regard positively the role of immediate solutions given from outside. But it would be perceived from short term perception, if the case is of a long term, it might mean another thing.

The response of the questioner also showed, the aids are explained by the type of the provision to the inhabitants. From the total sample taken, 40.8% of them considered the aids are of bringing positive effects during the period of crop failure, in the dry season: they responded it is important when they face failure of crops by helping them escape of the challenge of food shortage. The other 47% responded that these aids help them both in time of crop failure and to generate income. The remaining 12% insisted on the positive effect of the aids for income generation.

Concerning the efficiency of aid organizations in alleviating food shortage in a proper manner, according to the responses gained from respondents, there is a failure. Concretely figuring, 66% of them responded in such a way that the aid efforts did not solve the problem exactly and properly. And to the other extreme, 34% of them responded as they have solved food shortages, even this group is in a position that they solved the problem to some extent, not fully. From this thus it is possible to draw that the aid organizations have not fully succeeded in solving food shortage in a

lasting and full-fledged manner. Respondents marked the ineffectiveness of the food aid aroused from inadequacy of the delivery, short in amount. The untimely of the aid is put as another reason to the failure. The committee members who take the responsibility of registering deliberately reduce the actual family size so that the provided aid fails to satisfy them. Also the aid work is not sustainable, sometimes it quits. There comes the remark that such organizations have failed to succeed in solving food insecurity as respondents agreed all in all for the enquiry whether the efforts have succeeded or not.

The overall implication of the confirmation of the respondents in foreseeing the outcome that would be achieved from the aid organizations is a somewhat average attitude though tending to the positive effect with slight difference. That is 59% of the respondents are optimistic of the positive achievements that would be attained by the aid organizations while 41% went to the contrary: a negative outcome.

Those who insisted on those aid organizations can have positive effects attributed their reason; 3.38% of them said the aid organizations give lasting solutions to food shortage while 93.24% attributed aid organizations can add work motivation and helps them relieved from dependency. And the remaining 3.38% do not know why they have positive effects up on the beneficiaries.

The other responded the negative outcomes are made to give their responses into three categories. Out of these, 62.19% respondents insisted that aid organizations have created dependency and help-seeking mentality. And 28.5% of them attributed the aid organizations have weakened work motivation. And the remaining 9.76% respondents do not know why they regarded aid organizations have negative effects up on the beneficiaries.

Informants of the study gave information about the positive trial of achievements aid organizations do. A female informant stated that:

“Aid organizations do many things that are vital to us. For example, collaborating with health extension workers, after they identify malnourished babies and mothers, they provide with food and edible oil. They reach us on emergency and draught times because this time is when we need food and other aids necessary for endangered lives”.

One of the FGDs also explained as follows;

“If they were not with us this time, we would be unable to even selling our cattle as they are weakening as a result of the draught. They give us a precaution of droughts and incidents-a precaution of disaster prevention. However, this does not mean that this effort is a lasting solution. We are only seeking it to send our children to school. Otherwise, it is not a fully supporting and enabling case. It is inadequate, did not give a benefit to the extent of the task we accomplish, especially the safety net program”.

There is still a negative outcome of aid organizations’ efforts that results in the following reasons forwarded from a focus group discussion of *Woreda* and *kebele* government officials. They thus argued, about safety net program, that:

“We cannot say aid organizations have brought the expected result. We can say for example, the task is left to be done by governmental workers; it lacks a central and organized command chain. They are less in number of workers, by this time, there is only one person assigned for 9 kebeles, they lack diversified experiences and knowledge to the exact task, there is transportation problem as kebeles are located significantly far from each other”.

The focus group discussants agreed also about Action Aid Ethiopia; explaining its efforts as follows:

“Action Aid accomplishes its tasks in collaboration with the government, it gives the money to the government, and the government in turn carries out the process. This organization face different problems, especially when it works on large projects with the government, it is given back unfinished tasks. For instance, irrigation canals are still unfinished; they are not serving due to this reason”.

There are other complaints that go in line with the above discussion. Action Aid fails, informants and discussants affirm, the works are not properly carried out. Especially, finishing is serious issue. Though the people are contributing the labor and material expected from, the contractors of the government fail to succeed in going in line with the agreed up on contracts. They go leaving activities begun, not finished. There are even projects which fail before “we begin to use them.” The contractors of the government do not recognize the indigenous knowledge system of the farmers.

As a recommendation, the informants and discussants underlined that Action Aid Ethiopia should hire its own contractors so that it bears to be able to save itself from bureaucratic complication and associated corruption.

Care Ethiopia is still discussed by the FGD discussants. It is criticized as follows:

It is working for short term and smaller projects. It leaves one project without seeing the previous whether it has failed or succeeded. It invests lots of money on short term and smaller projects. But it must not go back only investing the money; it should also evaluate the outcome. It should form controlling mechanisms for what it has invested.

6. Conclusion and Recommendation

This chapter provides conclusion and recommendations based on the findings of the study.

6.1. Conclusion

The outcome of this study indicates that the inhabitants of Kombolcha are under severing threats from recurrent droughts, pests and rangelands degradation. Over the years, inhabitants of Kombolcha have developed different mechanisms to cope food insecurity situations. Unfortunately, these strategies are no longer adequate as the droughts have increased in frequency and magnitude. This is in addition to other compounding political, economic and environmental threats that inhabitants of Kombolcha are facing.

External interventions like Safety net and other NGOs programs in Kombolcha, has been designed and implemented to address the needs of chronically food insecure households. The entire objective of the external intervention programs are to prevent asset depilation as well as creating asset at house hold level and community level respectively, which is realized by addressing habitats food insecurity problems through different schemes like small scale irrigating, Fertilizer and seed provision, food aid, Income generating activities and the like.

An external intervention program has brought some encouraging results in the study area, such as land rehabilitation and enhancement of eco system as well as to improved food security and livelihood outcomes of beneficiary communities and households but it are still limited positive outcomes. In sum, despite of all efforts that have been taking by external interventions at different levels, Kombolcha Wereda remain one of food insecure area in the country. The result of this study revealed that even if external interventions have contributed positive impacts to reduce food insecurity, the food security situation in the Wereda is still increase and many households continue to suffer from growing food insecure situation.

In general the fundamental causes of food insecurity situation are multi-faceted. Drought, pests, rangelands degradation, unavailability of irrigation market constraints,

poor infrastructure, unfriendly policy environments are among money factors that contributed to food insecurity in Kombolcha and may be in other areas in Ethiopia.

There are several reasons why the attempts by Safety net and nongovernment organizations were unsatisfactory

- Food security programs failed to actively involve the inhabitants in the planning and execution of project activities
- Some of today's crisis could have been averted if the same had been given to education and development of human potential along with the attempts to stimulate cattle production and off-farm activities.
- Targeting in efficiency- it is the major problem area at the time of start up of the program in the study area. The kebele council and committee carried out the activity as their interests and feelings/ selection of beneficiaries from their relatives or by corruption/.
- Dependency syndrome still now safety net program beneficiaries have perception to stay in it rather than by creating assets to graduate on time. It is very serious issue and needs monitoring evaluation and unreserved awareness creation to program beneficiaries to meet the program objectives.

6.2. Recommendations

Based on study findings, some recommendations that required due attention in the efforts to ensure proper implementation of food security programs as designed in implementation manual to meet the objectives of the program at the grass root/wereda/ level, some of them as follows

- Active involvement of community members and stake holders are decisive for smooth and proper implementation of the program to achieve its goals.
- Continued efforts are needed to achieve regular ,predictable, timely payments of transfers to beneficiaries, to ensure consumption smoothing during the period of great need and to enable people to plan their livelihood investment and risk
- Promotion of off-farm employment generating schemes could enable the farm household get diversified income sources. Support to diversification away from precarious livelihood systems (e.g. agriculture) towards sustainable alternatives whose returns are not correlated with rainfall such as agro-industry or services such as community-based tourism.
- Food and nutrition security interventions should integrate family planning, education and awareness raising programs in order to reduce the increasing population pressure on the available scarce resource.
- Increasing the productivity of major cereal crops through the use of increased farm inputs such as fertilizers, improved seeds, pesticides, credit service, access to irrigation facilities and post-harvest management would help to address food insecurity;
- The diminishing farm size has not only affected the profitability and level of technology use, but also the sustainability of rural livelihoods. Due to land shortage and increased population pressure, horizontal expansion in the study area may not be feasible. Hence, the thrust of household food security improvement rests on improving the quality of the land through improved soil and nutrient management, promotion of labor-intensive technologies, and creation of labor intensive rural employment opportunities in the short-to-intermediate terms.
- The study indicated that food aid availability over a long period had a negative effect on the attitude of farmers towards work and their own agricultural activities. The

implication is that proper targeting and awareness raising efforts should aim at reducing the attitude of dependency on food aid.

- Livestock was found as an important source of wealth that could contribute to food security in the study area. Hence, the output of the livestock sector should be strengthened through the provision or supply of better veterinary services
- Concurrent evaluation of the process or assessment of the implementation and its outcomes is very crucial to meet food security program objectives.
- For smooth implementation of the program , logistic facilities should be fulfilled at the grass root level by the program itself or by any other body
- Needs leadership commitment at grass root level which may play great role to achieve the program object.

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Questioner

Questionnaire Guide for the study of The Role of External Intervention to Alleviate Food Insecurity in Kombolcha Wereda, East Oromiya Zone.

General Introduction: the purpose of this questionnaire for collecting data in Kombolcha Wereda, East Oromiya is to solicit information regarding your views on different aspects. This questionnaire is prepared to MA Thesis: The Effects of External Intervention in Alleviating Food Insecurity in Kombolcha Wereda, East Oromiya Zone. The aim of this questionnaire is only for academic purpose. It will not be used to any other purposes. Confidentiality of the information is highly respected and kept. Whatever the informant tells, words and personalities will not be disclosed to any third party.

Thank you in advance for your kind cooperation!

1. Personal Data of Respondents

I. Age_____

II. Sex_____

III. Marital status 1) single 2) married 3) divorced 4) widowed

IV. Family size_____

V. Occupation_____

VI. Educational background_____

1) Can you read and/or write 2) cannot read and write

3) Cannot write 4) cannot read

5) Primary (grade 1-6) 6) junior (grade 7-8) 7) secondary and above

1. Do you have your own land for cropping and pasture? 1) yes 2) no
2. If your answer to Q1 is yes, how much is your total farm land size (using local measurement unit)? _____
3. How do you perceive the quality or fertility of your land?
 - 1) Fertile 2) medium fertile 3) less fertile 4) degraded
4. What are the major cereals adopted in your local environment?
 - 1) Barely 2) Millet 3) Wheat 4) Sorghum 5) Teff
 - 6) If any other, mention _____
5. How much quintals of cereals do you harvest per year?
 - 1) 1-5 2) 6-10 3) 11-15 4) 16-20 5) Above 20
6. How do you categorize your yearly cereal product?
 - 1) Very high 2) high 3) low 4) very low
7. If you say low/very low for Q6, how do you cope up with the current living condition?
 - 1) By support from NGOs 2) by support from food for work 3) by support from GOs 4) participating in other income generating activities 5) purchasing from the market 6) received from highering out of labor 7) others _____
8. On average, how much Ethiopian Birr do you spend per month for the purchase of food items?
 - 1)1-100 2)101-200 3) 201-500 4)501-1000 5) above 1000
9. What employment and income earning opportunities are available in your area? (You may choose and circle more than one alternatives)

- 1) Only own farming (self-employment)
- 2) Own non-farm employment (trading crafts)
- 3) Farm laborer (work on other farms)
- 4) Migration to work in other areas
- 5) Non-farm laborer (work in cities)
- 6) Other (specify)_____

10. How much estimated cash income did you earn per month from the following activities and sources?

Source of cash or activity	Earning per month (Birr)	Total earning per year(Birr)
From sales of own produced crops		
From sale of coffee, chat, etc		
From livestock products(milk, eggs, butter, chickens)		
From sale of food aid received from FFW activities		
From sale of food aid		
From sale of firewood, charcoal, cow dung cake		

From non-farming activities(pottery, weaving, etc)		
From off-farm jobs (daily, labor, farm labor)		
Remittances from family members and relatives who live in elsewhere		

11. Did you participate in any off farm income generating activities?

- 1) yes 2) no

12. Do you have/own livestock? 1) yes 2) no

13. If your answer is yes to Q12, what types of livestock do you have?

- 1) Ox 2) cow 3) Goat 4) sheep 5) horse 6) camel 7) donkey 8) chicken 9) if others list _____

14. Are there any safety net programs and nongovernmental organization in your area?

- 1) yes 2) no

15. Did you get any support from safety net or nongovernmental organizations to combat food insecurity?

- 1) yes 2) no

16. If your answer for Q15 is yes, from which organization do you get?

- 1) Action aid 2) Goal Ethiopia 3) Safety net 4) Other (specify) _____

17. What type of services do you get?

- 1) Small scale irrigation 2) fertilizer and food aid 3) income generating activities
- 4) Other (specify) _____

18. Is your engagement in Safety net and/or NGOs activities helped you for food security?

- 1) Yes
- 2) No

19. If your answer for Q18 is yes, in what way it does help you?

- 1) Helps us to produce during dry spell
- 2) It avoids crop failure during dry season
- 3) It helps us to generate income
- 4) Others (specify)_____

20. If your answer for Q19 is no, what do you think the reason is?_____

21. What is your attitude towards those nongovernmental organizations and/or safety net programs who are working to alleviate food insecurity in your area?

- 1) Very good
- 2) good
- 3) not good

22. If your answer is very good/good, what are positive effects that are achieved by service providers?_____

23. If your answer is not good, what are the problems that face to have acceptable attitude towards food aid_____

24. Do you believe that the beneficiary selection criteria used by safety net and/ or other NGOs is participatory?

- 1) Yes
- 2) no

25. If your answer is 'no' please give your suggestion_____

26. Do you think that nongovernmental organizations and/or Safety net programs are really ease problems related to food insecurity?

1) Yes 2) no

27. If your answer is 'yes' in what extent food security is addressed through those NGOs and/or safety net programs?

1) Fully 2) partially

28. If your answer is 'no' what do you suggest? _____

29. Do you think that those Safety net programs and/or NGOs activities achieved sustainable food security?

1) Yes 2) No

29. If your answer is 'no' what do you suggest overcoming food insecurity as a lasting solution in your area? _____

30. Do you think that safety net programs and/or other NGOs activities have a positive impact on environment protection?

1) Yes 2) No

31. If your answer is 'no,' what do you suggest? _____

32. How do you evaluate the inhabitants' relationship with external intervening organizations in your area?

1. Humanistic and peaceful
2. Subordination by the organizations
3. I don't know

33. Do such external intervening organizations show respect and collaboration to the inhabitants?

1. Yes 2. No

Do they advice, encourage and help you?

1. Yes
2. No

34. What kind of effects external intervening organizations have in your area?

1. Most of the case negative
2. Most of the case positive

35. If your answer is most of the time negative, what are these effects?

1. Creating dependency feeling
2. Weakening work motivation
3. I don't know

36. If your answer is most of the time positive, what are these effects?

1. Alleviating immediate problems
2. Providing sustainable security on matters of food and others
3. Encouraging people to be motivated to their own jobs that help them to be independence
4. I don't know

37. Do you like external intervening organizations?

1. Yes
2. No

38. If yes please specify_____

39. If no please specify_____

Anex-II

Interview

1. What do you think about the external interventions (Safety nate/other NGOs) achieved/caused in the study area?
2. Do you think that the relationship of local inhabitants and external intervention (Safety nate/other NGOs) have friendly approach?
3. What do you think about the extent of external interventions (Safety nate/other NGOs) to address food insecurity?
4. Do you think the role of external organizations (Safety nate/other NGOs) to alleviate food insecurity have changes in the habitants? To what extent?
5. Do you think that inhabitants have a positive /negative attitude towards external intervention (Safety nate/other NGOs)?
6. What do you think to be done to alleviate food insecurity permanently?

Discussion

1. Discuss and forward your own attitudes towards external interventions (Safety nate/other NGOs) to alleviate food insecurity in your area?
2. What is your suggestion about the mechanism or approach of external interventions (Safety nate/other NGOs) working in your area?
3. Discuss about the achievements/causes of external interventions (Safety nate/other NGOs) working to ease food insecurity in your area
4. What is your suggestion to eradicate food insecurity as a long last solution

Proforma For submission of M.A (RD) proposal for approval

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Name of study center: St Mary's university college

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Title of the project: The Role Of External Intervention To Alleviate Food Insecurity

The

Case Of Kombolcha Wereda, East Hararghe Zone

Signature of the student:

Approved/not approved

Date:

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Introduction

1.1. Background of the Study

In terms of food security, Ethiopia is one of the seven African countries that constitute half of the food insecure population in sub-Saharan Africa (Sisay, 1995). According to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) report of 1999, average caloric intake in rural areas is 1,680 kilo calories per person per day, which is far below the national medically recommended minimum daily intake of 2,100 kilo calories per person per day. As per the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Food Security Strategy (FDRE FSS) issued in 1996, the recommended minimum daily intake of 2,100 kilo calorie per person per day is equivalent to 225 kilogram of grain per person per year. In 2005, infant and child mortality rates were 110 and 169 per 1,000, respectively, which is higher than the sub-Saharan Africa and other low-income developing countries; with the lowest life expectancy at birth of 42 years (World Bank, 2005).

Kombolcha Wereda is one of the chronically and seasonally food insecure areas of the Oromiya Region. It has been repeatedly exposed to recurrent drought and famine. The total production is persistently inadequate to cover food requirement of the population. This is mainly due to high population growth, unimpeded environmental degradation, poorly developed infrastructure and the recurrent drought. Due to such reasons, it has long been a food deficit Wereda with widespread and deepening seasonal food insecurity situation.

Resident of Kombolcha Wereda is mainly engaged in farming economic activity. Their livelihood is based on agricultural products such as coffee, khat, sorghum, and etc.

The Wereda's inhabitants are dependent upon agricultural economic activities. Their economic activity is threatened by several impediments. They are vulnerable to verities of natural disasters which recurrently threaten their livelihood. Among the disasters that affect the livelihoods of Kombolcha Wereda inhabitants, draught takes the higher magnitude. Seasonal variation of rainfall, that is untimely rainfall, and pesticides etc.; are also major factors in this respect. The land is highly fragmented and that inevitably caused land degradation in particular and environmental deterioration in general. The density of the population is higher to the extent that the environment fails to carry all the population without harming the environment. The environmental degradation in turn caused the infertility of arable land and finally resulted in the threat of livelihood to the inhabitants.

Due to such factors that are tempting the livelihood of the inhabitants of Kombolcha Wereda it has been many years since external intervention witnessed. The external interventions such as local and international organizations have been involved to overcome the food insecurity that recurrently faces and challenges the Wereda's inhabitants. Despite the fact that the involvement of external interventions could ease some problems, it may also have draw backs. Therefore, the main purpose of this study is to address the kinds of effects, positive and negative effects, which are caused by these external interventions in the livelihood of the inhabitants of the Kombolcha Wereda.

The main reasons for selecting Kombolcha Wereda as the area of the study are:

- (a) Kombolcha has been labeled as typical food insecure area despite various food and nutrition security interventions made by the government and non-government organizations and

(b) Rural farmers in this Wereda are exposed to a number of natural and man-made disasters.

As a result, they have been repeatedly prone to seasonal food insecurity even during the periods of good rain and harvest season

1.2. Statement of the Problem

In Ethiopia, the seriousness of the food shortage problem varies from one area to another depending on the state of the natural resources and the extent of development of these resources according to various sources; some 42 periods of food shortage including the 1999 and 2000 food shortages have been recorded in Ethiopia (webbet Al, 1992), most of which were concentrated along two broad belts, generally described as drought and famine prone areas. One of these is the mixed farming production system area of northern Shewa through Wello into Tigray. Most of the land resources (mainly the soils and vegetation) of this part of the country have been highly degraded because of the interplay between some environmental and human factors such as relief, climate, population pressure and the resultant over-cultivation of the land, deforestation of vegetation and overgrazing. The second belt is the range-based on pastoral economy of low land Ethiopia, ranging from Wello in the north through Hararge and Bale to Sidamo and Gamo Gofa in the south. Apparently, this belt is generally considered as resource poor with limited or no potential and hence highly vulnerable to drought. The present study area, Kombolcha wereda, is one of the droughts prone woredas of eastern Hararghe zone that is located along the escarpments of eastern highlands, which exhibits the underlying constraints characterizing the area under the first belt. Food insecurity and involvement of local and international organizations have been a common phenomenon from around the world. Draught and related natural disasters have been strong causes of food insecurity in different parts of the world. Studies, therefore, reveal this and related events across varying localities that draw attention of external interventions in the form of both governmental and non-governmental organizations which are formed in

line with alleviating such disasters and help the people who suffer from such problems at least sustaining in a timely basis.

1.3. Significance of The Study

This study will be significant at least for the following reasons and bodies:

4. It paves the way to future researchers as it covers the issue in a relatively broader sense than attempts made before. Future researchers can develop and build on the main findings of this study and derive their own findings and implications from it. The sense of future researchers in this study is to mean both academic and action researchers that have curiosity to intervene.
5. It will be important as it benefits both governmental and non-governmental organizations: it helps them understand the issue in a broader sense and formulate their own food insecurity alleviating strategies in the study area correcting the previous intervention problems and calamities from the research.
6. It adds an account to the studies regarding food insecurity and alleviating effects that are undertaken by interventions such as governmental and non-governmental, local and interactional organizations. Especially it will be one of the studies in this arena at a nationwide level.

1.4. Hypothesis and question of the study

1.4.1. Hypothesis

- An external intervention has not alleviated sustainable food insecurity and it discourages inhabitants work motivations in the study area.
- External interventions beneficiary selection criteria, distribution, and other activities are not participatory in the study area.

1.4.2. Research Questions

This research thus is to fill the gaps that previous researches ignored or paid lesser attention.

- The effects of external interventions in the study area are not assessed; the causes and consequences of such interventions as they are either conducive or discouraging.
- The long term outcomes of the livelihood of the inhabitants who are dependent up on external intervention. i.e. aid and other supportive mechanisms
- The attitudes of the inhabitants to these external interventions is not studied; that is the form of the interventions, their actions towards the behavior and culture of the people and the reactions that faces from the people if interventions caused dependency mentality among the inhabitants that debilitates work motivations.
- The impact of external interventions to environmental protections is not well studied;
- The approaches of external interventions to address problems from the grass root level is not well studied, and etc.

1.5. Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study covers the inhabitants of the Kombolcha wereda of eastern Oromiya national regional state. All the Woreda's inhabitants will be covered as per data gathering and analysis on the basis of random sampling techniques and other primary source of information selection. As it is so important to incorporate study participants to the largest possible extent, the researcher will use maximum effort to do so. In this regard reliable and valid data will be collected that inherently determines the level of the efficiency of the data analysis and sounds of the finding of the study.

1.6. Objectives of the study

1.6.1. General objective of the study

The general objective of this study is to investigate the effects of external intervention in alleviating food insecurity in Kombolcha wereda, Oromiya National Regional State.

1.6.2. Specific objective of the study

In line with the general objective, the specific objectives of this study are to:

- Describe the livelihood of the inhabitants in the study area
- Explore the forms of the relationship of local inhabitants and external intervening organizations
- Investigate the effects of external intervention in the study area
- Analyze the changes in the lives of the inhabitants as a result of the external intervention

Under the stated specific objectives this study addresses the following research questions:

- ✓ What are negative effects that external interventions caused in the study area?
- ✓ What are the positive effects that are achieved by external interventions in alleviating food in security in the study area?
- ✓ What are the problems that face the inhabitants to have acceptable attitude towards the external interventions?
- ✓ Do the external interventions really ease problems related to food in security or resulted in other adverse effects?
- ✓ To what extent the external interventions could address emerging problems in the study area?
- ✓ What could be lasting solution of food insecurity in the study area?

2. Methodology; study location (type method used to select the area); research design and methods of sampling; tools for data collection; data analysis methods

2.1. The study population and site selection

The study population will be drawn from Kombolcha wereda (East Hararghe Zone, Oromiya Region). The rationale for the choice of Kombolcha for the study is based on the following factors

- As per the researcher information, no study has been conducted in the wereda specially regarding the impact of external intervention in Alleviating Food Insecurity
- The researcher is actively working in integrated rural development projects in the study area and also supported the study in many ways.

- Previous acquaintance of the researcher with the locality and the Wereda's Agricultural Office staff.
- Logistical feasibility

Kombolcha is a wereda with some kebeles which characterized as food insecure, safety nate and other NGOs selected as targeted groups. All these factors make Kombolcha an ideal location for researching external intervention in food insecurity.

Kombolcha is one of sixteen woredas found in East Hararghe Zone of Oromiya Regional; state, Ethiopia. The wereda is composed of 19 rural kebeles and one urban Kebele which is the capital of Kombolcha wereda. Kombolcha wereda is located about 514kms southeast of Addis Ababa and 14kms northwest of Harar town, the capital of East Hararghe Zone of Oromiya Region. The wereda is strategically located between the two main cities Harar and Dire Dewa. In addition, due to its proximity to Djibouti, the wereda has access to potential markets in the area. The wereda is bordered by Dire Dewa City Administration to the North, Hareri Regional State to the South, Jarso Woreda to the East, and Haremaya Woreda to the West.

According to a forecast from the 1994 census, the total population of Kombolcha woreda is currently estimated to be 112,063, out of which 53,232 are female. The settlement pattern of the woreda population is dense, with a population density reaching as high as 234.9 persons per square kilometer.

The wereda is characterized by valleys and rugged topography. A significant northern part of the wereda is mountainous with steep slopes. These geographical features limit the accessibility to some of the Peasant Associations (PAs) in the wereda. The altitude of the wereda ranges between 1600-2400 mts asl.

Lowland and midland agro-ecological zones characterize the Wereda's climate. Annually, the wereda receives mean annual rainfall of 600-900mm, which is bimodal and erratic in distribution. The main rainy season in the wereda is from February to mid-May and from July to end of August.

The economy of the wereda is dominated by traditional cash crop farming mixed with livestock husbandry. The major crops produced in the wereda include:

- Sorghum
- Maize
- Vegetable (tomato, potato, cabbage, onion, carrot)
- Chat
- Ground nut
- Coffee
- Sweet potato

2.2. Research Methodology

2.2.1. Sampling Design

The degree of precision desired, methods of analysis, objectives of the research cost, time etc. Determine the type of sampling design to be adopted (OSSREA, 2001). The population of the study is the wereda population. The wereda is composed of 19 rural kebeles and one urban Kebele, which is the capital of Kombolcha wereda.

A three stage sampling technique is employed to draw sample house hold. In the first stage the researcher will group wereda kebeles in to two different common access groups, i.e. group one (Targeted kebeles of safety net and other NGOs/local or international). In Kombolcha wereda there are nine (9) targeted kebeles for safety net and other NGOs'

programs which are relatively food insecure. The remaining ten (10) kebeles are not targeted beneficiary of safety net and NGOs' programs. Safety net and other NGOs' targeted kebeles will be the study areas and selected using stratified sampling methods.

Stage two, in these stage five representative kebeles will be selected using simple random method.

The criteria considered for the selection of kebeles will be their representatives, accessibility, affordability (in time and cost) and possibility of getting data both from the peasants and development agents.

Stage three from each selected Kebele 10 percent of households will be selected using random sampling method from its total households after developing sampling frame. Thus, a total of 140 households will be selected for the survey as in the table below. The respondents will be both women and men.

Name of kebeles	Total house holds	Selected sample households
1.Serkema	245	24
2.Legehama	183	18
3.Iftuha	680	67
4.Hunde bilisuma	115	11
5.Wodesa	200	20
Total	1423	140

In the study communities, household heads will be stratified into two men and female headed households. The purpose of this stratification is to thoroughly investigate the livelihoods and food security situation of the different groups and to know the most affected segments of the community and to find out the reason(s) for this variation and to assess the external effects on alleviating food insecurity.

2.2.2. Data analysis

Both qualitative and quantitative methods of data analysis techniques will be employed. All the data obtained from the primary sources will be tabulated in a various forms of data presentation, and then data will be analyzed and interpreted, similarly, the information obtained from focus group discussion and field observation will be described in a qualitative manner. The information gathered from different sources, will compiled in the way that is easy to management. The quantitative data was entered in statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 19 for analysis. The results of analysis will interpreted and discussed mainly in descriptive findings of the study. The data obtained from focus group discussion, key informant interview using independent checklists. The level of data analysis will be both household and community.

2.2.3. Data Collection Methods

2.2.3.1. Secondary Data Collection Methods

The secondary data gathering will be based on searching for written materials, such as books, published and unpublished documents, magazines, newspapers, bulletins, leaflets and, statistical reports at the wider perspective, and zone and woreda levels in the study area. So, issues related to the study will be reviewed, discussed and analyzed thematically. This secondary information is believed to support the bodies of the study, especially statement of

the problem, literature review, and analysis side by side with primary data that will be gained from the actual fieldwork in the study area.

2.2.3.2. Primary Data Collection Methods

2.2.3.2.1. Questionnaires

In this study questionnaire will be administered that will be based on structured and semi-structured questions. The randomly selected respondents will be categorized based on age, gender, occupation and any other attributes that will be found in the field

2.2.3.2.2. Focus Group Discussions(FGDS)

FGDs will be organized to come up with the general common understanding of the attitudes of the community under study. This method is important to understand the ideas of a group and discuss the issue. While doing so, each of the group members will be checked for the reliability of the idea, or the researcher analyses the data genuinely taking the core of the common idea of the group.

2.2.3.2.3. Informal Discussions

The researcher will conduct informal discussions in the study area during the field work. Opening sudden discussions with any person in contact, while walking in the field, work areas, in recreational places, and other occasional places in which the inhabitants frequently visit. The basic philosophy behind doing informal discussions is due to the fact that the conversation is age, gender, role and status boundary free. The information that is not covered in other methods can be covered in informal discussions.

2.2.3.2.4. Key Informant Interview

While making the study of key informant interview, the researcher will take three individuals who will be known in the community for their relatively old age and rich life experiences. All of the three persons who will be selected for interviewing will be residents of Kombolcha wereda.

2.2.3.2.5. Observation

Observation is the major fieldwork technique in studies such as investigating the food insecurity and intervention among the rural communities. Throughout the fieldwork the researcher will critically observe events and activities related to the issues under study. Observation will include the social and the economical environment, geographic environment of inhabitants of Kombolcha woreda; recreational places and work areas, the climatic conditions, and the inhabitants of the biotic and a biotic environment. Accordingly, the researcher will take notes on cultural and natural settings in the study area.

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