Integrating Nutrition and Food Security programming For Emergency response and Resilience Building

Case Study / Sharing Good practices

World Vision International – Ethiopia

Farmers' Participatory Training on the Production of High Quality Protein and Drought Tolerant Maize: Experience of farmer field school (FFS) in Jeju ADP, Ethiopia

SECTION 1: OVERVIEW.

Title of project/programme/initiative	**Farmers' Participatory Training on the Production of High Quality Protein and Drought Tolerant Maize: Experience of farmer field school (FFS) in Jeju ADP, Ethiopia**
Implementing/responsible organisations(s)	World Vision Ethiopia
Geographical Coverage (region, country, area)	The project has been conducted in collaboration with CIMMYT (Global Maize Program) and Melkassa Research Centre (MARC) and is being conducted in 11 World Vision Area Development Program areas or ADP (district)s covering most of the Ethiopian rift valley.
Duration of project/programme/initiative: Start date: End date: January 2008	Ongoing: ☒ yes ongoing
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Humanitarian context (i.e. emergency response, post-crisis, resilience-building):	World Vision started operating in these areas as relief hand out during the famine and even at later dates. But through time with the introduction of drought tolerant crops (under rain fed conditions) and by utilizing supplementary irrigation whenever there is water source, target HHs are able to produce enough to meet their food security and even sometimes beyond.
Type of context (urban, rural, camps, …):	Rural

Phases of humanitarian project cycle. Please tick boxes in the list below (several choices possible)

☐ Situation analysis ☐ Response analysis ☒ Project design	☐ Project monitoring ☐ Evaluation ☐ Impact assessment

On-going Number of household beneficiaries and target groups (i.e. women, pastoralist, children under five, etc)	2750 HHs and the total target population is 13,750, of which 8250 are children

Main topic(s). Please tick boxes in the list below (several choices possible)

☐ Livestock and Nutrition ☐ Cash Transfer Programming and Nutrition ☐ Nutrition counselling / education ☐ Diversifying local production ☐ Supporting local livelihoods ☐ Nutrition sensitive value chains (including bio/fortification) ☒ Micronutrients-rich food and crops ☐ Income Generating Activities and nutrition ☐ Food aid and nutrition	☐ Urban settings and nutrition ☐ Joint Food Security and Nutrition assessment ☐ Multi-sectoral planning for nutrition ☐ Joint implementation ☐ Others. Please specify: _____ _____ _____ _____

SECTION 2: PROJECT/PROGRAMME/INITIATIVE DESCRIPTION

Main objectives of the project including nutritional objectives (please specify if these objectives are included in the logical framework)	1. To acquaint selected women and men participants with the theoretical background and practical exercise on the preparation of food products from quality protein maize (QPM) and other nutrient dense ingredients. The theoretical part focused on the nutrient contents of the various food staff and body requirements, especially the U-5 as compared to the traditional means. 2. To acquaint target HHs with the easiest way of preparing the various food products as compared to farmers' traditional methods 3. To acquaint target HHs with the preparation and utilization of food products from of QPM and other vitamin and protein sources 4. There is still a plan to make comparisons between children fed on QPM food products including the necessary ingredients and traditional food items by considering weight/age parameters. 5. This partly helps to demonstrate the nutritional importance of QPM, especially with U-5 as related to Lysine and Tryptophan to community households in food deficit marginal areas
Main food security and nutrition issues addressed by the project (including issues of target groups, causes of food insecurity and malnutrition)	In addition to the above the main FS and nutrition issues addressed include : 1. Strengthen the capacities of technical field staff and communities through community participatory training in production of drought tolerant maize intercropped with legumes 2. Establish a sustainable network with local and international research organizations working on research and capacity building on nutrition sensitive agriculture and its application at the grass root level.
Implementation process and activities	FFS has been used as a technology dissemination approach. Prior to the execution of the FFS activity on the job training was conducted to the FFS facilitators and community workers of the ADP on livelihood approach using FFS as a tool, methodology and curriculum. Handouts were prepared for the trainees who led the implementation process and provided technical backstopping. The summary of presentations was prepared in the form of a manual, preferably in Amharic, for distribution to the trainees and the participating farmers. The facilitators in collaboration with the local officials selected farmers who participated in a number of FFSs with an average of 25-farmer participant per field school. After the FFS sub-group formation, gap analysis, curriculum and evaluation guideline development, FFS' organization and starting up of the sessions were major activities carried out. Additional appraisal of constraints related to QPM and DT maize production was also made through group discussion and PRA methods, during earlier sessions of the FFS, for in-depth analysis of farmers' knowledge and practices with respect to QPM and DT maize production and nutrition constraints. In this appraisal almost all farmers participated as respondents from each farmer field school. At the end of every activity joint evaluation was carried out to assess the knowledge gained by the farmers. Members of FFS also experimented on improved. Storage structures, saving and credit, marketing and nutrition as a complement to QPM and DTM production. Thirty demonstrational plots were planted in each district as a model. The plot size in all the cases was 50m x 50m, and a spacing of 75mx25m was used.
Actors/ coordination mechanisms involved	CIMMYT, district agricultural development office and research centres, including nutrition unit of the respective research centres involved in the design and implementation of the project. The project is being coordinated by Food security specialist from the HO and development facilitator assigned to the project at ADP level.
How gender and accountability are taken into consideration?	30 % of the beneficiaries would be women. Contract staff hired for the execution of the project would be accountable for effective implementation of the project.
Specific tools / methodology (developed or used)	FFS approach is used for the implementation of the project.

SECTION 3: LESSONS LEARNED IN INTEGRATING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION PROGRAMMING

How the outcomes/ impacts has been measured (process and indicators; existence of base/endline)	Joint monitoring and evaluation, with the involvement of the concerned stakeholders is carried out using predefined criteria. Ultimately, the FFS either pass or fail, based on the results of the evaluation.
Main results/impacts achieved	1. 11 Farmers Field School (FFS)s conducted in 11 project areas one each as a model with the participation of 25 farmers in each FFS 2. 220 on farm demonstrations plots conducted. 3. 275 Women and men trained in nutrition and food preparation from QPM (DT) maize, legumes and vitamin sources
What has worked and was has NOT worked or difficulties and why?	The project is very successful, except the problem encountered in getting nutritionist for running the theoretical and theoretical training partly due the limited number of available people & high turnover.
Main enabling/success and hindering/failure factors	The enabling factor is because the project has been conducted jointly with the involvement of research and development in more community participatory (empowering manner) using well defined technology extension tool. The hindering factor is lack of the necessary knowledge among food security practitioners.
Key messages to communicate	Focus on nutrition sensitive food security programming at strategic level and roll out nutrition training to program staff to bring more impact in the nutritional status of mothers and children, especially the U-5.
Recommendations for the up-scaling of successful practices	1. Scale up of theoretical training in nutrition and practical training in preparation of food products from locally available nutrient dense products 2. Introduction of nutrient dense agricultural products into the project areas as it is deemed necessary (base on the results of assessment of nutrition)

SECTION 4: REFERENCE/ILLUSTRATIONS

References for documentation (e.g. reports, surveys, etc.).	*Farmers' Participatory Training on the Production of High Quality Protein Maize: Experience of farmer field school (FFS) in Jeju ADP, World Vision Ethiopia*. A paper presented to Eastern and Central Africa Maize Working Group Meeting organized by CIMMYT from 3-5, 2009 Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.