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GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA DISASTER PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS AGENCY

Information Sheet Number 3: Livelihood Integration Unit

Livelihood Protection and Survival Thresholds

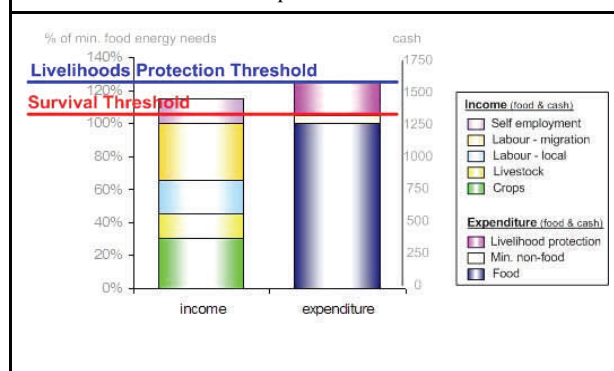
HEA establishes the basis for setting two important thresholds, which are designed to trigger appropriate responses: the Livelihoods Protection Threshold and the Survival Threshold. The **Survival Threshold**, *the line below which intervention is required to save lives*, represents the total income required to cover:

- 100% of minimum food energy needs (2100 kcals per person), plus
- the costs associated with food preparation and consumption (i.e. salt, soap, kerosene and/or firewood for cooking and basic lighting), plus
- any expenditure on water for human consumption.

The **Livelihoods Protection Threshold** represents the total income required to sustain local livelihoods. This is the line below which an intervention is required to maintain

Livelihoods Protection and Survival Thresholds

In this example income is sufficient to cover basic survival needs, but there is a gap between minimum livelihood requirements and available income. In this case, an appropriate response might include a cash transfer program, or in-kind support to cover one or more of the expenditure requirements.



LIU activities for coming 6 months

Baseline work – Amhara (phase 1)

2 - 4 April: Livelihood zoning
11 - 15 April: Baseline training
16 April – 18 May: Phase 1 baseline fieldwork
21 – 26 May: Baseline Analysis for Phase 1

Baseline work – Amhara (phase 2)

21 - 25 May: Baseline training
28 May – 30 June: Phase 2 baseline fieldwork
2 – 6 July: Baseline Analysis for Phase 2
9 – 13 July: Outcome Analysis

Baseline work – Amhara (phase 3) – starts end of Sept

Pilot Monitoring on-going in SNNPR

Other activities planned include (tentative dates)

14-18 May: Tigray: Woreda training in Tigray in preparation for seasonal assessments in Belg dependent areas
April/May: Finalisation of the Tigray regional overview, livelihood zone & woreda profiles
Setting up the integrated spreadsheet for Tigray Belg seasonal assessment training in Tigray
Livelihood zoning in Oromiya

Available on request

One-day introductions to livelihoods analysis for interested stakeholders
Using the baseline for senior managers
Livelihoods analysis and non-food needs assessments

existing livelihood assets and strategies. In practice, this means enough income to:

- ensure basic survival (see above), plus maintain access to basic services (e.g. routine medical
- and schooling expenses), plus sustain livelihoods in the medium to longer term (e.g. regular purchases of seeds, fertilizer, veterinary drugs, etc.), plus
- achieve a minimum locally acceptable standard of living (e.g. purchase of basic clothing, coffee/tea, etc.)

This bulletin is made possible by the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents of this bulletin are the sole responsibility of The Food Economy Group and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government. USAID is supporting the establishment of a Livelihoods Integration Unit (LIU), within the Early Warning Department of the DPPA. This unit is committed to the goal of capacity building, with an objective of handing over its core functions to the DPPA within three years. This will be achieved through: maximizing participation of the DPPA in project activities; information sharing & exchange of ideas between government staff & other stakeholders at all levels; ongoing training; developing training materials; establishing a nation-wide comparable set of regional livelihoods baselines; integrating these baselines into the existing early warning system; and gaining general agreement around national standards for livelihoods-based early warning and emergency food and non-food assessments. *For further details – please contact Jane MacAskill, Chief of Party, LIU Program. Tel: 0115 54 64 34 Mob: 0911 54 74 72. macsharif@icconnect.co.uk. For copies of the SNNPR baselines go to www.dppc.gov.et - Livelihoods.*

The thresholds provide a livelihoods-grounded and evidence-based reference point against which to judge the likely outcome of different events or policy shifts, and to plan accordingly. They provide guidance on the magnitude of the required response. And because the baseline income and expenditure graphs against which the thresholds are compared are actually an illustration of the relevant livelihood strategies in use, they can help guide thinking about what kind of response (food, cash, market, etc) might be most appropriate.

Second, the woreda baseline reports include baseline information on the following non-food sectors: (*Contact the LIU for copies of the data collection formats*)

- human diseases and health services;
- nutrition;
- school enrollment;
- livestock diseases and inputs;
- crop diseases, pests and inputs;
- water availability and sources (for humans and livestock)

Third, the baselines in combination with seasonal assessment/monitoring information highlight the extent to which household are able to survive and protect their livelihoods in the event of a hazard, indicating the extent to which money used for essential services and inputs might need to be diverted to food purchase. See Figure 1.

The Livelihood Baselines contribute to an analysis of non-food needs in three ways. First, each aspect of the baseline contributes to a particular area of non-food needs response planning. See Table 1 below.

Seasonal Calendars	Seasonal Calendars identify peak labor, disease, and hunger periods, as well as peaks in food availability - all factors that should influence the type and timing of interventions.
Wealth Breakdowns	These steps identify the main assets households have and how they gain access to how much income, which helps determine the most appropriate means of supporting people.
Sources of Income	
Expenditure Patterns	Understanding expenditures for each hh type in the LZ allows planners to see how providing in-kind support (through, for instance, supporting education or basic health services) can free up income for investment in food security or economic growth.
Information on Hazards	The types of hazard may also indicate appropriate non-food responses, e.g. measles or malaria would indicate the importance of mid-term development interventions.

Figure 1. Households' ability to protect their livelihoods
Example: Effect of progressively increasing crop failure

