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**GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA
DISASTER PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS AGENCY**

Information Sheet Number 4: – Livelihood Integration Unit¹

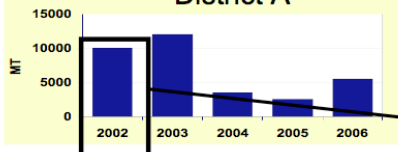
Using the Livelihood Baselines for Seasonal Assessment

BASELINE + HAZARD + COPING = OUTCOME (SEASONAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS)

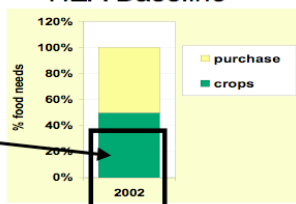
Three types of information are combined in the seasonal assessments: **Baseline data** which describes how people live and their vulnerabilities; **Hazard information**. This is collected during the seasonal assessment (ie changes in crop production, changes in livestock prices, inflation, changes in availability of labour and other sources of income); **Information on Coping** (ie what people do in bad years). This is collected when the baselines are compiled. During seasonal assessments, a decision is taken as to whether it is appropriate to include coping in the analysis. *Coping (eg sale of some assets, switching diet from higher value foods to lower value foods) is what households do in poor years. It should not be something that households do every year.*

Combining seasonal assessment data with the baseline data – a problem specification

Sorghum Production: District A



HEA Baseline

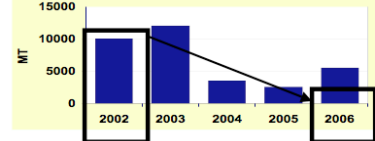


LIU baseline data for the reference year identifies the contribution of crops, livestock, and other sources to households' food intake (2100 kcals) and cash income.

Woreda data on crop production (eg sorghum) is then collected for the **reference year** (eg 2002).

This corresponds to the sorghum component of crops in the baseline.

Sorghum Production: District A



So the 2006 problem specified for sorghum would be:

$$5.5 / 10 \times 100 = 55\%$$

$$\text{Current yr/reference yr} \times 100$$

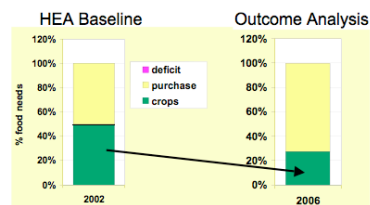
During the seasonal assessment **current year crop production data** at the woreda level (in this example 2006) **is** collected and **compared to the reference year data**.

This gives the problem specification for the current year. Sorghum production in this example is 55% of sorghum production in the reference year.

The contribution of sorghum production (crops) to food intake is 55% of the contribution to food intake in the reference year.

The seasonal assessment hazard analysis is multi-dimensional: it includes not only crops, but also access to labour, livestock production, access to other income sources, and changes in market prices (including inflation)

Sorghum production ('000 MT)					
2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
10	12	3.5	2.5	5.5	



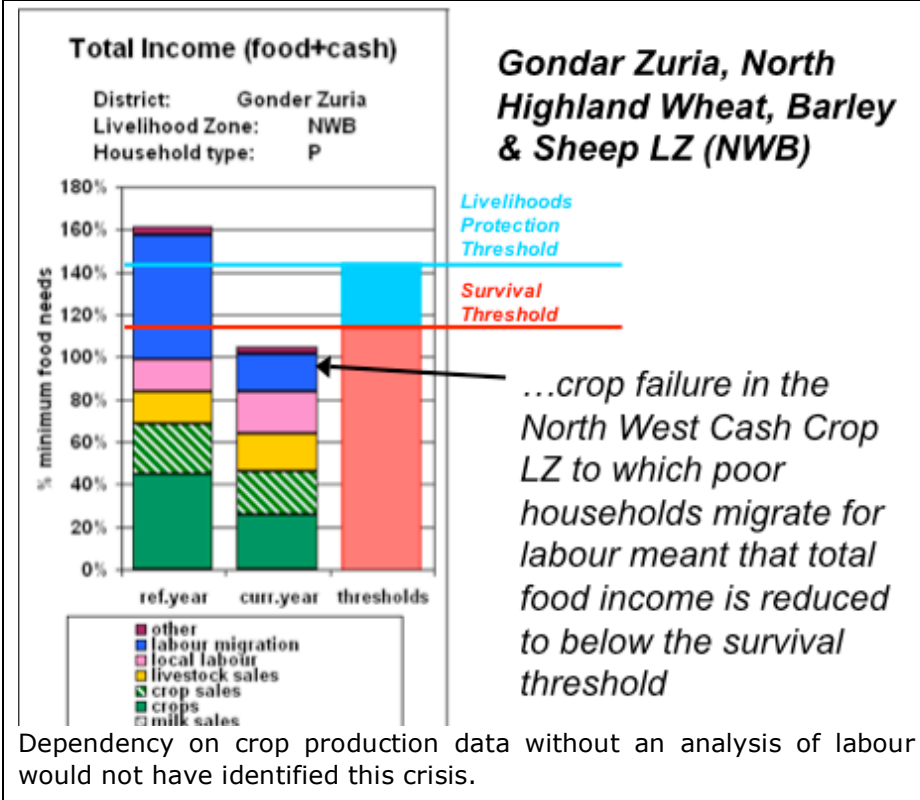
And the 2006 **outcome analysis** would show a **decrease in crops** relative to purchase.

Sorghum production ('000 MT)					
2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
10	12	3.5	2.5	5.5	

The seasonal assessment analysis is carried out using the Livelihoods Impact Analysis Spreadsheet (LIAS). This is a tool that enables multi-agency teams to conduct a transparent analysis of data collected from the field for up to 20 districts and 12 livelihood zones at a time. The analysis ensures that the data makes sense and that data errors are identified. The original data plus any revisions and comments by the teams are stored in LIAS for future reference.

¹ 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. For further information contact liujm@dppc.gov.et

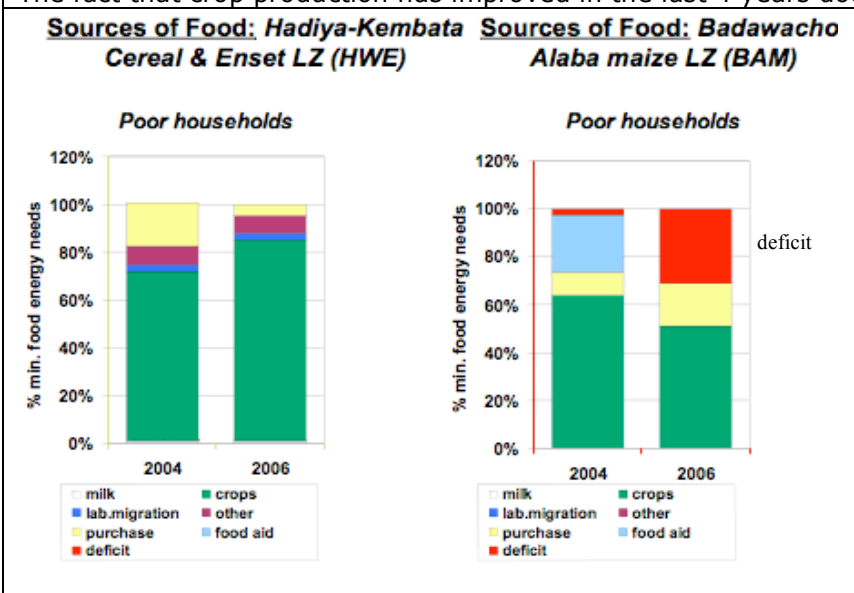
Common questions together with appropriate replies



“Surely the analysis is only as good at the data collected?”
 This is true of any assessment. The added benefit of the HEA approach is that it:
 a) enables a multi-dimensional analysis of livelihoods
 b) **reduces dependency on any one source of information** (this minimizes the impact of errors from one data source)
 c) provides a thorough understanding of impact at the household level by wealth group. For example, in Gondar Zuria (Meher 2007), in the NWB LZ the poor and very poor migrate every year to the NWC LZ for agricultural labour. Cash crop production failed in NWC LZ – reducing availability of labour for poor households in NWB LZ leading to a survival deficit.

“When do the baselines need replacing?”
 Baselines will last for 5-10 years. Baselines only require revision if there are major economic changes in the livelihood zone eg the introduction of a large-scale irrigation project, new factory employing significant number of people. Seasonal assessments and on-going monitoring can capture annual fluctuations in production and market conditions.

“Weren’t the baselines for SNNPR conducted in a bad year?”
 The SNNPR baselines relate to 2003-4, a relatively good year compared to the years that went before. The fact that crop production has improved in the last 4 years does not make 2004-04 a bad year.



“What is the added value of this approach over traditional approaches?”
 The household economy approach ensures that data is collected on key parameters (indicators) for each woreda; the analysis goes beyond of crops to include labour, livestock, markets (see above); the analysis is predictive. For example traders are asked to predict staple food prices during the next hunger season and cash crop prices during the period of peak sales. This enables food and non-food needs (presented as cash) to be predicted for a 6-12 month period. On-going monitoring of changes in prices or inflation means that needs can be adjusted

up or down as appropriate. The approach enables analyses to be done for different livelihood zones within a given woreda; eg in Agacha woreda (2005), total grain production increased to 115% of the reference: this came from increases in wheat(135%) & barley (120%) and a significant decrease in maize production (55%). In Angacha woreda – there are 2 livelihood zones: HWE: a highland wheat/barley dependant area; and BAM, a lowland sorghum/maize/haricot bean dependant livelihood zone. Traditional woreda-level analysis would have masked the food deficits in BAM evident using HEA.