

Applying Agriculture Income Pathway to Improve Diversified Consumption of Most Vulnerable Households, Experiences of multi-sector nutrition intervention in Ethiopia. Cherinet Abuye, Lioul Berhanu Mebit Kebede

Introduction

- Evidence shows that the most nutritionally vulnerable groups are pregnant and lactating women, and children under two years of age (1)
- Poor nutritional status among these groups may be exacerbated by economic vulnerability due to a range of factors, including limited income and unreliable productive assets.
- Agriculture income pathway can have a positive, negative, or neutral effect on nutrition for beneficiaries or clients of agricultural projects (2).
- Feed the Future, Growth through Nutrition activity introduced packages of livelihood support to improve alternative income for most vulnerable households (MVHHs) with the goal of improving the nutritional status of women and children



Methods

- A cohort panel study was conducted among rural MVHHs participating in the GTN project in targeted woredas with two cohorts
- In 2017, the baseline assessment was conducted among a cohort of 386 targeted households.
- In 2020, the survey collected data from the original cohort from the previous surveys, of which 319 MVHHs participated, and an additional new cohort of 337 MVHHs for a total of 656 MVHHs surveyed.
- Household income were monitored and tracked as household outcomes indicator among the MVHH cohort over the years
- Data was collected via tablets using ODK software and KoBo Toolbox

Findings and Implications

- In 2020, project related income among Cohort 1 households increased by 273% compared to the same households in 2018 and represented 23.5% of the household's total income in the previous year.
- The increases in total income from project-related inputs and from all sources observed in Cohort 1 from baseline to 2020 were statistically significant.
- The reduction in household hunger and increased expenditures in food are likely to have a positive impact on the positive changes reported in dietary diversity among women and children (31% and 16% respectively).

Conclusions

- Continued mentorship, coaching, and support to MVHHs in their income generating activities is critical to ensure households can sustain their agricultural productivity and meet their consumption and economic needs.
- The livelihood and SBCC support to MVHHs are effectively reaching and improving household practices, and therefore likely to have an impact on nutrition outcomes..

Bibliography

1. Ruel, Marie T., and Harold Alderman. 2013. "Nutrition-Sensitive Interventions and Programmes: How Can They Help to Accelerate Progress in Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition?" *The Lancet* 382:536–551. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(13)60843-0.
2. World Bank. 2007. *From Agriculture to Nutrition: Pathways, Synergies and Outcomes*. World Bank website. siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/825826111134598204/21608903/January2008Final.pdf

