



SASIGA, ETHIOPIA

MID YEAR COMMUNITY UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 2014 TO MARCH 2015

PREPARED BY

**Food for the Hungry (FH) Ethiopia
& Food for the Hungry (FH) Canada**

SUBMITTED TO

Fifth Avenue Club



Sustainable agricultural methods and other ideas fresh to the community are sprouting new life into the Sasiga region. **MORE INSIDE.**

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Executive Summary

The Sasiga Child Focused Community Transformation (CFCT) program is designed to contribute to community development and improve the lives of children in Food for the Hungry (FH) partner communities. CFCT programming is focused in four sectors: Education, Health, Livelihoods, and Disaster Risk Reduction / Leadership Training. By working on all four fronts at the same time, FH is able to effect substantial change in the lives of families who, in turn, boost the welfare of their children.

CFCT programming in Sasiga Lowlands impacts a population of 36,464 people (17,867 male / 18,597 female), including 557 sponsored children. To reach this many people, it takes 22 full-time staff, six of whom live in the communities themselves. The FH team works closely with local government, district offices, families, and church leaders. These relationships are flourishing, enabling development to move forward smoothly.

FH is excited to report the startup of Sasiga Mid-Highlands (MH) programming, affecting a population of 25,371 (13,071 male / 12,300 female), including 652 sponsored children. Because the MH communities are in the same district as Sasiga Lowlands, there are already strong relationships established with the local government.

The transition from Lowlands to Mid-Highlands communities will occur over the next two years. Thus, resources are limited in the Mid-Highlands area while programs are wrapping up and transitioning from the Lowlands area.

REGIONAL STATISTICS				
COMMUNITY	POPULATION	NO. OF FAMILIES	NO. SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN	ESTIMATED ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER
Sasiga Lowlands	40,947	8,199	9,083	85%
Sasiga Mid-Highlands	25,371	4,764	6,150	< 15%

SASIGA LOWLANDS		SASIGA MID-HIGHLANDS	
COMMUNITY	GRADUATION	COMMUNITY	GRADUATION
Beredu Belo, Ethiopia	2016	Oda	2026
Handhura Balo, Ethiopia	2016	Gammane	2026
Milki Gudina, Ethiopia	2016	Gallo	2026
Oda Gudina, Ethiopia	2016	Fayine Tarano	2026
Hora Wata	2016	Gallo Janja	2026
Mada Jalala	2016	Dangalli Gongo	2026
Kersa Mojo	2016	Warra Kura	2026
Lalisa Bareda	2016	Haro Gudina	2026
Bikiltu Shonkora	2016	Nano Sanbatdure	2026

Education

LOWLANDS

CHILDREN

Through Child Sponsorship, 520 children were supplied with learning materials (exercise books, pens, pencils) and 494 school uniforms. Community workers regularly checked in with teachers to monitor child attendance, performance, and active participation in school. Community workers regularly visit children's families at home to encourage parents to keep their children in school.

FH supported inter-school art contests and sports meets which have developed a friendly rapport among local schools. FH was also able to gather more books for the school libraries. Sunday programs for community children are being run by local churches. These programs provide mental and social engagement, as well as spiritual instruction based on Biblical truths.

School construction has been approved by the Ministry of Education for the communities of Hora Watta and Kers Modjo. Each will construct a four-classroom block. The bid process is currently underway.



Students crowd around Eldon, a visitor to the community, for a photo.

MID-HIGHLANDS

Sports equipment such as footballs, volleyballs, nets, pumps, and whistles have been provided to 14 schools. This has enabled the schools to hold inter-school sports meets, providing a new opportunity for the children of different communities to interact, as well as participate in academic competitions.

One classroom block will be constructed in Dangali Gongo community with site preparation scheduled to start in early June.



Anger school library being used by students.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	UNIT	LOWLANDS		MID-HIGHLANDS	
		PROJECTED IMPACT	ACCOMPLISHED IMPACT	PROJECTED IMPACT	ACCOMPLISHED IMPACT
Physical Education Materials (footballs, volleyballs, nets, ball pumps, whistles)	Items	105	105	105	105
Creativity Contests (poetry, drawings, crafts, etc)	Event	1	1	1	1
General Knowledge Contests for 4th, 6th & 8th Grades	“	1	1	1	1
Sports Contest (football, volleyball, running races)	“			1	1
School Uniform Provision	Students	520	494	520	494
School Stationery Support	“	520	520	520	520
Christmas Celebration With Families	Event	1	1	1	1
Child Sponsorship Volunteers Training	People	90	90	90	90



COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT: **MEET KEROS**

Keros Degefe and his family are from Baredu Belo. Three years ago, Keros struggled in school due to a lack of learning materials and Keros' parents often insisted he stay home to look after the domestic livestock.

After registering as a sponsored child, life changed. FH community workers built a relationship with his family to encourage them to support Keros' education. FH also helped by providing Keros his learning materials and a school uniform.

With these changes, Keros felt motivated to begin working hard at school. His parents decided to keep Keros in school and encourage him to succeed. His school performance steadily improved and he is now a top ranked student in his class.

Keros proudly asserts, *"I will go on learning until I complete higher education!"* His father is proud of Keros' achievements in school and is fully committed to supporting his education.

Health & Nutrition

LOWLANDS

INCREASED ACCESS TO POTABLE WATER

The construction of water points, hand-dug wells, and hand pumps over springs has allowed most of the communities to access clean water less than 1.5 km from their homes.

Two water points have been constructed in Meda Jalela (50 households affected) and Bikiltu Shonkora (70 households affected). In both areas, community participation was critical to accomplishing the task. People came out in full force and offered their support by working hard to clear the area, removing soil, collecting stones and additional building materials, and doing any other labour that was needed. They also contributed from their own finances to pay for a guard to watch the water point, and to buy spare parts whenever repairs need to be made.

Water Committees have been established to steward these new resources and forward the communities' efforts for the clean water development which the community is very excited about.

The new water points have eased the burden of workload for women who were primarily responsible to travel long distances to collect water. Now they can focus their productivity on other areas.

Three new hand dug wells with hand pumps are in process. Water has been reached, however, concrete rings and the hand pumps are yet to be installed to complete the wells.



Bikiltu Shonkora developed spring.

SANITATION

Another major achievement of water and sanitation activities has been the production of concrete latrine slabs. Due to the scarcity of wood and the prevalence of termites in the area, traditional latrines were difficult to maintain. With the introduction of these safe and resilient slabs, however, many more people are beginning to use latrines, which is increasing sanitation and community health. Slab producers have been trained in each project area. 265 slabs of 300 planned have been produced for households.

BASIC HEALTH

Since the provision of clean water in the area, the number of people registered at the health centres due to waterborne disease has decreased. In addition, a gynecologist from Nekemte Hospital



Kibire Bkele from Lalisa Bareda using her fuel efficient stove and showing her newly constructed shelf.

has been training local health professionals and midwives on prenatal care and child delivery practices.

Fuel efficient stove and kitchen shelf construction, along with feeding and cooking demonstrations, were also continued in the communities. Traditional wood burning stoves cause smoke borne diseases and suffocation for women and children. Women were trained on how to make locally sourced, mud-made fuel efficient stoves to decrease illness from smoke inhalation. Training on shelf construction enables women to keep their cooking materials clean and secure.

Nutrition was also addressed through the introduction of more vegetables to the diet via cooking demonstrations. After receiving this training, women would be able to prepare locally produced vegetables and crops to improve the nutrition of their families. To support family vegetable gardens, 265 compost pits have been established so families can compost plant and animal byproducts for use as fertilizer.

FH was also able to cover 90% of the health expenses for 70 children and de-worming medication was administered to 471 children. HIV/AIDS awareness was conducted in the communities for 136 people, along with environmental and personal hygiene training for 414 people.

MID-HIGHLANDS

INCREASED ACCESS TO POTABLE WATER & HEALTH EDUCATION

The majority of Mid-Highland communities currently use unprotected streams for their water source. This project is improving access to potable water so as to minimize water borne diseases and the workload of women by decreasing the distance they have to go to fetch water from the river. FH immediately started construction of water points in the area and now six hand-dug wells are under construction.

FH has conducted health education awareness in the communities on topics such as environmental and personal hygiene and HIV/AIDS. Deworming medication has been provided in cooperation with the government ministry. Health professionals, like midwives, were trained in the areas of prenatal care and delivery.



Cooking demonstrations in progress.



Community members drinking unprotected stream water.



Water point under construction at Mid-Highlands, Sasiga.

LOWLANDS HEALTH & NUTRITION TRAININGS

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	PROJECTED IMPACT	ACCOMPLISHED IMPACT
Environmental And Personal Hygiene Training	400 people	414 people
HIV/AIDS Awareness For CBOs, FBOs, School Clubs	136	136
Appropriate Feeding And Cooking Demonstration	100	107
Deworming Medication For Children	520	471
Medical Cost Assistance For Children	520	70*
Training Health Extension Workers And Mid-Wives	22	19**

* As needed. Coming in under projection is a positive indicator

** Due to government program overlapping

MID-HIGHLANDS HEALTH & NUTRITION TRAININGS

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	PROJECTED IMPACT	ACCOMPLISHED IMPACT
Environmental And Personal Hygiene Training	400 people	360 people
HIV/AIDS Awareness For CBOs, FBOs, School Clubs	200	193
Deworming Medication For Children	500	350*
Resource Management Training	270 households	267 households
Training Health Extension Workers And Mid-Wives	22	22

* The activity also undertaken by government, that is why low achievements done by the project

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT: MEET TESHOME

Water in Ethiopia can be scarce. Rain is not always predictable, and communities must often travel long distances to collect water from open streams. This water is used for washing clothes, bathing, cooking, watering animals, irrigating fields, and yes - drinking. Sadly, the unprotected streams are open to all kinds of bacterial contaminations that lead to frequent illness for those dependent on it.

This was true for Teshome Mergo and his family of five. "When we were drinking from the unprotected stream, we used to be affected by frequent diarrhea, we used to go to the health centres now and then, and we used to invest a lot of money to treat my family. But today, everything has changed!"

A year ago, a central water point was installed to provide the entire area of Oda Gudina with clean water. Now, Teshome's family rarely gets sick. Health professionals from the local health centres confirm that the daily number of patients checking into clinics because of water borne diseases has significantly decreased.



Livelihoods

LOWLANDS

IMPROVED AGRONOMY PRACTICES

FH offered training to 435 farmers on making and applying organic fertilizer, and using more efficient and effective farming practices. Organic fertilizer has made the soil more productive while the application of ash has reduced the acidity level in a completely organic way (no commercially produced lime necessary!). Bio-intensive farming was taught to 92 farmers as a means to reclaim and restore the land to ensure sustainable farming for future generations.

Farmers were also trained on crop rotation systems and how to grow more vegetables and fruit. Increased productivity resulting from these agricultural changes have raised income for the farmers and improved their families' diets, which especially benefits their children. For example, one of the farmers from Belo testified that since applying organic fertilizer and taking other steps to reconstruct the soil, cabbages are beginning to thrive on land where it used to be impossible to grow them.

Women, especially, are benefitting from the increased crop yields that provide them with economic independence.

Irrigation significantly contributes to the goal of food security. To date, 139 farmers have received training and additional input support so they can create their own field irrigation systems, making them less dependent on rainfall. Idle land is now being irrigated and has become productive. Due to these improvements, farmers are producing two to three times more than previously, and fruit and vegetables are readily available so more people in the community have access to a better diet. Banana, papaya, and avocado have become popular cash crops, enabling farmers to afford to send their children to school.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The second major focus of livelihoods has been livestock production and management. Farmers have been trained on improved feeding habits for their animals and a vet post construction has helped manage animal illness.



Gosa Maniyagidew from Oda Gudina working her fields of cabbage, tomatoes and onions.



Farmers' lives in Sasiga are drastically changed by support from the project, particularly through irrigation from the nearby river.



One of the ladies in the Gudina Fatuma community convert her cropland to a coffee plantation.



Bulti Gemeda working on tomato plantation starting from seedbed preparation to the actual field planting.

YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The third livelihood focus has been entrepreneurship training for youth. Most students complete their schooling through Grade 10, but tend to stay home with no job prospects in sight. The entrepreneur training equips them to create their own jobs at the local level and develop an income generating project. 160 youth participated.

TREE NURSERIES

Four government nurseries are providing multipurpose trees to nine communities, including local tree varieties - Moringa, Acacia, and Flame trees.

Nursery facilities needed inputs of seed, fencing, mulching, temporary shade, watering, weeding, and protection. The yearly production of seedlings is already contributing to soil and water conservation, renewable firewood supply, and housing construction for the communities.

FH trained 120 farmers on how to establish their own private plant nurseries and provided them with tools, multipurpose tree seeds, and technical support, while farmers collected indigenous tree seeds. Fewer farmers are relying on government nurseries and can now manage the process from seedbed preparation to field planting - a true sign of sustainability.

MID-HIGHLANDS

There are no livelihood activities planned for this fiscal year in this area. These activities will start next season, in the next fiscal year.



Bulti Gameda tomato plantation, looking healthy.



Kadija walking in banana plantation.



"Phase gardening" and Bio-intensive farming practices applied in the local government nurseries.



LOWLANDS	LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES	PROJECTED IMPACT	ACCOMPLISHED IMPACT
DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES			
Organic Fertilization & Utilization Training		400	435
Vegetable & Fruit Production Training & Provision Of Vegetable Seeds For Womens Groups		250	250
Sustainable Agricultural Development Training		400	212 ¹
Bio-Intensive (Redemptive) Agricultural Training		120	92 ²
Agriculture Diversification Training		100	106
Micro Irrigation Diversion & Provision Of Seeds & Farm Tools Training		6 groups	8 groups ³
Environmentally Sound Termite Control Training		150 people	148 people
Government Plant Nursery Support		4 sites	4 sites
Private Plant Nursery Establishment Training		120 people	120 people
Tree Seeds Provision For Government & Private Nurseries.		72 kgs	179 kgs ⁴
Farm Tools Provision For Private Nurseries		120 tools	120 tools
Review Meeting With Local Government And Stake Holders		95 people	94 people
Entrepreneurship Training for Unemployed Youth		150	165
Women Empowerment On Fruits And Vegetable Production Training & Input Provision		200	210
Fruit Seed Provision (Avocado)		767 kgs	1000 kgs ⁵
Vegetable Seeds Provision		120 kgs	106 kgs ⁶
Value Chain Analysis Training For Cooperatives		3	3 ⁷

¹ Will be completed in the next biannual report

² The remaining will be addressed in the next biannual report

³ 280 beneficiaries trained & interest of the community increased

⁴ Some picked from the area

⁵ Got a lower-than-expected price

⁶ Due to rising market prices

⁷ For 45 people



COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT: **MEET YOHANIS**

Peeling Open Potential

Yohanis Desalegn is a 42 year old farmer living in Anger Odina Gudina kebele with his family. He used to farm and harvest small quintals of sorghum - the only food for his family to eat. But even the sorghum used to feed the family only lasted for 4 months. The rest of the year Yohanis had to work in the farm of an investor as a day-laborer to feed his family.

In 2012, however, Yohanis was given training on mirco-irrigation and was provided with farm tools and fruit and vegetable seeds. Immediately after training, he started working full-time on irrigation for his fields.

"It was due to a lack of knowledge that irrigable land laid empty without being farmed. After getting training, I started working on more fields and discovered I could harvest twice a year instead of just once. I have now extended my banana farm. I produce so many bananas a week that my family can eat as many as they want and I can still take three bunches to the market weekly and sell each for 120 birr!" (That's \$21CAD a week!)

With this new source of income, Yohanis was able to provide a better home for his family to live in.

He now works 1.5 hectares of land for fruit and vegetable production. He uses exclusively organic fertilizer to improve the quality of his crops - he never uses chemicals on his farm land. During his first year of vegetable farming, he earned enough income off his farm that he could send his children to school and gradually raise the standard of living for his whole family. Yohanis' efforts did not go unnoticed! Because of his hard-earned success, about 17 other farmers from his area copied his new farming techniques and have already begun to improve their own lives, as well.

"Every area of my family's life has been improved as a result of the project input and capacity building done by FH Ethiopia. I will no more be a daily labourer to earn additional income. I'm very pleased and give thanks to God. And let God bless the project and those who provided us the resources to work with." - Yohanis



Leadership Training & Disaster Risk Reduction

LOWLANDS

Training was conducted for 89 government and community leaders on early warning systems, risk management, and disaster preparedness to equip leaders to better plan for and forecast future uncertainties and disasters. The implementation of field irrigation will also mitigate the impact of future droughts. Work ethics training was offered to 266 community members and 50 civil servants, creating renewed commitment among government workers. The local government is now responding better to help resolve community problems. Government stakeholders host annual reviews that help FH evaluate the level of community collaboration and engagement on local development projects.

MID-HIGHLANDS

Specifically, 255 community members and 20 civil servants took part in ethics training to encourage productivity in their regular work. Seventy-one school directors and teachers were given leadership training, laying a foundation for improved capacity and quality of education. Church leaders were trained to better understand their role to teach the word of God to their congregations and to reach out to non-believers. Ninety community leaders and 177 FBO leaders also participated in leadership training, building a base for community leadership in the larger development process.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	UNIT	LOWLANDS		MID-HIGHLANDS	
		PROJECTED IMPACT	ACCOMPLISHED IMPACT	PROJECTED IMPACT	ACCOMPLISHED IMPACT
Work Ethics Training For Community Members	People	270	266	270	255
Work Ethics Training For Civil Servants	“	50	50	20	20
Annual Review Meeting With Government Staff	“	25	50		
School Directors And Teachers Training	“	70	70	70	71
Community Leaders Leadership Training	“	90	97		
Faith-Based Organization Leaders Training	“	90	314*	90	177*
Community-Based Organization Leaders Training	“	90	89	90	90
Girls Rights To Education Training For Local Leaders	“	70	90		
Basic Leadership Training For Coop Leaders	“	90	87		
Credit And Financial Management Training	“	27	27		
Early Warning Trainings	“	90	89		
Risk Management Trainings	“	90	89		
Preparedness Technique Trainings	“	90	89		

* Completed
without
additional
costs

Gender Equality, Environmental Protection & Spiritual Connections

LOWLANDS

Gender equality training focuses on both genders' access to and control over resources, as well as sending both girls and boys to school. Capacity building exercises involve men and women equally, and government leaders are trained on gender concepts to ensure the participation of women in the development of the community. Education for girls was also part of the training for government leaders, and more girls are being permitted to learn alongside their male peers.

In an effort to increase environmental protection, government plant nurseries have been developed to supply nine project areas with multipurpose tree seedlings, coffee plants, and fruit tree seedlings. Private nurseries at the household level have been established to grow the tree population at the private farmers' level. Local farmers have embraced the mini-forest development where farmers designate some of their land for tree growth, and FH provides seedlings and tree fencing materials. Each mini-forest is personally managed by a household, thereby increasing its potential for survival.

In the last six months, 314 church leaders have been trained, and are now equipped to address both the spiritual and physical aspects of the development work being done.

MID-HIGHLANDS

From the outset of initiating work in the Mid-Highlands, emphasis has been given to female participation in the development process. The balance of men and women in FH trainings has been kept almost equal, reflecting the community demographics.

FH is training existing school environmental clubs to create awareness among the next generation of the need for environmental protection. The clubs have also received farm tools to help further their tree-planting initiatives.

Biblical values have been incorporated into the plans for all the area projects. In the last six months, FH has trained 177 church leaders.

Community, Partner, & Local Church Involvement

LOWLANDS

FH began the planning process for Sasiga in consultation with community leaders, church leaders, and government officials, thus the involvement of these stakeholders has remained high as they apply their action plans.

One sign of the high level of community commitment is the large turnout of individuals whenever a school needs to be built or a water point established. Community members work hard to provide all the local materials needed for the project and offer their labour free of charge.

FH worked with the evangelical church in Sasiga to equip church leaders to enable the believers to grow in their faith and recognize false teaching. Church leaders also grew in their capacity to reach out to those outside their churches.



Gathering of community members and other stakeholders.

MID-HIGHLANDS

The communities participate in the implementation of programming from the beginning of planning to the end of project activities. They provide local resources, prioritize community needs, and offer free labour to accomplish projects. Stakeholders from all levels of local and district administration collaborate on the projects being done in their areas. The church is instrumental in implementing Child Sponsorship. FH has worked with 18 church leaders on faith based organization training.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT: **CHURCH COLLABORATION**

Christians in Sasiga, Ethiopia are seeing something they've never seen before. This year, 40 individuals from central Belo and Milki Gudina gathered together with three different churches to pray. Through their prayer and fellowship, they decided to hold a large-scale Christian conference. During the conference, around 30,000 birr (\$1777CAD) was collected in cash with additional pledges towards conducting missionary work and helping vulnerable children in the local communities. The organizers testified that this movement is a direct result of the leadership training the church leaders and other young Christians have received from FH. This is an amazing shift in a long-established Christian culture. Churches previously saw their role as running Sunday services and maintaining the status quo of their individual congregations. Now, they're seeking collaboration with churches in neighbouring communities, desiring to reach out to non-Christians, and fulfilling God's call to care for the poor!

Signs Of Sustainability & Success

LOWLANDS

In consultation with government stakeholders and community leaders, FH confirmed that skills and knowledge are being transferred to the communities and that community members are applying the skills and principles they've learned. Knowledge is spreading through the communities as those who received formal training train additional groups of people.

The Sasiga District Administration recognized community advancements by publically awarding a certificate of achievement to model farmers for their contributions to local development. Those involved in local projects were encouraged and inspired by this event. The Zonal Education office also publically acknowledged Sasiga for improving the quality of education, building capacity and leadership training for teachers and directors, providing school library books, supplying sports equipment, and hosting sports meets. Due to improvements in school facilities, students in Anger have gone from being one of the lowest scoring to being some of the highest ranked in the area.

FH initially provided vegetable seeds to families planting home gardens. In the second year, new families were chosen to receive seeds and the first group of families invested their own money to buy vegetable seeds. In addition, coffee farmers, after initially receiving coffee seedlings from FH, started producing enough coffee beans from their plants to distribute them to other farmers who wanted to improve their crops. After receiving training, some farmers took the initiative to start traditional irrigation instead of waiting for FH support.

At the most recent community meeting of district and local government partners, school directors, development agents, health extension workers, managers and community leaders, the group discussed how to sustain project activities after FH concludes its partnership with Sasiga. At the end of the day, they formed strong committees for each project area, committing to support and protect the resources started in the communities for future generations.

Thank You

FH Ethiopia, FH Canada, and the families of the Sasiga Lowlands and Mid-Highlands kebeles thank you for your generous support - real change is taking place! Leaders and families are beginning to hope for a better future for their communities as they pursue together sustainable development. Thank You!