U.S. Agency for International Development

Awardee Name: PCI, A Global Communities Partner

Country: Ethiopia

Award Name: Feed the Future Resilience in Pastoral Areas (RIPA) South Activity

Award Number: 72066320CA00001

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Reporting Period: Fiscal Year/Quarter/Dates: FY20/Q4/July- September 2020

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATA</td>
<td>Agriculture Transformation Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIAT</td>
<td>Biodiversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLA</td>
<td>Collaboration, Learning &amp; Adaptation</td>
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<tr>
<td>CMP</td>
<td>Contingency and Mitigation Plan</td>
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<td>DIP</td>
<td>Detailed Implementation Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>DRM</td>
<td>Disaster Risk Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-RISK</td>
<td>Dynamic Research-Informed System for Managing Risk</td>
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<tr>
<td>EMMP</td>
<td>Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>FGD</td>
<td>Focus Group Discussion</td>
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<td>FHA</td>
<td>Family Health Approach</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCD</td>
<td>Human-Centered Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>IBLI</td>
<td>Insurance Based Livestock Index</td>
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<tr>
<td>iDE</td>
<td>International Development Enterprises</td>
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<tr>
<td>IO</td>
<td>International Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>KAP</td>
<td>Knowledge, Attitude, Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>KII</td>
<td>Key Informant Interview</td>
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<td>LGA</td>
<td>Land Governance Activity</td>
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<td>LLRP</td>
<td>Lowland Livelihoods Resilience Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>MC</td>
<td>Mercy Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>M&amp;E</td>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
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<td>MEL</td>
<td>Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>MFI</td>
<td>Micro Finance Institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
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<td>MSA</td>
<td>Market System Assessment</td>
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<td>MSD</td>
<td>Market Systems Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSME</td>
<td>Micro, Small &amp; Medium Enterprises</td>
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<td>NDVI</td>
<td>Net Differential Vegetation Index</td>
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<td>NRM</td>
<td>Natural Resource Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>OIC</td>
<td>Oromia Insurance Company</td>
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<td>PCI</td>
<td>Project Concern International</td>
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<td>PDM</td>
<td>Post Distribution Monitoring</td>
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<tr>
<td>PFBA</td>
<td>Pastoral and Farmer Business Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIRS</td>
<td>Performance Indicator Reference Sheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPE</td>
<td>Personal Protective Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIME</td>
<td>Pastoralist Areas Resilience Improvement through Market Expansion</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRM</td>
<td>Participatory Rangeland Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSNP</td>
<td>Productive Safety Net Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSP</td>
<td>Private Sector Partner</td>
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<tr>
<td>RIPA</td>
<td>Resilience in Pastoral Areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>SBCC</td>
<td>Social Behavior Change Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SNNP(R)</strong></td>
<td>Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (Region)</td>
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<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SoE</strong></td>
<td>State of Emergency (for COVID-19)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SMT</strong></td>
<td>Senior Management Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ToPs</strong></td>
<td>Transitioning Out of Pastoralism</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOR</strong></td>
<td>Terms of Reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ToT</strong></td>
<td>Training of Trainers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VSLA</strong></td>
<td>Village Savings and Loan Associations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WE</strong></td>
<td>Women Empowered</td>
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## ACTIVITY OVERVIEW TABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Focus: South Omo (SSNP), Borena (Oromia), Guji (Oromia), Dawa (Somali), and Liben (Somali) Zones (and Regions) of Ethiopia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activity Goal:</strong> To improve resilience that enhances food security and inclusive economic growth within pastoral regions of Ethiopia</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Component 1: Improved Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Systems & Capacity

| Intermediate Result 1.1. | Locally Led, Vertically Integrated, and Data-Driven DRM Plans Developed and Implemented |
| Intermediate Result 1.2. | Enhanced Herd and Rangeland Management Capacity |
| Intermediate Result 1.3. | Social and Financial Capital of Women and Youth Improved |

### Component 2: Diversified, Sustainable, Economic Opportunities for People Transitioning out of Pastoralism (ToPs)

| Intermediate Result 2.1. | ToP-Centric, Market Integrated Business and Employment Opportunities for Women and Youth Identified and Supported |
| Intermediate Result 2.2. | Increased Financial Inclusion for People Transitioning out of Pastoralism |

### Component 3: Intensified and Sustained Pastoral and Agropastoral Production and Market Systems

| Intermediate Result 3.1. | Livestock and Crop Production and Marketing Systems Enhanced |
| Intermediate Result 3.2. | Increased Financial Inclusion for Livestock and Crop Production |

### Component 4: Improved and Sustained Nutritional Status of Women and Children

| Intermediate Result 4.1. | Improved Household Nutrition and Hygiene Behaviors |

### Component 5: Crisis Modifier

### Cross-Cutting Themes: Role of Women and Youth, Impact on Natural Resource Management (NRM), Social Cohesion Challenges and Opportunities, Technology & Innovation

### Target Beneficiaries (Disaggregated by Program Element and by Fiscal Year):
Pending USAID approval of Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Plan
Roles and Responsibilities:

**PCI, A Global Communities Partner (Prime Agency):** PCI has overall responsibility for activity management, technical leadership, activity implementation, activity M&E, coordination with partner organizations, tracking and accounting for finances, reporting, regulatory oversight, and liaising with USAID. PCI also leads implementation on *Component 1: Improved Disaster Risk Management Systems & Capacity.*

**GOAL (Core Implementing Partner):** GOAL leads *Component 3: Intensified and Sustained Pastoral and Agropastoral Production and Market Systems* and *Component 4: Improved and Sustained Nutritional Status of Women and Children* with guidance and oversight from PCI.

**International Development Enterprises (iDE) (Core Implementing Partner):** iDE leads *Component 2: Diversified, Sustainable, Economic Opportunities for People Transitioning out of Pastoralism,* with guidance and oversight from PCI.

I. Executive Summary

**Highlights from FY20 Quarter 4**

During FY20 Q4, despite COVID-19 related challenges, progress has been made in implementing RIPA South’s core activities and also the implementation of COVID-19 interventions under RIPA South’s core budget re-direct.

Under Component 1, RIPA South developed a Dynamic Research-Informed System for Managing Risk (D-RISK) manual outline, provided an ARC-D training for the RIPA South team, submitted a Crisis Modifier concept note, completed a Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Contingency and Mitigation Plan (CMP) capacity assessment, completed a DRM governance capacity assessment for the COVID-19 re-direct, distributed PPE materials, and prepared 9 AfriScout maps for the Guji and Borena rangelands.

Under Component 2, RIPA South completed a Human-Centered Design (HCD) assessment (to identify the potential impacts of COVID-19) as well as a detailed HCD assessment. RIPA South also identified Pastoral and Farmer Business Advisors (PFBAS) and developed a PFBAs model during the reporting quarter.

Under Component 3, RIPA South developed the Terms of Reference (TOR) and selected a consultant for context-specific livestock market research to underpin livestock production, completed a Rapid Market Assessment (RMA) to measure the impact of COVID-19 and desert locust infestation, and conducted marketing and financial inclusion assessments.

Under Component 4, RIPA South completed a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) baseline data collection, prepared for formative assessments and provision of trainings for 3,152 select community influencers on Community Led Action-(CLA) approaches for COVID-19 preparation and control.
Recruitment of Zonal and Addis-based staff has been completed and Woreda-level recruitment is being completed. All Woreda-level recruitment will be completed at the beginning of FY21 Q1. As of the close of FY20 Q4, 64 out of 85 positions have been recruited (in addition to the key personnel and senior management team).

Adherence to the Agile Management Framework has helped the RIPA South team to maintain routine communication with three SMT meetings per week, along with a variety of additional consistent operational and programmatic calls and interactions.

The Knack System designed for Agile Management has been pivotal in facilitating communication and reporting among the RIPA South team. As requested in USAID’s feedback from the FY20 Q2 report, the USAID team is welcome to visit the observer site at the following websites: (please note that users will need to create a log in for security purposes):

- “Product Backlog” (this is an Agile Management term which means “List of items in work flow”, not an actual backup of planned work: https://ripa-south.knack.com/ripa-south#agile-observer-product-backlog/
- Work Plan: https://ripa-south.knack.com/ripa-south#work-plans/
- Recruitment Tracker: https://ripa-south.knack.com/ripa-south#recruitment-tracker/

General Challenges for RIPA South Start-Up:
- Transitioning to remote work due to COVID-19 while still working as a team
- COVID-19 has adversely affected critical start-up steps such as staff recruitment, procurement, community engagement, activity launch, and more. RIPA South is adapting to these challenges as per the planning document sent to USAID at the onset of COVID-19.

Next Steps for All Components:
- Completion of recruitment at the Woreda level (out of 104 total recruitments, 29 are remaining and 15 additional are at offer stage)
- Finalize the various assessments initiated in the last quarter (capacity assessments, HCD assessments, Livestock Market Assessments, formative research for social behaviour change, etc.)
- Finalize the required preparation tasks for the Baseline Assessment
- Introduction/Orientation for the field team
- Finalize the agreement with SNNP Region
- Launch program workshop at the Zonal level

II. Summary of Results Table & Correlation with Monitoring Plan

During the reporting period, based on the recommendation from USAID on log frame indicators, new indicators have been added and the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) plan and Performance Indicator Reference Sheets (PIRS) are under revision. The revised MEL plan, PIRS and log frame will be submitted to USAID as at the beginning of next quarter.
Comparison against the MEL plan will be reported starting from the next quarterly report (FY21 Q1) and in the FY20 annual report.

III. Program Updates

During FY20 Q4, the PCI-led RIPA South consortium accomplished the following:

Start-Up (Across All Components):

- Signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Somali Regional respective Government Bureau.
- Agreement with Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples’ (SNNP) Regional State will be completed in the next quarter due to a longer process of submitting individual MoUs with each consortium agency as requested by the regional state.
- Agile Management: based on the lessons learned from the previous quarter and this quarter, the Agile Reporting Dashboard has been designed to provide real-time progress of monthly sprints. Agile monitoring metrics are under development. These include those focused on progress against planning, such as number of tasks completed, number of “user stories” satisfied, and progress against items in work plans (“epics” in agile management lingo).
- Recruitment: Zonal level staff recruitment was completed, while Woreda level recruitment is ongoing.

Component 1: Improved Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Systems & Capacity

Intermediate Result 1.1. Locally Led, Vertically Integrated, and Data-Driven DRM Plans Developed and Implemented

The RIPA South Disaster-Risk Management (DRM) team has been working closely with the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) DRM experts and officials at all levels and will assess the existing GoE DRM system and capacity to propose workable solutions towards strengthening the DRM system and capacity at Zonal, Woreda and Kebele levels. As part of the COVID-19 redirect activity, RIPA South will also support Zonal, Woreda and Kebele DRM offices in integrating Dynamic Research-Informed System for Managing Risk (D-RISK) principles and methods to collect community-level vulnerabilities, hazards and capacity factors and analyse and interpret this data to propose practical solutions and address identified gaps. RIPA South will facilitate the implementation of Kebele-level plans and will guide collective action and coordination on strategies for disaster risk management and resilience building. Some of the key strategies planned under this intermediate result are to strengthen existing DRM committees and work closely with the local government DRM team,
as well as the community, to develop Contingency and Mitigation Plans (CMP) and to facilitate coordination of responses based on CMP action plans.

1.1.1. Integration of D-RISK Methods and Improved Capacities within DRM Systems Achieved

Process to be followed: D-RISK is a participatory methodology designed to be used by PCI to identify assets, resources, infrastructure, hazards, vulnerabilities, and potential risks that communities may face because of climate change and other shocks. By employing the D-RISK process, RIPA South will identify risks from a combination of data derived from primary and secondary sources, including indigenous knowledge, scientific data, and GIS information. It will then be digitized and layered visually to be utilized by various stakeholders for informed decision-making purposes. The information will help the communities to design and apply more effective risk management strategies in CMPs.

In this reporting quarter, DRM and CMP capacity assessment, assessment of DRM governance capacity for Redirect, development of the D-RISK manual, and recruitment of zonal DRM staff are some of the key planned activities accomplished in this reporting quarter.

Achieved this Quarter:
- Outline for D-RISK manual completed, and write-up activities in progress. The manual will provide critical guidance for RIPA South and other development actors, including the government to plan DRM data collection, analysis, and decision-making processes.
- Recruitment of 9 DRM staff at Zonal level has been completed, while the recruitment of Woreda level staffs is under reference checks.
- Coordination meeting conducted to harmonize DRM planning and implementation processes between the RIPA North and South activities.
- DRM capacity needs and gaps have been identified in collaboration with Oromia, Somali and SNNP DRM Bureaus and DRM teams.
- ARC-D training for RIPA South country office and Zonal staff provided. A total of 12 RIPA South staff participated in ARC-D training.

Progress Under Redirect:
During this reporting period, water point audits, procurement and distribution of PPE materials and government DRM governance capacity assessments (particularly on their effort to respond to COVID-19) were some of the major activities planned under the COVID-19-Redirect.

COVID-19-Redirect Activities Achieved this Quarter:
- A waterpoint audit has been completed in close collaboration with Woreda-level government WASH experts in all 5 Zones of RIPA South.
- The DRM capacity assessment was completed across all operational areas. The main objective is to assess the government DRM governance capacity at Zonal, Woreda and Kebele levels in their effort to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are some of the key findings of the assessment.
  - The coordination structure of the DRM offices vary across the operational region. It was found that there are DRM offices up to Zonal and Woreda levels in Oromia and Somalia regional state, while the DRM functions are placed and led by the Bureau of Agriculture and Natural Resource Development in the SNNP region. Some of the major challenges identified are insufficient levels of
understanding of COVID-19, lack of technical capacity/essential skills (limited academic background and work experience, financial/budget limitations to implement DRM and high staff turnover.

- Limitations in transforming DRM structures and processes are also identified as one of the key gaps that have been observed, as well as a limited involvement of DRM administration councils in decision making at all levels. Early warning and DRM information flow from Kebele to woreda, Zone and Region is not coordinated and as per agreed time table. Information is not reaching to federal from kebeles in every 5 days. This DRM structure of information flow has not been put in place in many RIPA South woredas, especially in Somali and SNNP regions.
- Low level of disaster risk/early warning data collection practices.
- Uni-directional, lengthy, top-down early warning information flow and centralized early warning systems.
- Very weak, irregular and limited communication & information sharing practices within and among government entities and communities.
- Poor documentation and database management practices.
- Weak capacity in DRM program/projects designing & planning.
- Relief-oriented implementation practices has led to a limited focus on risk reduction, early warning and alert communication. Most woredas are not giving attention to key activities of each phases of DRM (such as activities of pre-disaster: mitigation, prevention, preparedness). Rather, they are instead distracted by focusing on emergency food/NFI distributions.
- Inappropriate DRM administration system and weak and limited coordination.
- Inadequate attention to link emergency assistances with long term development interventions.
- Weak monitoring & evaluation system with limited instances of joint monitoring or coordinating across sectors for M&E or information sharing.
- Increase of COVID-19 cases in all Zones and the limited capacity of preparedness at Zonal and Woreda levels.
- Shortage of PPE for frontline health staff and vulnerable community members.

- PPE materials were procured and distributed had begun in this reporting quarter. The PPE materials procured included soap (10,000 bars), sanitizers (5,000L) and face masks (10,000 pcs) and by the end of the reporting period, the distribution was underway. The distribution will be continued in the next quarter (October).
- PPE material distribution has been made with Zonal and Woreda health offices. Priority is given to Woreda Health Centres and health posts, and then to vulnerable community members, such as the elderly, and pregnant and lactating mothers.
Next Quarter Plans:

- Finalize recruitment and on-boarding of Woreda level DRM officers.
- Finalize DRM system and governance capacity assessment reports/finding.
- Finalize development of D-RISK manual.
- Provide training for DRM officers.
- Collect up-to-date secondary data for D-RISK activities in each region.
- Rehabilitate identified key water points.
- Continue early warning and early action awareness on COVID-19.
- Provide capacity building training to stakeholders.
- Prepare crisis modifier framework using knack system.

1.1.2. Contingency and Mitigation Plans Developed, Resourced, and Implemented

Process to be followed: Based on the context analysis and visualization provided through the D-RISK process (LLR1.1.1), RIPA South will support communities and governments in the creation of CMPs at the Kebele level. CMPs guide communities on how to mobilize resources and mitigate shocks and stresses so that they can respond to them when they arise. The process involves active participation and ownership of community members and other stakeholders responsible in the DRM process at all levels. CMPs consider both existing and anticipated disaster risk scenarios (natural and man-made) and layout effective, efficient, and
equitable use of resources to promptly address the humanitarian needs. Using D-RISK, CMPs will be aggregated and consolidated at both Woreda and Zonal levels to give a full picture for prioritization and resource mobilization, likely through the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and the World Bank’s Lowland Livelihood Resilience Project (LLRP).

**Achieved this Quarter:**
- In this reporting period, the government DRM and CMP development capacity assessed and identified key gaps/challenges.

**Next Quarter Plans:**
- Distilling key findings related to government DRM assessment, development of CMP, and developing interventions to build the capacity of government DRM, particularly at Kebele, Woreda, and Zonal levels.
- Fill capacity gaps with Zonal and district level government DRM teams through building human capacity and systems capacity with a focus on data-driven approaches.

**1.2. Enhanced Herd and Rangeland Management Capacity**

**1.2.1. Participatory Rangeland Management Plans Developed**

**Process to be followed:** RIPA South will work closely with customary rangeland councils, customary institution leaders, and local governments to strengthen local governance through Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM), providing critical and timely information for decision-making via the AfriScout® app. Increased access and use of livestock-based hazard insurance will be expanded to protect herds and help households protect their livestock-based assets during prolonged droughts. RIPA South will focus on both community and individual level resilience capacities – social capital, confidence to adapt, asset ownership, exposure to information, all DRR capacities, and access to livestock services and communal natural resources will be improved. RIPA South will ensure complementarity of activities towards better rangeland management, livestock health, production and marketing.

Adapting to the state-of-emergency (as per plans submitted to USAID in March), RIPA South has been maintaining a limit of 4 people per gathering/meeting and applying social distancing while ensuring proper handwashing practices are instilled. Phone calls are utilized to hold discussions with community leaders and rangeland council members while maintaining social distancing protocols.

**Achieved this Quarter:**
- The RIPA South team had a discussion with Oromia and Somali regional DRM and other Bureaus’ experts regarding key challenges, gaps and possible ways of harmonizing regional-level rangeland management approaches to integrate each of them with AfriScout, as well as improve the capacity building of customary rangeland management systems.
• Existing rangelands of Guji and Borena are overlaying each of them with satellite NDVI information and the preparation of AfriScout maps for the two zones are in process. Accordingly, verification of maps by the rangeland councils and community members are underway.
• Recruitment and onboarding of AfriScout and PRM Zonal Coordinators are complete.

Next Quarter Plans:
• In the next quarter, integrated AfriScout maps will be officially released to users so that the community will be able to access better and more timely updates on vegetation status for informed migration decisions.
• Gather information regarding S. Omo Zone rangelands from the rangeland councils and communities to integrate all information within the AfriScout platform.
• Gather information regarding Somali Zone rangelands from the rangeland councils and communities to integrate all information within the AfriScout platform.

1.2.2. Expanded Access and Use of AfriScout Technology for Improved Pasture and Herd Management

Process to be followed: RIPA South will analyse PRM to integrate AfriScout into the rangeland management process. This is a multi-step process that includes verification for accuracy from the Woreda pastoral office, customary leadership, and host communities (in the case of reciprocal grazing privileges). Then, using a field agent model, AfriScout LLC will build access and use of this tool among five profile users: (1) women managing livestock near the homestead; (2) young shepherds managing herd movements beyond the homestead; (3) male/female herd owners who make key decisions on migration; (4) customary leadership governing traditional grazing lands; and (5) Kebele and Woreda pastoral and DRM offices.

In this reporting period, integration of traditional rangelands with AfriScout satellite maps was completed for Borena and Guji rangelands and verification of these new Borena and Guji AfriScout maps have been underway and triangulated through direct discussion with the field teams and community rangeland councils.

Achieved this Quarter:
• Verification of rangeland AfriScout digital maps has been accomplished with close collaboration with community elders and rangeland council members. Accordingly, nine (9) rangeland AfriScout digital maps in Borana and Guji Zones were completed in this reporting quarter.
• The first draft of AfriScout and PRM mapping practitioner guide is completed.
• ToR to hire creative agency prepared and floated, while the collection of bid documents is almost complete and ready for evaluation.
• ToR for SMS/call centre service providers developed and floated, while the collection of bid documents is also completed.
• Existing marketing materials aimed to be integrated with AfriScout maps, SMS messages and alerts have been reviewed and feedback has been provided.
• ToR for procurement of marketing materials developed, and the collection and evaluation of bid documents have been completed. The supplier has been identified and approval of sample materials are underway.
• First draft of the AfriScout booklet has been developed.

Next Quarter Plans:
• Finalize evaluation of bid document for a creative agency to proofread, graphic design for all Afriscout promotional materials advertisement.
• Finalize evaluation of bid documents for SMS/call centre service providers and sign contract. Ultimately, the plan is to reinforce AfriScout’s communication with its target audience through SMS and call centre solutions.
• Finalize procurement and distribution of marketing materials.
• Launch Oromia AfriScout maps (Borena/Guji).
• Hire and train field agents and Woreda Community Facilitators.
• Train AfriScout Zonal Coordinators.
• Under the COVID-19 re-direct, preparation to include SMS messages for market information and COVID-19 alerts are underway.

1.2.3. Access and Use of IBLI Increased through BDS and Bundling Support

Process to be followed: RIPA South will continue working with the Oromia Insurance Company (OIC) to test the introduction of a bundled service of Insurance Based Livestock Index (IBLI) and AfriScout, providing a continuum of risk management capabilities by enhancing pastoralists’ ability to find and manage pasture, and serve as a risk-transfer when they cannot. Combined, IBLI and AfriScout present an extremely powerful and complementary package for pastoral resilience. Pastoralists are protected by IBLI if vegetation deteriorates substantially, while AfriScout gives them a proactive tool they can use directly to mitigate the effects throughout the year. Since pay-out of IBLI is provided only when and if the forage levels have fallen below the set threshold, bundling with AfriScout provides immediate value, with potentially significant economic benefit regardless of indemnity pay-outs. In this reporting period, follow up discussion with OIC and Nyala insurance companies have been conducted and possible areas of collaboration identified.

Achieved this Quarter:
• Communication with OIC (Oromia Insurance company) for IBLI-Bundling partnership reinitiated and preparation of Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) completed.
• Preliminary communication with Nyala Insurance for partnering on bundling of IBLI (esp. for South Omo and Somali regions) has begun.

Next Quarter Plans:
• Develop MoU and advance partnership with OIC on bundling by producing a proposal/ToR.
1.3. Social and Financial Capital of Women and Youth Improved

Under this intermediate result, RIPA South is planning to establish new or strengthen existing Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) using PCI’s Women Empowered (WE) methodology. Piloting of the DreamSave digital platform will enhance group management and bridge participants to more formal financial services. WE members will also participate in Components 2 and 3 while serving as a platform for Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) under Component 4. These strategies will improve social capital, and provide the women with the confidence to adapt to economic sources of resilience, improve human capital and access informal safety-nets.

1.3.1. VSLA Groups Created and/or Strengthened

Process to be followed: RIPA South will form new or strengthen the performance of existing VSLAs using PCI’s WE Methodology. RIPA South will pilot the DreamSave digital platform to enhance group management and connect them to more formal financial services. WE members will also participate in Components 2 and 3, and a platform for SBCC under Component 4. Jointly, these strategies will improve individual interactions (bonding capital), social capital, provide the confidence to adapt to economic sources of resilience, and improve human capital and access to informal safety-nets. RIPA South will use WE/VSLA platforms as an entry point for C2, C3, and C4 community-level information sharing, messaging, mass mobilization, market system activities, and mainstreaming of SBCC activities.

Achieved this Quarter:

- WE Manual reviewed and adapted.
- WE training modules reviewed and localized and data collection tools reviewed and updated.
- WE meeting and program guide reviews completed and localised to RIPA South context.
- The Woreda level WE Supervisors recruitment is in progress. Capacity assessment is complete and 10 potential candidates have been identified.
- Recruitment and onboarding of Zonal WE master trainers completed. All WE master trainers (3) have already joined PCI and have been provided with all necessary documents and technical support to acquaint themselves with the WE methodology and WE meeting guides.
- WE team TOT training preparatory task has been started, while, TOT training topics and session plan has been prepared, and training facilitators have been identified.
- Translation of WE manuals and modules into three languages (Oromiffa, Somali and Amharic) has begun and feedback was provided to the company in charge of translation to finalize the document.
Next Quarter Plans:

- Finalize recruitment of WE Woreda supervisors
- Finalize procurement of WE toolkits
- Finalize translation of WE manuals and modules into three languages (Oromiffa, Somali and Amharic)
- Print and bind WE meeting guide
- Assess the number and status of existing Savings Groups in RIPA South target Woredas/initial mapping
- Finalize onboarding of WE Master Trainers and WE Supervisors
- Train WE Specialists and WE Master Trainers on SIM & SAVIX
- Conduct a detailed assessment of the first cohort existing Savings Groups in RIPA South target Woredas/mapping
- Conduct TOT training for WE Master Trainers and WE Woreda Supervisors
- Conduct one-day training on male engagement and gender integration for WE Master Trainers and WE Woreda Supervisor
- Identify and conduct TOT training for WE Promotors/Community Facilitators

1.3.2. VSLAs Linked to Demand-Driven Livelihoods and Inclusive Financial Services

Process to be followed: RIPA South will identify VSLA groups and facilitate the linkage with formal financial institutions for financial inclusion and safekeeping of savings. RIPA South will work with the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, Omo Micro Finance, and others, to identify new or existing micro-finance products to link with WE groups, as well as individual members to formal financial services in all Zones. This will include traditional access to banking services as well as mobile banking access through the DreamSave mobile application. RIPA South will adapt and pilot DreamSave for use in Ethiopia, where network conditions allow. The WE activities will be layered to Components 2 and 3 to deliver livelihood activities and linkages through WE group. This will increase the social and financial capital of women and youth in target Woredas.

Component 2: Diversified, Sustainable, and Economic Opportunities for People Transitioning out of Pastoralism

IR2.1, Top-Centric, Market Integrated Business and Employment Opportunities for Women and Youth Identified and Supported and IR 2.2, Increased Financial Inclusion for People Transitioning out of Pastoralism represent the two intermediate results (IRs) under this specific component. Some of the re-direct program activities have also been implemented during this quarter.
Intermediate Result 2.1. ToP-Centric, Market Integrated Business and Employment Opportunities for Women and Youth Identified and Supported

Key to ensuring food and livelihood security in the RIPA South implementation area is supporting the increasing number of ToPs in the area. Under Component 2, a key activity is supporting RIPA South’s pastoral and agro-pastoral youth to diversify their livelihood and economic opportunities. Engaging in the HCD process, RIPA South will lead communities in a process to identify viable business opportunities.

Process to be followed: Key processes and procedures involved include, but are not limited to: preparations for HCD; cross-component consultations; developing a rapid HCD assessment tool and conducting the assessment with representative groups of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities, including potential ToPs and PFBAs; expert consultations both within and outside RIPA South team; informal discussions with relevant colleagues; preliminary field assessment and office selection; and ongoing discussions using phones and virtual tools on how best to collaborate in different areas.

2.1.1 Human-Centered Design and Market Systems Analysis for ToPs Conducted

Used together, the HCD and market systems analysis can best inform sustainable livelihoods diversification initiatives. The process of this LLR is to support the market systems development approach with HCD initiatives. RIPA South Component 2 teams wants to use HCD as a participatory tool to enhance the effectiveness of market-based efforts by helping the team to understand perceptions of target youth and potential ToPs toward context-specific, market integrated business and employment opportunities.

Component 2 teams have continued to closely work with Component 3 teams to integrate and harmonize HCD tools with market system analysis tools and implementation modalities. Building capacity of RIPA South Omo team in HCD, finalizing fieldwork plan (deep dive plan) and orientation on Component 2 activities are some of the key activities that have been accomplished under this lower level result during this reporting quarter.

As part of achieving this lower-level result, the Component 2 and Component 3 teams have been engaged in preparations focusing on linking HCD (Component 2) and market system analysis (Component 3), to determine economic diversification through targeted, market-oriented opportunities for youth (both male and female).

In this reporting quarter, most of the activities under Component 2 involved preparation for South Omo HCD fieldwork, harmonizing assessment guidelines and conducting rapid HCD assessments. Component 2 also continued to focus on finalizing pending recruitment, procurement and transportation. Moreover, implementation of the rapid HCD assessment has continued in the Borena and Guji Zones as part of the COVID-19 Redirect programming.
Achieved this Quarter:

- Preparations and field plans (training already started during the write-up of this report) completed for capacity strengthening and training of RIPA South team members in HCD – facilitated training sessions with RIPA South staff in South Omo and Borena to prepare for the HCD research on ToPs’ livelihood opportunities.
- COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) institutionalized:
  - All discussions with community and clients have been facilitated while observing appropriate social distancing, with the provision of facemasks and sanitizers.
  - Meetings, training and workshops considered the new protocols.
- Plan for HCD fieldwork has been finalized for South Omo and Borena.
- Finalized preparations for conducting orientation on Component 2 activities with partners, including local government partners.
- Rapid HCD assessment in Borena (Yabello Woreda) and Guji (Liben Woreda) Zones completed (as part of the COVID-19 response and redirect). The assessments were facilitated by GOAL Ethiopia field staff:
  - A total of 17 (5 female and 12 male) people in Liben (Guji zone) (11 community members and 4 market actors and/or potential PFBA/ToP) were targeted for the rapid HCD assessment. The assessment has kicked off in Borena.

![Figure 5: Market actors in rapid HCD assessment in Guji, Negelle Borana](image)

- Documentation of lessons learned about ToPs in RIPA South activity areas are underway and will be presented to the RIPA South Addis team to help create a common understanding of ToPs among members of the team.
- Preparations made for fodder production in South Omo; Youth groups with interest in pursuing the fodder production have been contacted, land availability confirmed for the youth who will potentially engage in this activity.
- PFBA model is ready to be initiated in South Omo and has been produced and presented to the Component 2 field team.
- Recruited and onboarded Diversified Economic Opportunities Officers for both Oromia and Somali regions.
- Recruited and onboarded Woreda Market System Development Facilitators for all regions.
- Onboarded the Finance and Administrative Officer and Zonal Finance Assistance for the Jinka Office.
- Recruited and onboarded Office Attendant for South Omo, Jinka Office.
• Procurement of planned office furniture, internet utilities and laptops for South Omo Jinka Office has been completed, except for a photocopier and a digital camera.
• Transportation of the procured items is underway at the time of writing this report.

Next Quarter Plans:
• Rapid HCD assessment will be conducted in Borena (Moyale, Yabello and Arero Woredas).
• Analysis of collected data will be conducted for all target Woredas of Borena and Guji Zones (as part of the COVID-19 Redirect).
• Finalize training sessions with RIPA South staff in South Omo and start in Borena and Guji to prepare for the HCD research on ToPs’ livelihood opportunities. As part of this training, participants will be introduced to the HCD approach, review and understand the interview guidelines and participatory tools, and practice the methods.
• Commence data collection (deep dive) and analysis of HCD research in South Omo and Borena (and potentially Guji).
• Component 2 launching with key stakeholders in South Omo.
• Report analysis of findings (draft and final) and prepare for co-creation/validation workshop.
• Validation workshop (SO and Borena) consisting of a presentation of HCD findings to a range of public and private stakeholders, followed by a co-creation workshop with community members, government partners, and other stakeholders in South Omo to develop and prioritize potential IGAs and other livelihood opportunities for ToPs.
• Analyse findings from the research and co-creation process, develop frameworks, insights, and potential intervention models.
• Facilitate a follow-up workshop to present the recommended intervention models to representative stakeholders.
• Plan logistics to complete the deep dive in Borena & Guji.
• Present to the RIPA South team the results of lessons learned about ToPs in the RIPA South activity areas.

LLR2.1.2 Targeted, Market-Driven ToPs Opportunities Created

The RIPA South Component 2 team has continued reviewing information through field observations as well as from related secondary sources to enhance understanding of the potential for commercial fodder production opportunities in activity areas. The team has also been working to institutionalize the PFBA model in the context of South Omo where the field team have started discussions and engagement on the PFBA model. These efforts will help Component 2 teams to support fodder production as a viable livelihood diversification and business opportunity in areas with potential for commercializing fodder production. The team will also be able to start the selection of PFBAs during the first quarter of Year 2.

Achieved this Quarter:
• Continued support of fodder production in South Omo by targeting fodder producing fodder groups and ensuring access to land.
• Established PFBAs in South Omo (30) and initiated the PFBA model in Borena and Guji.
• Implement one training for 30 potential PFBAs established as part of the COVID-19 and core program.
• Identified and adjusted timing and sequencing depending on components/milestones/first steps and indicators.

Intermediate Result 2.2 Increased Financial Inclusion for People Transitioning out of Pastoralism

While there is very low access to loans by the rural population in Ethiopia in general, access to loans by the pastoralist and agro-pastoralist poor communities, particularly for youth and women, is very low. Through the increased financial inclusion for ToPs, RIPA South seeks to address access to financial products and services that will support business and employment opportunities identified as part of IR 2.1.

Process to be followed: Among the key processes and procedures involved include preparations for HCD, as well as expert consultations both within and outside the RIPA South team. Similarly, there will be informal discussions with relevant colleagues from the RIPA South consortium, local government, MFIs and research centers as appropriate.

LLR 2.2.1: Increased Access to Financial Products and Services for ToPs

Facilitating access to available financial products and services will be a key first step towards supporting sustainable, diversified economic opportunities for ToPs. By the end of Year 1, RIPA South will begin the process of identifying appropriate financial products and services through HCD, complemented by MSA and familiarization with key government and PSA stakeholders. Key stakeholders include MFIs, banks, Office of Social and Labor Affairs, and the Youth Women Affairs Offices.

In FY20 Q4, secondary research on ToPs and financial inclusion opportunities that were previously conducted were revised. This research involves assessment of the various approaches that have been used by previous projects and interventions in pastoralist areas of Ethiopia to increase ToPs access to and utilization of financial services.

Achieved this Quarter:
• Component 2 list of indicators that have previously been developed have been revised following further suggestions and work is underway towards finalizing PIRS as suggested by the donor.
• Continued secondary research on ToPs and financial inclusion opportunities as part of the desk research phase and literature reviews.
• Plans developed as part of HCD research (deep dive) to assess ToPs’ access to and use of financial inclusion opportunities.

Next Quarter Plans – Process started:
• Conduct primary research on ToPs and financial inclusion opportunities as part of the HCD field plan in South Omo and Borana.
Progress on Cross-Cutting Issues- Component 2:

- HCD under the normal program has kick-started in South Omo with significant participation of youth and women
- EMMP completed for Component 2 activities with potential environmental implications both for the Redirect and original program
- About 30% of the rapid HCD assessment participants in Guji Zone were female
- Gender angle is now considered in all HCD activities

Component 3: Intensified and Sustained Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Production and Market Systems

The system-level market analysis demonstrates that the pastoralists and agro-pastoralists live and work within interconnected socio-economic systems which are often disadvantaged within the larger market systems. This leads to inequality and perpetual exclusion. Combined with high susceptibility to pandemics, flooding, disease, pests and conflict-related shocks and stresses, it contributes to increasing food insecurity and economic deterioration. RIPA South will work on the demand and supply sides of livestock and crop production and markets systems to improve resilience and to enhance food security and inclusive economic growth.

Intermediate Result 3.1. Livestock and Crop Production and Marketing Systems Enhanced

Using a blended Market System Development and HCD approach, RIPA South will understand why livestock, crop production and market systems function as they do; what opportunities and constraints exist both domestically and across borders; as well as who are the key players and what their incentives and capacities are. This process is key in identifying and developing a portfolio of interventions that address the root causes of system failures for small scale producers. RIPA South has started to map and identify strategic private sector partners (PSPs) who have the capacity and incentives to promote inclusive and sustainable growth, blend social and economic objectives and strengthen the bottom line while contributing to social and economic outcomes. PSPs critical to achieving results may be operating at national, regional and/or Zonal levels and RIPA South’s Agile team is structured to tap into these opportunities to ensure markets are meaningfully connected to the target communities and beneficiaries. Co-design and co-investment with PSPs are minimum requirements for RIPA South. A co-investment approach with PSPs will be utilized in livestock, crop production and marketing and financial inclusion, leveraging investment from PSPs. Expanding financial inclusion for those participating in livestock, crop, alternative livelihoods and disaster risk reduction will reinforce the market and integration of pastoralists within the different components of RIPA South.
3.1.1: Market Systems Analysis and Human-Centered Design for Livestock and Crops Conducted

Conducting Rapid Market Assessments and Market System Assessments are some of the key program activities that have been planned in this lower level result in this reporting quarter. A livestock market assessment is underway, while simultaneous HCD assessments are being undertaken under Component 2. These assessments will incorporate assessments of the resilience of the target population and the system against the major shocks and stresses; an assessment to identify who is excluded in the livestock system; an assessment of the relationships and behaviours of key players and their incentives and capacities in the system to understand how stakeholders behave and influence the system and eventually develop a potential portfolio of interventions based on the opportunities for RIPA South to engage and create sustainable change.

In this reporting quarter, the livestock market assessment consultant completed secondary data review, identified gaps that require primary data, and prepared training materials for the RIPA South team. This assessment was creatively designed to be conducted despite the presence of COVID-19, using a mixture of remote Market Systems Development training, and task setting and mentoring of the RIPA South team to complete the task given the new COVID-19 restrictions. To ease primary data collection for livestock assessment, the field team has already mapped out key livestock market players and documented contact details of critical production input suppliers for livestock production and marketing including veterinary products and feed and fodder market actors that are currently active in Ethiopia. This information was captured from the Federal Veterinary Drugs and Animal Feed Administration and Control Authority (VDFACA). Details of live animal traders and export abattoirs operating nationally and regionally were collected from Adama Quarantine Service in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Trade and Industry Bureau of SNNPR. Addresses of Woreda level collectors have been captured from Trade and Marketing offices of the respective Woredas.

Achieved this Quarter:

- RIPA South produced and shared the Rapid Market Assessment Report. The assessment was conducted to understand the impact of COVID-19 and the desert locust infestation in Borana, Guji, Filtu, Dawa and South Omo Zones to help guide interventions proposed under the COVID-19 Redirect and to increase pastoral and agro-pastoral communities’ absorptive capacity to the desert locust infestation and COVID-19 restrictions. The assessment report was produced and shared with partners and donors. Below are some of the key findings from the assessment:
In the RMA, pastoralist and agro-pastoralist demonstrated high demand for production inputs such as veterinary drugs and services, feed/fodder, financial products and services, including business development services.

Half of the interviewed businesses experienced a decrease in customers, orders, revenue, and thus increased commodity prices and 33% of businesses temporarily closed due to COVID-19.

Interviewed businesses showed high (84%) demand for business development services to ensure business continuity in the face of COVID-19 and recurrent desert locust infestations.

In recognition of the Small and Medium Enterprises’ (SMEs) central role in livestock markets and their expressed demand for BDS, RIPA South repurposed activities proposed under the COVID-19 Redirect for component 3 to BDS.

- **The Livestock Market Assessment has been initiated.** Below are some of the key progresses made on Livestock Market Assessments in this reporting quarter:
  - ToR developed and international tender floated to identify the right consultant. The evaluation of the consultant documents have been accomplished and the right consultant has been identified.
  - Through a competitive procurement, process RIPA South hired an experienced international MSD consulting firm, Agora Global [https://www.agoraglobal.org/](https://www.agoraglobal.org/).
  - The consulting team has begun secondary data analysis and identification of primary data gaps for the Livestock Market Assessments for Filtu, Dawai, Borena, Guji and South Omo Zones.

- **Provision of ARC-D training for RIPA South team in collaboration with GOAL’s global Resilience Advisor.** The training was held virtually for five consecutive days, each day lasting for 3 hours. The ARC-D toolkit is RIPA South’s approach to analyse community resilience based on risk scenario of interest. The tool divides data collection into two parts: Part A is the contextual analysis of the community of interest and Part B is the summary of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) to ensure that the ARDC-D toolkit requires training for proper administration of the toolkit.

**Next Quarter Plans:**
- Finalize Livestock Market Assessment
- Finalize Financial Inclusion Assessment
- Organize and conduct validation workshops to validate findings of the Livestock Market Assessment
- Kickstart Crop Market Assessment work
- Train Component 3 team on MSD
- Facilitate MSD training for newly hired team members
- Prioritize initiatives to respond to the La Nina weather event

**Intermediate Result 3.2. Increased Financial Inclusion for Livestock and Crop Production**

3.2.1: Increased Access to Financial Products and Services for Pastoralists and Agro-Pastoralists
The Financial Inclusion Assessment is one of the key activities planned under this lower level result in this reporting quarter. The Financial Inclusion Market Assessment has been designed to further understand how financial services are accessible to RIPA South activity participants, as well to evaluate the terms and conditions of available financial products and services for small scale producers. The purpose of the assessment is to understand the financial sector serving Filtu, Dawai, Borena, Guji and S. Omo Zones; understand who is excluded and why; understand who are the key players and what are their incentives and capacities in the system; to understand how stakeholders behave and influence the system and eventually to develop a potential portfolio of interventions based on the opportunities for RIPA South to engage and create sustainable change. This assessment will support VSLA, ToPs and Livestock and Crop Market Assessments.

**Achieved this Quarter:**
- Secondary data mining and mapping of formal financial service providers with existing businesses and/or plans to expand to RIPA South operational areas were identified.
- Primary data was collected from targeted banks, MFIs, Saving and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs), MMOs (Mobile Money Operators) and RUSACOs (Rural Saving and Credit Cooperatives).

**Next Quarter Plans:**
- Report write-up and submission of the Financial Inclusion Market Assessment

**Component 4: Improved and Sustained Nutritional Status of Women and Children**

Component 4 works to improve the nutritional status of women and children through community focused Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) and by integrating nutrition-sensitive activities across RIPA South components. The component has two intermediate results focusing on nutrition and hygiene behaviour change and nutrition-sensitive market actions.

In this reporting quarter, RIPA South emphasized the CLA approach with the COVID-19 Response, conducting KAPB assessments and prepared for the procurement of a consultancy service for the formative study.
Intermediate Result 4.1. Improved Household Nutrition and Hygiene Behaviours

4.1.1. Improved Knowledge, Capacity and Promotion of Nutrition and Hygiene Actions Among Women, Men and Grandmothers

Experience with Care Groups and other peer-based health promotion programs are found to be cost-effective and have a significant impact on behaviours and outcomes when compared to other approaches. RIPA South will apply the Family Health Approach (FHA) to achieve the behavioural change of target communities on nutrition and hygiene.

As part of implementing FHA, RIPA South will conduct a formative study and barrier analysis to identify the triggers which assist successful behavioural change and support households to adopt positive practices and reduce cyclical and episodic bouts of malnutrition. Appropriate interventions will be designed based on the findings generated through the Knowledge, Attitude, Practice and Belief (KAPB) Baseline Survey and formative study.

Achieved this Quarter:

- **KAPB Survey data collection completed in this reporting quarter:** The survey took place in four representative Woredas of Guji, Borena, Liben (Somali) and South Omo Zones. A total of 1,205 people were reached, and qualitative methods were employed. The main objective of the survey is to understand the knowledge of the community on key nutrition and hygiene practices, their attitude towards the specific behaviour and the proportion of the population practicing desired behaviour. The survey will also generate preliminary information for the Barrier Analysis. The result of the Barrier Analysis and KAP Survey will inform the SBCC strategy and help to design appropriate interventions for the RIPA South activity.

- **CLA:** In this reporting quarter, the CLA approach for COVID-19 prevention and control was launched in six Woredas of Guji and Borena Zones. The CLA approach is based on the premise that communities have the power to stop the spread of COVID-19 through their collective decisions and actions. The objective of this activity is to empower communities to move beyond awareness so that they can do their own analysis and act in response to COVID-19. A total of 25 villages were mapped in six targeted Woredas for the CLA activity and 25 CLA groups were established and reached through a CLA triggering session. Each CLA group is composed of 15 members, and a total of 375 people participated in the triggering session. After the triggering session, the group developed an action plan for the prevention and control of COVID-19. Health Extension Workers (HEWs) and RIPA South Community Development Workers (CDWs) conducted supportive supervision and close follow-up to ensure the cascading of the training to neighbours and monitored activity implementation as per the developed community action plan. The follow-up visit revealed that the CLA groups reached a total of 625 households (3,125 people) through neighbourhood discussions, and they...
posted their action plan at the centre of the village so that villagers can implement it. Most of the triggered households established handwashing facilities.

- Critical success factors to achieve these objectives included building the capacity of local health and education offices through formal and on-the-job trainings, and through effective engagement of relevant government offices and targeted community members. HEWs were engaged during the implementation of CLA from the beginning of the activity to create ownership of the program and to allow them to conduct regular follow-ups and cascade the approach to other villages. RIPA South is planning to provide formal CLA training to HEWs in the coming quarter following the request and willingness of the local health offices to implement the CLA approach in Kebeles which are not targeted by RIPA South under this specific activity.

- **Formative Study:** The purpose of this formative research is to identify three to four key behaviour determinants and develop an SBCC strategy for the program. Development of TORs has been completed in this reporting quarter and the process of procuring external consultant services has already been started. The procurement process is expected to be finalized in the coming quarter and preparatory work to conduct the study has already been started.

**Next Quarter Plans:**

- Implement COVID-19 prevention and control activities through CLA in Oromia and expand to other targeted locations.
- Produce a KAP Baseline Survey report.
- Finalize procurement of external consultancy service for the formative study.
- Finalize school health club approach guideline which will be used as a standard guide for internal staff and local government.


The main activities planned in Year 1 under this IR are the identification of potential suppliers for nutritious and hygienic products through integration with Market Assessments planned under Component 3.

The Livestock and Crop Market Assessment planned under Component 3 will identify low-cost food commodities that are rich with micronutrients and the key market players already engaged in the supply of nutrient-rich products/commodities/seeds in other locations. The information will be used to design appropriate interventions which enable the program to increase the availability of and accessibility to nutritious commodities in the market. Findings from the KAP Baseline Survey and formative study will enable the program to design appropriate interventions geared towards increasing the demand for nutritious food and hygiene products.
In this reporting quarter, Component 3 conducted a Rapid Market Assessment under the Redirect which incorporated hygiene products and micro-nutrient enriched crop seeds as part of the assessment. The findings from the assessment will guide activities under IR 4.2. to increase demand for hygienic products and other PPE used to prevent and control the transmission of COVID-19. RIPA South Component 3 will work with identified private sectors to ensure the availability and accessibility of hygiene and nutrition commodities and materials.

**Progress on Cross-Cutting Themes: Component 4**

Priority has been given to women and youth when establishing CLA groups as women play key roles with regards to the wellbeing of their families and others. RIPA South would like to engage youth as they are more mobile and should learn to protect themselves, and others from COVID-19. CLA directly supports social cohesion by placing communities at the center of decision-making and action.

**IV. Progress on CLA and MEL**

CLA is one of the key components of RIPA South. The CLA component of the program is built in a way that ensures that the RIPA South activity interventions are implemented through coordinated and collaborated efforts from all stakeholders, grounded in evidence, and adapted as early as possible throughout the program cycle management. A lot of progress has been made in the CLA and MEL Components of RIPA South in this reporting period and some of these are discussed below.

**Collaboration-Internal and External**

Collaboration with other stakeholders can enable RIPA South to achieve its goals more effectively, with fewer resources. RIPA South believes that the collaboration should be formed strategically, based on the value the collaboration efforts bring to RIPA South and their program participants. Similarly, to establish and sustain CLA in RIPA South project cycle management, it should be guided and reinforced through robust strategy documents.

**Achieved this Quarter:**

- **Component level internal collaboration developed.** To ensure synergy and integration among the RIPA South Components, component level internal collaboration strategies have been developed on the RIPA South online Agile Knack System. It depicts how each Component collaborates with each other and how they are intentionally integrated, including layering and sequencing of overlap/integration areas. Moreover, the key collaboration mechanisms have been finalized.
- Weekly internal CLA sessions have been conducted on a weekly basis to foster the internal collaboration among the RIPA South Components and on key strategic external collaboration issues.
- Progress has been made to finalize the collaboration with RIPA North. Bilateral discussions have been conducted among key component leads of RIPA North and RIPA South counterparts and key collaborating areas for each component has been shared. This information will be used to finalize the common goal/agenda document and joint action plan.
• Collaboration efforts have been made with RIPA North to align our respective monitoring indicators. In addition to sharing USAID standard indicators, RIPA South and North have also collaborated to share several custom indicators in accordance with USAID guidance.

• A collaborative discussion was also conducted with RIPA North to align the timing of our respective Baseline Assessments. Accordingly, the RIPA South Baseline Assessment time has been rescheduled from October to January 2021.

• The RIPA South team conducted a series of collaborative meetings with government partners at all levels, including development and research/professional association organizations like Mercy Corps, ATA (Agriculture Transformation Agency), EVA, and Bioversity International (CIAT).

• Component leads from each RIPA Activity, North and South, worked together to identify potential areas of collaboration and develop learning protocols. In collaboration with CIAT and ATA, RIPA South teams held periodic meetings with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI) to see possible areas of support for the livestock and crop national market information system and expand the coverage of the market information to RIPA operational areas. The National Market Information System for livestock and crops have been transitioning from MoA to MoTI, who underpin the institutionalization and continuity of the system without aid from development partners. To that point, RIPA (North and South) wants to have a thorough understanding of the National Market Information System before committing resources. RIPA North and South have started bilateral discussions with Ethiopia Veterinary Association (EVA) to influence the MoA authorization and enforcement of the Veterinary Service Rationalization Roadmap. The roadmap encourages privatization of animal health services.

Next Quarter Plans:
• Complete the external collaboration ToR and common agenda with the team and USAID.
• Organize collaborative meetings with RIPA North to align the methodology of the Baseline Assessment and the measurement tools.
• Organize discussions and meetings with the World Bank-funded Lowland Resilience Program (LLP) and identify key collaborating areas.
  ▪ Develop a common agenda and joint action plan with WB Funded LLP.
• Develop a joint action plan for internal collaboration.

Program Adaptation
Program adaptation is key for a program like RIPA South which operates in a complex, dynamic and changing environment using a systemic approach to improve resilience. One of the key core components required to establish and institutionalize program adaptations across the RIPA South program cycle management is to establish a process, tools and system to generate real-time data and information to make informed decisions and program adaptations. Unlike the conventional development program and MEL system that in most cases use the MEL to monitor and evaluate the program log frame and indicator periodically, adaptation requires the availability of real-time data as frequent as possible using fast-tracking approaches for program adaptations. To establish a process and tools which enable
the program to generate real-time data, some promising progress was made in this reporting quarter.

**Achieved this Quarter:**
- As per the RIPA South program adaptation strategy, RIPA South developed the key processes and tools to generate real-time data. The context/situation updates are reported using the RIPA South Agile Knack System.
- Development of an online dashboard which automatically generates the real-time progress of RIPA South’s monthly sprint plan. The major objective of the dashboard is to provide a summary of the progress RIPA South has made regarding their sprint plan.
- Monthly sprint review meeting conducted.
- Monthly sprint retrospective meeting conducted.
- MEL data system for the program has been completed.
- Development of ToR to recruit the consultant charged with developing the MEL data management system is initiated, but not yet finalized.

**Next Quarter Plans:**
- Quarter review meeting
- Conduct monthly sprint retrospective meeting
- Organize monthly sprint review meeting
- Monthly sprint planning

**Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)**
The RIPA South Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) plan serves as the primary reference guide for monitoring, measuring and evaluating outcomes and impacts for the activity. As per the MEL plan, a lot has been accomplished in this reporting quarter. Some examples are the development of monitoring and reporting tools, technical support for the development of ToR for various assessments, leading various assessments, revising the MEL plan, development of various assessment tools and finalizing recruitment of the CLA and MEL plan.

**Achieved this Quarter:**
**Developed monitoring, reporting, data-collection and documentation tools:** As stated in the MEL plan, developing monitoring, data-collection and documentation tools are very crucial for a harmonized data collection system and quality data management. In this reporting period, the following data collection and activity monitoring tools were developed for all RIPA South activity components

- In addition to this, reporting tools which enable the program to report on activity performance have been developed.
  - **Project PDM Activity Tools developed.** Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) should be done for each distributed item such as cash, NFI, seed/tools and other materials distributed throughout the activity and/or crisis modifier budget to ensure accountability and transparency of assistance and utilization by intended users. Accordingly, development of PDM tools, including HH quantitative surveys, focus group discussions and key informant interviews,
have been developed. The quantitative tools will be developed on CommCare and the data collection process will be managed digitally.

- **ToR for Baseline Assessment.** Development of ToR for the Baseline Assessment has been drafted and shared with and commented on by USAID. The feedback from USAID has been addressed and the finalized ToR will be shared with the USAID and RIPA South teams in the next quarter.

- **Baseline Assessment Household (HH) Survey and accompanying qualitative tools.** HH population-based survey tools have been developed in line with revised indicators per USAID recommendations. The HH survey tools have been reviewed with all component leads and are ready to be shared with USAID and other stakeholders. Similarly, the qualitative tools such as FGDs, KII and secondary data collection format/checklists have been drafted. The qualitative tools will be revised and shared once it is reviewed by all component leads.

- **Revision of indicator IPTT/PIRS/MEL plan and Log frame as per latest USAID comment.** Review of indicator list as per USAID comments has been conducted in collaboration with PCI IO MEL advisor. During the revision of the indicator, a meeting was organized with RIPA North to align the indicators and measurement methodologies. Moreover, revision of PIRS, MEL plan and Log frame have been accomplished as per the revised and final indicator list accepted by USAID and the complete revised versions will be shared next quarter.

- **Technical support on planned Assessment Research Evaluation (ARE).** All internal and external assessments have been technically backstopped and reviewed before they passed to the next level as per the ARE protocol. Below is the list of ongoing and completed assessments in this reporting quarter.

**Table 1 List of Assessments planned and implemented in Quarter 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>ARE/Assessment</th>
<th>Types/Internal/External</th>
<th>Timing of Assessment</th>
<th>Activity done</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Component 1</td>
<td>DRM capacity and system assessment</td>
<td>Internal</td>
<td>September-October 2020</td>
<td>The assessments were led by MLE Manager and Field Project Coordinators. The team were actively involved in the ToR development, data collection tool, data collection and report writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component 1</td>
<td>DRM governance capacity on responding to COVID-19</td>
<td>Internal</td>
<td>September-October 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Component 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Inclusion Assessment</th>
<th>Internal</th>
<th>October-November 2020</th>
<th>ToR reviewed.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Market System Development</td>
<td>External</td>
<td>October-December 2020</td>
<td>ToR and data collection tools reviewed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock System Development</td>
<td>External</td>
<td>October-December 2020</td>
<td>ToR reviewed data collection tools and inception report review virtually.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Component 4

| KAPB Survey               | Internal          | September-October 2020 | ToR and data collection tools reviewed, and input and feedback provided. Follow up ongoing. Data collection completed and report writing on going. |

- **Finalized project data management system requirements.** RIPA South has planned to develop a data management system which will be designed in such a way that activity performance data is easily analyzed and reported. RIPA South’s data management system connects data from several collection, management, and reporting platforms including CommCare, Savix, Knack, and Power-BI. A consultant will be recruited to configure the system. The ToR is being drafted currently, and the consultancy is expected to begin and finish in the next quarter.

- **Recruitment onboarding and orientation of field CLA-MLE staff.** Four field-level CLA and MEL recruitments have been completed, two of which have been onboarded. The remaining two CLA and MEL staff will join the program at the beginning of next quarter.

**Next Quarter Plans:**
- Complete preparation for baseline assessment for outcome indicators (to be carried out in January, aligned with RIPA North).
- Preparation of Year 2 detail implementation plan.
- Provide technical support for each component on various assessments planned for next quarter.

**V. Challenges and Lessons Learned**

**Challenges**
- COVID-related challenges causing delays and complications in many aspects.
- Inability to conduct standard AfriScout mapping process due to COVID-19 related state of emergency.
- Lack of available shape files for newly split Woreda and Kebeles. As a solution, RIPA South is collecting a list of new Kebeles and manually digitizing the new Kebeles and subsequent sub-rangelands of the two Zones.
- Delay in waiver approval for using AfriScout’s logo on giveaways.
• Delayed communication from suppliers’ side including Ethio Telecom.
• The spread of COVID-19 pandemic, and associated challenges, continue to affect implementation, although some important progress has been made during this quarter.
• The effects of floods, particularly in Dassenech Woreda, and the prevalence of cholera represent a key challenge to access some areas during this reporting quarter.
• Poor infrastructure, in terms of the internet, has brought about delays in the implementation of original Component 2 activities in Borena and Guji Zones.

Lessons Learned
• RIPA South has been implementing in different socio-cultural settings, understanding the context and recruiting appropriate WE Officers and Supervisors contributed to getting the required information on time.
• Although the program has been following Agile Management as an approach to implement and manage the program, having a mixed approach particularly in monitoring and managing the progress in program activities has paramount importance for effective program management.
• Using the Agile Management approach and the Agile online platform has been effective particularly during the current COVID-19 situation. This is especially true when managing the progress on program activities, communicating context updates and when making informed decisions, especially when compared to the conventional program management approach.

VI. Submissions to the Development Experience Clearinghouse

As of September, 2020, the following RIPA South report/studies/documents have been uploaded to the Development Experience Clearinghouse:

• RIPA South FY20 Q2 Performance Report

VII. Annexes

TOR for Formative Study on Maternal Nutrition